

The Oscillator

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Upcoming Meetings & Events

November - A general meeting will be held on Friday, November 20th, 8 PM at the Bunker. It will be a busy meeting. The major agenda item will be the nomination of Officers for 2016. The program for the evening will be show and tell and a white elephant sale. So bring along something to show and something to sell. Raffle and refreshments will be available.

December - PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR THIS EVENT. Our final meeting of the year and Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19th, 5 PM at Aurelio's in Frankfort. (Aurelio's Pizzeria, 9901 W. Lincoln Highway, Frankfort, IL 60423) The cost will be \$10 per person which will include assorted pizzas, salad, soft drinks, ice tea and a raffle ticket for prizes. You must RSVP by Thursday, December 17th to Trish Jaggard, N9WDG at 708 828 8592 or email to the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net. Elections will be held for Club officers for 2016. **We should be in their party room, off the main floor.**

More on Field Day 2015 results

ARRL has published the final Field Day results. Tri-Town, W9VT / N9WDG submitted 2204 points as a 4F station. There were twenty five 4F stations this year. Tri-Town placed 11th out of the twenty five stations. Thanks again to all of you who participated in this year's effort and lets all look forward to Field Day 2016.

Dues for 2016 are coming due

Tri-Town memberships run from the first of the year till the end of the year. Please renew your membership or start a new one by the first of the year. Dues will be the same as last year. Regular membership in \$25. Family members are \$6. Membership applications can be found in each issue of The Oscillator. Please be sure to keep your mailing address, phone number and email address up to date. Thank you for 2015 memberships and hope that you will continue to support Tri-Town with your 2016 membership.

2016 Elections

Nominations are now open for the election of officers and member of the board for Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club for 2016. The nominations will remain open until the time of the election held during the club meeting on December 19, 2015. Nominees are needed for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer along with one board of director who has served as an officer in the past. The club is in need of a person to act as Election Chairman. The chairman is responsible for there being a candidate for each position, running the nominations and the election proceedings. If you would like to serve as chairman or run for a specific office, please any club officer or board member.

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2015:

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	mattschumann@yahoo.com
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None @ No I' don't have one
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708.672.5830	wa9cyl@comcast.net
Pete Schaper KE9YX	Board Member	708.481.4273	p.k.schaper@sbcglobal.net
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@comcast.net
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Dir.	815.469.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com

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

Club Meetings & Nets

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

Club Hangouts:

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

Club Nets

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

Hamfests in the Area

01/17/2016 Wheaton HAMFEST St. Charles, IL <http://www.wheatonhamfest.org>

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

From The President's Shack

Todd KA9IUC

As the end of the year approaches, I look back at all the things the club has done this year. We had club meetings with interesting programs, there was the Driving the Dixie event including the Special Event Station, Field Day, operating sessions at the bunker, our annual picnic and the start up of a new 75M net. I feel we had a good year and I hope you think the same. Thank you for your support and I hope 2016 will be even better with your continued support. That support includes your membership dues, participation in club activities, meeting attendance and perhaps taking on a leadership role in the club. More net control operators would lessen the load for those currently running the nets.

I hope that everyone involved with the club has a great holiday season and that the new year gets off with a great start.

Annual Club Picnic

The picnic was held September 12th at Monee Reservoir and it was a great success. Over twenty members and family members attended. Thanks to Randy, N9KKN and John N9DWE for securing the picnic site. A special thanks to John, N9DWE for his cooking talents. The brats, hot dogs, hamburgers and fried bread were just great. Thanks to all who brought a dish to pass and refreshments. Only good comments were heard about the location and the event. Looks like we can plan on the same location for next year.

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?

Use of 146.52 MHz Simplex Now Cleared for ARRL Contests

Dan Henderson, N1ND, Regulatory Information Manager/Acting Contest Manager

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee earlier this year unanimously adopted a recommendation from its VHF and Above Revitalization Committee to remove the rule prohibiting the use of 146.52 MHz simplex for making contest contacts. That change will go into effect starting on January 1.

The VHF and Above Revitalization Committee had concluded that the restriction was no longer necessary. The committee felt that permitting the use of 146.52 MHz would allow new/curious contesters possessing only FM-mode radios to stumble upon more contacts, increasing their chances of being drawn further into VHF+ contesting — the primary aim of the Revitalization Committee.

