

# The Oscillator

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## Upcoming Meetings

### General Meeting, Friday, May 16, 2014

Since this is Dayton Hamvention Weekend, there will be no general meeting. Instead, we will have an operating session at the Club Station. Rigs and antennas can be checked for Field Day use. Refreshments and raffle will be available. Activities will start at 8 PM as usual. Quests are always welcome.

### General Meeting, Friday, June 20, 2014

Meeting will start at 8 PM. The program for the evening will be on our Field Day efforts. Refreshments and raffle will be available. Bring a friend, quests are always welcome.

## Here are the tentative programs for remainder 2014.

July & August	Vacation from regular meetings but the picnic should be held in one of these months. Also operating sessions at the Bunker could be held if there is interest.
September	Tentative program on batteries.
October	Program needed. Please see any Club officer with ideas.
November	White Elephant Sale and nomination of Officers for 2015.
December	Election of Officers and Christmas party.

## Tri-Town 2014 Annual Picnic .... Date TBD

Good news! Jim KB9VR and his XYL, Joy have agreed to again host this year's picnic. A wonderful time was had by all last year so looking forward to another great picnic this year. The date and time have not yet been established so check your emails and check the Tri-Town nets for further information.

At the April 25, 2014 Club meeting, Jim, KB9VR, brought up the idea of establishing a 6 Meter Net. The Mode would be FM on a frequency of 52.525 MHz. No day or time has been established. Please contact Jim, KB9VR or John, N9DWE if you are interested.

## Board of Director's Meetings

Board meetings will take place on May 12 and June 9, 2014. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and are held at the Club Station. All Club members are welcome to attend.

# Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2014:

Ed Stroh, K9EGS	President	708.877-5204	<a href="mailto:K9EGS@hotmail.com">K9EGS@hotmail.com</a>
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:mattschumann@yahoo.com">mattschumann@yahoo.com</a>
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None @ No I' dont have one
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	<a href="mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net">the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net</a>
Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	Director	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:tschum3063@aol.com">tschum3063@aol.com</a>
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	<a href="mailto:WD9GHK@comcast.net">WD9GHK@comcast.net</a>
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	<a href="mailto:webmaster@w9vt.org">webmaster@w9vt.org</a>
Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Dir.	815.469.1383	<a href="mailto:Bbedoe@aol.com">Bbedoe@aol.com</a>

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## 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.

## Official Club 2 Mtr hangouts:

**146.49 Simplex, & The Club's Repeater 146.805 WD9HSY/R**

## Unofficial Club Hang Outs:

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

<b>2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net</b>	Wed, 8:00 PM Local, on <b>The Club's Repeater</b> 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
<b>10 Mtr SSB Net</b>	Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490.
<b>2 Mtr FM Weather Net</b>	Sundays, 8:00 PM local, on <b>The Club's Repeater</b> 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
<b>Tri-Town Alumni Net</b>	Monday through Friday, 2200 UTC on 7.285 MHz SSB

## Hamfests in the Area

May 18-20	Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, OH	Dayton Hamvention
SUN JUNE 1	Starved Rock	Princeton, IL	Starved Rock Radio Club
SUN JULY 13	FRRL Hamfest	Aurora, IL	Fox River Radio League
SUN JULY 20	KARSFEST	Peotone, IL	KANKAKEE ARS
SUN AUG 5	Hamfesters	Peotone, IL	Hamfesters

**CQ FD, CQ FD, CQ FD, de W9VT, Whiskey Nine, Very Tired, W9VT, CQ FD!!**

# From The President's Desk

Ed Stroh - K9EGS

I guess Spring has finally sprung. It has been slow coming but it is finally here. This is the time to get out and do some of the antenna repairs that are needed to correct what Mother Nature has done to your antenna over this past winter. My antennas seem to have survived without any problems. I hope that yours have too.

Next month is Field Day. As usual we will be having Tri-Town Field Day at the bunker. Please consider coming out and participating. Your presence would be greatly appreciated. You may just have some fun too. In fact I am sure that you will. We will be having food at meal times and great fellowship throughout. We especially need some CW operators. I hope to see you on Field Day this year which starts Saturday June 28 at 1800 UTC and runs through Sunday June 29 at 2059 UTC.

