

The Oscillator

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Upcoming Meetings & Events

March - A general meeting will be held on Friday, March 18, 2016 at the Hazel Crest Village Hall at 7:30 PM. The program for the evening will be a video "K1N Navassa Island DXpedition 2015." Raffle and refreshments will be available.

April - Meeting will be held on Friday, April 15, 2016 at the Hazel Crest Village Hall at 7:30 PM. There will be a general business meeting. The program for the evening is still in the planning stage. Stay tuned. Raffle and refreshments will be available.

From The President's Shack

Todd KA9IUC

The new year is well underway. As you can see from the Club's calendar, lots of activities are coming up throughout the year. Looking at the activities, what do you see? They are the same ones we have been doing for years. Let's all be thinking of something new to do. Be thinking about how you can be part of our activities. I would like to thank all who have renewed their membership in Tri-Town. It shows support of the Club and allows us to continue on in our 85th year. Regarding future meeting programs, we are in need of programs for April, May, September and October. If you have something you would like to present and know someone who could be a resource, please let the Board know. Two members working behind the scenes are Mike, N9NNL and Ed, K9EGS. Mike has been doing analysis work on the antennas at the Bunker. Indications are that work is needed on most of the antennas. Ed is establishing W9VT on Log Book of the World. However it does look like there are problems with multiple entrants.

Best regards and 73,

Dues for 2016 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 2016 membership.

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE
DRIVIN THE DIXIE SATURDAY JUNE 18th, 2016
WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2015:

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	None @ No I' don't have one
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708.672.5830	wa9cyl@comcast.net
Pete Schaper KE9YX	Board Member	708.481.4273	p.k.schaper@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.	815.469.1383	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 <http://www.arri.org/hamfests/search>

	Sponsor	Location	Internet
April 2 30	AES Superfest Ozaukee	Milwaukee, WI Cedarburg, WI	aesham.com/aes-superfest ozaukeeradioclub.org
May 3 20-22	Kishwaukee ARC Dayton Amateur Radio Assn	Sandwich Dayton, OH	w9icu.com/flyer.html www.hamvention.org
June 19	Starved Rock Radio Club 6m Club of Chicago	Princeton Wheaton	www.w9mks.org www.k9ona.com

Tri-Town's 2016 Calendar of Events (Tentative)

March	General meeting March 18th.
April	General meeting April 15th and Folks On Spokes April 24th.
May	General meeting May 20th.
June	General meeting June 17th, Driving the Dixie June 18th and Field Day June 25th and 26th.
July	Vacation, no meeting.
August	Club Picnic August 20th, no meeting.
September	General meeting September 16th and Ham Cruise September 24th and 25th.
October	General meeting October 21st.
November	General meeting November 18th, Nominations of Officers, White Elephant Sale, Show and Tell
December	General meeting and Christmas Party December 10th.

Amateur Radio Accompanying “Great Northern Way” Arctic Russia Expedition

Amateur Radio will be onboard for the “[Great Northern Way](#)” Arctic expedition in Russia. Listen for R3CA/8/9/0 along the route. The historical-geographical expedition was due to get under way in mid-February from Novy Urengoy (Yamal). The project commemorates the 400 anniversary of the Northern Sea Route and will be part of a research program, “Mysteries of the Russian Arctic.” Two all-terrain vehicles will carry participants along a 10,000 kilometer (approximately 6200 miles) route on frozen Siberian rivers, the open spaces of the Arctic tundra, and the land-fast and drifting ice of Russia’s Arctic seas. The expedition plans to make stops of about 1 day each on some Arctic islands, which would be of interest to Islands on the Air (IOTA) enthusiasts.

Heading the expedition is the president of the Russian Geographical Society’s Arktika Center and polar explorer Vladimir Chukov, R3CA. Call sign designators will indicate the location — R3CA/8 (Yamal), R3CA/9 (Taimyr), and R3CA/0 (Yakutia, Chukotka). Operation is anticipated on SSB in the vicinity of 14.120 and 14.260 MHz.