Advance notification of the rule change now has been communicated to the full Board, and the change becomes effective in 2016, starting with the ARRL January VHF Contest.

The change also will be incorporated into the [ARRL Field Day](#) rules. This change eliminates Rule 1.8 in the "[General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz](#)," with subsequent Rule 1 sections renumbered accordingly.

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

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Christmas Party



Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 5 p.m.

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

Assorted Pizzas: Cheese, Sausage, Pepperoni, Combo and Vegetarian;
Dinner Salad and Soft Drinks and Iced Tea
All for \$10.00 per person
Price also includes One Raffle Ticket for Prizes

RSVP to Trish Jaggard, N9WDG by Thursday, 12/17
No. of people to attend
Phone- 708-828-8592- leave detailed message or email
the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net

I was visited by Mr. Murphy or it never goes easy!

John N9DWE

I needed to replace some coax cable that runs out to my tower. A few years back, I was able to procure a 40 foot Wilson Tilt-Over Tower. Great! Finally, No more climbing! So I decided to run some conduit out to the tower, which is 70 feet out from the house. Well, I put in RG8X mini foam out for the 160/80/40 antenna because I ran out of RG213 for the project. I really like RG213, it really works fine and is long lasting.

Well I had a weather proof cap on top of the conduit at the end by the house, which must have come off or got lost so the conduit filled up with water. Guess what? It froze over last winter and it crushed the life of that little RG8X cable. No problem! I will just pumped all the water out of the conduit and now I was ready to snake that pipe and replace that RG8x with nice, new RG213. I had bought a 120 ft snake many years ago and was used twice in 10 years. I got about 15 ft of that snake into the conduit and sure as poop, I snapped it off!

Now I had to dig it out. The snake broke inside the plastic holder. I thought I would just open it up and use the other end that snake. Well 100 feet of wound tight snake went flying everywhere and is now a big tangled mess. It took me more than an hour to get it all straightened out. Now the neighbor lady saw me struggling and said, "Do you need help?" Yes, I do! I replied because as much as I had tried to get the other part of that snake pushed through, it was of no avail! Now with the help of the neighbor lady we were able to get that snake pushed through the conduit, and my helper was able to grab it at last and it was though. I attached the RG 213 and was finally able to pull it through the conduit!

So now I just had to put on the 2 PL-259's on each end of the RG213. Almost done, this is the easy part. I got the tower side done 1st and finished up with the connector by the radio. I used crimp on PL259's connectors, they are so easy and I never make up a bad one (LOL). Well after putting that second PL-259 on the radio end, I went inside where it is nice and warm. I can now take my time, instead of freezing outside. I got the analyzer on the coax and lo and behold instead of reading a great SWR of 1.5 or less it was reading 35:1 (Oppps!) Oh boy! Remember I never make bad crimp on connectors, so it must be the coax! So I went back outside to check my handy work. Well, I figured it was out at the tower, since it was cold and I was kind of in a hurry. I grabbed the cutters and snipped off that PL259 at the tower side and put a new one on in its place. I re-measured that SWR and still had 35:1. I went back inside where it is nice and warm, snipped off the inside connector and tried again. Well, I measured it up and bingo, it was the inside connector after all of that nonsense! With the new PL259, Bingo! It was back to a 1.5 VSWR. I figured it was going to take me only about an hour to do this simple job. Well it was 4 hours later, and I needed the help of the neighbor lady! And yes, I did re-seal the conduit so water will hopefully stay out..... This was hard on an old man.

Spot the Space Station (lit up by the rising or setting sun)

<http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/index.cfm#.VkHcg6SFNpg>

Spot The Station will give you a list of upcoming space station sighting opportunities for your location. Several times a week, Mission Control at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX, determines sighting opportunities for over 6,700 locations worldwide. If your specific city or town isn't listed, pick one that is fairly close to you. The space station is visible for a long distance around each of the listed locations.

