

The Oscillator

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430
Volume 63 Number 4 July 2017 Club Call W9VT

Upcoming Meetings & Events

July - It's Vacation Time - There will be no Board or General Business meetings in July. Enjoy the time off and be safe.

August - Social Night at W9VT - Friday, August 18, 2017. Social night at the bunker in lieu of a regular meeting starting at 7:30 PM. Refreshments will be available. There are several boxes of leftovers from previous flea markets that will be up for grabs. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

From The President's Shack

Todd, KA9IUC.

The two biggest events for Tri-Town, Driving the Dixie and Field Day are over. I would like to thank every person who participated in any way to make these events succeed. By participating you show your support for the club and in turn show outsiders what Tri-Town is and can do. While we might be on vacation during July, lots of activities are coming up in the following months. Please check out our event calendar. Also check in to the club nets on Sunday and Wednesday nights, 8 PM on the club's WD9HSY repeater. The nets are a good source of up to date information on club events. We are in need of a program for our October meeting, so please put your thinking caps on! Finely, a big welcome to new members Ron KD9FQP, Kelly KD9GHL and Matt N9YBK. Best regards, have a safe summer.

Dues for 2017 are due

Tri-Town memberships run from the first of the year till the end of the year. Please renew your membership or start a new one now. Dues are the same as last year. Regular membership is \$25. Family members are \$6. Membership applications can be found in each issue of The Oscillator. Please be sure to keep your mailing address, phone number and email address up to date. Thank you for your support of Tri-Town with your 2017 membership.

Welcome New Members

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club would like to welcome three new members. They are Ron Turner KD9FQP, of Chicago, Kelly Marquand KD9GHL, of Grant Park, and Matt Medlen, N9YBK of Harvey. Please say hello and introduce yourself if you see a new face at a meeting or other Tri-Town event. Welcome to Ron, Kelly and Matt!

The W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on the web at:

<http://www.arri.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2017

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	mattschumann@yahoo.com
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	jimgxu15@outlook.com
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708 341.8900	wa9cyl@comcast.net
Sharon Gunderson	Board Member	708.957.7944	d.gunderson@sbcglobal.net
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@comcast.net
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466.0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Dir.	815.370.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com

Members of the Tri-Town Radio Club Inc. publish the Oscillator 6 times a year. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Officers or members of the Tri-Town RAC, but of the contributors. All articles may be reprinted as long as full credit is given. Other publications are asked to reciprocate their newsletter. Some Articles printed here are from AMSAT, ARRL Letter, TAPR, World Radio, QRZ.COM, Eham, and Other Amateur Radio Publications.

Club Meetings & Nets

Club meetings are the 3rd Friday of each month at the Village of Hazel Crest Village Hall, 170th and Holmes. All are welcome and refreshments will serve. Don't forget to bring a Friend.

Club Hangouts:

The Club's Repeater 146.805 WD9HSY/R & 146.49 Simplex
442.375 Homewood, 441.300 Grant Park WA9WLN/R, "Waldofar"
443.325 Frankfort WD9HSY/R & 147.165 Kankakee Co. WD9HSY/R
All UHF's use a 114.8 PL & All VHF's use a 107.2 PL

Club Nets

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net	Wednesday, 8:00 PM Local,	The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
2 Mtr FM Preparedness Net	Sundays, 8:00 PM local,	The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
10 Mtr SSB Net	Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local,	28.490 SSB USB.
40 Mtr Tri-Town Alumni Net	Weekdays, 2200 UTC	7.285 SSB LSB
80 Mtr SSB Net	Saturdays, 9am local	3.860 SSB LSB

Hamfests in the Area

07/16/2017	KARSFEST	Peotone, IL	http://w9az.com/karsfest.html
08/06/2017	Hamfesters	Peotone, IL	http://ham-ham.org
09/16/2017	Peoria Superfest	Peoria, IL	http://www.w9uvi.org
09/23/2017	RADIO EXPO	Belvidere, IL	http://chicagofmclub.org

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 12/15/17 AT AURELIOS IN FRANKFORT AT 6 PM

Field Day - 2017 - Is History

Tri-Town participated in Field Day 2017 held on June 24 and 25. First the results and then how we got there. CW, Digital and Phone modes were used with a claimed score of 488 points. Bonus Points were claimed in eleven categories for a claimed score of 1270 points. Total claimed Field Day points were 1758. Participating and scoring points were: Mac WA9CYL, Ed K9EGS, Bruce WD9GHK, Jim WD9GXU, Brian WD9HSY, Sharon KA9IIT, Todd KA9IUC, Ken K9KO and Peter KE9YX. The following dropped by to lend moral support to the operation: Ron KD9FQP, Ron WB9JYZ, Len KA9SMH, Matt N9YBK and Howard. The high lights of the bonus points were Natural Power QSOs by Mac and Bruce with a hand crank generator, Satellite QSO by Peter and Jim.