The month of June is also "Driving The Dixie," Saturday June 21st to be exact. Tri-Town can use your help for this event. We will be providing the communications. The communications consists of a Tri-Town member stationed at each of the check-in locations that are all along the Driving The Dixie route, (which is Dixie Highway), from Blue Island all the way down to Momence. All you need is a 2 meter radio either in your vehicle or a handie talkie. As you are manning your post at the check-in locations you can see some beautiful vintage and classic cars. This year we are planning to have a booth at the starting point in Blue Island for the purpose of promoting Tri-Town and Ham radio. We can use help setting up that booth as well as manning the booth. Please consider being part of this event.

Good News! Jim Booth has agreed to again host the annual Tri-Town picnic at his house in Monee. The final date has not yet been determined, but we know it will be sometime in either July or August. Come on out and have some great fellowship and food. We will update you as the date becomes finalized. THANK YOU JIM! That's all for this month. See you at the next meeting at the bunker on Friday May 16th.

## Dayton Hamvention, 146.49 Simplex and a 107.2 PL Tone Brian, WD9HSY

As we all know, the 3-day Dayton Hamvention is the biggest "RF Jungle" in the world. As in past years, 146.49 will be the freq of choice for all of us Tri-Town'ers at Dayton. A number of us on 146.49 also had our radios in Full PL encode / decode (TX/RX) using 107.2 (the same PL as the Repeater) This ALMOST eliminates all the noise, junk, garbage, and nonsense on 146.49. It also just about removed all non-club activity so that when the squelch opens it was usually a Tri-Town'er on the air! If you want to hear all 146.49 activity just turn on your TX PL on, so we will hear you while we are in PL mode. Go PL TX and PL RX to hear nothing but peace and quiet and us! Not sure how to set up your radio? Check your manual for setting your PL. If you have lots of memory positions set up 2 memories:

- 1) **On 146.49 with TX only on 107.2 PL** so you hear all traffic on 146.49
- 2) **On 146.49 with TX and RX set to 107.2!** so you hear only 146.49 w/107.2 PL

That way you can play both ways and if the noise gets too bad you can flip over to full PL! Have I have confused you yet? Give me a call and I'll talk you through it!

**Note from Brian,** I'm asked to reprint this article every year because it makes a lot of sense at Dayton. Remember, set one channel for just PL on TX, no PL on RX (so you hear everything on 49) and one with PL on both TX & RX! (That way you only stations with 107.2 PL on 146.49!)

**CQ FD, CQ FD, CQ FD, W9VT, Whiskey Nine, Very Tired, W9VT, CQ FD!!  
73, and Good Luck in the Contest. QRZ?**

# Field Day 2014 – Radio Operators, Get Ready...Get Set...

Field Day – the largest on the air operating event of the year – is the last weekend of June (28 & 29)! It's never too early to start planning. Tens of thousands of operators all over the country will be embracing CW, Phone, Digital, PSK31, Satellite and other modes, making the bands come alive with excitement. Let's throw our signal out there as well!

The GOTA station can only be operated by hams newly licensed since last year's Field Day, generally inactive hams, and non-licensed individuals who want a taste of the hobby. Generally inactive hams are those who have not really been on the air for a couple of years. If you've been fairly inactive for a while, come on out and make a few contacts for the club!

There are bonus points activities as well.....

*Emergency Power Bonus...* Got generator? We don't need to use it, just test it to see if it will power a radio.  
*Media Publicity Bonus...* We don't need to actually get the publicity, just make an attempt to get it.  
*Public Information Table...* Yep, we set up a table with information on the hobby, the ARRL, our club, etc.  
*Satellite QSO...* Just one satellite QSO gets us 100 points!  
*Alternate Power Bonus...* Bruce, WD9GHK has afforded us the 100 points by bringing his hand-crank generator to the bunker. 5 QSO's get's us the points.  
*Visit by an Govt. Official...* We need to invite an official elected big shot, and receive a visit.  
*Visit by an Em. Agency...* Red Cross, Salvation Army, local Law Enforcement... Or the mayor??  
*Youth Participation...* This is pretty cool too. Any ham or non-ham, 18 years old or younger, who makes at least one contact, gets us 20 points. 5 youth doing this gets us the maximum of 100 points. Do you know of anyone who might want to make a contact for the club? This is a great way to introduce someone to the hobby, or, give our younger licensed members a shot at the excitement.