Editors Note: These passes are near local sunrise or sunset and last for only 2-7 minutes each as the ISS fly's overhead. These are the times when it's dark or twilight on the ground yet the ISS is in full sun light making it appear as a white light crossing the sky. The ISS will not flash; will have no strobe lights flashing, and will have no red/green aircraft marking lights. This is how you can tell it's not an airplane. --- Brian

Badger 2015 Ham Expedition

Micheal Vannier, N9NNL

Bill Pete led the September 18-19 overnight excursion from Manitowoc, WI to Ludington, MI and back on the SS Badger, the unique coal-fired passenger ferry that crosses Lake Michigan daily during the Spring and Summer. Our group used 146.43 simplex for the auto caravan between Chicago and Manitowoc and then as our intercom on the vessel. This group of hams and spouses enjoyed an excellent trip with great weather. This was a unique experience that helped us understand what passenger travel was like in the 1950's and beyond. The crew was friendly and knowledgeable. Most impressive was the captain and crew's dedication to the Badger as a historical vessel. Their pride and expertise was obvious. The facilities are excellent and everything worked as expected. The captain and crew were willing to accommodate the ham radio needs for our group and we're all very grateful. Among the most unique experiences were a private tour of the engine room and powerplant conducted by the engineering officer, a firsthand demonstration of the bridge navigation, communications and helm by the office of the deck, and the captain's tour demonstration of the operating Sperry gyro, a unique instrument used every day in Badger operations. Bill Pete confirmed that planning for the 2016 Badger excursion is underway, probably at the last weekend of September.

Full collection: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/136498212@N07/37aN20>



World Radiocommunication Conference 2015:

The more than 3000 delegates and observers attending World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 ([WRC-15](#)) have gathered in a large conference center adjacent to ITU Headquarters in Geneva for the nearly month-long event. WRC-15 officially got under way on November 2. It will close on November 27. Chairing the conference is Festus Daudu of Nigeria, the first African elected to chair a WRC.

Delegations at WRC-15 are considering several issues of importance to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services. International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, and Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, are heading the organization's team. The ITU has acknowledged its close cooperation with the IARU, which was founded in Paris in 1925, and it recognizes that IARU speaks for the Amateur Radio community. Other radio amateurs are parts of national delegations or in observer roles. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, are part of the US delegation to WRC-15.

Of prime Amateur Radio interest is Agenda Item 1.4, which calls for allocating an appropriate amount of spectrum to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis within the band 5250-5450 kHz. The IARU has called the new band as "a high priority for the Amateur Service" but is not overly confident of getting the new secondary allocation. Ellam said the IARU team will put forth its best effort toward gaining a possible allocation near 5 MHz and will follow other developments that may impinge on the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services.

An Amateur Radio contact on November 3 between students at the ITU Headquarters club station and two crew members of the International Space Station helped to kick off WRC-15. ITU Amateur Radio club station 4U1ITU is using the call sign 4U1WRC for the duration of the conference. Students from [Institut Florimont spoke](#) with astronauts Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS, and Kimiya Yui, KG5BPH, who were using the Amateur Radio station in the ISS *Columbus* module, OR4ISS.

The IARU will host a November 10 display of an emergency communications mobile unit. It will be available for viewing November 8-14, with IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications, Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS, attending. The trailer-mounted display will have equipment showing the voice, text and image mode capabilities for emergency communications, plus a mobile antenna.

Emergency Radio Germany supplied the mobile unit for the exhibit.

Last week's Radiocommunication Assembly at ITU Headquarters approved a new resolution calling on the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to develop appropriate educational materials on the regulatory aspects of small satellites.

ARRL to FCC: Hurry Up on 630/2200 Meters

The ARRL is urging the FCC to quickly enact final rules to permit amateur radio operation on 630 meters (472-479 kHz) and to propose specific rules for amateur operation on 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz). The FCC last April proposed rules for 630 meters and announced its intention to do the same for 2200 meters, but has yet to take further action.

The FCC's proposals are opposed primarily by the Utilities Telecom Council, which fears amateur use of these frequencies may interfere with utility systems that control the power grid and operate between 4 and 490 kHz.

Amateur Radio Parity Act Continues to Gain Traction in US House

It's full steam ahead for the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, as the House version of the bill, [H.R. 1301](#), now has 112 [cosponsors](#) and counting. The House bill and its identical US Senate measure, [S. 1685](#), call on the FCC to amend its regulations to extend the limited PRB-1 federal preemption regarding Amateur Radio antennas to include private land-use restrictions such as deed covenant, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs). Homeowners associations would need to apply the minimum practicable restriction to accommodate Amateur Radio communication. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said the League is continuing to receive and forward stacks of letters generated at hamfests and conventions and destined for members of the US House and Senate.

