

# The Oscillator

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## Program Calendar:

**September** meeting program will be a surprise.

**October** meeting we can have our white elephant sale at the bunker.

**November** meeting we will have nominations for the new officers for next year.

**December** we will have elections and Christmas party at the bunker.

## CLUB PICNIC

Tom Niemeyer, President AB9LA

Our club picnic was had and enjoyed by all that attended. This was the first one that I was able to attend. The food was great and the weather was fine. I ate too much and still did to get to try every thing that had been brought.

I would like to thank Tom (W9SRV) and his wife for allowing us to again have the picnic at his house. A great job was done by Trish(N9WDG) for procuring the hotdogs, hamburgers, buns, and pop for the club. The cooking was done by John (N9DWE). We had a raffle run by Todd (KA9IUC) in which was raffled off a years club membership, tickets to two different hamfests, a memory stick, and some kids toys. This may become a tradition for our club as this is the third time for this picnic.

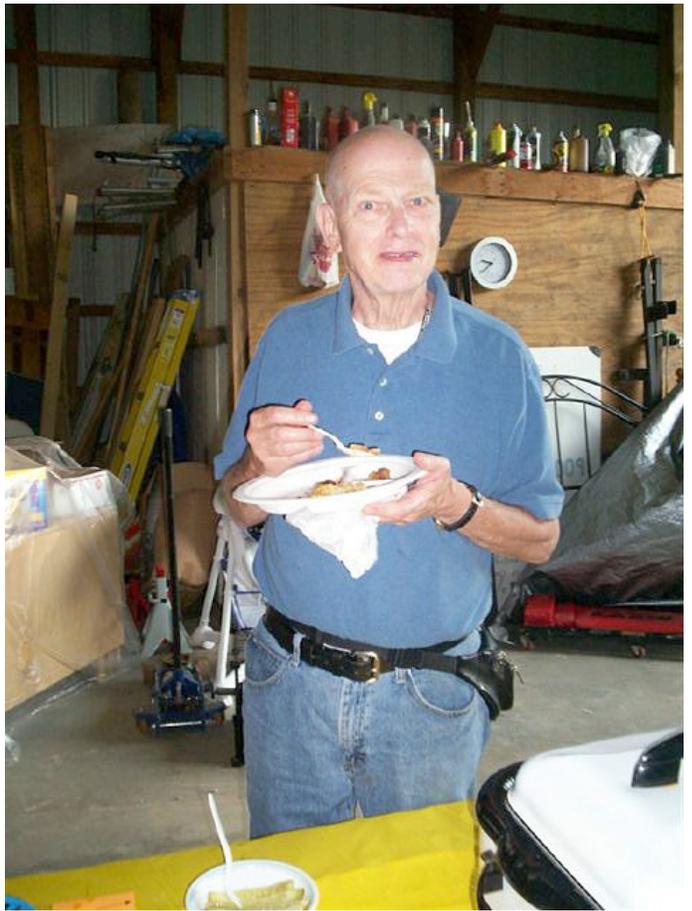
## Scouts Begin Celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Ham radio

2010 will the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boy Scouts in the USA. As a kickoff of this celebration, the Arrowhead District of the Chicago Area Council held a Mini-Jamboree August 29 and 30, 2009. The event took place at Memorial Park in Blue Island. Events included camping, swimming, scout museum, sale of scout memorabilia, reptile zoo, various scout activities and a demonstration of Ham Radio. Jerry Dagenais, K9PMV, was asked by a local Scoutmaster to attend and have an operating station for the event. Jerry was joined by Jim Anderson, NV9X, and Todd Schumann, KA9IUC, to set up and operate a portable station. The vertical multi band was erected and tuned Friday afternoon. Good operating conditions were noted on 20, 40 and 80 meters. Jerry developed a storyboard to explain Ham Radio and how radio waves propagate through the air. Saturday's operation consisted of contacts on 20 and 40 meters and explaining Ham radio to the scouts and leaders. The weather, activities and Ham radio made for a great event for all.

## KRKO radio towers toppled, Eco-Terrorism feared (ELF)

K7MHI

SNOHOMISH WA,USA – Two controversial radio towers belonging to Everett radio station KRKO were toppled early this morning. Somebody left a sign at the scene that may indicate the work of eco-terrorists. KRKO General Manager Andy Skotdal said the sign says "ELF" -- the acronym for Earth Liberation Front -- but he added that doesn't mean the group is responsible. Snohomish County sheriff's officials refused to confirm there was a sign found, saying evidence at the scene will be important in the investigation, spokeswoman Rebecca Hover said.... <http://heraldnet.com/article/20090904/NEWS01/709049802>







# Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2009:

Tom Niemeyer	AB9LA	President	708.672-5844	<a href="mailto:tom1485@sbcglobal.net">tom1485@sbcglobal.net</a>
Jim Everand	WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None
Trish Jaggard	N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	<a href="mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net">the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net</a>
Todd Schumann	KA9IUC	Director	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:tschum3063@aol.com">tschum3063@aol.com</a>
Bruce Haffner	WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee	708.614.6134	<a href="mailto:WD9GHK@comcast.net">WD9GHK@comcast.net</a>
Jerry Dagenais	K9PMV	W9VT Station Mgr.	708.385.2866	<a href="mailto:K9PMV@sbcglobal.com">K9PMV@sbcglobal.com</a>
Tom Gunderson	W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	<a href="mailto:webmaster@w9vt.org">webmaster@w9vt.org</a>
Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Raffle Chairman	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:mattschuman@yahoo.com">mattschuman@yahoo.com</a>
Dave Dell	N9LGP	Field Day Chairman	708.235-1270	<a href="mailto:n9lgp@sbcglobal.com">n9lgp@sbcglobal.com</a>
		Chairman of Board		
Brian J. Bedoe	WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Director	815.469.1383	<a href="mailto:Bbedoe@aol.com">Bbedoe@aol.com</a>

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 WD9HSY/R**

Unofficial Club Hang Outs:

**442.375 Homewood**, **441.300 Grant Park WA9WLN/R**, "Waldofar"  
**443.325 Frankfort WD9HSY/R** & **147.165 Kankakee Co. WD9HSY/R**

All UHF's use a 114.8 PL All VHF's use a 107.2 PL

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

**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 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL

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

## Upcoming Hamfests

12-13 Sept 2009 Radio Expo 2009 Chicago FM Club <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

18-19 Sep 2009 W9DXCC, Northern Illinois DX Association <http://www.w9dxcc.com>

19-20 Sep 2009 Peoria Superfest, Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club <http://www.Peoriasuperfest.com>

**Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!**

**[WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

## Items from Ken KB9OGO's estate

Just a reminder that this is the Estate of Ken's. Here is what's left! Most of Ken's gear went fast and quick. This is not Club property, but I'm making it available to the Club 1st. I think Ken would of like it this way. The prices I believe are at fair market, but I will listen to offers.

Remember it's for Ken's Family, Respectfully, Brian, WD9HSY Home. 815.469.1383 Cell 815.370.4389

Cobra 200 220 mhz Radio 12 Ch Mobile (Crystal)	\$ 40	(no transmit)
Microcraft Code Breaker Morse Code Reader	\$ 10	(not working)
Cushcraft D4 HF (40/20/15/10) Rotatable Dipole	\$ 150	
Cushcraft MA5B 5 Band 3 element Beam (20/15/17/12/10)	\$ 300	
J-Pole (unknown Brand) 2 Mtr / 440 Omni	\$ 20	
2 Butternut HF6V-X (I think!) Multiband Vertical	\$ 50	(may not be complete but you get 2 to play with)
3ft Tripod used	\$ 20	
5ft Tripod used	\$ 30	
Assorted RG-8x Coax approx 100ft	\$ 20	

From another Friend's Estate WD9GXJ, Frank:

Butternut Butterfly beam (rough needs work)	\$ 50	(seems to be complete, but not sure)
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There may be additions and removals as things are added and sold from the list. Check the Club Website [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG) for an up to date list or just call, its all for Ken's Family

73, Brian  
Cell 815.370.4389

## Only One Month Until the AMSAT Space Symposium

Co-Chairs, Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Janet Bauer remind you that the 2009 AMSAT Symposium is rapidly approaching! And we hope you can join us, especially given that there are some low-cost airfares out there for those of us in the US.

We have an outstanding venue this year at the Four Points Sheraton at the BWI Airport. Your symposium committee recently did a walk through of this facility. The accommodations and meeting rooms are superb. Frank said, "I do a lot of traveling and I must say that the rooms are absolutely beautiful. You will definitely get a substantial bang for your buck (or Euro, etc.) at this symposium. And planned 40th Anniversary celebratory events will be truly memorable".

So we'd love to see you in "Charm City"-Baltimore Maryland..for the symposium presentations, 40th anniversary celebrations, poster sessions, ARISS Operations Team Meeting, and AMSAT BoD meeting. Full details are available on-line: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/2009/index.php>

You can now register online for the 2009 AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting: <http://www.amsat-na.com/store2/SymposiumReg2009.php> Online registration will disappear on October 5th so do not wait too long!

Our guest speaker is Dr. Martin Collins from the the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. He will talk on "Making the Space Age: The First Fifty Years".

Follow the links from the Symposium page to book your room at the hotel. An 800 number is also available. When booking your room let the operator know that you are with the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation for the special rates. (They don't seem to know about AMSAT.)