Finally, the biggest points activity is QSO's.

So come on out and make some Q's! Let me know if you're planning on operating. We'll have a total of 6 stations set up and able to be on the air at the same time. There's plenty of operating opportunities. Also, we'll need a Refreshments Chairman, a Station Operations Manager, and a Computer Troubleshooter/Coordinator. An event like this requires bodies, so please step up and help in any way you can. Send me an email, catch me on the repeater, or call me on the landline, I'd love to hear from you. It's time to.....**GO !!**

**Will you step up to the Challenge?** We need Captains! See a Board Member for details

## Crimea (Ukraine) is Not a New DXCC Entity!

— Thanks to Bill Moore, NC1L, DXCC Administrator

The ARRL Awards Committee has evaluated the current situation in Crimea in light of the DXCC rules and has determined that Crimea is not a DXCC entity. Neither Russia nor Ukraine is a rare entity and the vast majority of confirmations used for DXCC credit for either entity do not involve Crimea.

DXCC Rule 4 reads: "Confirmation data for two-way communications must include the call signs of both stations, the entity name as shown in the DXCC List, mode, date, time and band. Except as permitted in Rule 1, cross-mode contacts are not permitted for DXCC credits. Confirmations not containing all required information may be rejected."

Bottom line: A QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Ukraine and showing the entity name as Ukraine counts as Ukraine. A QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Russia and showing the entity name as Russia counts as Russia. A QSL that satisfies neither condition does not count for either entity.

# DrivinThe Dixie - Save The Date June 21<sup>st</sup>!

From Trish, N9WDG

Tri-Town is looking forward to participating in the 2014 event scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2014- come rain or shine.

This will be the 13<sup>th</sup> year for this annual event and the 9<sup>th</sup> year for participation by Tri-Town. The 2014 event is expected to operate much like recent years, with a fleet of 125-150 really cool classic cars stopping for various lengths of time in locations that change each year by the 12 participating communities along Dixie Highway between Blue Island and Momence. Tri-Town tries to put a radio equipped member in as many communities as possible during a plus or minus two hour window. This year Tri-Town will also have a booth in Blue Island at the start to showcase the club and amateur radio.

Martin, WD9JGG and Trish, N9WDG have been attending the 2014 planning meetings as liaisons between Tri-Town and the other event organizers.

Participating in prior events has proved to be a fun and rewarding experience for Tri-Town operators.

SAVE THE DATE- JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>- IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING PLEASE CONTACT TRISH AT 708-828-8592 or at: [the\\_jaggards@sbcglobal.net](mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net) DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN!



## AMSAT-NA is Moving!

AMSAT News Service

After 30 years in the same location, AMSAT-NA is moving to a new office and will be closed today, Friday, April 25. AMSAT-NA will re-open in its new digs on Friday, May 2. The new address is AMSAT-NA, 10605 Concord St #304, Kensington, MD 20895.

AMSAT said its e-mail will remain operational, but it may be slow in responding. Purchases may be made as usual through the AMSAT Store, but they will not be processed until the move is complete.

New telephone numbers will be (301) 822-4376 (FAX (301) 822-4371). The US-only toll-free number, (888) 322-6728, will remain the same.

AMSAT said that county authorities ordered closed the building that had been its home, due to its deteriorating condition. Its new office will be about 5 miles away

## **Texas Radio Amateur Gives Up License As Part of Enforcement Action Settlement**

A Texas radio amateur has agreed to turn in his Amateur Extra class license as part of an agreement with the FCC to settle an enforcement action against him. The FCC earlier this year issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to James R. Winstead, KD5OZY, of Coleman, Texas, after determining that Winstead “apparently willfully violated” FCC rules by interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The Commission had proposed a \$7000 fine. The action was in response other radio amateurs’ complaints of intentional interference on 7.195 MHz.