"All members are encouraged to go ahead and write their own letters to be sent via ARRL Headquarters," President Craigie said. "They don't have to wait for a hamfest or convention. Get the letters done now, before the holidays take over everyone's time and attention. Members' letters are absolutely *essential* to the success of this legislation. Everything you can do to drum up letters from your local area is an important part of the overall advocacy program. As I've said before, this is a full-team effort, and every member's action makes a difference."

ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said the League has delivered another 3000 member letters urging lawmakers to support the bills to its team in Washington, bringing the total to nearly 14,000. "We have delivered letters to all 100 members of the Senate and 430 of the 441 members and non-voting delegates in the House," Henderson said. And those letters matter.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, said he and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, visited about 40 lawmakers' offices on Capitol Hill during 4 days in October, and he's very confident in how the grassroots campaign is going. "The response we've been getting overall is very positive across the board," Lisenco said. "We feel very good about it."

There is still only the original cosponsor on the US Senate bill, but Henderson said the Senate operates a bit differently from the House with respect to cosponsors. Lisenco said he anticipates at least one Senate member to sign on to the bill soon. President Craigie stressed that it's important for members to write their US Senators as well as their US Representatives, to gain support from members of the upper chamber.

"Letters have been received by every Senator, but we would like to see offices on that side of the Hill stacked high so high with letters that the workers can scarcely find their desks," President Craigie said. She suggested a "Senate letter-writing party" at the next club meeting.

Lisenco said that in addition to writing a letter, ARRL members should consider e-mailing or even calling their US House and Senate lawmakers to urge their support. If the Member of Congress already has signed on to the bill, he said, members should contact their lawmakers to express their thanks.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's [Subcommittee on Communications and Technology](#), which will consider the measure. S. 1685 has been referred to the Senate [Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee's](#) subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, which is chaired by the bill's sponsor, US Sen Roger Wicker (R-MS).

[Visit](#) the Amateur Radio Parity Act page for more information and to learn how you can help.

VP8 DXpedition to Incorporate “Youth and Community Participation”

Thanks to VP8 Team Co-Leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE

When a team from [The Intrepid DX Group](#) embarks on its South Sandwich/South Georgia VP8SGI/VP8STI DXpedition in January, it will incorporate a youth and community participation aspect into the adventure, as it has done since the 1990s. During the South Sandwich/South Georgia Island DXpedition, the team’s honorary school will be one it’s worked with since 2011 — Dorothy Grant Elementary School in Fontana, California. VP8SGI/VP8STI team co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said the 4th grade class of Bev Matheson, WA6BK, has prepared a school flag that will travel to the islands and back to the US.

“In addition, the students have prepared a small weather-tracking experiment for the DXpedition to participate,” Ewing said. “We hope to continue to ignite the interest of these students in Amateur Radio.”

Matheson, an elementary school teacher since 1997, was licensed in 2011, inspired by her participation in the W3AO Field Day outing in Maryland earlier that year. She has also attended an ARRL Teachers Institute session. Dorothy Grant Elementary has an Amateur Radio club, [K6DGE](#), with nearly 40 after-school participants, and the students have been active working DX as well as domestic contests. VP8 DXpedition co-leader David Collingham, K3LP, is the K6DGE club license trustee and an alumnus of the school.

Ewing has said the team will depart the Falkland Islands on January 9, arriving on South Georgia about 5 days later, where it will take part in a safety and biodiversity briefing with government officials. The DXpeditioners then will sail another 3 days to Southern Thule Island in the South Sandwich Islands, arriving on January 17, weather and sea conditions permitting.

The team will spend 10 days on South Sandwich, operating as VP8STI before sailing to South Georgia Island to start operations as VP8SGI about February 1.

“Our main priority is to make a great impact to the need for South Sandwich contacts, and we will sacrifice our time at South Georgia to ensure that we make that impact from South Sandwich,” Ewing said.

South Sandwich Islands is No 3 on ClubLog’s [Most Wanted DXCC List](#); South Georgia is No 8.

ARRL Field Day 2015 Results Now Available

Results of ARRL [Field Day](#) 2015 now are available. These include the [searchable scores database](#), the [soapbox](#) link, and the [QST results article](#) (PDF). A total of 2720 stations submitted entries for the June 27-28 event.

