

# The Oscillator

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## Upcoming Meetings

### **May Meeting - Friday, May 15, 2015, 8 PM, at the Bunker.**

Due to the fact that this is Dayton Hamvention weekend, and many members will be attending, we will have a play radio night for the club. No general meeting will be held. No raffle, but refreshments will be available. To all of those attending the Hamvention, have a safe trip.

### **June Meeting – Friday, June 19, 2015, 8 PM, at the Bunker.**

The program will be on our activities for the Driving The Dixie and Field Day. The evening will include the usual business meeting. Refreshments will be available as well as raffle tickets for a door prize. Please plan on attending and bring a friend.

### **Driving The Dixie – Saturday June 20, 2015.**

In addition to providing communications for this event, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dixie Highway will be acknowledged with a Special Event Station, W9D at Beecher, IL. The W9D operation will be weekend long and can be operated from your home QTH. Martin WD9JGG, Trish N9WDG and Brian WD9HSY are coordinating the event activities. More information will be forthcoming from them as the date nears.

### **New 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?

### **From The President's Desk**

Todd KA9IUC

As winter has faded and spring has sprung, we find ourselves weeks away from the busiest time of the year for Club activities. Driving The Dixie and Field Day in June and the annual picnic later in the summer. These events, along with regular meeting and nets, all have one thing in common. They all need participation and leadership to succeed. The Driving The Dixie event is organized but addition operators are need for some stop locations. Chairmen are needed for Field Day and the Picnic as these events need to get off the ground and get organized.

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

## **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
Randy Iliff, N9KKN	Board Member	815.219.1084	randyiliff@gmail.com
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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.

## **Official Club 2 Mtr hangouts:**

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

## **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**

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**

MAY 3	Kishwaukee ARC	Sandwich, IL	<a href="http://www.w9icu.com/flyer.html">www.w9icu.com/flyer.html</a>
15-17	Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, OH	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org">www.hamvention.org</a>
JUNE 7	Starved Rock Club	Princeton	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm">www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm</a>
21	6m Club of Chicago	Wheaton	<a href="http://www.k9ona.com">www.k9ona.com</a>

# 2015 Tri-Town Upcoming Activities/Events

Nets, Sundays and Wednesdays, 8PM local, on the Club repeater.

May 15, Meeting, 8PM, Radio Night at the Bunker.  
May 15-17, Dayton Hamvention.

Week of June 15 (Exact Dates/Time to Follow) W9D Special Event Stations

June 19, Meeting, 8PM, Bunker, Special Event Station, Driving the Dixie and Field Day.  
June 20, Service project, Driving the Dixie and Special Event Station, Trish, N9DWG is contact.  
June 27-28, Field day, details to follow. Chairman needed.

July and August, No meetings – Vacation & August, Annual Club picnic Host needed!  
Sept 18, Meeting, Program suggestions needed.  
October 16, Meeting, Program suggestions needed and Nomination of 2016 Officers.  
Nov 20, Meeting, 8PM, at the Bunker, White Elephant Sale, Show and Tell, Elections.  
December, Christmas Party, details to be Announced

## 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!)

## Folks On Spokes Easter Ride

Bruce WD9GHK

The Folks on Spokes Easter ride great this year. I had the help of Jim KB9VR at the Willow brook area of Crete, Ron WB9JYZ at Goodenow Grove , Mac WA9CYL in Crete, and Jim WD9GXU helping me at Park Forest village hall.

We passed some traffic and told one of the FOS sag stop persons to turn on their cell phone. Thank you for your help.

# Drivin The Dixie & W9D -- June 20th Save The Date!

From Trish, N9WDG

Tri-Town is looking forward to participating in the 2015 event scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2014- come rain or shine. Martin, WD9JGG and Trish, N9WDG have been attending the 2015 planning meetings as liaisons between Tri-Town and the other event organizers.

This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> year for this annual event and the 10<sup>th</sup> year for participation by Tri-Town. The 2015 event is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dixie Highway and 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. Participating in prior events has proved to be a fun and rewarding experience for Tri-Town operators. **DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN!**

We will need Volunteers and Helpers so Please Call TRISH AT 708-828-8592  
or email her: [the\\_jaggards@sbcglobal.net](mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net)

## June 20<sup>th</sup>- Drivin the Dixie -- Car Drive & W9D Caboose Operation

Tri-Town will have a Special Events Station, W9D at the Train Caboose at the Beecher Train Depot. We will need Operators to man the Radios at the Caboose! Plan on Phone on 20 and 40 mtrs

## June 15 to June 20 Home Operations of W9D

if you can't come out operate at the caboose on Saturday, Would you like to operate from home? Brian, WD9HSY, will be coordinating the "Home Operation" part of W9D during the week before. Yes, You can operate W9D all week long starting Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> through June 20 too! You can Promote Drivin the Dixie, the 100 Birthday Party for the Dixie Highway, and operate W9D too! So why not promote this event and have some fun too.