“Mr Winstead has admitted that his actions violated the Commission’s rules and agreed to voluntarily relinquish his amateur license and make a \$1000 voluntary contribution to resolve the [Enforcement] Bureau’s investigation,” the FCC said in an Order released April 22. The Order adopted a Consent Decree between the Enforcement Bureau and Winstead that spells out the details of the settlement.

Last January 21 an agent from the Commission’s Dallas Office used direction-finding techniques to positively identify the source of interfering transmissions as Winstead’s address. After monitoring the transmissions from the station for about a half-hour, the agent heard Winstead “replay multiple times short sentences or conversations that had just been transmitted, and occasionally speak the word ‘George.’”

“Mr Winstead replayed recorded conversations so frequently that other licensees were unable to complete their conversations,” the NAL stated. The agent estimated that Winstead disrupted approximately 20 minutes of conversation over a 30 minute period by making up to 15 minutes of short transmissions. The agent subsequently inspected Winstead’s station, observing that his radio equipment was tuned to 7.195 MHz.

“During the inspection, Mr Winstead showed the agent how he recorded and retransmitted other amateur licensees’ communications,” the FCC said. “He also admitted that he intentionally interfered with amateur communications on 7.195 MHz and had an ongoing disagreement with another amateur licensee named George.”

## **KickSat Has Been Deployed in Low-Earth Orbit**

Zac Manchester, KD2BHC, of the KickSat project, reports the satellite launched successfully April 18 at 1925 UTC and successfully has attained low-Earth orbit. “We at Cornell and several Amateur Radio operators around the world have made contact with the spacecraft, and it is alive and well,” Manchester reported.

The Cornell grad student has announced that he will offer prizes to the first several people who receive telemetry packets from KickSat as well as the first few who receive signals from the tiny Sprite satellites that KickSat will deploy in early May.

After a launch delay, KickSat went into space with the third SpaceX ISS resupply mission. Next month the 3U KickSat CubeSat will release more than 100 Sprite satellites — each about the size of a small cracker — into orbit. They will become the smallest Earth-orbiting satellites ever.

The KickSat beacon (437.505 MHz and 2401-2436.2 MHz) will transmit telemetry packets with information such as battery charge state, temperature, and Sprite deployment status. Packets will be transmitted every 30 seconds when the satellite is powered on, and every 250 seconds when it is in charging mode. All of the Sprites will be on the same frequency — 437.240 MHz.

**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

# **We Are Still Taking Dues**

To all of you that have paid your 2014 dues, the Club thanks you. If you have not renewed please let this be a reminder to do so as soon as possible. Of course, we always welcome new members. Club dues are used to cover the cost of insurance and operating the repeater. Money taken in from the raffles, refreshments, picnic and Christmas party pays most of those expenses. Thank you for your continued support of the Club.

## **Field Day 2014**

Field Day 2014 will take place on June 28 and 29, 2014, at the Bunker. Let's start gearing up now for the 24 hour event and plan ahead. A Field Day Captain is needed along with set up, take down staff, cook staff and of course operators. Normal operations call for SSB, FM, CW and Digital modes. We really need CW operators. Please contact any Club officer to volunteer for any job. Beverages and food will be provided.

## **Air Force HAARP Facility in Danger of Being Dismantled**

Thanks to The Daily DX

According to an April 9 report in Alaska Dispatch, the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility near Gakona, Alaska, could be decommissioned and dismantled altogether, unless the US Air Force can find a new prime contractor to take over the sprawling, 35-acre facility. According to the report, the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks is hoping to pull together a plan to run the facility, which long has been a subject of fascination for hams and the target of conspiracy theorists. The facility shut down last year and, with the exception of some contract-funded research, it has essentially remained in standby.

Money is one major issue. The US Air Force Research Laboratory wants to see HAARP survive, "but only if someone else pays the bills, estimated at about \$5 million a year," the article said.