While propagation was on the sorry side for Field Day 2015, the number of contacts for this year’s event rose slightly over 2014 — a modest 1.1 percent — and the number of CW contacts account for all of that increase; phone and digital contact numbers dipped slightly in 2015. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015.

The number of logs received appears to be an all-time ARRL Field Day record. This year saw 35,369 participants, down slightly from 2014.

A total of 1247 entries claimed the broad classification of “A” (which includes generator, commercial, and alternate/battery powered entries). Joining that core group operating in temporary setups were an additional 315 Class B entries (one or two-person entries). This indicates that 58 percent of all Field Day 2015 participants in some way took to the field.

The K7RA Solar Update

Solar flux and sunspot numbers barely budged last week. Average daily sunspot numbers went from 75 in the previous seven days to 77.6 in the week ending October 28. Average daily solar flux went from 118.2 to 110.9

Geomagnetic conditions remain unsettled, then on November 30 through December 2 planetary A index is predicted to rise to 50, 40, and 25, an echo of the high values on November 3-5. In fact, this activity would be from the same area of the sun a whole solar rotation later, which takes about 27-28 days.

Here is the geomagnetic outlook from Petr Kolman, OK1MGW, of the Czech Propagation Interest Group. He expects the geomagnetic field to be quiet to unsettled October 30, quiet to active October 31 through November 3, active to disturbed November 4-5, quiet to unsettled November 6, quiet to active November 7-9, quiet to unsettled November 10, quiet to active November 11-13, mostly quiet November 14, quiet November 15-16, mostly quiet November 17-24 and quiet to unsettled November 25.

Petr predicts increased solar wind on November 1-5 and 11-13. Dave Bono, K6OAK of Fremont, California sent this space weather story: <http://wapo.st/1LExZWj>

Jon Jones, N0JK, of Lawrence, Kansas wrote, "Remarkably good conditions on 10 meters during the CQ WW SSB contest last weekend. The higher solar flux and generally quiet geomagnetic field helped northern paths. A CME impact on October 24 sparked no geomagnetic storming. Spaceweather.com noted 'Solar wind speeds abruptly jumped to more than 500 km/s as the CME passed by. The shockwave rattled Earth's magnetic field and caused electrical currents to flow through the ground of Norway's Lofoten islands. However, that's about all that happened. A full-fledged geomagnetic storm did not erupt, and few auroras have been reported. Why was the CME so ineffective? Its internal magnetic field did not connect to Earth's magnetic field; the mismatch mitigated the CME's impact.' Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

It's ARRL November Sweepstakes Season! Two weekends of fun on CW & SSB

[ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) — two weekends of fun on CW and SSB, respectively — are just ahead. The **CW event is November 7-9**; the **phone weekend is November 21-23**. The contest period runs from 2100 UTC on Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Those planning to participate should check out the [2015 Operating Guide](#) (PDF).

"More activity means more fun for everyone!" said ARRL November Sweepstakes Manager Larry Hammel, K5OT. Sweepstakes is the ARRL's oldest "domestic" contest and is one in which stations may only contact each other once on any band. The multipliers are official ARRL and RAC sections. Some are especially rare, so keep your ears open!

For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions), the object is to exchange the required contact information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. There are several entry classes.

Affiliated Club competition continues to be a very popular aspect of Sweepstakes each year. Even members who cannot put in a full-time effort can contribute.

The Clean Sweep mug — for working all 83 ARRL/RAC sections — is available again this year, as are Participation Pins for anyone who completes more than 100 contacts on CW or phone during Sweepstakes.

ARISS Celebrates 1000th Event, 15 Years of Ham Radio in Space

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program this month marked its 1000th space station Amateur Radio event, continuing a string that started 15 years ago, when the program established the first permanent ham radio presence in space. The inaugural ARISS contact took place on December 21, 2000, between a member of the ISS Expedition 1 crew and youngsters at Luther Burbank Elementary School near Chicago. Several pupils and a teacher got to chat on 2 meters with “Space Station Alpha” Commander William “Shep” Shepherd, KD5GSL. It was a rocky start. Attempts by the school a couple of days earlier had been unsuccessful, despite extensive technical preparations hampered by snowstorms and sub-freezing temperatures. That contact marked the first use of the special NA1SS call sign for a school contact.

In 1996, with the ISS still a few years off, the SAREX team decided not to wait until the first crew was on station to start thinking about getting Amateur Radio onboard, White said. By then it would be too late to ensure equipment room in the ISS’s tight quarters as well as to address cabling, antennas, power, flight certification — myriad details that also included both NASA and Russian approvals and licensing astronauts. NASA stipulated that it wanted a single, worldwide group to be solely responsible for “everything Amateur Radio” on the ISS.

ARISS touches tens of thousands of students per year. One ARISS goal is to inspire an interest among young people in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and in STEM careers. Another is to provide an educational opportunity for students, teachers, and the public to learn about space exploration and satellites, as well as about wireless technology and radio science through Amateur Radio.

In an era of tighter NASA budgets, ARISS International President Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, recently indicated that ARISS needs to raise \$90,000 annually to maintain its current level of operation, and \$214,000 to grow operations and meet its desired goals. ARISS encourages donations via the [AMSAT](#) website (select the “ARISS Donate” button). Individuals contributing \$100 or more will receive the new ARISS Challenge Coin.

Hawaii Launch of Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads Fails

The November 4 inaugural launch of an experimental US military vehicle carrying several satellites with Amateur Radio payloads into orbit failed in mid-flight shortly after taking off at 0345 UTC from Hawaii. The experimental Super Strypi launch vehicle, carrying a collection of small satellites into orbit as part of the ORS-4 mission for the Department of Defense, was fired from a truss-mounted rail system from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, off Barking Sands on Kauai. According to Spaceflightnow.com, the Super Strypi rocket is designed for low-cost, quick-reaction satellite launches. Destroyed in the demonstration flight were 13 small research spacecraft clustered on the mission for NASA researchers and university students.

None of the satellites carried Amateur Radio transponders, but several were equipped to transmit beacon signals and telemetry on 2 meter, 70 centimeter, and 13 centimeter amateur frequencies. The satellites lost included Argus, EDSN, HawaiiSat-1, ORS-Squared, PrintSat, STACEM, STU-1, and Supernova-Beta. PrintSat carried a 3D printed structure and was designed to measure the performance of the material over the course of its 3 year mission.

Spaceflightnow.com said the experimental launcher apparently lost control and broke up downrange from the launch site. The November 4 maiden flight took place following several delays. The test flight was one of two planned demonstrations of the launcher.

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Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

ARRL 10th Ann. On-Line Auction Attracts Nearly 300 Bidders

The 10th Annual ARRL On-Line Auction went off without a hitch October 22-27. In addition to hundreds of browsers, the auction saw 284 individual bidders vying for product review equipment, vintage books, one-of-a-kind finds, and even “mystery junque boxes” from the ARRL Lab. ARRL Sales Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, said 1383 bids were recorded.

“A number of items dramatically finished in overtime bidding,” she said. “After all was tallied, this year’s auction grossed more than \$41,000.”

Proceeds from the yearly On-Line Auction benefit ARRL education programs. These include activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio Emergency Service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, and create instructional materials.

Jahnke said the QST “Product Review” equipment, always the most popular items, were in great demand. The premier item was a FlexRadio Systems Flex-6700 transceiver, which fetched a winning bid of \$6953. In a distant second-place was the Beko-Elektronik HLV-1100 70 centimeter amplifier, which brought \$3900. These were followed in order by an ACOM 600S 160-6 meter linear amplifier at \$2649; an Apache Labs ANAN-100D SDR HF/6 meter transceiver at \$2500, and a FlexRadio Systems Flex-6300 transceiver at \$2310.

“But our vintage books category was not to be left behind,” Jahnke said. “We had a substantial number of titles from ARRL and also many contributed by anonymous donors. Picking up the top-dollar bid in this category was a copy of *Henley’s Workable Radio Receivers* from 1924. It garnered \$625. A copy of *Modern Radio Operation* by J.O. Smith, published in 1922, brought \$410.

“As always, we would like to express our appreciation to the donors who provided such a diverse mix of items, and we look forward to our 11th auction in 2016,” Jahnke said.

Polish Ham May Be a Step Closer to Activating North Korea

Thanks to DX News.com

Polish radio amateur Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, has indicated that he’s moving forward with his plans to operate from North Korea early next year. Earlier this year Grzyb announced that he had secured written permission to operate from North Korea in January or February 2016 and that he would be going to the capital, Pyongyang, for a final meeting to discuss guidelines for the operation. Grzyb now has [informed](#) DX News.com that he will head to North Korea in December, radio gear and GP7 vertical antenna in tow, to pin down the details of his ham radio plans.