Jim, WD9GXU at the mic



Ken, K9KO at the key

Coping of the Field Day Message by were by Ed and Brian, and NTS Message to our Section Manager by Todd. Ken gets all the credit for the CW contacts. He spent time getting his CW ears and fist in tune and then contacts were made. Time was spent on Friday by Jim, Ken, Peter and Todd checking rigs, antennas and computer systems. All was fine but then later in the day the Yaesu 2000 would not transmit in SSB mode and the PSK32 computer stopped keying the transceiver. The Yaesu 2000 was fixed by rebooting the micro processor but the PSK31 problem was not fixed until Field Day had started. It was found that a setting had changed deep in the PSK31 program. Once reset, the computer would then key the transceiver. Once what was fixed, we found a break in the coax leading to the antenna used for the PSK31 station and that was followed very quickly by a smoking antenna tuner in that feed line. There was a lot of down time to repair these items taking other stations off the air. Once up and running, we found the bands to be open and stations were there to be contacted. We made contacts on 80, 40, 20,15,10 and 2 meters and on Satellite. The only that could have been asked for were less problems and more operators.

New FT8 Mode Included in WSJT-X Beta Release

A beta release of [WSJT-X](#), version 1.8.0-rc1, includes a new FT8 mode, featuring a faster turnaround, and it's already showing up on the bands. According to the [notes](#) for the candidate release, FT8 offers "sensitivity down to -20 dB on the AWGN channel," and contacts 4 times faster than JT65 or JT9. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ. The beta WSJT-X also offers a new mode for accurate frequency calibration of your radio, improved CAT radio control, and enhanced JT65, QRA64, and MSK144 decoder performance. According to [The Daily DX](#), on July 11, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, reported what he called "lots of semi-rare DX activity" using the new FT8 mode. He mentioned A92AA, OY1DZ, VR2XMT, and YE2IJ on 40 meters, and TR8CA and YI3WHR on 20

Drivin the Dixie 2017

The rain held off for the 16th year of Drivin the Dixie. 110 cars made their way from Blue Island to Momence with minimum mechanical failures along the way. This was the 12th year of Tri-Town's participation and it was much needed. This year each town was responsible for their own maps to get to the previous town to hand out- and well that did not happen and in fact there were glitches which the committee did not anticipate.

Many thanks to the volunteers- Tom SRV with Westin and Carter as net control, Trish WDG with her husband Rob who manned Posen and Trish covered Markham and Flossmoor, Sharon IIT along with Emily who manned Hazel Crest, Martin JGG who manned Homewood, Pete YX and Randy KKN who manned Chicago Heights, Jim VR who manned Steger, Ron JYZ and Stephen SGB who went to Crete but Crete was not there, Mark MDJ who manned Beecher, John DWE who manned Grant Park.

Thank you to all who volunteered and to those who were listening to traffic along the route. The Special Events Station was done by Ed EGS out of his home due to the unpredictable weather.

The A's R Us Model A Ford Car Club have indicated 2017 will be their last year to play a major role in organizing the event. Therefore, the future of the this event or something similar honoring the historic significance of Dixie Highway is very much up in the air at this point. Tri-Town has been thanked for our supporting role and participation in the 2017 and prior events. Likewise, our liaison's to the committee, Trish (N9WDG) and Martin (JGG), will be keeping an ear to the ground relative to the nature of and possible roles of Tri-Town in future such events.

Tri-Town's Tentative 2017 Event Calendar

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August | Bunker Social Night Friday August 18th, 7:30 PM at the Club Station W9VT. |
| September | Club Picnic, Saturday September 16th, Noon at the Monee Reservoir. |
| October | General meeting Friday October 20th, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.
Program to be determined. |
| November | General meeting, Friday November 17th at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. Program will be nomination of officers for 2018, Show and Tell, and White Elephant Sale. |
| December | Christmas Party, Saturday December 15th at Aurelio's in Frankfort. Short program for the election of officers for 2018. |

Board of Directors Meetings - Second Monday of the Month, 7:30 PM at the Club Station. Members are welcome.