The University of Alaska Geophysical Institute is reported to be trying to come up with a plan to keep HAARP up and running to continue ionospheric research. A White House Office of Science and Technology Policy meeting in February of federal agencies interested in ionospheric research came up with no viable candidates to run HAARP.

The news account cites an Air Force spokesman as saying that final research experiments funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) are set to wrap up next month.

HAARP's website through the University of Alaska remains unavailable. HAARP indicated 3 years ago that it would be shutting down, and it did not submit a budget request for FY 15, but that attracted scant attention.

Jointly funded by the US Air Force Research Laboratory and the US Naval Research Laboratory, HAARP is an ionospheric research facility. Its best-known apparatus is its 3.6 MW HF (approximately 3 to 10 MHz) ionospheric research instrument (IRI), feeding an extensive system of 180 gain antennas and used to "excite" sections of the ionosphere. Other onsite equipment is used to evaluate the effects.

The ultra-high power facility long has intrigued hams, even outside of Alaska. In 1997, HAARP transmitted test signals on HF (3.4 MHz and 6.99 MHz) and solicited reports from hams and short-wave listeners in the "Lower 48" to determine how well the HAARP transmissions could be heard to the south. In 2007 HAARP succeeded in bouncing a 40 meter signal off the moon. Early last year, HAARP scientists successfully produced a sustained high-density plasma cloud in Earth's upper atmosphere.

While the Air Force has possession for now, the unique facility will be dismantled if no other agency steps forward to take it over.

## ARRL Releases Repeater Directory App for Android

ARRL has introduced its first Android app for locating Amateur Radio repeater frequencies in the US and Canada — The ARRL Repeater Directory®...Powered by Travel Plus™. Android phone and mobile device users can download the app at no cost from Google Play™ (an Apple iOS version is coming soon). The free app provides limited access to The ARRL Repeater Directory database. Users may purchase a subscription to the complete database of 23,000 repeaters, but the full version of the app is included in the price of The ARRL Repeater Directory print versions.

“You’re probably more likely to have your smartphone at your fingertips when searching for a repeater while traveling,” ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, pointed out. “The app can quickly locate you and deliver a list of nearby repeaters to tune in.” Inderbitzen says users can browse the entire database by city and state too, even while offline.

The app’s database includes the current list of frequencies included with the new 2014-2015 hard copy editions of The ARRL Repeater Directory and in the TravelPlus for Repeaters software. “ARRL assembles this data each year from frequency coordinators recognized by the National Frequency Coordinator’s Council and carefully vetted submissions from individual repeater owners,” said ARRL Publication Manger Steve Ford, WB8IMY, who edits the directory. The database includes repeaters from 28 MHz to 1240 MHz, and includes ATV, D-Star, APCO-25, Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), EchoLink, and IRLP machines.

The ARRL Repeater Directory app can search for frequencies by city and state, or by current location, if you’ve enabled location services on your device. Selecting a listing reveals detailed information on the repeater and its features. Users can filter searches to see only repeaters that match certain attributes. There is also integrated mapping.

### **Users may purchase an activation code for 12 months’ access to the full version from ARRL for \$9.95.**

The hard copy 2014-2015 Repeater Directory, also available from ARRL or from an ARRL publications dealer, includes an activation code for access to the full version of The ARRL Repeater Directory app. The pocket-sized edition is \$12.95, and the desktop edition is \$17.95 — both including the app (plus shipping). The activation code permits single users to activate the full version of the app for 12 months on up to three devices. ARRL produced the app with DHF Systems, the developer of ARRL’s Travel Plus for Repeaters™ software.

## WWV’s 25 MHz Signal Back on the Air

WWV silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it’s back on the air “for old times’ sake” — officially on an “experimental basis.” Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was Matt Deutch, NØRG, the Lead Electrical Engineer at WWV. It all came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented the loss of the 25 MHz signal in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by subsequently putting the signal back on the air on April 4 for about 3-1/2 hours.