Here is the Info as Published Info on QRZ:  
<http://www.qrz.com/lookup/w9d>

Here is the Info as Published Info in QST:

6/19/2015 | 100th Anniversary of Dixie Highway

Jun 19-Jun 20, 1700Z-2200Z, W9D, Homewood, IL. Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club. 14.270 7.270. Certificate. Tricia Jaggard, 17609 Golfview Ave, Homewood, IL 60430. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Dixie Highway from Blue Island, IL to Momence, IL. We will have operators during the week prior to event up to June 20. Look for us on other frequencies too. [www.w9vt.org](http://www.w9vt.org)

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

## W9D over the Past Few Years for Special Events

W9D	June 15, 2015	June 20, 2015	100th Anniversary of the Dixie Hwy
W9D	June 6, 2014	June 8, 2014	70th Anniversary of D-Day Invasion
W9D	September 19, 2013	September 22, 2013	W9DXCC DX Convention
W9D	September 13, 2012	September 16, 2012	W9DXCC DX Convention
W9D	February 11, 2012	February 14, 2012	Heavy metal Night
W9D	September 14, 2011	September 18, 2011	W9DXCC DX Convention
W9D	June 25, 2011	June 26, 2011	DICK DEWEES MEMORIAL FD
W9D	February 1, 2011	February 7, 2011	AM Phone rally
W9D	December 31, 2010	January 1, 2011	Heavy Metal Night
W9D	December 17, 2010	December 18, 2010	Heavy metal Night
W9D	September 8, 2010	September 12, 2010	W9DXCC Convention
W9D	February 6, 2010	February 7, 2010	AM transmitter rally

## Remember W9H Special Events?

W9H	Oct 15, 2006	Oct 21, 2006	75th Anv of Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club
W9H	May 1, 2004	May 2, 2004	HOMEWOOD RAILROAD HERITAGE DAY

## Weather Spotters Track Severe Weather in Illinois

Amateur Radio weather spotters were on alert April 9 as severe weather and at least two tornadoes ripped through North-Central Illinois. At least one person died in DeKalb County, and at least seven others were injured. A tornado watch was in effect for parts of three states as severe thunderstorms move through the region ahead of an advancing cold front.

“The storms that affected North-Central Illinois yesterday were unheard of for our area,” said ARRL Illinois Section Manager Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN, noting that the stricken communities are just north of where he lives. “At this time, one person is dead, many are injured, and even more are homeless. At least one small community was completely leveled, and damage exists from Ogle County northwest into Lake County.

Ciciora said all along the way, the storm was identified and tracked by numerous Amateur Radio spotters, who relayed reports to the National Weather Service through several nets. The National Weather Service credited several reports during the period of severe weather to Amateur Radio.

“I heard much of this as it happened,” Ciciora added, “and it was one of our finest collective efforts.” He said there are no ongoing ARES communication support operations under way.

“Based on reports from trained storm spotters and chasers as well as radar and environmental evidence,” the National Weather Service said, “there were at the very least two tornadoes, but likely more across North-Central Illinois on April 9.” The NWS said another brief tornado occurred earlier north of Peoria. The region also received up to golf ball-sized hail and as much as an inch and a half of rain.

A State of Illinois Emergency Management Agency incident response team has been dispatched to the affected areas, and damage assessment is under way.

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

# **W9D Special Event Station 100th Anv. of The Dixie Highway!**

## ***Big Day at Tri-Town -- 100 Years of the Dixie Highway***

On June 20 the day of the Drivin the Dixie event, Martin WD9JGG, and Trish N9WDG are the Club's main contact people with the organizers of Drivin the Dixie motor car event from Blue Island to Momence. Tri-Town will be handling communication between the cars / organizers / and the check points along the route. This will be a directed W9VT NET. Club Members will be needed to man the Checkpoints as the vehicles roll on though.