Grzyb is said to have already procured a license to operate as P5/3Z9DX on three bands with 100 W. If he succeeds in being allowed to operate from North Korea, the P5/3Z9DX operation would be for 5 days, SSB only, on 20, 15, and 10 meters from a secured location with 24/7 government supervision. He has said he plans to concentrate on 20 meters.

The last DXCC-approved operation from North Korea took place more than a decade ago. Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, of the Republic of Georgia operated on SSB and RTTY as P5/4L4FN in 2001 and 2002, making more than 16,000 contacts before being asked abruptly to cease transmitting and pack up his gear. Giorgadze, who was not on a DXpedition but working for the UN World Food Program in Pyongyang at the time, had tried for more than 2 years before obtaining oral permission from North Korean authorities to operate.

The North Korea remains the most-wanted and elusive DXCC entity on the globe

ARRL Medium-Wave Experimenters Special Event in November

The 107th anniversary of the Berlin Treaty, which created the international distress frequency at 500 kHz, will be the occasion for a special event operation in that vicinity of the spectrum. The event, announced by ARRL Medium-Wave Experiment (WD2XSH) Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, set for the November 13-14 weekend, will involve experimental operators in the US, Canadian Amateur Radio stations, and US heritage maritime stations.

“For US experimental ops, this will be a CW event,” Raab said. “Some stations will run beacons with special messages, and some will offer special QSLs. Other stations will simulate maritime communication. They will call CQ on a designated calling frequency and then QSY to complete the QSO. Silent periods will be observed. Some stations will pass message traffic.”

Activity for the special event will focus on 465 to 480 kHz and 495 to 510 kHz, since different licensees have different frequency authorizations, Raab explained. Designated calling frequencies are 475 kHz for the lower segment, and 500 kHz for the upper.

Raab said the Maritime Radio Historical Society (MRHS) will conduct a mini “Night of Nights” on Saturday night, with special attention to MF operation. “This will give listeners the best chance of copying their MF signals by operating during the winter and extending our operating hours well into the evening Pacific time,” Raab said. KPH will keep 426 and 500 kHz active with messages and will verify listener reports.

Five Canadian amateurs are expected to operate in the 472-479 kHz band. “In addition to activities similar to those of the US experimental stations, the Canadian amateurs will conduct cross-band communication tests with amateurs operating on 80 and 40 meters,” Raab said. Canadian amateurs planning to participate include:

VO1NA, VE7SL, VE7BDQ, VA7MM, VE7CNF, “All stations will either call CQ or send VVV marker beacons while listening on their respective QSX frequencies,” Raab said. Stations will announce their listening frequencies.

Palmyra DXpedition to Sign On as K5P January 11 to January 26.

When the [Palmyra DXpedition](#) gets under way in January 2016, operators will be using the call sign K5P. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group has been granted permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll. Palmyra and Jarvis Islands (KH5) ranks number 9 on [ClubLog's DXCC Most Wanted List](#).

“After many months of planning, securing permits, and negotiating contracts with US Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy, we are quickly approaching the much anticipated DXpedition to Palmyra,” said co-leaders Craig Thompson, K9CT, and Lou Dietrich, N2TU, in a recent news release.

A team of 12 operators will operate five stations over a 14 day period, from January 11 through January 26. Visit the Palmyra 2016 website to [learn more](#).... <http://palmyra2016.org/pages/sponsors.html>

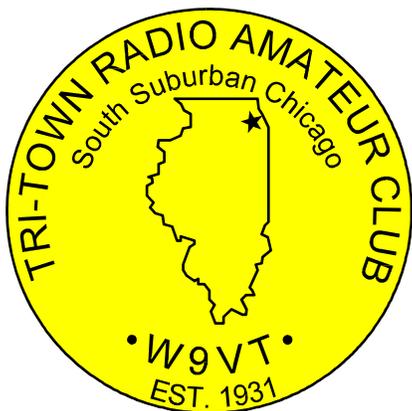
Editor's Note: Illinois' own Craig Thompson K9CT, Jerry WB9Z, and John N9TK will all be on the Team..... Good Luck guys & Listen for us!

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

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

November 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 2016 dues are now due. The Board voted to increase the dues from \$20 to \$25 for 2016. 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