WWV began another 25 MHz test starting on April 7, and Deutch told ARRL that WWV-25 probably will remain on the air for the rest of the week. “So hopefully a few more people will hear it,” he said. Lewis said he’d told Deutch late last week that 10 meter propagation has been so good at this point in Cycle 24, and he uses the various WWV frequencies as propagation beacons on a daily basis.

“He responded that ‘for old times’ sake,’ they’d put the [25 MHz] signal back on the air for a while. I assumed, of course, that he was kidding, and so I didn’t check. Matt wasn’t kidding!”

NIST said the 25 MHz broadcast consists of the normal WWV signal heard on all other WWV frequencies, at the same level of accuracy. The transmitter in Fort Collins, Colorado, can put out 2500 W into a “broadband monopole,” although Deutch said the transmitter was running 1200 W. WWV has invited listeners’ comments and signal reports.

Here is a youtube link: (There are more than a 12+ listed) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI\\_KFVu5bq8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI_KFVu5bq8)

# Rancor over Coconino County's (Arizona) Ham Radio ban

ERIC BETZ, Arizona Daily Sun

Last week's cellphone ordinance has raised the rancor of a small group of local ham radio operators.

The group says that, as written, the Coconino County cellphone restrictions ban radio communications for school bus, taxi, truckers and other drivers who depend on the technology. And it stops amateur radio operators from being able to easily assist in a volunteer capacity with local events.

The measure provides exemptions for amateur radio operators working during an emergency situation under the direction of "authorized first responders." It also allows for drivers who have pulled over and placed their cars in "park."

"There are hundreds, if not thousands, of amateur radio operators in Coconino County," said ham radio user Joshua Camon. "This will directly impact them, as well as the tens of thousands of truck drivers that pass through the area daily."

The group has been reaching out to Matt Ryan, chair of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors. They'd like to get a clarification or an amendment that would create an exemption allowing radio operations to continue.

Reached for comment on Tuesday, Coconino County officials confirmed that the ordinance does ban amateur radio operations, forcing users to pull over in nonemergency situations.

"The board approved an ordinance that carefully weighed the need to enhance public safety while meeting the needs of the communicating public," said Coconino County Spokesperson Nathan Gonzalez. "It's also important to note that the public was allowed to provide input on the ordinance as it was shaped and researched over several years, including a number of public hearings."

Those meetings saw scant public input and the comments made on the proposed ordinance were largely positive.

Joe Hobart coordinates emergency communications for the Coconino Amateur Radio Club. He said that he and others in his group are likely all in favor of a ban against text messaging and other data entry, but they don't see amateur radio operations as being dangerous. In their estimation, the communications across amateur radio are brief and often one-way. It's not as engaging of a conversation, Hobart said.

He said he planned to take his case to the Flagstaff City Council last night. That body is currently considering its own ordinance after the county's move last week.

"We do this free. We're not allowed to charge for our services," Hobart said. "We're providing a huge safety value for the event."

He added that the U.S. Forest Service is often reluctant to provide permits for events when safety communications are not well planned.

Hobart added that he believes the county could have overstepped its authority in regulating radio communications, which is under the purview of the Federal Communications Commission.

This issue has come up in many other states and cities that restrict the use of cellphones in cars. A handful of states already provide exemptions for amateur radio operators in their cellphone bans. But some ham radio operators in New York State have been cited for using their radios under a state law that is not clear on the matter.

## **Amateur Radio Propagation Guru Says Extended Solar Ebb May Lie Ahead**

Amateur Radio propagation and solar phenomena authority Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, said in an April 27 webinar, "Are We Headed into Another Maunder Minimum? What Does That Mean for Propagation?" that most solar scientists believe several low solar cycles lie ahead, ushering in periods of diminished HF propagation, especially on the higher bands. Luetzelschwab, who maintains K9LA's Amateur Radio Propagation Web Site and pens a regular "Propagation" column for NCJ, stopped short of concluding that we'll experience a Maunder minimum — an extended period of very few or no sunspots. As the Marshall Space Flight Center's "Solar Physics" web page explains, early sunspot records indicate that the Sun went through an inactive period from about 1645 to 1715 — called the Maunder minimum after the scientist who discovered it — when very few sunspots were observed.