Heard Island DXpedition Named DXpedition of the Year

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association ([SWODXA](#)) has named the Heard Island [VK0EK](#) DXpedition as its 2016/2017 DXpedition of the year. The announcement came during the SWODXA's 31st DX Dinner on May 20, held in conjunction with Hamvention®.

Help Needed!

The Club is in need of a Refreshment Chairman for 2017 and hopefully beyond. Mark Thompson, KA9MDJ has retired from the position. Anyone who comes to Club meetings knows what the position entails. Drinks and snacks must be purchased along with paper goods such as cups, napkins and paper towels, for which you are reimbursed. The counter and floor must be cleaned and it is believed Mark has the Club's vacuum to help with that chore.

We are also in need of net control operators for the Wednesday and Sunday night nets. At present, three guys run eight or more nets a month.

Please contact any Club officer if you can help.

75 Meter SSB Net for Tri-Town

What are you doing Saturday mornings? Why not get on the air and check into Tri-Town's newest net. Jim, KB9VR, has started a new 75 Meter SSB net on 3860 at 9 AM local time. Why not check in and hear what's happening?

Amateur Radio General Class Training starting 9.13.17

On Wednesday September 13, at 7 pm, Hamfesters will begin conducting a **General** level training class. The training will be a combination of home study and class review. The required home study includes watching selected YouTube videos and studying the ARRL License manual. Access to the internet to watch topic background videos is required. The excellent videos are developed by Dave, KE0OG. Class time will be used to reinforce your home study and answer questions. Class length is 6 consecutive weeks (skipping Sept 27).

Cost will be that of the ARRL manual (\$30.00). You may purchase your manual via Amazon or the ARRL online store. If you register with us early enough, we can order the manual for you. A simple scientific calculator or smart phone calculator app is suggested so you can work through some of the problems. The smart phone cannot be used during the VE test, however. You do not have to be a member of any club to take the class - just a real commitment to obtain your General ham license.

Contact Brian Davis, W9HLQ to register: w9hlq@hamfesters.org 708/532-5833

Please contact me ASAP to register and give me time to order books.

The instructors are Mel Marcus, NE9A and Brian Davis, W9HLQ

Training location is the Tinley Park Emergency Management Agency; 17355 S. 68th Ct, Tinley Park, IL 60477

(173rd and Oak Park Ave) It is behind the TP Fire House. Enter through glass doors, go down the stairs to the lower level)

<https://www.hamfesters.org/main/licensing-class/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>
Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Dateline DX Association Selected to Pursue DXpedition to Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge

Baker and Howland is the fourth most-wanted DXCC entity on Club Log's [DXCC Most Wanted List](#).

The Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service ([FWS](#)) has selected the Dateline DX Association ([DDXA](#)) — the DXpedition group that activated Howland Island in 2009 and Wake Island in 1998 — to pursue a DXpedition to Baker Island. Dates have not yet been determined. Baker and Howland Islands (KH1) are part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument ([PRIMNM](#)), created by former President George W. Bush in 2009. The group will announce planned activation dates and other details once a vessel has been selected and the FWS has approved the vessel and dates. DDXA co-leaders are Don Greenbaum, N1DG; Tom Harrell, N4XP, and Kevin Rowett, K6TD.

The FWS in early June agreed that a DXpedition to Baker Island would be an acceptable use of the Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge but detailed strict conditions under which it would issue a special use permit (SUP) to allow such use. Earlier this year, the FWS conducted a [Compatibility Determination](#) for Amateur Radio operation on the ecologically sensitive island refuge. Baker Island is 1,830 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu — an 8-day voyage.

"While...not a wildlife dependent public use according to National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966, as amended, Amateur Radio operation is a use that assists in the management of the resources indirectly," the FWS said in its Compatibility Determination, released on June 8. A DXpedition to the Refuge may last up to 14 days, with only 12 days of radio operation and allowing time for setup and breakdown on each end of the visit.

WWV 25 MHz Signal Swapped to Circular Polarization

The resurrected 25-MHz signal of time and frequency standard station [WWV](#) is now emanating from a circularly polarized turnstile antenna. WWV had used a vertically polarized antenna on 25 MHz in the 1970s. Silent since 1977, the 25-MHz signal returned to the air on an "experimental basis" in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since — initially on a broadband discone until August 2015, when it switched back to a vertical, which it used until the July 7 switch to circular polarization.

"[W]e are broadcasting with 2 kW from a circularly polarized turnstile antenna," WWV lead electrical engineer Matt Deutch, N0RGT, told ARRL this week. "It is just your standard plain-vanilla turnstile — two horizontal orthogonal dipoles with a quarter-wave phase-shifting coax linking them."