## ***At the Caboose in Beecher: Saturday June 20***

On Saturday June 20 the day of the Drivin the Dixie event, Tri-Town will be running a Special Event Station from the Caboose at the Beecher Train Station. There will be 2 ops operating on 14.275 and 7.270 at the caboose during the event. Mark, KA9MDJ is the contact and lead operator at the Beecher Caboose. Get in touch with Mark to work out the schedule to keep these stations at the caboose on the air!

## ***At Home or At the Club Station: June 15 to June 20***

During the week before the event, from June 15 to June 20, The Tri-Town RAC will have exclusive use of the W9D call sign for this special event. Brian WD9HSY will be organizing a "AT Home" or "AT the Club Station" type Special Event similar to the W9H and W200VT operations of the past. What this means is that Club members will be able to use W9D at their home stations to make Special Event QSO's anytime they want.

**What are the rules here?** You have to operate on the bands YOU are licensed to. Not to worry, most Extras, and Advances will operating in the General portion of the bands anyway .... so when in doubt, play in the General Part of the Band. Sorry, Techs your on 10 meters or buddy up with a Higher Class operator and get on Low HF Bands.

You can operate as much as you want, but we do need to coordinate who is where and on what mode... We do not want 4 people on 20 mtr SSB at the same time, but 1 SSB operator on 40, 20, 15, and 10 at the same time is just Fine!. So we will coordinate who is where on the repeater. For Example, "This is Brian, WD9HSY any of the W9D operators playing on 40 mtr Phone right now?" Make a couple of calls on the repeater and if no answer, Go for it! Check the DX Cluster too. We want to have 1 operator per mode per band at a time. So someone on SSB, CW, and Digital on one band that is fine. If you are operating W9D, please monitor the repeater for US, and your favorite DX Cluster for THEM!

There is no restriction on Modes, Power Output and Band, (I am not sure about WARC bands, I will check into that) but let's be considerate of the Special Call, our Club and other Hams. During contacts some Hams may just jump in and out, DX style, while some others may want to have a QSO, be polite and try to be everything to everybody!

**QSL Cards -- Yes!** Don't be afraid to ask ---- 1 FOR W9D, and 1 FOR YOURSELF!! Need WAS, DXCC? Go For It!

**I have set up a QRZ.com page for W9D** so you can refer to it on the air ..... Remember the old days, When you had to send people to a certain issue of QST on page xxx, 3rd column, near the bottom to get any info? Not anymore!! You can say on the air, "All the QSL info is on QRZ under W9D, as well as some neat background info on the Dixie Highway" I will also put a blurb on the W9VT QRZ page just in case you say W9VT by accident" Check out the W9D QRZ page to see all the info. I put it up last week!

**DX Clusters -- Yes!** Don't be afraid to spot yourself on the DX Cluster . Special Event Stations are spotted all the time on the clusters .... you will get DX stations calling you, too! It is not a one way street, DX stations do call USA Hams! Some hams will tell you that they spotted you on the cluster, Thank Them! You can also ask a hams you work if they could spot you too! During W1AW/9 I spotted myself as working "all Flavors of PSK 31, 63, 125" I was hit with a 1 hour plus pile up of JA's (Japan) Hams asking me to do PSK-63, PSK-125, and PSK-250!

There will be more details to follow... Want to Play? Drop an email to Martin & Trish, Mark, or Brian. Want to do all of it, or just one, no problem! Get involved! Have some fun, support Tri-Town!

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# AMSAT NA Opportunity for Rideshare to Geostationary Orbit

Bob McGwier, N4HY and AMSAT-NA

AMSAT is excited to announce that we have accepted an opportunity to participate in a potential rideshare as a hosted payload on a geostationary satellite planned for launch in 2017. An amateur radio payload, operating in the Amateur Satellite Service, will fly on a spacecraft which Millennium Space Systems (MSS) of El Segundo, CA is contracted to design, launch, and operate for the US government based on their Aquila M8 Series Satellite Structure.

A meeting to discuss this potential rideshare took place on April 13 at Millennium Space Systems. Hosting the meeting for MSS were Stan Dubyn as founder and chairman of MSS, Vince Deno as president of MSS, Jeff Ward, K8KA, of MSS as VP for Product Development, formerly with SSTL and University of Surrey Space Center, and Ryan Lawrence of MSS as Project Manager on the spacecraft mission. Attending by telephone were Dr. Jonathan Black, Associate Research Director of Hume Center for Aerospace Systems and Associate Professor of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering and Dr. Michael Parker, KT7D, founder of RINCON Research Corp.

