

The Oscillator

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430
Volume 53 Number 6 November 2007 Club Call W9VT

Up Coming Programs

White Elephant Sale November 16th, 2007

November means it is time for Tri-Town's annual White Elephant Sale. We will meet on the third Friday of the month at the bunker at 8 PM. Looking to sell some of your unused gear or buy something to add to your ham shack? Come out to the November White Elephant sale. The sale will take place after the usual business meeting. Please bear in mind that 10 % of sales will be requested to contribute to the club treasury.

Christmas Party, Elections and, Awards Meeting December 21st, 2007

Get with the spirit of the Holiday Season by joining TTRAC and family members at the bunker at 8 PM. There will be food and comradeship plenty that evening. You won't want to miss the raffle of the Yaesu FT 7800R dual band radio. Also we will be deciding the club leadership for the coming new year and honoring those who have contributed to the betterment of the club in the past year.

Show and Tell night January 18th, 2008

You can start off the new year right by bringing in your favorite project, rig or station accessory and telling everyone how it works and what it has done to improve your ham shack. We will be meeting at the Hazel Crest Village hall, 3000 W. 170 PL at 8 PM

A Plea for Volunteers

As 2007 comes to a close, we need many volunteers to step forward to help lead the club. Most importantly, we need a nominating committee to find candidates for all club officer positions. The events and activities that you have enjoyed during the year do not happen by themselves. These things happen because of the efforts of our fine board of directors and club member's selfless contributions. If you wish Tri-Town to continue it's present format and move forward, please consider donating some of your spare time to help accomplish the club's mission ...enjoyment of the amateur radio hobby.

Thanksgiving is almost here! Last call to do Antenna Work!

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2007:

Jerry Dagenais,	K9PMV	President and W9VT Station Mgr	708.385.2866	K9PMV@msn.com
Rich Poortinga,	KB9IPS	Vice President	708.957.4421	richardpoortinga@juno.com
Jim Everand,	WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None
Sharon Gunderson,	KA9IIT	Treasurer	708.957.7944	sgunderson@gwclow.com
Mark Thompson,	KA9MDJ	Director	708.946.2877	cinjontim@juno.com
Todd Schumann,	KA9IUC	Director	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Brian Denk	N9BTH	Chairman of Board	708.389.7481	bjdenk@comcast.net
Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Raffle Chairman	708.423.7066	mattschuman@yahoo.com
Dave Dell	N9LGP	Field Day Chairman	708.235-1703	n9lgp@aol.com
Bruce Haffner,	WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@earthlink.net
Tom Gunderson	W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe,	WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee & Oscillator Editor	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, 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: 146.49 Simplex, & The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
Unofficial Club Hang Outs 442.375 WA9WLN/R, & 443.325 WD9HSY/R both using 114.8 PL +5mhz

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net - Wed, 8:00 PM Local, 146.490.

40 Mtr SSB Net - Saturdays, 8:30 AM Local, 7.2625.

10 Mtr SSB Net - Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490.

Cracker Barrel Net - Monday-Friday 3:00 PM Local 146.49

2 Mtr FM Weather Net - Sundays, 8:00 PM local, on **The Club's Repeater** 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL

The **W1AW Operating Schedule** may be found on the web: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>

Hamfest Calendar

8 Dec 2007 Big Bend Amateur Radio Club Hamfest <http://www.react2u.com/bbarc.htm>
Talk-In: 147.105+ (PL 103.5) & 146.52

26 Jan 2008 Winterfest 2008 St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club <http://SLSRC.com>
Talk-In: 147.94 & 147.91

27 Jan 2008 WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs <http://www.w9ccu.org>
Talk-In: 145.39 (PL 103.5) Rich, N9DKO is handling advance tickets for the Wheaton Hamfest.
Advance tickets are \$7 (with 4 prize stubs) and can be ordered by US Mail by sending an SASE to:
WCRA PO Box QSL Wheaton IL 60189. New this year, advance tickets can be ordered on our website. We have set up a paypal account to handle payments. goto <<http://wheatonhamfest.org/>>.