Deutch has explained that when the 25-MHz transmitter was shut down in 1977, the antenna's radiating element was "tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna," Deutch recounted. When WWV first reintroduced the 25-MHz broadcast some 37 years later in response to requests, it used a broadband monopole. But, it was later decided to use that antenna for WWV's 2.5-MHz stand-by transmitter and to rebuild the 25-MHz antenna. The old radiating section was retrieved and the antenna rebuilt, so that it looked like what was being used in 1977.

Deutch said it's hoped that the latest antenna change to circular polarization might be helpful to anyone studying propagation during next month's total solar eclipse, which will be visible across the US. "My effort right now is focused on getting the word out, just to make people are aware that [the 25-MHz signal] is available, if it can be useful to them."

Before the change, Deutch said WWV had received reports on the 25 MHz signal from across the Atlantic. The 25 MHz broadcast includes the same information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of accuracy. Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, WWV is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)). WWV has [invited](#) listeners' comments and reports on its 25-MHz signal.

Bouvet Is 3Y0Z DXpedition Plan for 14 to 16 Days on the Air

Bouvet is the 2nd most-wanted DXCC entity on Club Log's [DXCC Most Wanted List](#)

Northern IL operators include Jim N9TK, Jerry WB9Z, and Craig K9CT

The organizers of the January 2018 [3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet Island](#) — the second most-wanted DXCC entity, according to Club Log's [DXCC Most Wanted List](#) — said the team continues to refine its plans and, “depending on weather and other factors,” hopes to be on the air for 14 to 16 days. The team will depart the South Shetlands Islands on January 13, 2018, the 3Y0Z organizers said in a June 27 news release.

“Our transit time to Bouvet will be between 9 and 11 days depending on weather and the sea state. Upon arrival at Bouvet we will conduct reconnaissance flights to the island and select a campsite free of crevasses. As weather permits we will begin building our radio city on the ice and secure our infrastructure. Then antennas will go up, our equipment will be assembled, and we will begin non-stop operations.” The team will be at Bouvet for 3 weeks.

Preparations will continue over the summer and fall, including testing equipment under harsh conditions, assembling, testing, and packing antennas, and packing and shipping the Sea Container from Atlanta. The estimated cost of this DXpedition is upward of \$750,000. The DXpedition has a [Facebook page](#).

K2BSA will be On the Air during National Scout Jamboree

The Boy Scouts of America station K2BSA will be on the air during the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, July 18 to July 28, from the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in West Virginia. The K2BSA operation will demonstrate Amateur Radio to several thousand Scouts and fulfill the Radio merit badge requirement for QSOs. “We need you on the other end of the contact,” the BSA announcement said.

[All information](#) for making a contact with K2BSA during the Jamboree is on the K2BSA website. It lists frequencies, repeaters, [EchoLink](#), and D-Star options. K2BSA will also publish live updates on Facebook and Twitter of active frequencies.

K2BSA will host a nightly net at 2330 UTC (7:30 PM ET) on EchoLink Conference Node *JAMBO*. The net is accessible via repeaters at the Summit.

The Scout campers plan to launch at least one balloon from the Jamboree that are expected to navigate around the globe. [Post-launch online tracking](#) is available.

The [Jamboree Logbook](#) has information on how to request QSL cards.

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) contact with an International Space Station crew member has been scheduled too, date and time pending.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 12/15/17 AT AURELIOS IN FRANKFORT AT 6 PM

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>
Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG**

Belize, Cyprus, and Philippines Open 60-Meter Bands

Radio amateurs in Belize, Cyprus, and the Philippines now have access to contiguous 60-meter bands.

In Belize, the allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz has become available with a maximum EIRP of 25 W.

The Cyprus telecoms regulator, the Department of Electronic Communications, on June 30 issued a gazette notice updating the national frequency table to include the new WRC-15 secondary allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz with a maximum EIRP of 15 W, as well as the secondary MW allocation of 472 to 479 kHz, with a maximum EIRP of 1 W.

The Philippines Telecom Regulator, the National Telecommunications Commission, has granted amateur access to 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz under ITU footnote 5.133B, with a maximum EIRP of 15 W

President Names FCC General Counsel Brendan Carr to Fill Vacant Republican Seat

President Donald Trump has announced plans to nominate FCC General Counsel Brendan Carr, a Republican, to fill one of the two vacancies on the Commission. One FCC vacancy, to be filled by a Democratic candidate, remains in order for the Commission to be back to its full five-member complement. The president on June 14 named former Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, to fill one vacancy. No more than three members of the FCC may be of the same political party. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai released a congratulatory statement.