Following the meeting, Dr. Bob McGwier, N4HY, Director of Research at the Hume Center for National Security and Technology of Virginia Tech, and former director and former VP Engineering of AMSAT, described this as an opportunity to go forward with "AMSAT-Eagle" which, in the 2006-2008 timeframe, evolved into a microwave payload to be flown to geostationary orbit as a hosted payload. This failed to go forward in part due to lack of an affordable flight opportunity.

McGwier outlined the next steps toward developing this mission:

- 1) To organize an effort at Virginia Tech to make a firm proposal to MSS and its US government sponsor, and organize an effort to raise sufficient funds to pay for development of the mission.
- 2) Enable Dr. Jonathan Black to lead the construction project at Virginia Tech in the Space@VT Center. Sonya Rowe, KK4NLO, Project Manager at the Hume Center will be the project manager.
- 3) Work for development of a low-cost microwave ground station for amateur radio still needs to be determined.
- 4) Dr. Michael Parker, KT7D, will solicit the cooperation of the Rincon Research Corp. for development of the software radio technology for this payload.

The AMSAT Board of Directors has accepted the invitation to participate in this potential rideshare payload opportunity. AMSAT expects to be involved in the development of the ground station and the payload RF development, and will serve as the amateur radio (hosted) payload operator once the satellite has been launched.

McGwier summarized, "The launch is currently scheduled for 2017 and the payload must be delivered for testing and integration by Spring of 2016. It is an ambitious schedule and all involved will have to gain and maintain a serious level of commitment to that which they agree to undertake." AMSAT President, Barry Baines, WD4ASW, said, "The AMSAT leadership is excited to fly a Phase-IV geostationary amateur satellite payload. This is an evolving development as we collaborate with the VT Hume Center with a project that provides technical challenges to create a new amateur radio capability in space that will provide a variety of benefits not only for amateurs but also for emergency communications and STEM educational outreach."

The transponder is expected to support a wide range of voice, digital, and experimental advanced communications technologies. A decision is expected soon specifying the microwave uplink and downlink bands.

Additional information on the Aquila M8 Series Satellite can be viewed on-line:

<http://www.millennium-space.com/> <http://www.millennium-space.com/platforms#aquila>

# Field Day 2015 – Radio Operators, Get Ready...Get Set...

Field Day – the largest on the air operating event of the year – is the last weekend of June (27 & 28) 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 !!**

The BOD are looking for Members to Step Up! We will need: Field Day Captain's and Chairman Saturday & Sunday June 27 & 28 Field Day is the biggest operating event of the year. It is fun, challenging, and rewarding all in one. The club has the equipment and the talent for it to be successful. What the club needs is a chairman to organize and run the event. Who is going to step up and chair this event?

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

**W9D coming in June!**



# **ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND MILITARY/AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TEST set for 09-10 MAY 2015**

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 65th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD) and the 90th Anniversary of MARS. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 16, 2015, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted 09-10 May 2015 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention (15-17 May 2015), which is the same weekend as the actual Armed Forces Day.

The annual celebration is a unique opportunity to test two way communications between Amateurs and military communicators authorized in 47 CFR 97.111, and features traditional military to amateur cross band SSB voice, Morse Code, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, as well as an opportunity for Amateurs to utilize more modern military communications modes such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity and a challenge to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

## **PART I. MILITARY-TO-AMATEUR CROSS BAND SSB & CW TEST CONTACTS.**

Military-to-Amateur cross band operations will take place on the dates/times in ZULU (UTC), and frequencies listed below for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some stations may not operate the entire period, depending on propagation and manning. Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military MARS frequencies and listen for amateur radio stations in the Amateur bands indicated below. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. The following stations will be transmitting on MARS frequencies listed below which are provided as "Window/Dial Frequency" in kHz. Some stations will use CW to provide the opportunity to check in by Morse Code.

All the Details, Freq, Stations and the like at:

<http://www.navymars.org/central/reg4/FL/FLNMCMARS/CrossBand/2015%20ANNUAL%20ARMED%20FORCES%20DAY.pdf>

## **FCC NPRM to Make Past Amateur Radio Address Information Private**

The FCC is seeking comments on a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([NPRM](#)) in WT Docket 15-81 that would restrict routine public inspection of an Amateur Radio licensee's address history. The Commission said it was taking the action in an effort to enhance the privacy of individual licensees. The change would not affect public access to a licensee's current address information.