# QST DE KA9QPN ARRL Illinois Section Manager

Thomas T. Ciciora, KA9QPN [ka9qpn@arrl.org](mailto:ka9qpn@arrl.org)

We have met the enemy and he is us...

I have rarely seen such a panorama of disinformation as the swirl following the announcement of the 145.61MHz ARES Digital System. The hall at Peotone barely cleared on 19 July, and we were off to the races with pronouncements on why this was the wrong mode, frequency, implementation, ETC. I liken this system to the Illinois EMA and FEMA 'Doomsday' Radios.

These sit at idle and are only used in the gravest extreme except for test and exercise purposes. So it will be with the ARES Digital System. It replaces nothing. No one is compelled to migrate an existing digital station onto it, although some folks have done so, and I am personally grateful. In fact, when we are successful, this might be the largest 'repurpose' project ever undertaken. We're finally using a frequency designated by the coordinator several years ago. The mode was chosen as it is supported by freeware usable on slightly 'experienced' computers. I fully expect this system to be largely built from older radios, unused antennas, dusty computers and forgotten TNCs, as is my intention for the planned node in Sandwich EMA's EOC. I imagine this great collection of unused equipment transformed and polished into a living, breathing infrastructure, with which we can demonstrate our resourcefulness to Served Agencies and show our Service as a viable, relevant one. To those who are enthusiastically participating, I thank you. To the skeptics: please let's give this the time that it needs to become viable. Remember that we had nothing Section-wide until the morning of 19 July. And no prior competitive ideas until this plan was announced.

## Illinois QSO Party 10.18.09

It's not too early to start thinking about the Illinois QSO Party, once again ably sponsored by the Western IL ARC. It's on 18 October. Brad W9FX notes that this is not unlike some of the ARES exercises: trying to put all IL counties on air at once. There are some places where we're really thin on hams, let alone active ones. Think about operating during this event.

## IOWA QSO Party 10.17.09

Our neighbors in Iowa are having their own QSO party on 17 October. It's a shorty: 9 hours. It's also the first Iowa QSO Party in a while. Let's help out our neighbors by playing. The process is easily adaptable for just about any old radio which used those miserable itty bitty bulbs.

## Geomagnetic Mega-Storm

From Spaceweather.com

On Sept. 2nd, a billion-ton coronal mass ejection (CME) slammed into Earth's magnetic field. Campers in the Rocky Mountains woke up in the middle of the night, thinking that the glow they saw was sunrise. No, it was the Northern Lights. People in Cuba read their morning paper by the red illumination of aurora borealis. Earth was peppered by particles so energetic, they altered the chemistry of polar ice.

Hard to believe? It really happened--exactly 150 years ago. This map shows where auroras were sighted in the early hours of Sept. 2, 1859

As the day unfolded, the gathering storm electrified telegraph lines, shocking technicians and setting their telegraph papers on fire. The "Victorian Internet" was knocked offline. Magnetometers around the world recorded strong disturbances in the planetary magnetic field for more than a week.

The cause of all this was an extraordinary solar flare witnessed the day before by British astronomer Richard Carrington. His sighting marked the discovery of solar flares and foreshadowed a new field of study: space weather. According to the National Academy of Sciences, if a similar flare occurred today, it would cause \$1 to 2 trillion in damage to society's high-tech infrastructure and require four to ten years for complete recovery.

A repeat of the Carrington Event seems unlikely from our low vantage in a deep solar minimum--but don't let the quiet fool you. Strong flares can occur even during weak solar cycles. Indeed, the Carrington flare itself occurred during a relatively weak cycle similar to the one expected to peak in 2012-2013. Could it happen again?

# MFJ BUYS CUSHCRAFT !

MFJ Purchases Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line

MFJ Enterprises, Inc., Starkville, Mississippi has purchased Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line from Laird Technologies, St. Louis, Missouri effective July 31, 2009.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire.

"We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000.

Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas will bring over fifty new products to MFJ's impressive amateur radio product line. Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products have long been a popular source for a wide range of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and yagi antennas for the amateur radio community. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product customers will appreciate continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue.

This announcement comes right during MFJ catalog time. The new MFJ 2010 Catalog will be a whopping 120 pages and will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line. A special customer support line is set up in Starkville, Mississippi by dialing 662-323-5803. This line will handle any Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna product technical support, part requests, and customer services.

MFJ Enterprises, Inc. also owns Ameritron, Hy-gain, Mirage and Vectronics. To order, get a free catalog, or for your nearest dealer, call 1-662-323-5953; or write to: Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas, 300 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759; or go online: [www.CushcraftAmateur.com](http://www.CushcraftAmateur.com); or fax to: 1-662-323-6551. Original release at <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/cushcraft/>

## Finally A New Solar Cycle 24 Sunspot Group

Thomas F. Giella, NZ4O Posted on QRZ.com August 31, 2009 at <http://www.wcflunatall.com/nz4o1.htm>

After a grueling 51 day period with no sunspot groups a small solar cycle 24 sunspot group has emerged in the northern and western hemisphere of the Sun. Hopefully it will survive long enough to be numbered by NOAA/SWPC.

As a side note yesterday evening we experienced an unexpected brief (3 hrs) but moderately strong (Kp-6) geomagnetic storm. It did not come from a geo-effective (Earth facing) sunspot group associated coronal mass ejection. The likely source of the geomagnetic storm was a collapsing solar filament on the Sun or an unidentified deep space (out of our solar system) source.

My forecast for the above mentioned period of 08/29-09/01/2009 was a Kp 0-2 (quiet), isolated 3 (unsettled).

## Editors Note:

There is a lot of talk about how poor conditions are on the low bands. Lets hope this increase in solar activity breathes some new life in the Low Bands. These comments have come from Jim KB9VR, Greg WB9MII, myself Brian WD9HSY, and a few others that escapes me at this writing ..... GO SUNSPOTS! (sounds like an NFL Team)

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# Electromagnetic Pulse: A National Conference

A National Conference, September 8th-10th, 2009, Niagara Falls, NY

A man-made Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) is caused by a nuclear weapon detonated in the atmosphere. This threat is a realistic possibility in this day and age. In fact, two Congressional Commissions have recently warned that America could suffer catastrophic consequences from a nuclear EMP attack by terrorists or rogue states. Their reports also point out that the U.S. can be protected if we act quickly. A House Homeland Security subcommittee is currently meeting and considering legislation, but very little has been done so far. According to the Abstract of the original Report of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from EMP Attack, U.S. Congress, 2004: "Several potential adversaries have or can acquire the capability to attack the United States with a high-altitude nuclear weapon-generated electromagnetic pulse (EMP). A determined adversary can achieve an EMP attack capability without having a high level of sophistication." Read the full report

An EMP attack can cripple our infrastructure causing all of our electronic equipment and infrastructure to fail. That means even basic modes of emergency response, like cars, planes, and other emergency vehicles, may not even start. Current emergency planning is primarily based upon short-term disasters, and is heavily dependent upon assistance from peripheral communities; unfortunately, an EMP could have long-lasting and wide-spread effects that are not adequately addressed by current planning. Moreover, availability of fundamental resources such as our food, water, and medical supplies would almost certainly break down.

Don't think it can happen? Increasing nuclear terrorist threats like those of North Korea and Iran can disable the entire power grid in North America are a clear and present danger. Terrorists and rogue nations don't even need accurate or long range ballistic missiles. An EMP attack can potentially be carried out by launching readily available Scud missiles from a barge off of our coasts.

EMPACT America is conducting a national conference bringing in the most knowledgeable minds in the world about EMP. Scheduled speakers include U.S. Congressional leaders, Department of Defense experts, and many other experts on EMP. In addition, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich will deliver an exclusive video address on EMP prepared specifically for this conference.

Our ongoing development and increasing reliance on electronics and technology makes us extremely vulnerable to EMP threats. We invite you to join us at the conference so that we can help you better understand the impact of EMP and how it affects you, and feature some proactive, hands-on ideas to protect our infrastructure from the devastating effects of EMP.

## Are Sunspots Disappearing?

Thomas F. Giella, NZ4O

The NASA Space Weather web page <http://www.spaceweather.com> has an interesting article "Are Sunspots Disappearing?". Click on the link recent "EOS article" or go directly to the article in .pdf form at <http://www.leif.org/EOS/2009EO300001.pdf>

I've been concerned for quite a while about the possibility that we are entering another "Dalton" type sunspot number minimum, a shorter version of infamous Maunder Minimum. Check out this web page link: <http://www.wcflunatall.com/Dalton%20Minimum.jpg>

Few sunspot groups and poor band conditions on 15-6 meters would be the least of our worries. The big concern would be global cooling for a period of 20-30 years. Another Dalton type Minimum would put quite a strain on natural resources such as food and petroleum and mass starvation could result in third and second world countries.

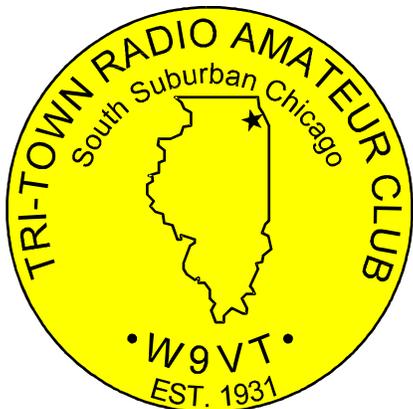
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Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Inc.  
PO Box 1296  
Homewood, IL 60430-0296

Sept 2009

First Class Mail



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## 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