“Brendan has a distinguished record of public service, having worked at the agency for over five years, including most recently as the FCC’s General Counsel,” Pai said. “In particular, Brendan’s expertise on wireless policy and public safety will be a tremendous asset to the Commission. I look forward to working with him in his new role and wish him all the best during the confirmation process.”

Democratic FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn said Carr would be “a great asset to the Commission, calling him “well respected on both sides of the aisle” and saying that he’s “demonstrated a deep knowledge of the legal and policy issues facing the communications sector.”

As part of the Chairman’s staff, Carr is expected to support Pai’s efforts to reverse controversial “net neutrality” rules passed by the FCC’s then-Democratic majority that would subject broadband providers to the sort of oversight that conventional telecommunication carriers have faced.

Observers believe that both Rosenworcel and Carr will be confirmed by the US Senate.

ARRL to Sponsor 2017 Hurricane Season Webinar 7/17

The ARRL will sponsor a 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season Webinar on Monday, July 17, at 8 PM ET (0000 UTC on Tuesday, July 18). The approximately 90-minute session will address the role of Amateur Radio during the 2017 Hurricane Season. Anyone interested in hurricane preparedness and response is invited to take part in this online presentation.

Topics will include a meteorological overview of the current season from the [Canadian Hurricane Centre](#); Amateur Radio station [WX4NHC](#) at the National Hurricane Center: Who We Are and What We Do; ARRL Media and Public Relations; the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)); the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) and ARRL coordination and interface.

Hamvention Reports 2nd Largest Attendance for 2017 Show

The tally is in, and Hamvention® 2017, at its new venue in Xenia, Ohio, attracted 29,296 attendees, official spokesperson Mike Kalter, W8CI, told ARRL. That is the second-largest reported attendance in the history of the event. Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33,669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May while it was still being held at Hara Arena. Attendance in 2016 for the show's final year at Hara was 25,364. Hamvention relocated to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center this year, after Hara Arena announced last summer that it was closing. Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, called 2017 "a most successful year."

"We knew this would be a big year but this was even beyond our expectations," Cramer said. "The challenge was great to reinvent Hamvention® at a new venue in a very short time period. From all the e-mails, letters, and calls I have received over the last few weeks, we have accomplished it successfully." Cramer expressed appreciation for all constructive criticisms and said each idea is being evaluated. Held May 19-21, Hamvention 2017 has received largely positive reviews, despite traffic problems on opening day and heavy rain during the weekend.

"We all recognize the traffic, rain, mud, and parking issues, but part of those issues were corrected even before show weekend was over," Cramer said. "Other issues are being worked on already for next year's show." He and Kalter said the Hamvention Committee has joined Greene County, municipal officials, and the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center Advisory Board in addressing improvements for 2018. Kalter and Cramer also thanked the 657 volunteers who put in long hours to make Hamvention 2017 a reality. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

"We can't control the rain but we promise there will not be some of the other issues next year," Cramer said. "There may even be some new surprises in store," he added, pointing out that Hamvention has 3 more months to plan for the 2018 event than it did for this year's.

"We thank all who came to the show this first year in Greene County and hope to see you again next year," Cramer concluded. "For those that thought they would wait and see how we did, sorry you missed the show but look forward to seeing you next year. Our rough edges will be smoothed out for you by then."

Boy Scouts' Jamboree on the Air Announces Theme for 60th Annual Event set for October 20-22.

"60 Years Connecting Scouts" is the theme for the Boy Scouts' 2017 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), set for October 20-22. JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, said the theme "recognizes the start of the event in 1957 and commemorates its growth in participation and in the expanding communication channels that are activated on the third weekend in October." The official JOTA patch will be available by July 19. The JOTA-JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) patch is available now.

Wilson said JOTA's "communication channels" now include Amateur Radio on the air and via Internet-based channels, as well as many other Internet-based options including social media, ScoutLink and IRC chat services, Skype, and more.

"It also recognizes the goal of the event — connecting Scouts so that they can engage in conversations with other Scouts across town and around the world," Wilson said. "This allows them to discover geographic and cultural differences and similarities. Plus, they are exposed to the technology that makes all this happen."