"To implement this change, we propose to remove from public view in the Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) Amateur Radio licensee address information that is not associated with a current license or pending application..." the FCC said in the *NPRM*, released on March 31. "We believe that these steps will enhance Amateur Radio operators' privacy without undermining the public interest in knowing who is authorized to operate on amateur spectrum."

The Wireless Bureau also solicited public input on whether it should extend the same approach to individual licensees in any other radio services, such as the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), commercial radio operator licensees, and individuals who hold ship station and/or aircraft station licenses.

Current licensee address information would remain public, the Commission said. Comments are due in the proceeding by June 16.

# House Committee Asks FCC for Documents Related to Proposed Enforcement Bureau Closures

The US House Committee on Energy and Commerce has given the Federal Communications Commission a May 7 deadline to produce documents related to FCC Enforcement Bureau proposals to **close two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its staff of field agents**. In an April 23 letter, Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) told FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler that his panel wants the Commission to provide all documents relating to the proposed closures.

“[Y]our proposal to shutter 16 of the Commission’s 24 field offices raises significant challenges and concerns,” Upton said. “The Commission has represented to Congress and the American people that it will ‘preserve the integrity of public safety communications infrastructure by taking action on 99 percent of complaints of interference to public safety communications within 1 day,’ yet your proposal to reduce the geographic footprint of the Commission appears to ignore the impact this might have on the Commission’s public interest goal.” Upton said the Commission has offered little information to support its proposals. “Indeed, our concerns have only been heightened by the Commission’s failure to provide all the information requested by the Committee,” he wrote.

The field office and personnel layoff proposals were outlined in a March 10 internal memorandum from Enforcement Bureau Chief Travis LeBlanc and FCC Managing Director Jon Wilkins to EB field staff. The memo, obtained by ARRL and others, cited the need to take “a fresh look” at the Bureau’s 20-year-old operating model in light of technology changes and tighter budgets.

During March hearings of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology — chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) — on the FCC’s FY 2015 budget request, Committee members sought more information from Wilkins and Wheeler on the basis of the proposals to close field offices. Upton said that his Committee has, to date, received just the two-page March 10 memorandum and a 35-page PowerPoint presentation that purports to outline the consultants’ report.

ARRL leadership met with Enforcement Bureau staff and with Capitol Hill lawmakers in March to express its own concerns with the proposals in light of seemingly lax enforcement of the Amateur Service rules. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, also addressed the FCC’s field office closure proposals in his “It Seems to Us” **editorial** in the May 2015 issue of QST. **“Given everything that’s on [the Enforcement Bureau’s] plate — of which Amateur Radio is just a small part — reducing the number of field agents from 63 to 33 and the number of field offices from 24 to 8 hardly sounds like progress,” Sumner wrote.**

In his April 23 letter, Upton told Wheeler that his panel wants the Commission to provide all documents, “including all drafts, memos, e-mails, analyses, PowerPoint slides, interim reports, and the final report,” produced by outside consultants and related to the proposed field office closures. The committee also wants all documents “including all internal communications and internal analyses” related to the Enforcement Bureau’s and Office of Managing Director’s joint recommendation to the full Commission to close the field offices.

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

**W9D coming in June!**

## **CQ Disqualifies Two Dozen CQ WW DX Contest SSB Participants**

The CQ World Wide Contest Committee has disqualified 2 dozen entrants in the 2014 CQ World Wide DX Contest (SSB) last October. Another six received warnings. The committee said that it has warned contesters to play fairly and to obey the rules. The vast majority of the disqualifications were for “unclaimed assistance.”

“The CQ WW Contest Committee takes its job as referee for the contest very seriously,” the Committee [said](#) in a web blog post. “Each year a group of dedicated members spends many hours poring over logs, listening to SDR recordings, and following up on input from the contest community. We do not always have perfect information, and it is difficult when each entrant is operating from their own station without any outside observer. Even so, the logs and recordings often tell us a clear story. It is our job as referees to call them as we see them.”

Disqualified entrants are given 5 days to respond. “We do this to allow everyone the opportunity to present an explanation of what appears in the log,” the Committee said.

CQ received 8283 logs containing more than 5.2 million contacts for the CQ WW SSB. Contest participants representing 223 different countries.

Log checking for the 2014 CQ WW DX Contest CW is now complete and have been sent to CQ Magazine. Official results will appear in the May 2015 issue of CQ.