Bruce, WD9GHK HAS GONE BACK IN TIME!



Attached are a couple of pictures I took from this years Drivn the Dixie on 6-16-07. Can we all sleep comfortably knowing Bruce, WD9GHK, protects us? By the way, he ran around at Dayton the same way..... Pictures are from Martin, WD9JGG Thank you Martin!!

Here is Bruce, and Bob Steinmetz, (red shirt), a member of the local "A's R Us", Model A Ford Club of America - a co-sponsor of the event.

Here is a picture of Bruce WD9GHK alone in his jeep.



Have you told your friends about Tri-Town lately?

Tri-Town is a World Class Calibur Amateur Radio Club that offers unparalleled activities for Ham Radio operators in the Chicagoland area. Look at some of what Tri-Town has to offer:

A Club Station capable of 160m to UHF, Analog or Digital, 5 watts to 1500 watts, multiple operating positions and a networked computer logging system all housed in one of the safest and unique buildings you'll ever visit! Members regularly gather there for contests and the club Field Day is held here.

Several of the longest running weekly Nets in Ham Radio! Check out the Nets page to find them!

A club owned and operated Wide Area Coverage 2 Meter Repeater focused for coverage in the South Suburbs. SkyWarn Weather Spotting takes place on the machine as well as use in several Public Service Events throughout the year. Check the Club Repeater Page for more details.

A bi-monthly club newsletter called "The Oscillator".

Monthly club meetings that include Field Trips, Informative Programs, Weather Spotter Training, Club Picnic and a Holiday Party!

Looking for an Elmer? Club members have a vast wealth of knowledge across the entire Ham Radio spectrum. From CW Speed demons to Antenna and electronic wizzards, Repeater Guru's to World Class and Famous Contesters/DXpeditioners!

The club also teams up with other clubs and organizations to do things like Ham Radio Training Classes and Skywarn Weather Spotting throughout the year.

The club needs your membership to keep progressing and breathing new life into the interest in Ham Radio! Your Membership dues keeps the equipment running and pays the insurance, but more importantly your volunteer time keeps the wheels of the club turning!

75 years strong and still going! Tell someone about Tri-Town Today!

SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Just Enjoy this Ride on My Trip around the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The average for August, September and October (centered on September) at 5.4 is the lowest yet for this side of Cycle 23. This number was derived by adding together all the daily sunspot numbers for those three months, then dividing the sum (492) by the number of days, which is 92.

October's average is lower than September and October of 2006, during the minimum between Cycles 22 and 23. The monthly averages for August through November, 1996 were 20.7, 2.9, 2.3 and 25.6. Sunspot numbers for October 25 through 31 were 0. The 10.7 cm flux a mean of 67.2. Estimated planetary A indices were a mean of 11.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were a mean of 7.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>.

How I spent my Summer Vacation! ... Part II

Brian, WD9HSY

A couple of years back I wrote a piece about my road trip to Kansas City for Libby's (Eldest Kid – KB0W0V) end of the year Conference Track meet. Half way out we hit severe weather in Missouri! Most of that article was about dodging Tornadoes, Hail, and High winds in my Brand New 2005 Chevy Van.

Well, this years it's a Military Road trip for Dan (Youngest Kid --- #2 of 2) He went into the Air Force back in November '06 for basic training down in San Antonio, Texas, and then off to Advance Training in Biloxi, Mississippi. The gulf coast down there is still a shamble from Katrina! and its been 2 years!

The Military could have handled this move, but Dan wanted my old White Plymouth, minivan which was back in Mokena and Betsy wanted to stop and visit her Dad. So over this 10 days of vacation I drove 3000+ miles though 11 states, and still managed to get on a Southwest Airlines flight back to Chicago! The wife, Betsy, N9FUW and me drove 1st down to Biloxi, Mississippi to pick Dan up from Air Force Advance Tech Training and to visit Betsy's Dad. Down to Mississippi and back was only the 1st of the two trips that week!