The radio operator is Valery Nesterov, RA9J. In Tiksi, Yuri Zaruba, UA9OBA, the president of the Russian Robinson Club, plans to join the expedition, which is carrying an Icom IC-7000 transceiver. An Icom AH2B mobile antenna will be used while under way, but when the expedition is parked, inverted Vs will be deployed.

Some of the islands in Asiatic Russia that the expedition may activate include AS-005 (Dikson Island), AS-152 (Bol’shoy Begichev Island), AS-082, AS-163 (Makar Island), AS-029 (Bol’shoy Lyakhovsky Island), AS-164 (Nemkov Island), AS-070 (GUSMP Island), AS-038 (Ayon Island), AS-065 (Kolyuchin Island) and others depending on the ice situation.

The expedition plans to visit sites associated with research and development of the Russian Arctic, historical monuments, and places of interest related to natural history and cultural heritage. The expedition members will conduct environmental monitoring along the Arctic coast. A series of documentaries about the history and current state of the Russian Arctic and its people is planned. The expedition’s progress will be tracked on its website. The expedition also will visit local attractions, meet with village residents and the youth and school children, and take part in events related to the social and cultural life of the Arctic regions of Russia. — *Thanks to [The Daily DX](#), Great Northern Way expedition website*

For Sale: Cushcraft R-6000 vertical

20 thru 6 meters, 1500 watt power
in Excellent Condition (garage kept)
asking \$200.00 (pickup in Palos Heights)
call Jim N8EAT 708-361-2657

Elections for 2016 Tri-Town Officers Held

The election was held at the December meeting/Christmas party. It was a unanimous landslide vote for the "Ham Radio Party." Elected were: President Todd Schumann KA9IUC, Vice President Matt Schumann N9OTL, Secretary Jim Everard WD9GXU, Treasurer Trish Jaggard N9WDG, and Board Member Brian Bedoe WD9HSY. Board Members Pete Schaper KE9YX and Mac Kirkpatrick WA9CYL will continue to serve their current terms on the board. Congratulations to those who were elected and Thank you for your service to the Club.

FYI -- Illinois Secretary of State

In case you have not heard, the Illinois Secretary of State is no longer mailing out renewal notices for Illinois state license plates. You can go to his website and request an email reminder be sent to you when your plates need to be renewed. Plates can be renewed on line and at Secretary of State offices.

W9VT and Logbook of the World (LOTW)

Ed Stroh - K9EGS

Logbook of the World, an electronic way to confirm contacts via the ARRL's LOTW website, is now set up for our club station call sign, W9VT. Recently I set up the LOTW account so that the club can provide this service with all hams that wish to confirm contacts with W9VT in an electronic fashion instead of/or in addition to a paper QSL card. This will be useful during special events such as Field Day or something like the Driving the Dixie special radio event that we did last year. I would think that many hams around the country and the world will appreciate that we now offer this convenience.

The way that it will work is for anyone who operates during a special event and records the contacts on their own computer logging program will email me an ADIF file that their logging program will export. I will then upload that to the LOTW account. Also after Field Day is over we can do the same thing by uploading an ADIF file from the Bunker computer logging system that we record all the Field Day contacts in. That way all the stations that make contacts with us during Field Day can confirm those contacts.

The reason that all contacts will be sent to me to upload to LOTW is because I am to be, as the LOTW Tech. person stated to me, the "gatekeeper" for the club's LOTW account. The ARRL prefers that one person be a "gatekeeper" in the instance of a club account. So since I set up the account on my computer, and the special program that it takes to run this, along with a password, is on my computer, I am the "gatekeeper" for better or for worse.

I hope that we can take advantage of this service in the future during any special events as I mentioned above. It is a small step into the future of amateur radio QSLing techniques. Not to say that we should totally discontinue paper QSL cards, but many hams are now using LOTW which is especially useful for the purposes of awards.