## **Apply Anytime for Centennial Points Challenge, W1AW WAS Awards**

The [window](#) to apply for ARRL Centennial Points Challenge and W1AW Worked All States [awards](#) has been open for a month now, and the initial rush of applications has been processed. Participants’ Centennial Points Challenge logs must already have been submitted via Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) — the cut-off date was January 22 — but the League will continue to accept award applications indefinitely. With little to no backlog in the queue, it’s anticipated that processing will be prompt.

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party and W1AW/portable activities in 2014 represented the biggest on-the-air operation in the history of Amateur Radio, with more than 3.5 million Centennial event contacts recorded in LoTW. W100AW operation accounted for some 70,000 contacts.

Most applicants will find the process simple and largely automated. The form will auto-populate, if ARRL has the applicant’s information on file. The form may be edited to update name and address information only. The system will select the awards for which the applicant qualifies. Certificates will be printed daily. Plaques will be shipped directly from the supplier.

Certificates will be available for the Centennial Points Challenge Award, while W1AW WAS Award participants can order a certificate, a plaque, or both -- ordered separately on the website. Certificates are \$16, and plaques are \$60.

Qualifying for the Top Level Centennial Points Challenge Award requires 15,000 points. The Third Level Award requires 7500 points, while the Second and First Level awards require 3000 and 1000 points, respectively. Point totals will be printed on certificates.

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

## Amateur Radio Heads into WRC-15 “With Every Possibility of Success”

The just-ended second World Radio communication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) Conference Preparatory Meeting ([CPM15-2](#)) left Amateur Radio “with every possibility of success” heading into WRC-15 this fall, said ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX. Price represented the US at CPM15-2, which wrapped up on April 2. The 2-week-long meeting addressed a variety of spectrum-related matters, including several dealing with Amateur Radio. Its *Report to WRC-15* focuses on technical, operational, and regulatory matters that ITU member-states will consider in developing their proposals to WRC-15. More than 1250 participants from 105 ITU member-states attended.

“Through our combined efforts, methods favorable to Amateur Radio were included in all appropriate places within the CPM report,” Price said this week. “Amateur Radio will enter WRC-15 with every possibility — although no assurance — of success.”

Delegates to CPM15-2 okayed text for WRC-15 agenda item 1.4, dealing with a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz. “The methods proposed in the text, as expected, are all over the map — ranging from no change to an expansive allocation of 5275-5450 kHz, with explicit suggestions of 15 kHz and 100 kHz in between, and a few methods with details to be filled in later,” Price explained. “In short, there is a wide divergence of opinion, and no certainty as to the outcome.”

Text for other Amateur Radio-related agenda items “appropriately reflects our concerns,” Price said. “Text for agenda item 1.1 correctly notes that no compatibility studies between Amateur Radio and mobile broadband applications have been conducted for the bands under consideration in which there is an Amateur Radio allocation.” He said a method for agenda item 1.6, proposing to authorize Fixed-Satellite Service operation in the 10-10.5 GHz band, was removed from the final text, while a method was added to agenda item 1.12 at the request of the US to provide appropriate protections to the Amateur Satellite Service at 10 GHz, “to supplement the high degree of compatibility that proposed Earth Exploration Satellite Service operation has demonstrated in the band,” he added.

WRC-15 will get under way on November 2 in Geneva, and will conclude on November 27. World Radio communication Conferences are mandated to review and revise the [Radio Regulations](#), the international treaty governing the use of RF spectrum and satellite orbit resources.

## Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference is Cancelled

The sponsors of the 2015 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference (GAREC 2015) have announced that the event has been cancelled due to a lack of interest.

Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, said GAREC 2015 registrations were too few, and the decision was largely financial.

GAREC 2015 was set to mark its 10th anniversary this June in Tampere, Finland, where the first GAREC was held.

## Folks On Spokes Easter Ride

Bruce WD9GHK

The Folks on Spokes Easter ride great this year. I had the help of Jim KB9VR at the Willow brook area of Crete, Ron WB9JYZ at Goodenow Grove, Mac WA9CYL in Crete, and Jim WD9GXU helping me at Park Forest village hall.

We passed some traffic and told one of the FOS sag stop persons to turn on their cell phone.