For those of you who missed me at The Club Picnic at Tom's, W9SRV Farm. Dan and I were out on the road on the 2nd part of our vacation out to Dan's new Air Force Base in Cheyenne, WY. (I have never been that far out west) The air base, FE Warren is 970 miles due west and would you believe it is a straight shot out on I-80? The base is a mile north of I-80 and US Route 30! It took about 15 hours to get there and I flew back from Denver. Dan now has the my old white mini-van to help him get around out there. I think I could learn to like it out there, its dry, low humidity, but the altitude is 6000+ feet. The air is clean, dry, and thin!

On the way out we stopped at the Strategic Air Command Museum, just outside Omaha, Nebraska. We spent around an hour inside looking around. (this is about the half way point to Wyoming) SAC, Strategic Air Command doesn't exist any more. After the Cold War, SAC was merged with Space Operations to become the Air Force Space Command. Dan is in the **90th Space Wing, 90th Missile Maintenance Squadron (90 MMXS)**

So what will Dan do in the Air Force? He can't say, but when you're at an ICBM missile base, attached to a Missile Maintenance Squadron, what do you think?

On the way out we stopped at the Strategic Air Command Museum in Omaha, also just off I-80. It is the only museum that shows SAC in all its glory.



Under the Front glass of the museum is a SR-71 Spy Plane, Mach 3 @ 100,000 feet! SR means Strategic Reconnaissance. That's the fastest airplane in the world!



This is a Minuteman III ICBM launch silo (site K-11) in Nebraska on an **exit ramp off I-80!** The silo cap is the concrete pad just beyond the fence. The white spike in the center is the radar sentry! You do not go within 10 feet of the fence! We did not get out of the van. Just what we needed, to get arrested for trespassing before we even get there! Yes, that is only a 10ft barb wired fence around the site!



This is a Minuteman III Launch Control Facility. This is where the 2 Air Force Officers with the keys are that launch the missiles. (Like we see in the movies) They are 40-60 feet below the building where the white radar dome is on the left. Warren AFB has 15 of these "ranch houses" controlling 10 missiles each for 150 missiles! I took this picture about 1/4 of a mile away, with full telephoto!



He looks so Happy! This picture is about 5 minutes before he drove off to the Base to report for duty! He couldn't wait to leave, and didn't really want to go! Do you know the feeling?

Anyway, that is how I spent my summer vacation! 10 days! 11 states! 3000+ miles and an airplane ride! Time to go back to work and relax! How did I know all these neat facts and figures? I spent too much time on Internet Goggling, visiting various web sites, and reading articles from missile nuts! It is a great start point to a journey to the Cold War! Check this web site www.siloworld.com/

Field Day 2007 #4 in 4F Category & #1 in Illinois!!

2155 W6YX 17,158 4F SCV Stanford ARC
2156 W8FY 6,042 4F OH
2157 **W1AW** 3,554 4F CT Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL HQ
2158 W9VT 2,920 4F IL Tri-Town RAC
2159 AF2C 2,838 4F NFL Flagler Em Com Assn
2160 W9UDU 2,506 4F WI Racine Megacycle Club
2161 KM7EOC 2,476 4F AZ MCECG / SARC
2162 W8DF 2,208 4F MI Southern MI ARS
2163 W4OIX 1,780 4F NC Kinston ARS
2164 W4COV 1,758 4F VA VMARC
2165 KD5OEW 1,590 4F NTX Coppell ARC
2166 N7ACS 1,538 4F AZ Yuma Auxiliary Com Service
2167 W1ECV 1,370 4F CT Southington ARA

Tri-Town Trading Post

Icom 745

Icom 745 HF/General Coverage Transceiver (as seen at White Elephant Sale) This is a 100 watt, 160-10 mtrs HF Rig w/WARC Bands. Works Great, but sometimes 15 acts up. Comes with power supply and hand mic. \$400 or best offer, Brian, WD9HSY EMAIL BBEDOE@AOL.COM Call 815.469.1383

I have a PDF file of QST's Product review for the '745 email me and I'll send you a copy of that review.