Many solar scientists believe that Cycle 24 — the current solar cycle — is the weakest in years, and that this portends even less sunspot activity in the future. Some even have predicted outright that a Maunder minimum is around the corner.

In a period of extremely few sunspots, Luetzelschwab said, we might expect "spotty" F2 layer propagation on 15 meters and "probably 12 and 10 will be noise." He said that if it's a Dalton-type minimum, "we'll probably experience propagation kind of like what we're experiencing right now in this Solar cycle." The Dalton minimum, from about 1790 until 1830, was another extended low-sunspot period that was not as severe as the earlier Maunder minimum.

Another factor is the condition of the Sun's polar magnetic flux field. "Note that the magnetic field of the sun reverses at solar max," Luetzelschwab said. He told his audience that the solar polar fields are decreasing, but after the Solar Cycle 23 maximum, "They just did not pick up. They're pretty low."

"We need to gather some really good data" over the next 10 years, Luetzelschwab concluded, adding that the additional data will provide evidence one way or the other. "This would cover the decline of Cycle 24 and the ascent of Cycle 25 to maybe get a better idea of what the sun is doing," he said. "Are We Headed into Another Maunder Minimum? What Does That Mean for Propagation?" will be posted in the webinar archive on the WWROF website.

## **The World of TV is Digital, So Let's try 6 Meters!!**

John N9DWE

I use to be quite active on 6 meter side band and found it to be a lot of fun especially when the band was open, and I even worked several European countries!

Now the bad part, Monee did not have cable at that time and since 6 Mtrs was so close to Chan. 2, I could blacken and I really do mean blacken, nearly all of the TV sets in town. One night I was the person in the pile up everybody was going after. I guess they needed EN61. Well I was there for them, must have worked 40 stations It was a blast, well that evening Dallas was on and I did not realize the following it had in Monee. I met 6 or 7 new people that night. Needless to say they were not happy.

Now, let's fast forward to the 21st century. We have cable now. TV Chan 2 is now digital and moved into UHF spectrum. The band is ours! I said, all of that to say this. I got interested in 6 meter FM, right now the 3 repeaters in Chicago seem to be down for repair. So what about simplex, you don't have to worry about timing anything out and for a relatively low price one can buy a 6 meter vertical. I purchased one brand new for \$68 dollars from Arrow Antenna in Cheyenne, WY. I was really impressed with the quality. So let's slap some coax together and get on 6 meter FM. Jim KB9VR and myself performed some on air testing using his base station and I was mobile we had simplex of over 35 miles. Not bad, what was interesting is there were many spots where 6 meters was there and 2 meters was not. Might even start a net on simplex. The National Calling Frequency is 52.525 MHz and the simplex frequencies are from 52.310 to 52.790. A lot of us have those DC to Daylight radios, so let's give it a try.

# Armed Forces Day 2014 Cross-Band Test Set for May 10

The 2014 Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Communication Test will take place on Saturday, May 10. The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard co-sponsor the annual Amateur Radio/US military communication test. The 64th Armed Forces Day officially takes place on May 17, but the Armed Forces Day event takes place a week earlier, on May 10, to avoid conflicting with Dayton Hamvention®. The on-the-air celebration features traditional military-to-Amateur Radio cross-band communication on both SSB and CW. Some activity will continue into the early hours of Sunday, May 11 (UTC). Most activity gets underway at 1200 UTC.

“These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWLs) an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise,” the Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Communication Test announcement said. “QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.”

More than 20 military stations representing all of the services and in various parts of the Continental US, as well Hawaii (ABH), Okinawa (ADB) and Guam (NRV) are expected to be on the air, transmitting on military frequencies outside the Amateur Radio bands and listening for calls within Amateur Radio bands. Some military stations may not be on the air for the entire event, depending on propagation and station staffing.

Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in certain bands and frequencies, depending on the station. The military stations have asked that radio amateurs limit voice contacts to no longer than a couple of minutes. Some military stations will use CW. Much of the activity will involve frequencies outside the 80, 40, and 20 meter bands.