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

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?

Computer Issues Stymie ARRL VEC Application Processing

The ARRL VEC had hoped to see the problem resolved by now, but since February 22, an intractable mainframe computer system glitch has kept the VEC from managing and posting the schedule of future examination sessions and processing application data from completed sessions to the FCC.

"This time it's not an FCC problem but our own, said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "What we thought initially was an easy fix was not to be. There are approximately 400 future test dates waiting to be submitted into the system, and nearly 200 completed sessions are waiting to be transmitted to the FCC."

Somma said the system has been working "sporadically," so a few test sessions here and there have been getting through to the FCC for processing, so it could act on the applications. Those whose applications did not slip through are still waiting.

The problem centers on a legacy mainframe system. The ARRL IT Department has indicated that it hopes to resolve the problem by week's end, if not sooner.

Geomagnetic Storm Generates Aurora / Tempers HF Conditions

NOAA, Spaceweather.com

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)) reported strong (G3) geomagnetic storming at 2359 UTC on March 6 in response to above-average coronal hole high-speed stream effects. "The solar wind environment has tapered since the elevated activity, and as a result the G1 Watch for 07 March has been canceled," the SWPC said. "Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with isolated periods of active conditions possible for the remainder of 07 March."

According to the SWPC, during geomagnetic storms, "currents in the ionosphere, as well as the energetic particles that precipitate into the ionosphere add energy in the form of heat that can increase the density and distribution of density in the upper atmosphere, causing extra drag on satellites in low-Earth orbit. The local heating also creates strong horizontal variations in the in the ionospheric density that can modify the path of radio signals and create errors in the positioning information provided by GPS." They also can induce harmful currents in the power grid and pipelines.

[Spaceweather.com](#) noted that the high-speed solar wind buffeting Earth's magnetic field resulted in aurora borealis displays as far south as Massachusetts, Germany, and England. The sky in the north of England was "lit up," according to one observer.

NOAA forecasters had been predicting a 50 percent chance of more geomagnetic storms on March 7, but that watch has been canceled. Spacewather.com said the negative magnetic polarity of the stream favors auroras.

As of 1400, the A index was 35, and the K index was 2. The A and K indices indicate fluctuations in Earth's magnetic field, tied to specific geographic locations. The indices are directly related to the maximum amount of fluctuation — relative to a quiet day — in the geomagnetic field over a 3-hour interval.

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

MFJ Founder Martin Jue, K5FLU, to Keynote Dayton DX Dinner

“The Early Days of MFJ” will be the topic as [MFJ](#) Founder and President Martin Jue, K5FLU, keynotes the 31st annual Dayton DX Dinner, sponsored by the SouthWest Ohio DX Association ([SWODXA](#)).

Held in conjunction with the 2016 Dayton [Hamvention®](#), the dinner will be on Friday, May 20, at the Marriott Hotel, 1414 S Patterson Boulevard, Dayton.

MFJ’s first product was an audio filter, that Jue began manufacturing in a small hotel room in downtown Starkville, Mississippi. Today, MFJ manufactures more Amateur Radio products than any other company in the world under the Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vecronics brands. For more information, [visit](#) the SWODXA events page.

Winter 2016 Edition of Radio Waves Now Available

The [winter 2016 edition](#) of ARRL’s [Radio Waves](#) newsletter for Amateur Radio license instructors and radio science educators is now available. Some of the articles in this issue include, “In-Depth Licensing Class Probes Electronics;” “Exploring Complex Concepts through Electronic Kit Building;” “Two Schools Experience ARISS Impact;” “West Chester Amateur Radio Association on Hand for Pi Day,” and “Youth Nets.”

In addition, the Instructor Corner offers resources for classroom and licensing instruction, there’s news of the ARRL Education & Technology Program, a calendar of upcoming events, and more.

Amateur Radio Parity Act Sponsors Continues to Grow

Three more members of the US House of Representatives have stepped forward to cosponsor The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301. That brings the total to 123.

The latest to sign on are Reps Evan Jenkins (R-WV), Stephen Knight (R-CA), and Charles Boustany Jr (R-LA).

On a voice vote on February 11, the US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI, sent [H.R. 1301](#) to the full House Energy and Commerce Committee with a favorable report for further consideration.

H.R. 1301 would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions. [More information](#) on The Amateur Radio Parity Act is on the ARRL website.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on the web at:
<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

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

ARES & Hams Support Army / Air Force MARS Comm Exercise

More than 300 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members and individual radio amateurs on February 12 participated in the first quarterly Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) US Department of Defense communications exercise of 2016 (COMEX 16-1). US Army and Air Force MARS operators across the US, Europe, and the Pacific took part in the 12-hour Department of Defense contingency HF communication exercise, which simulated a widespread loss of telephone and Internet communication across the US. MARS operators reached out to ARES members and individual hams in as many US counties as possible to obtain status reports via radio.

“The purpose of the exercise was to give MARS operators the opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in responding to DOD requests for simulated emergency situational awareness reports from counties across the United States,” Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, explained. “DOD and the MARS leadership want to thank the more than 300 Amateur Radio operators who assisted in making this exercise a success by providing local county information using VHF, UHF, and NVIS HF voice communications.”

English said the supported Department of Defense headquarters “was very pleased with the outcome of the exercise, and especially with the number of Amateur Radio stations that participated on a weekday and the number of unique county reports received over the 12-hour period.” After eliminating duplicates, English said, MARS received 312 county status reports.

English said exercise aimed to focus on individual MARS operator skills, refine joint operational procedures between Army and Air Force volunteer leaders, and to continue to develop local-level working relationships between MARS operators and ARES groups and individual radio amateurs and clubs.

1st Satellite Contact Antarctica and S. America Reported

The Radio Club of Argentina ([RCA](#)) and [AMSAT-LU](#) have announced the first satellite contact between Argentinean Antarctica and mainland Argentina on February 28 via SO-50. The RCA's website [reports](#) the historic contact was arranged by the Radio Club of Argentina and AMSAT-LU.

Marcelo Duca, LU1AET, and Federico Mainz, LU5UFM, had studied the passes of various amateur satellites over Argentina. Duca was at Carlini Antarctic Base, May 25 Island, South Shetland, in Argentinean Antarctica, while Mainz was in Miramar, in Buenos Aires Province on the mainland — a distance of nearly 2700 kilometers.

“At the appointed hour, Marcelo (with Carlos, LU1BCE, at his side) made the first call from Carlini Base via SO-50. He got an immediate reply from Federico in Miramar. They exchanged signal reports and talked for more than 2 minutes,” The RCA website recounts. Duca was running 15 W, while Mainz was running just 4 W using a hand-held transceiver.

Entire Popular Science Magazine Archive Now Available

The entire 140-year oeuvre of *Popular Science* magazine has been [archived](#) for free browsing, thanks to a partnership with Google. Popular Science includes some Amateur Radio-related articles, such as “You Can Talk Around the World” in the January 1932 edition, “Thousands of Radio Amateurs Find it Easy to Learn Morse Code” from the March 1932 edition, and “The Hams Join Up” from the November 1941 edition. Many other articles deal with radio and radio repair as well as do-it-yourself electronics projects.

95 yr old Schooner Bowdoin, Rich in Ham Radio History Being Refurbished for Further Exploring

The schooner *Bowdoin*, which has a prominent place in early Amateur Radio history, will be relaunched this spring. The vessel relied on Amateur Radio operators for communication during explorer Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic Expedition of 1923 and on the MacMillan-McDonald-Byrd Expedition of 1925. Now it's undergoing extensive renovation and refitting in Maine. Named after MacMillan's alma mater, Bowdoin College, the *Bowdoin* today is the official vessel of the State of Maine and the [flagship](#) of Maine Maritime Academy's Vessel Operations and Technology Program, which readied the vessel for refitting last year.