# Australian Ham's PicoSpace Balloon Circles the Globe

Jim Linton, VK3PC

A foil, party-type balloon carrying a ham radio payload has circumnavigated the globe. Launched on April 6 by Australian radio amateur Andy Nguyen, VK3YT, of Kensington, Victoria, Australia, the balloon, designated [PS-41](#), completed its round-the-world journey on April 16 and is still in the air. Along the way, it has been tracked by a network of Amateur Radio operators. Nguyen has been trying since early last year to have one of his launches go full circle.

"PS-41 crossed the starting longitude of 144.903 at 11:20 AM AEST (0120 UTC) this morning, completing the first PicoSpace around-the-world trip," Nguyen posted on April 16. "Thanks to everyone for assistance with tracking and providing encouragement for the project; the trip would not have been possible without you." In January, Nguyen's PS-30 balloon went down in suspected poor weather off the east coast of Africa near Madagascar.

The solar-powered, helium-filled PS-41 balloon carried an HF payload, sending *WSPR* spots and *JT9* telemetry on 30 and 20 meters from a 25 mW transmitter. The high-altitude PS-41 took a path over Tasmania, then south of New Zealand, the southern tip of South America, directly over the South Georgia and South Sandwich islands, well south of Africa, and back across to Australia.

Nguyen's companion PS-42 balloon has made its way to the South Pacific between New Zealand and South America.

"PS-41 and PS-42 are still in the air and will continue to be tracked in the coming days," Nguyen said. The balloons have been extensively tracked via *JT9* by a network in Australia, New Zealand, South America, South Africa, and Ireland. *WSPR* spots have as received all over the world. Dial frequencies are 10.1387 MHz and 14.0956 MHz. PS-41 is at 900 Hz, and PS-42 is at 1100 Hz on the waterfall.

## Amateur Radio Emergency Nets - Chile Volcano Eruption

Southern Chile's Calbuco volcano erupted this week for the first time in more than 40 years, forcing the evacuation of an area of some 12 miles around the volcano. Approximately 5000 residents have been relocated, and ash has been reported from as far away as Argentina.

"Nature strikes our Chilean brothers one more time," said International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 news editor Joaquín Solana, XE1R. IARU Region 2 reports that emergency nets are in operation on 7050 kHz, 14,250 kHz (alternate), and 3,738 kHz (alternate), and requests that other users keep those frequencies clear for emergency traffic.

According to Chile's National Mining and Geology Service, the column of ash measures nearly 7 miles. The agency said volcanic activity was diminishing but that the state of emergency remains for the affected region.

NPR quoted correspondent Lourdes Garcia-Navarro, who reported that local officials are saying people are very frightened. "The immediate concern is the volcano's eruption could trigger snow melts and cause flooding," she said.

According to NPR, the volcanic activity "seems to have caught Chile's geologists by surprise." No injuries have been reported so far.

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

# Spratlys DX0P DXpedition Participant Medical EVAC

One of the participants in the just-ended DX0P DXpedition to the disputed Spratly Islands was airlifted from Pag Asa Island after suffering a medical emergency. Chito Pastor, WW6CP, became ill just as the DXpedition was starting to wrap up on April 20.

"The Medevac just arrived half an hour ago!" DXpedition leader Leo Almazan, WA6LOS, told ARRL early on April 23. "Chito is on his way to the hospital!"

Almazan said that he and four other team members were able to return to the Philippines on another flight. The remaining team members will remain on Pag Asa until a Philippine Navy Nomad aircraft takes them off the island on April 24. "From what I heard, they were all busy snorkeling all day," said Almazan, who is now at his Angeles City home in the Philippines. He said he plans to fly stateside next month for Dayton Hamvention®.

According to [Amateur Radio DX.com](http://Amateur Radio DX.com), an Adventist Medical Aviators Services aircraft that picked up Pastor landed safely in Puerto Princesa.

Members of the Mabuhay DX Group went to Pag Asa Island earlier this month and operated for about 5 days, logging some 5000 contacts. All of the DXpedition participants have roots in or reside in the Philippines.

A Philippines TV [news account](#) posted on the InterAksyon.com website on April 22 reported that Pastor developed kidney problems from drinking from the highly saline water supply on Pag Asa after the DXpedition's drinking water supply ran short. According to the InterAksyon report, a Chinese naval vessel had "harassed a Philippine Air Force patrol flight in the Spratlys" by firing an illumination round on April 21. Almazan told ARRL that the Philippines military later backed away from that account, but the incident caused the postponement of future flights to Pag Asa Island, including the Philippine Navy flight that was to evacuate Pastor.