Participating US Army Stations will include WAR at the Pentagon, as well as AAZ, AAC, ABH, ADB, and WUG-23; US Air Force stations AIR, AGA2SY, AGA4AR, AGA5SC, and ARA9TR, and US Navy-Marine Corps stations NBL, NMC1, NMN, NNN0ASF, NNN0CQQ, NPD, NRV, NUW, NWKJ, and NWVC.

The annual event also includes the US Secretary of Defense message test, which will be transmitted in various digital modes. Stations will use RTTY, CW, PSK31, PACTOR, AMTOR (FEC), MT63, and other digital modes to transmit the message. A certificate is available for stations correctly copying the message.

Transcripts of the digital message from the US Secretary of Defense should be submitted “as received,” with no attempt to correct possible transmission or reception errors. On the same sheet of paper containing the test message, stations should provide time, frequency and call sign of the military station copied, as well as the name, call sign, and address (including zip code) of the individual submitting the entry.

Stations receiving the message from AAZ, WAR, or AAC should send entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Commander Netcom, ATTN: NETC-ATD (MARS Station), Building 90549 Jim Avenue, Ft Huachuca, AZ 85613-7070. Stations copying the message from NBL, NNN0ASF, NNN0CQQ, NUW, NWKJ OR NWVC should send entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Chief, Navy-Marine Corps MARS, Cheatham Annex Building 117, 108 Sanda Ave, Williamsburg, VA 23185-5830. Stations copying the message from AGA2SY, AGA5SC, AGA9TR OR AFA4AR should send entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, 38 Cyrs/Chief Air Force MARS, 203W Losey St, Room 1200, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

**Membership supports the Club Station, The Club Repeater, The Website,  
The Oscillator, and many Club Activities!**

**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

# A New way to QSL?

Brian WD9HSY

The Good old QSL card. I think with the QSL cards alone, the Ham Radio Community has kept the USPS in business all these years. Over the past few years or decades Hams have discovered using the outgoing and income QSL Bureaus. With the advent of Fax and Slow Scan TV, Hams sent the QSL cards as pictures. Now we have eQSLs and LotW.

Today I got this from a PSK31 QSO in the form of an email. He sent it as a JPG file:



# BARCELONA ESPAIN

**RADIO CLUB QUIXOTES**



# E3ARE

CONFIRMING QSO WITH					WD9HSY	
DATE	UTC	MHz	MODE	LOC	RST	RADIO
01/05/2014	15,51	21.070	PSEK31	JN11BJ	599	IC-7600

Frances Fossas Campderros  
08016 Plaza Garrigo 11 7º 2ª  
Barcelona Espain

73 DX BYE BYE

Now the interesting question is, Does it count under anyone's rules? Not to bad considering the QSO was less than 24 hours ago ..... I would love to find out about his logging program. Hey wait, I got his email address ..... Cool!

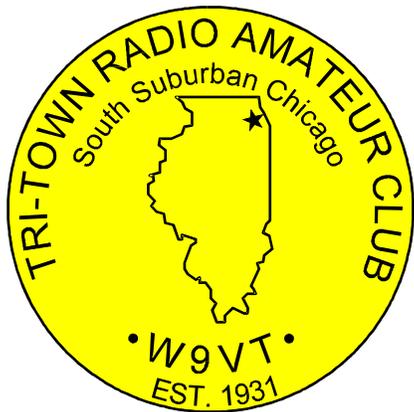
**Membership supports the Club Station, The Club Repeater, The Website, The Oscillator, and many Club Activities!**

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

**May 2014**

**First Class Mail**



**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

## **Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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_____ <b>Regular Membership</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>
_____ SWL Membership	\$ 20.00
_____ Extra Family Membership	\$ 6.00
_____ Bunker Buddie	\$ 5.00
_____ Auto Patch w/1 Speed Slot	\$ 25.00
_____ Extra Speed Slots	\$ 5.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid by Club Member

For Example: Regular Member, with A/P and Bunker Buddy (20+25+5) = \$ 50.00

**We need your Membership!**

**Membership supports the Club Station, The Club Repeater, The Website,  
The Oscillator, and many Club Activities!**