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>
Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Inter. Lighthouse Weekend Registrations Top 200 and Rising

Registrations for the 2017 International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend ([ILLW](#)) have topped the 200 mark for **the August 19-20 event**. The ILLW is 20 years old this year, and with some 8 weeks to go, 220 planned operations have registered throughout the world, including 26 in the US (Germany is leading registrations with 45. Australia has 30 so far). During the annual event, Amateur Radio stations will be on the air from — or in the immediate vicinity of — various historic lighthouses and lightships in more than 25 countries. In the past, more than 500 stations in some 90 countries have taken part.

“Many enjoy linking portable Amateur Radio to the navigational beacons for shipping traffic of the past, and in doing so help raise public awareness of the need to preserve the old structures,” Jim Linton, VK3PC, remarked.

Registration guidelines call for the site to be officially listed as an aid to navigation. This can include a classic lighthouse or lightship with a Fresnel lens, fog horn, time ball towers, and even those moved to a museum for historic reasons. According to the ILLW site, “lights such as range lights, channel markers, skeletal towers, and breakwall lights will probably not be accepted.” Registration is not required for participation but does let other stations know which lighthouses and lightships will be activated.

Sponsors stress that the event is *not* a contest — and there are no prizes, certificates, or other enticements to participate. Each station’s operators decide how they will operate their station with respect to bands and modes, and participating stations do not have to be on the air for the entire weekend.

Activity does not need to take place inside the structure itself. A Field Day-style setup at the light or other building adjacent to the light is sufficient. “Adjacent means next to or as close as possible,” event guidelines explain.

“The intention behind this requirement is that the station should have a visible presence to the passing public who may be visiting the lighthouse over the weekend. Permission to operate from a lighthouse/lightship should be obtained from the relevant authorities.” — *Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC*

Trading Post

ICOM IC-208H VHF/UHF Dual Bander \$130.00

The **Icom IC-208H** 2M/440 dual-bander Includes: detachable control panel, wideband receive, three power settings, built-in CTCSS decode/encode, PC compatibility and 500 alpha memory channels. Power output is 55/15/5 watts on 2 meters and 50/15/5 watts on 440 MHz. It is 9600 BPS packet ready too (6 pin DIN). The IC-208H also includes a built-in duplexer, OPC-600/R separation cable, HM-133 remote hand mic, mobile mounting bracket, power cord. Comes with Remote head cable and software, but no software programming cable.

Call Ron WB9JYZ (708) 957-3625

ICOM IC-251A 2 meter / with wedge mic / DC only / 10 watts FM-SSB \$ Best Offer

Cushcraft 3 element 6 meter beam (new) \$75.00

Cushcraft 10 element 2 meter beam (new) \$50.00

Cushcraft R-6000 vertical (20-6 meters) excellent condition \$125.00

Call Jim N8EAT (708) 361-2657 or n8eat@aol.com

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club

Christmas Party



Saturday, December 15, 2017 at 6 pm to 8:30pm.

Aurelio's Pizzeria
9901 W. Lincoln Highway
Frankfort, IL 60423

Assorted Pizzas: Cheese, Sausage, Pepperoni, Combo and Vegetarian;
Dinner Salad and Soft Drinks and Iced Tea

Price also includes One Raffle Ticket for Prizes

RSVP to Trish Jaggard, N9WDG by Thursday, 12/07

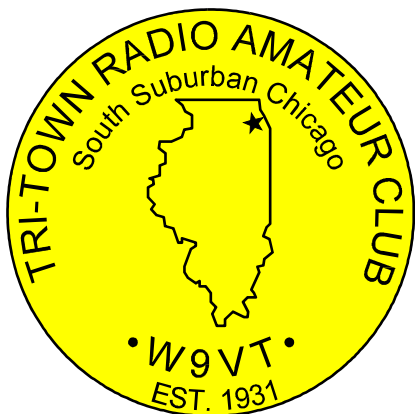
No. of people to attend

Phone- 708-828-8592- leave detailed message or email
the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Inc.
PO Box 1296
Homewood, IL 60430-0296

July 2017

First Class Mail



Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

_____ Regular Membership \$ 25.00

_____ SWL Membership \$ 25.00

_____ Extra Family Membership \$ 6.00

\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

For Example: Regular Member, with Family (25+6) = \$ 31.00

Dues are Due!

Club dues expire the first of the year so 2017 dues are now due. Your dues pay for the continued expenses for insurance, repeater operation. Your continued support of the raffles and the refreshment jar also helps. Dues can be paid at any meeting or sent to the clubs mailing address. Please include a membership form so we can keep the Club's roster up to date.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG