

The Oscillator

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Upcoming Meetings & Events

September - Saturday, September 16, 2017. The Annual Club Picnic will be held at Monee Reservoir starting at noon with food at 1 PM. As in the past, the cost will be \$5 per person which will include a raffle ticket. You are asked to bring something to drink and a dish to pass. There are picnic tables and benches there in the pavilion but you may want to bring a chair. The picnic is in lieu of a meeting. Please plan on attending and bringing the family! It would be great if a few people could get there between 10:30 and 11 to help our great chef, John N9DWE, set up.

Reservations: So that a head count can be made for buying food, please call Trish at 708 828 8592 or email her at "the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net" and give her your name and number attending. Thank you.

Directions to Monee Reservoir: Proceed South from Monee on Highway 50. Turn right on Pauling Road. However, to turn right on Pauling Road you will have to make a left turn up a short ramp and then turn right onto Pauling Road. Proceed West on Pauling Road to Ridgeland Avenue. Turn left and go South on Ridgeland Avenue to the entrance for the Monee Reservoir. Once in the park make the first right and drive to the South end of the parking lot. We are in the shelter on the right. Rest rooms are located nearby.

October - Friday, October 20, 2017. Business meeting and program will be at the Hazel Crest Village Hall at 7:30 PM. The program is TBA. Refreshments and raffle will be available. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

From The President's Shack

Todd, KA9IUC.

Hope everyone had a great summer. I am looking forward to Fall club activities and getting some projects done around the house. One of those projects is putting up a new 2M/440 antenna and making some repairs and adjustments to my fan dipole. I am also looking forward to the Club Picnic. It is always a great event and it is nice to see family members attend. If anyone has access to some swivel desk chairs (for free) we could sure use one or two for the Club Station. The wheels have come off one of the chairs and it's not safe to sit on anymore. The Club Station could also use the donation of 220 and 440 rigs. Best regards and 73,

Dues for 2017 are 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 now. Dues are the same as last year. Regular membership is \$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 your support of Tri-Town with your 2017 membership.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 12/15/17 AT AURELIOS IN FRANKFORT AT 6 PM
Save the Date --- It's a Friday Night!

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2017

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
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Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Dir.	815.370.1383	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

09/16/2017	Peoria Superfest	Peoria, IL	http://www.w9uvi.org
09/23/2017	RADIO EXPO	Belvidere, IL	http://chicagofmclub.org

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

Welcome New Members

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club would like to welcome three new members. They are Ron Turner KD9FQP, of Chicago, Kelly Marquand KD9GHL, of Grant Park, and Matt Medlen, N9YBK of Harvey. Please say hello and introduce yourself if you see a new face at a meeting or other Tri-Town event. Welcome to Ron, Kelly and Matt!

Congrats! On Upgrade to Extra!

Tri-Town's new Club Member Matt Medlen, N9YBK of Harvey who earned his Extra Class ticket only one month after his my general. Matt received his Extra on August 12th.

Tri-Town's Tentative 2017 Event Calendar

- September Club Picnic, Saturday September 16th, Noon at the Monee Reservoir.
- October General meeting Friday October 20th, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. Program to be determined.
- November General meeting, Friday November 17th at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. Program will be nomination of officers for 2018, Show and Tell, and White Elephant Sale.
- December Christmas Party, Saturday December 15th at Aurelio's in Frankfort. Short program for the election of officers for 2018.

Board of Directors Meetings - Second Monday of the Month, 7:30 PM at the Club Station. Members are welcome.

Trading Post!

ICOM IC-208H VHF/UHF Dual Bander \$130.00

The **Icom IC-208H** 2M/440 dual-bander Includes: detachable control panel, wideband receive, three power settings, built-in CTCSS decode/encode, PC compatibility and 500 alpha memory channels. Power output is 55/15/5 watts on 2 meters and 50/15/5 watts on 440 MHz. It is 9600 BPS packet ready too (6 pin DIN). The IC-208H also includes a built-in duplexer, OPC-600/R separation cable, HM-133 remote hand mic, mobile mounting bracket, power cord. Comes with Remote head cable and software, but no software programming cable.