In 1923, MacMillan had turned to the ARRL for help in outfitting his expedition with better wireless gear, and, as Michael Marinaro, WN1M, explained in his June 2014 *QST* article, "[Polar Exploration](#)," that help "was enthusiastically provided. Hiram Percy Maxim and the Board agreed to furnish support as well as recruit an expert operator to accompany the expedition. Donald H. Mix, 1TS, of Bristol, Connecticut was chosen for the task." The *Bowdoin* is set to relaunch around June 1.

League Board member M.B. West custom designed the equipment, which was built by radio amateurs at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The transmitter operated on medium-wave frequencies with a power of 100 W and used the call sign WNP — for "Wireless North Pole." As Marinaro explained in his article, with Mix as the ship's radio operator, "WNP transmitted weekly 500-word press releases and listings of stations worked and heard. Once received by amateur stations, these reports were delivered to local affiliated newspapers of the North American Newspaper Alliance; from there, they were distributed syndicate-wide by telegraph."

In 1925 the *Bowdoin* headed to Greenland. "The outstanding accomplishment of the expedition was in the sphere of radio," Marinaro wrote. "Utilizing short waves, the expedition was in consistent contact with the outside world throughout the journey, to the delight of the amateurs who were able to work them. The phenomenal success proved to the Navy that short waves were definitely superior to the long and ultra long waves on which the fleets had been relying."

The August 2008 *QST* "Old Radio" column, "Where in the world is the *Bowdoin*?" offers additional details on the venerable vessel and its activities that have extended into the 21st century. A June 1959 *QST* article, "The *Bowdoin*'s Last Voyage," told of plans to permanently park the vessel at the Mystic Sea Museum in Connecticut.

Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses? FCC wants Comments

The FCC is seeking comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM 11760](#)) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may [submit](#) comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

ARRL CEO Harold Kramer WJ1B, Retires after 11 Years HQ

The ARRL Headquarters staff on February 26 bid farewell and a happy retirement to Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, as he wrapped up 11 years at ARRL Headquarters. His last official day on the job is March 1. At a retirement party, staff members presented Kramer with an antique clock from a Waterbury, Connecticut, clock maker — a particularly fitting gift, as he was born in Waterbury. The ARRL Laboratory staff also designated him as an honorary “ARRL Labbie” — complete with a League call sign badge.

“I was glad to have him as a colleague and a friend,” said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ — who will depart ARRL Headquarters himself on April 18, after more than 4 decades. Sumner cited several of Kramer’s contributions during his “one sunspot cycle” on the staff. These included arranging for some League publications to be published in Chinese in China, digital publishing — especially books on Kindle, recruiting authors of new publications, and his participation in the development of the League’s new Strategic Plan.

Sumner also noted that while on staff, Kramer had upgraded his own station and became more active on the air, and that he took the initiative to organize the W1Q special event to mark the 100th anniversary of QST in 2015.

As for his plans, Kramer, whose principal focus has been on emergency communication, said he’s hoping to finally put up the tower and beam he’s been talking about for the past decade and may even return to the Connecticut Field Organization, where he was once an EC. A book and some QST articles also are definite possibilities, he added.

An ARRL Life Member, Kramer, who lives in Cheshire, Connecticut, joined the ARRL as Chief Operating Officer in 2005. Before coming to ARRL, he was Chief Technology Officer at Connecticut Public Broadcasting.

Armed Forces Day 2016 Communication Test to Include Direct Military-Ham Contact on 60 Meters

This year’s Armed Forces Day Crossband Communication Test on Saturday, May 14, will include a significant new wrinkle: Select military stations will be using 60 meter interoperability channels to communicate *directly* with Amateur Radio stations on the band. Back this year, select military stations will use crossband Automatic Link Establishment (2G ALE) communication as well as MIL-STD Serial PSK to send the Secretary of Defense Armed Forces Day message. Armed Forces Day 2016 is Saturday, May 21, but the radio event is held earlier to avoid conflicting with Dayton [Hamvention](#), May 20-22.