Motorola buys Yaesu!

Motorola USA has announced its intention to launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co, Ltd. Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. Motorola will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard; Tokogiken, a privately held Japanese company, controlled by current president and CEO of Vertex Standard Jun Hasegawa, will retain 20 percent, forming a joint venture. The total purchase price for 80 percent of the outstanding shares on a fully diluted basis will be approximately US \$108 million.

An Open Letter to All North American Hams from Yaesu!

From Dennis, K7BV: (North American Sales, Yaesu) k7bv@vxstdusa. Com (Edited for Space)

Friends,

By now, many of you may have heard that Vertex Standard Co., Ltd, (Vertex Standard USA's parent company) announced that they have agreed to form a collaborative joint venture with Motorola, Inc. I personally believe the most important words in this sentence are "collaborative joint venture" a business relationship that indicates a far different outcome intent than the demise of one of the venture partners.

Since Yaesu is the Amateur Radio Division of Vertex Standard, I am sure you are just as curious as me, a Yaesu employee with a job at stake, to know what this business transaction will mean to all of us in the hobby. Predictably, I see that the news about the pending new Motorola relationship with Vertex Standard, hence Yaesu, is giving life to all sorts of misinformation and "doomsday". Internet postings by the usual cast of characters who always seem to know so much more about things than the rest of us mere mortals. After studying public announcements and considering the internal information that is made available to me in my role as the leadership individual for North American sales at Yaesu, I would like to offer the following FACTS about this exciting development

Motorola, Inc. will launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co. Upon successful completion of the tender offer and subsequent restructuring process, Motorola will own 80%of Vertex

Vertex Standard (meaning Yaesu to us in the Amateur Radio hobby) will remain a separate, global organization with distinct resources governed by the Board of Directors comprised of four Motorola representatives and one Toko Giken representative. It currently holds 29.2% shares of Vertex Standard.

The Vertex Standard brand of equipment (Standard brand in Japan) will continue to exist. The current Vertex Standard brand strategies are highly respected by Motorola and will be continued. Since Motorola appreciates our Yaesu brand strategy, there will be no change to it. There will NOT be a Motorola brand of Amateur Radio equipment replacing or competing with Yaesu.

Interstate 355 ... Be a Part of History Sunday 11/11/07

Tri-Towners: This, I realize is very short notice but volunteers who know how to use a handie talkie are needed. If you haven't already heard, the new I 355 extension will be open to bicyclers, marathon runners and any other type of pedestrian use before it is opened to vehicular traffic. I have been informed that radio operators are needed to help co-ordinate this event. The organizers will provide non-ham radios to use. However, your amateur handie talkie would be a good thing to bring just in case. Here is the kicker; volunteers are to report to the volunteer tent at (gasp) 6:45 AM Sunday morning for assignment. Don't know much more that. I have received this request third hand so it is really taking a chance with your time. If this sounds like something you would like to do, contact me.

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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____ Regular Membership \$ 20.00
____ 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

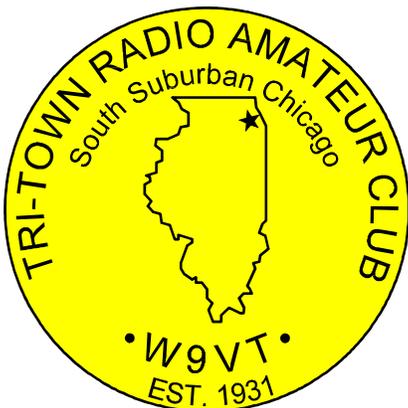
\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

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

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

November 2007

First Class Mail



Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!

WWW.W9VT.ORG