The military aircraft set to evacuate Pastor later developed mechanical problems, causing further delay, and the Adventist flight was subsequently cleared to make the medical mission on April 23.

The InterAksyon report noted that China "has embarked on an aggressive reclamation and construction spree" in the Spratlys, which are claimed in whole or in part by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, and other countries. The Philippines National Telecommunications Commission issued the DX0P license.

Spratly Island is number 75 on the ClubLog [DXCC Most Wanted List](#). Almazan headed a nine-member team to Pag Asa Island. "I can write a novel about this DXpedition!" Almazan told ARRL.

## Field Day Saturday and Sunday June 27 and 28, 2015.

Field Day is the biggest operating event of the year. It is fun, challenging, and rewarding all in one. The club has the equipment and the talent for it to be successful. What the club needs is a chairman to organize and run the event. Who is going to step up and chair this event?

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

# ARRL Lab Manager -- Switching Power Supplies a More Common Noise Source than Power Lines

Thanks to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ / HamRadioNow

ARRL Laboratory Manager and EMI Expert Ed Hare, W1RFI, [told](#) the [HamRadioNow](#) webcast recently that **switching-mode power supplies** are a more common noise source for radio amateurs than electrical power lines. *HamRadioNow* host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, interviewed Hare on April 4 at the Raleigh, North Carolina, [RARSfest](#), where Hare also presented a forum, "Tall Tales from the ARRL Lab." Hare told Pearce that switching-mode power supplies are in — or provide power for — many home electronics these days.

"The old days of those iron transformers are gone," Hare said. "Every single one of these is a switcher. We're also seeing noise from pulse-width control motors." Hare said the big culprits are **"little wall warts,"** not switching supplies designed to power Amateur Radio gear. "Every TV you own has a built-in switcher, almost every device has a wall-wart, and a lot of these are imported, not necessarily meeting the FCC rules, so we're seeing more reports involving those," he said.

Hare also told *HamRadioNow* that a few **LED-type lightbulbs** that are becoming more common also can be noise-generators, as are **"grow lights"** used for cultivating plants indoors. He said that the ARRL Lab can work with manufacturers to correct these problems, but the Lab needs model numbers and "specific information about the problems amateurs are having, so that we can put some of our resources toward helping."

Hams experiencing RF interference problems can contact the ARRL Laboratory by contacting [Ed Hare](#) or ARRL Lab EMC Specialist [Mike Gruber](#), W1MG. The complete interview with Hare is in Episode 196 at [www.hamradionow.tv](#).

## ARRL US House Members Coming Through Support H.R. 1301

Many ARRL members have answered the call to urge their US House member to co-sponsor The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 — [H.R. 1301](#) — helping to raise the list of co-sponsors to 39. But ARRL Regulatory Affairs Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said the campaign continues, and more voices are needed to join the chorus.

If approved by Congress and signed by the president, The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would direct the FCC to extend to private land use agreements its PRB-1 policy rules requiring reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications. Those private agreements are better known as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions, or CC&Rs. At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

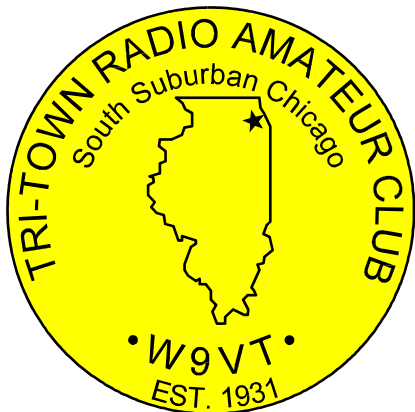
A regularly updated [H.R. 1301 page](#) on the ARRL website includes key "talking points" and other information for Amateur Radio delegations or individuals to use when approaching US House members for their support.

**US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL)** introduced H.R. 1301 on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle. The bill has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. Efforts are under way to have a companion bill introduced in the US Senate. The most recent H.R. 1301 co-sponsors include US Representatives Mark Amodei (R-NV), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Chris Gibson (R-NY), Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Richard Hanna (R-NY), Thomas Rooney (R-FL), Bruce Westerman (R-AR), and Jared Huffman (D-CA).

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

**May 2015**

**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 2015 dues are now due. The Board voted to increase the dues from \$20 to \$25 for 2015. The increase is due to continued expenses for insurance, repeater operation and the gradual reduction in membership. 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](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)