The annual Armed Forces Day Communication Test is an opportunity to exercise two-way communication capability between Amateur Radio and military stations using a variety of modes, including SSB and CW as well as digital modes. The annual event gives participants — including shortwave listeners (SWLs) — an opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station.

QSL cards will be provided to all stations that make contact with the military stations. The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard cosponsor the joint military/Amateur Radio, with military stations transmitting on military frequencies and listening on Amateur Radio bands.

Amateur Radio stations and Short Wave Listeners interested in trying the MIL-STD Serial PSK mode can [download](#) the software program, *MS-DMT*. Full details about this year’s Armed Forces Day radio activities — including stations, frequencies, times, and modes of operation — will be [posted](#) by April 12 as well as on the US Army MARS [Facebook page](#).

US Amateur Radio Numbers Continue to Soar

Amateur Radio is alive and well! Growth in the US continued in 2015, with a record 735,405 licensees in the FCC's Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) database by the end of the year. That's up 9130 over December 2014, a 1.2 percent rise, continuing a steady increase in the Amateur Radio population in every year since 2007. In 2014, the Amateur Radio ranks grew by a net 8149 licensees. The [figures](#), compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages, exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Compared with the same month 10 years ago, the Amateur Radio population in the US has expanded by 72,805 licensees — or nearly 11 percent.

As expected, the biggest growth by license class was in Technician licensees, which rose by 6570 in 2015. General ranks increased by 3079, and Amateur Extra numbers went up by 3496. The 2015 overall numbers faltered a little in April before rebounding in July. The introduction of a new General class question pool on July 1 appeared to have only a slight effect on month-to-month numbers in that license class. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said 2015 was another banner year for ARRL VEC-sponsored test sessions.

"For the second year in a row, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone for the ARRL VEC," she said. "A total of 7358 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2015, compared to 7216 in 2014. The number of exam applicants was down slightly in 2015, compared to the previous year, and the number of examination elements administered also dipped slightly, she noted.

Somma pointed out that the ARRL-VEC also processed and filed nearly 10,100 license renewals and address changes for members in 2015. This is a free service to ARRL members.

Technician licensees still comprise a little less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 47,850 Advanced and 10,800 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 103,938 at the end of 2015, up from 102,735 at the end of 2014. North Dakota remained the state with the fewest number of Amateur Radio licensees, with 1510, up very slightly over the previous 12 months. Club station licenses in the US number 11,599, according to Speroni's web pages. — *Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A; FCC ULS licensing statistics*

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society Seeks New Leadership

The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society ([ARLHS](#)), sponsor of Intercontinental Lightship-Lighthouse Week, is looking for a new leader. Jim Weidner, K2JXW, who founded the ARLHS in 2000, has resigned as owner and president, due to serious illness. The organization's stated purpose is to promote public awareness of both ham radio and lighthouses, "preserving lights that are in danger of extinction, and paying tribute to the role that hams and lighthouse keepers have played in contributing to maritime safety." Headquartered in New Jersey, the ARLHS has about 2000 dues-paying members.

"Anyone wishing to take over the membership list and trusteeship of club station W7QF is welcome to do so and is guaranteed our full cooperation in the transition," said a solicitation distributed by Weidner on February 29. "We intend to keep the ARLHS active until June 30, 2016, after which time we will terminate the web page, [beaconbot](#), and all club activities, if no one is willing to assume ownership and leadership," Weidner's announcement said.

ARLHS sponsors the Intercontinental Lightship-Lighthouse Week, August 1-8, and National Lighthouse Day on August 7, with lighthouse and lightship Amateur Radio activations. The new owner/president would have to assume fiscal responsibilities. For additional information, contact Weidner via [e-mail](#) or telephone, (856) 486-1755.