Call Ron WB9JYZ (708) 957-3625

ICOM IC-251A 2 meter / with wedge mic / DC only / 10 watts FM-SSB \$ Best Offer

Cushcraft 3 element 6 meter beam (new) \$75.00

Cushcraft 10 element 2 meter beam (new) \$50.00

Cushcraft R-6000 vertical (20-6 meters) excellent condition \$125.00

Call Jim N8EAT (708) 361-2657 or n8eat@aol.com

Parks On The Air - "Make Nature Your Shack"

Ed Stroh - K9EGS

Recently Ron, (WB9JYZ) and I went on a portable operation to Kankakee River State Park which is just west of Bourbonnais, IL about 4 or 5 miles. We went there to attempt to "activate" that state park site for the "Parks On The Air" (POTA) program. If you look back to the January issue of the Oscillator you will see an article that I wrote that fully explains the POTA program. It is basically very much like the "National Parks On The Air" (NPOTA) program that was administered by the ARRL during 2016, except the POTA program has significantly more sites that can be activated than the NPOTA program had. There are over 3000 entities/sites included in the POTA USA program, of which 65 are located right here in Illinois and 31 in Indiana which include not only National Parks but also State Parks, Nature Preserves and National Wildlife Refuges.

We picked a really nice day to go. I believe the high temperature for the day was only about 72 degrees with no rain in site and a nice gentle breeze. We arrived at the park about 9:15 AM and started to set up our respective antennas and radio equipment. All of the sudden, Murphy showed up. By the way, Murphy was not invited. He never is invited. He just shows up unexpectedly. He shows up in a lot of places even though no one ever invites him. You know who Murphy is, right. He is the one that started what is commonly referred to as "Murphy's Law" which states "if anything can go wrong, it will go wrong."

Once I got my Buddipole antenna all set up, I checked the SWR while the antenna was only about 5 feet above ground so that I could make any necessary adjustments before I raised the mast up to it's normal operating position of about 18 feet. Everything looked great. The SWR was only about 1.2. You can't get too much better than that, so I raised the mast to the 18 foot level and checked the SWR again. Whoa, wait a minute. Now the SWR went to 8.0. What the heck happened? So I lowered the mast back down to where I could reach everything and checked all my connections to make sure they were tight. Low and behold one of the little mini banana plugs was so loose that it was almost floating inside the socket of the coil clip that it was plugged into. All I could do was plug it about half way in to a point where it was making slightly better contact. Good enough to get by for the day. So at that point I thought that Murphy probably left the area.

Once I fixed the antenna and got all my equipment ready to operate, Murphy showed up again. This time he prevented my laptop computer from accessing the internet. I wanted internet access so that Ron and I could spot ourselves on a DX Cluster. That way more people would know that we were out there and it possibly would help to increase the number of our contacts. By this time I was getting pretty tired of Murphy and his mixed bag of tricks. But there was nothing I could do about the internet spotting. You see I don't have a Smart Phone, I have what I call a Dumb Phone. It only makes phone calls. Can you imagine that. It is one of those phones for senior citizens, a Jitterbug phone.

Just when I thought that Murphy was finally out of the picture and we hopefully 'sent him packing', Ron's Buddipole antenna fell over as he was trying to set the guy wires in place. One of the telescopic rods got bent, but there is an extra one in the Buddipole kit. So Ron was able to get on the air with no problem. Of course there was almost nobody to talk to once we were on the air. Oh well, it was another learning experience to add to the many others that we encounter during our lives.

Well, needless to say, Murphy kind of ruined our day. I only made 3 contacts and I believe that Ron made 2 contacts. The band conditions didn't help much either. The day was not a total loss though. We got outside in some nice weather in the State Park nature type surroundings. We were under a picnic shelter that had picnic tables and plenty of room all around the shelter to set up our antennas. There was even a bathroom only about 150 to 200 feet away from us. It was a pleasant day despite our several problems.

You should consider doing some portable operating before the weather gets too cold. It is really nice to get out there and "Make Nature Your Shack" and hopefully have some fun too. The phrase, "Make Nature Your Shack" is a quote from the POTA program website. Maybe you will be more fortunate than Ron and I, and Murphy won't show up where you go. Make sure you don't even let Murphy know where you are going and hopefully he won't follow you.

By the way, the POTA website is <https://wwff-kff.com/> Check it out.

Help Needed!

The Club is in need of a Refreshment Chairman for 2017 and hopefully beyond. Mark Thompson, KA9MDJ has retired from the position. Anyone who comes to Club meetings knows what the position entails. Drinks and snacks must be purchased along with paper goods such as cups, napkins and paper towels, for which you are reimbursed. The counter and floor must be cleaned and it is believed Mark has the Club's vacuum to help with that chore.

We are also in need of net control operators for the Wednesday and Sunday night nets. At present, three guys run eight or more nets a month.

Please contact any Club officer if you can help.

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?

Amateur Radio General Class Training starting 9.13.17

On Wednesday September 13, at 7 pm, Hamfesters will begin conducting a **General** level training class. The training will be a combination of home study and class review. The required home study includes watching selected YouTube videos and studying the ARRL License manual. Access to the internet to watch topic background videos is required. The excellent videos are developed by Dave, KE0OG. Class time will be used to reinforce your home study and answer questions. Class length is 6 consecutive weeks (skipping Sept 27).

Cost will be that of the ARRL manual (\$30.00). You may purchase your manual via Amazon or the ARRL online store. If you register with us early enough, we can order the manual for you. A simple scientific calculator or smart phone calculator app is suggested so you can work through some of the problems. The smart phone cannot be used during the VE test, however. You do not have to be a member of any club to take the class - just a real commitment to obtain your General ham license.

Contact Brian Davis, W9HLQ to register: w9hlq@hamfesters.org 708/532-5833

Please contact me ASAP to register and give me time to order books.

The instructors are Mel Marcus, NE9A and Brian Davis, W9HLQ

Training location is the Tinley Park Emergency Management Agency; 17355 S. 68th Ct, Tinley Park, IL 60477

(173rd and Oak Park Ave) It is behind the TP Fire House. Enter through glass doors, go down the stairs to the lower level) More info: <https://www.hamfesters.org/main/licensing-class/>

The W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on the web at:
<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 12/15/17 AT AURELIOS IN FRANKFORT AT 6 PM

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club

Christmas Party



Saturday, December 15, 2017 at 6 pm to 8:30pm.

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

Price also includes One Raffle Ticket for Prizes

RSVP to Trish Jaggard, N9WDG by Thursday, 12/07

No. of people to attend

Phone- 708-828-8592- leave detailed message or email
the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net

More Professional and Citizen Research Suggests Eclipse Briefly Affected HF Propagation

Both professional and citizen scientists conducted formal and informal investigations into the effect of the August 21 solar eclipse on HF radio propagation. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, of [HamSCI](#), has said it will take some time to get a more scientific analysis of data compiled during the Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Frissell and others are investigating whether the sudden absence of sunlight during the eclipse — and especially of solar ultra-violet and x-rays — would briefly change the properties of the upper atmosphere. Professional ionospheric researcher Phil Erickson, W1PJE, of the Atmospheric Sciences Group at [MIT's Haystack Observatory](#), said he can say categorically that there was a definite, large, and measurable effect in the ionosphere from the eclipse.

“We saw a 2X reduction in electron density during the eclipse for at least 45 minutes to 1 hour,” Erickson told ARRL. “This reduction had direct impacts on HF propagation along the bottom side.” Erickson said many models and observations exist from previous eclipses that demonstrate these effects. Erickson said MIT researchers used a “megawatt-class Thomson scatter radar” which can directly measure the plasma state of the ionosphere, including electron density, across a huge area in the eastern US.

Bob Reif, W1XP, was in North Carolina where the eclipse totality was about 97%. “I had two radios running multi bands of *WSPR*,” he reported. “Lots of data to look at, but what jumped out was that at almost the exact time of maximum coverage of the sun at this location, 160 meters opened for about 30 minutes and then closed down again till the normal gray line. So the D layer responded to the shadow of the moon to some extent.”

Gene Greneker, K4MOG, in Georgia told ARRL that his own eclipse experiment “worked out rather well.” He set up an RFSpace NetSDR receiver at his location, locked to a 10-MHz GPS standard and tuned to WWV on 15 MHz. “The NetSDR provides in-phase and quadrature components of the WWV signal, which allows relative signal phase to be reconstructed from recorded data,” Greneker explained in a more-detailed account.

“Signal phase-vector rotation change was chosen to indicate totality arrival, because phase is very sensitive to any change in propagation path length, possibly caused by ionospheric movement, up or down. Solar presence or absence can cause vertical ionospheric movement.”

Greneker recording the phase of the 15-MHz WWV signal from 1800 UTC until 1900 UTC on August 21. “Each time the path length changes by 1 wavelength, there is a 360° change in the phase of the signal,” he said. Greneker offset the path of totality to the south, running parallel to the path between WWV in Fort Collins, Colorado and his location in Atlanta.

Greneker assumed that the reflection point off the ionosphere was south of Kansas City, and, he said, the minimum dip in the phase record occurred very close to totality at that location. “At 1809 hours UTC, when the totality point was parallel to the midpoint of the propagation path, the path length increased from zero wavelengths to 157 wavelengths, or 3,140 meters, during the intervening 9 minutes.” He reported. As totality moved southeast solar radiation began to increase and the path length decreases as the ionospheric reflecting point moves downward. Bob Skaggs, KB5RX, told ARRL he spent about 4 hours in the central part of Mission Valley, Montana, listening to conversations on various 20-meter frequencies with a low antenna. “At maximum of the eclipse the propagation went almost to nothing for maybe about 15 or 20 minutes,” he said. “As the eclipse resided, signals came back up.” Skaggs tried 17 meters for 5 minutes at 1800 UTC and heard “no signals at all.”

He also said the local animal population responded to the eclipse as if evening were approaching.

Peggy Whitson, ex-KC5ZTD, Breaks Time-in-Space Record

President Donald Trump welcomed NASA astronauts Peggy Whitson, ex-KC5ZTD, and Jack Fischer, K2FSH, as they returned to Houston on September 3 following 6-month stints on board the International Space Station. Whitson, a veteran space traveler, broke the record among US astronauts — and women worldwide — for the most cumulative time in space. Whitson, Fischer, and Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, landed in Kazakhstan on Saturday after traveling from the ISS in a Russian Soyuz transporter. Trump spoke with Whitson and Fischer as they were en route by NASA plane to Johnson Space Center's Ellington Field.

"I want to congratulate Peggy and Jack for their incredible accomplishments. They make us all very proud," Trump said. "Exploration has always been at the core of who we are as Americans, and their brave contributions to human spaceflight have continued that great tradition."

Whitson, 55, now holds the record within the NASA corps of astronauts — 665 days — for most cumulative time in space, racked up during three long-duration missions. She is also the only female astronaut to command the ISS twice and was the first woman to do so. During her last mission, she was ISS commander from April 9 through June 1. Whitson also holds multiple spacewalking records. She was part of the ISS Expedition 5 crew in 2002, which was her first time in space.

"Peggy is an inspiration to us all," the president said, "especially to young women interested in or currently pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math."

This was the president's second telephone conversation with the two astronauts. On April 24, when Whitson officially set the US record for most cumulative days in space, Whitson and Fischer received a celebratory phone call from Trump, his daughter Ivanka, and fellow astronaut Kate Rubins, KG5FYJ.

FCC's Updated Rules Governing Personal Radio Services Become Effective on September 28

The FCC recently adopted a comprehensive [reorganization of and update](#) to the rules governing the Personal Radio Services (PRS). These include a wide variety of wireless devices used by the general public for personal communication, including hand-held Family Radio Service (FRS) transceivers, radio-controlled models, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs), medical implant devices, and others.

In addition to the updated rule changes, the FCC enhanced the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) to allow new digital applications, allot additional interstitial channels, and extend license terms from 5 to 10 years. It also allotted additional channels to the FRS and increased allowable power on certain FRS channels from 0.5 W to 2 W. It also updated the Citizens Radio Service (CB) rules to allow hands-free headsets, eliminate a restriction on DX communication, and remove other outdated requirements.

"These changes and others will update PRS rules to be more in line with current public demands for the services and will make the rules easier to read and find information, while also removing outdated requirements and removing unnecessary rules," the FCC said.

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

The ARRL September VHF Contest SIX mtrs and up! Sept 9th

The [ARRL September VHF Contest](#) gets under way on September 9 at 1800 UTC and wraps up on September 11 at 0259 UTC. This popular operating event provides a chance for radio amateurs at all levels to experience contesting on the most popular VHF and UHF bands, as well as on those less-frequented frequencies above 450 MHz. Newcomers and veterans alike will attempt to work as many 2 × 1 grid squares as possible on frequencies above 50 MHz from home stations, from the field, or from “rovers” that travel from grid square to grid square.

With a heightened potential for tropospheric conditions, the September VHF Contest offers something that VHF contests at other times of the year often cannot. Due to rule enhancements made in 2015, assistance is now allowed in *all* entry categories. This includes the use of assistance to announce your availability for contacts (i.e., self-spotting).

Six meters is the most popular band for this event, since many HF transceivers include that band. Most SSB activity on 6 meters will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250MHz, and CW activity between 50.080 MHz and 50.100 MHz. The frequencies between 50.100 MHz and 50.125 MHz are considered a “DX window” for contacts between US/Canada and DX stations, so avoid US-to-US contacts in that part of the band.

Activity centers for SSB are 50.125, 144.200, 222.100, and 432.100 MHz. These are calling frequencies, however, and contest participants should avoid monopolizing them. Check the [band plans](#) for details on all bands.

[Rules and entry forms](#) are on the ARRL website. Effective with the 2017-2018 Contest Season, all submissions must be [uploaded](#) to ARRL's web app or postmarked no later than **10 days** after the event — in this case, by September 21, 2017. Electronic logs are preferred. Send paper logs to September VHF Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. For more information about the ARRL September VHF Contest, [e-mail](#) the ARRL Contest Branch.

New “Pre-Release” Version of WSJT-X Includes FT8 Changes

A new “pre-release” version of [WSJT-X](#) now is available. This is the Amateur Radio digital software suite developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT, that includes the new FT8 mode, which has been catching on like wildfire. The September 2 release, *WSJT-X* version 1.8.0-rc2, fixes a number of issues, provides better performance, and offers some new features.

“Implementation of FT8 and its auto-sequencing feature is now more capable and more polished,” Taylor said in the release notes. “The decoder is faster and better. It now includes signal subtraction, multi-pass decoding, and the use of accumulated ‘a priori’ information as a QSO progresses. Sensitivity extends downward as far as –24 dB in some circumstances.”

Taylor said that overlapping signals “two and three deep” are frequently decoded at essentially the same frequency, and on a crowded band “we sometimes see more than 30 decodes in a single 15-second interval, over a 2-kHz window.” In addition, the North American VHF Contesting Mode has been expanded to include both FT8 and MSK144 modes, and the *WSJT-X User Guide* has been extensively updated.

“Depending on what code revision you upgrade from, it may be necessary to do a one-time reset of the default list of suggested operating frequencies,” Taylor pointed out in his release notes. Some new features have been discussed in the [WSJT Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group](#).

Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) now supports the upload of FT8 contacts after a *TQSL* configuration file update, which was released shortly after the mid-August debut of the new ADIF standard ([version 3.0.6](#)) with support for FT8

Route 66 Special Event Set for September 9-17th

The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club of San Bernardino, California will host the 18th annual [Route 66 On The Air](#) special event, September 9–17. The event offers radio amateurs a chance to perhaps relive their own Route 66 memories and to celebrate the famed highway's 91st anniversary. Opened in 1926, US Route 66 was the first major improved highway to link the West Coast with the nation's heartland; it once served as the backdrop for a popular TV show and has been the subject of songs and stories. There will be 21 stations — two of them “rovers” — operating in or around the major cities along Route 66 from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois. They will use 1 x 1 W6-prefix special event call signs.

The Route 66 special event stations will concentrate activity on these frequencies: CW — 3.533, 7.033, 10.110, 14.033, 18.080, 21.033, 24.900, 28.033, and 50.033 MH; SSB — 3.866, 7.266, 14.266, 18.164, 21.366, 24.966, 28.466, and 50.166 MHz; Digital — 3.580, 7.070, 10.140, 14.070, 18.100, 21.070, 24.920, and 28.120 MHz. Some participating clubs will also use VHF and UHF repeaters.

Radio amateurs who operate while driving on Route 66 may take part in the event by using the designations “mobile 66” or “/66” after their call signs. Each participating club will issue its own [commemorative QSL card](#) to celebrate this event. Certificates are available.

An unrelated Military Vehicle Convoy On-The-Air Route 66 event will take place from September 16 until October 14. Visit [ConvoyOnTheAir.org](#) for operating details. — *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via OPDX*

Top-Level Domain Name “.radio” Now Available

The top-level domain (TLD) name “.radio” is now available to the radio industry and Amateur Radio enthusiasts, and is reserved for individuals and companies with active interest in the radio sector. The .radio TLD can be used for web and e-mail addresses and will be managed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) with support from other world broadcasting unions. Visit the [.radio domains registration site](#) to request a .radio domain.

Individuals or entities in these categories will be accepted for the use of a .radio domain:

- Radio broadcasting stations
- Unions of Broadcasters
- Internet radios
- Radio Amateurs
- Radio professionals (journalists, radio hosts, DJs, etc.)
- Radio-related companies selling radio goods and services
- Radio products and services

One or more .radio domain name(s) can be requested during the launch period, which ends on October 31, 2017. The cost for individual radio amateurs is about \$30, including tax.

“The EBU believes radio stations should be the focus of this new space on the internet, and considers them our highest priority,” the announcement said. “However, other categories of applications from the radio sector will also be considered during this phase.”

Starting in November, first come, first serve rules will apply, although eligibility requirements remain the same.

For more information, visit [www.nic.radio](#).

Planned DXpeditions to Rare Entities Report Progress

Don Greenbaum, N1DG, reports that the Dateline DX Association is making progress in planning its 2018 [DXpedition to Baker and Howland Islands](#) (KH1), the fourth most-wanted DXCC entity, according to Club Log's [DXCC Most Wanted List](#). The DDXA team will operate from the Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Greenbaum says a ship has been chartered — the *Nai'a* from Fiji — with arrival on the island during the third week of June 2018. The DXpeditioners will spend 12 days on the island, with 10 days set aside for radio operation, if plans hold.

All preparations are subject to the approval of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the ship and dates were chosen in consultation with the agency, based on the availability of the vessel and of the USF&WS “resource monitor,” who will accompany the team, as well as avoidance of the cyclone season. Greenbaum said long-range propagation forecasts appear favorable on HF to Western Europe during the late-June period of planned operation. The 11 operators on the team are covering one-half of the estimated \$400,000 cost of the DXpedition, and are seeking financial support for the rest. Greenbaum, Tom Harrell, N4XP, and Kevin Rowett, K6TD, are team co-leaders.

The [3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet Island](#) team reports it now has 10 FlexRadio transceivers in hand, with shipping containers and accessories. The Bouvet Island DXpedition will have 14 stations, each with its own computer and everything tested and networked. All gear will be checked out thoroughly in advance. Two of the stations will be set up for an early September team meeting in Atlanta.

ARRL has granted an unspecified [Colvin Award](#) to help support the Bouvet Island DXpedition, and the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) contributed \$100,000.

A new 160-meter vertical, designed by Nodir Tursun-Zade, EY8MM, and DX Engineering, will be used on Bouvet. The vertical is 90 feet tall, 70 feet of which is aluminum tower sections with a 20-foot “stinger” on top. DX Engineering has donated two of the verticals to the DXpedition, one as a spare. The antenna is top loaded and tuned with two base coils. It's raised using a “falling derrick.” A [video](#) of the raising and testing of the vertical is available on YouTube.

Team member Jim Mornar, N9TK, has been preparing the radials, putting the cut-to-length wire on spools so they're ready to install on site. The radials total 24,000 feet. With this transmitting antenna coupled with directional receiving antennas, planners feel certain 3Y0Z will be effective on Top Band. Video showing setup and testing of the vertical has been posted on YouTube.

The Bouvet DXpedition is planned to take place in January 2018 and the team hopes to be on the air for 14 to 16 days. The estimated cost of the DXpedition is upward of \$750,000. The DXpedition has a [Facebook page](#).

The Mellish Reef [VK9MA](#) team said in its recent [VK9MA Expedition Insider](#) that it plans to focus on the lower bands during its November 2017 DXpedition. Mellish Reef is the 29th most-wanted DXCC entity. The nine-operator team will set sail on November 1 from Australia aboard the MV *Phoenix*, arriving on November 3. The DXpedition will depart Mellish Reef on November 16.

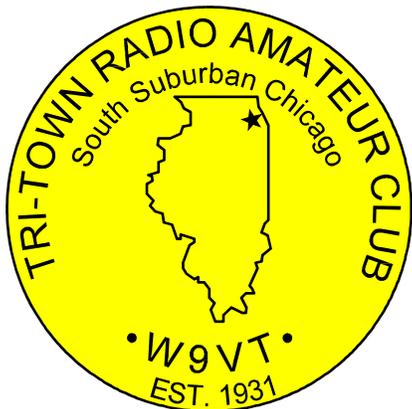
Data modes, and especially RTTY, will be one focus of the VK9MA DXpedition, and the team says it may give JT65/JT9 and the newly popular but still beta FT8 a try. During their 13-day stay on the reef, team members will run four complete station around the clock. — Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)

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

September 2017

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 2017 dues are now due. Your dues pay for the continued expenses for insurance, repeater operation. 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.

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