Satellite DXCC.... 20 Years in the Making!

It took nearly 20 years, but [AMSAT](#) Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, finally qualified for Satellite DXCC. Glasbrenner submitted the requisite number of QSLs for checking at the Orlando [HamCation](#) February 12-14, and ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, verified KO4MA's achievement.

"It's been a long process getting to satellite DXCC," said Glasbrenner, who got into satellite operating around 1993, and was only on RS-12 (Mode K) for a long time. "This was the Russian satellite payload that used 15 meters up, and 10 meters down," he explained.

"When AO-40 was launched into a high-Earth orbit, I dove into Mode U/S with gusto," Glasbrenner recounted. During the 3 years that AO-40 was active, he spent many late nights and early mornings looking for the next new one. "Eventually I was using a 3 foot solid dish with preamp and downconverter for the Mode S downlink, and this is when some of my most exciting contacts came."

When AO-40 went silent, Glasbrenner said he was about a dozen short of DXCC, and he realized that he'd have to be proactive to finish up with just LEO satellites. Many of his new ones came from operators who went the extra mile to operate from places like the Caribbean and Greenland.

"The absence of operational HEO satellites makes satellite DXCC nearly impossible for newer operators," he said, "but I'm confident that continued membership and support of AMSAT by any operator interested in satellites will result in the successful return to high orbit by one of the several opportunities currently being pursued by the organization. Strike while the iron is hot!" Bernhard Dobler, DJ5MN, has been at the top of the DXCC-Satellite standings since 2000, and has 274 entities confirmed.

"Frequency" TV Series Now Planned for CW Network

The buzz from Hollywood is that a TV series based on the 2000 movie "Frequency" now is in development on — appropriately enough for a show featuring ham radio — the CW. Amateur Radio served as a plot device in the movie and will do the same in the TV series.

Now, the CW has ordered a pilot episode of "Frequency," and if the network does go forward with the project, the modern-day version of "Frequency" the TV series would feature a young female police detective named Raimy, who uses ham radio to communicate through time with her deceased father, played by Riley Smith. Actress Peyton List is said to have landed to role of Raimy, reprising Jim Caviezel's movie character.

When the original "Frequency" movie debuted, the ham radio theme and the chance to see vintage ham gear and real, glowing vacuum tubes on the big screen generated considerable interest within the Boat Anchor community. The ARRL worked with the film's producers.

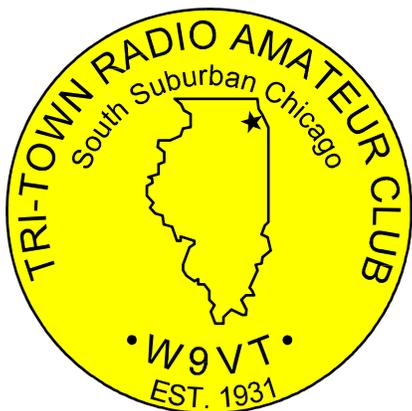
AMSAT at the Dayton Hamvention

AMSAT will have its traditional presence at the 2016 [Dayton Hamvention](#) at the Hara Arena in Trotwood, OH on Friday through Sunday, 20, 21, 22 May 2016. There will be the usual activities including a booth in the Ball Arena, demonstrations from an area outside the Ball Arena, and a forum on Saturday (21 May). We will also have a number of both formal and informal social activities including the popular get-together at Tickets Thursday evening, and the TAPR/AMSAT banquet Friday night at the Kohler Presidential Banquet Center. This is an excellent chance to talk with other *techies*, and enjoy what is always a fascinating after dinner speaker. Saturday night is open to allow informal get-togethers, or the many other activities for which the Hamvention is famous. As usual, we will also be booking a block of rooms at a local hotel for AMSAT members, and preference will be given to those who will be contributing a significant amount of time to the AMSAT operation.

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

March 2016

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 2016 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