

The Oscillator

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Volume 67 Number 3 May 2020 Club Call W9VT

All Face to Face Club Meetings & Village Facilities (The Bunker) are Closed!

May Business Meeting on the Repeater!

Friday, May 22, 2020, 7:30 PM on the Club repeater, WD9HSY. If you have something for a short program or to discuss, please let Todd, KA9IUC know.

June Business Meeting on the Repeater!

Friday, June 26, 2020, 7:30 PM on the Club repeater, WD9HSY. If you have something for a short program or to discuss, please let Todd, KA9IUC know. Field Day will be a topic for discussion.

From The President's Desk

I sure hope this issue of The Oscillator finds you well and busy with all those projects you have been putting off. Things are fine here at the home QTH. Matt, N9OTL is working from home and Andy goes off to work each day Mariano's. Masks, gloves and social distancing are the norm for all of us these days.

I would like to thank our good friends at Hamfester's Radio Club for holding their recent General Class License classes and for holding a test session at the conclusion of the classes. The classes were conducted via Zoom. The tests were administered by appointment only with a limited number of people in a garage with masks, gloves and social distancing be observed by all involved. By the way, Matt, N9OTL, attended the classes and has upgraded to General Class.

I really miss the in person Club meetings. But for now, meetings via zoom or on the repeater will have to do. Remember, please check into our nets for Club information and hear what others are up to. Nets are held Sunday, 8 PM, WD9HSY repeater, Wednesday, 8 PM, WD9HSY repeater, Thursday, 8 PM, 28.490 SSB, and Saturday 9 AM, SSB 3862 Mhz.

Stay well and 73, Todd, KA9IUC

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2020

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
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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 4th Friday of each month 7:30 pm 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
40 Mtr Tri-Town Alumni Net Weekdays, 2200 UTC 7.285 SSB LSB
80 Mtr SSB Net Saturdays, 9am local 3.860 SSB LSB

**Sorry, All Hamfests have been Canceled
for the immediate future!**

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

Field Day is Canceled at The Bunker

**Field Day will be a Play at Home Event! Details are being planned.
Contact any Club Officer for your ideas to help participation!**

(Things may change on FD, but don't hold your breath, wear a mask! HI HI)

Field Day 2020

This year's Field Day will be like no other on record. Since there seems to be no changes in sight to the limitation caused by Covid19, **Tri-Town will not participate in Field Day as a Club.** That does not mean that each and every one of us cannot participate from the home QTH or other safe location. Download the Field Day Rules from the ARRL and see what class you could operate. Following Field Day, you can submit your Summary Sheet and need documentation for bonus points to ARRL via their website. All the information you need can be found by going to the ARRL website and searching for "2020 Field Day Packet." Download a Field Day logging program (see N1MM and N3FJP offerings) to properly document your contacts for submittal. Remember that you will be operating under your call sign and license class. The ARRL has indicated that they will list entrant's club affiliation in the results.

Now comes the fun part. We could have some interclub competition by comparing number of contacts made as individuals or teams. With regards to teams, we would have to have at least two teams made up of the same number of operators. Let Todd, KA9IUC know if you are up for some competition. The main thing is - participate in Field Day 2020!

From the Treasure / Chairman of the Board

Trish N9WDG

Hello Everyone! Who knew we would be inside and hibernating – for me it meant working remote and having the kids home and remote learning. No one knows when we will be able to get together again in person but for now staying safe and healthy. Keeping positive and not going crazy is the way – so why not get on a net or make contacts all over the world- meet a new ham- work Field Day from home.

There are things to do around the house- and outside yard work to- no matter how you see it we will see each other again.

For now our meetings will be on the repeater and our next meeting will be the Picnic in September. Everyone stay safe and healthy

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ARRL Suggests Taking a Creative Approach to Field Day 2020

This year, ARRL **Field Day** promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation.

Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social-distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional Field Day site may not be feasible or safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign.

ARRL will include club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual member's results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity.

Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year.

Set up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entries in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie.

One club is planning to conduct its Field Day as a 4A club group, with participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the required 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while GOTA operators participate via remote link.

Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at its usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their homes. The club is developing a schedule that outlines when each member of the club will be at the helm via the remote link.

Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation. *Thanks to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE*

2020 Tri-Town RAC Calendar (All COVID-19 Pending)

May 22	Meeting, 7:30 PM on the WD9HSY repeater
May 23	Fox Hunt - CANCELLED
May 31	Spring Fling (Folks on Spokes) - CANCELLED
June 20	Drivin the Dixie - CANCELLED
June 26	Meeting, 7:30 PM on the WD9HSY repeater
June 27 & 28	Field Day - On your own (Maybe Club Member Contest)
July 24	Vacation - No Meeting
August 28	Social Night at the Club Station, (If things Reopen)
September 12	Picnic - Portable on the Air, (If things Reopen)
October 23	Meeting - to be determined
November 20	Meeting - to be determined
December 11	Christmas Party/Meeting - to be determined

2021 - Tri-Town RAC's 90th Year

Board Meetings are held the second Monday of the Month, all members welcome. We are holding them via Zoom. If you have something you wish to bring before the Board, please contact Trish so she can send you an invitation for the meeting.

Russian DOSAAF-85 (RS-44) Amateur Radio Satellite Transponder Now Active

The amateur radio linear transponder (SSB/CW) on the Russian DOSAAF-85 (RS-44) has been activated. Dmitry Pashkov, R4UAB, explains that RS-85 is a small scientific satellite built by specialists at Information Satellite Systems and students at Siberian State Aerospace University (SibSAU).

The satellite's name commemorates the 85th anniversary of the Voluntary Society for the Assistance to the Army, Aviation, and Navy (DOSAAF), the organization responsible for the military training of Soviet youth.

This is the third satellite created by the specialists of ISS-Reshetnev and is based on the Yubileyniy platform, which features a hexagonal prism structure with body-mounted solar cells. It was launched into orbit last December 26 from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome and is in an elliptical orbit with a perigee of 1,175 kilometers (729 miles), an apogee of 1,511 kilometers (937 miles), and an inclination of 82.5°.

Transmitter power is 5 W, and the beacon is on 435.605 MHz (identifying as RS44). The transponder is inverting, with uplink centered at 145.965 MHz \pm 30 kHz, and downlink centered at 435.640 MHz \pm 30 kHz. LoTW accepts contacts via DOSAAF-85 as "RS-44."

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So how do you handle everything being Canceled or Cancelled?

By Brian WD9HSY

While putting the Oscillator together I noticed that when Todd sent me his “stuff” for the Oscillator his spelling and my spelling of Cancelled (Canceled) were different. My spell checker in Microsoft Word didn't correct either spelling..... So, What did I do? What else, I asked the better half, Betsy N9FUW. She said that the British spell it one way and us Americans, spell it the other way.... OK, which one is which? Betsy who is 85% British (Thank You, Ancestry.com) wouldn't tell me! She just said it is also the preferred spelling in Australia and the British Virgin Islands (and probably in the rest of the Commonwealth, too.) I know now, so you'll have to go look it up! Be safe all.

Club Membership

As of the May Tri-Town Board Meeting, we have 47 members. We welcome new members and want to thank them for joining. Thanks also goes to those who renewed their memberships for 2020. Remember, it is the membership that makes Tri-Town a successful Ham Radio Club.

News Item of Note

ARRL is making available to all members digital versions for their four magazines. They include QST, QEX, NCJ and On the Air. They have an app that will bring all four to your phone, pad or computer. They will soon add a fifth publication on Emergency Communications.

Reactivation of the Tri-Town 10 meter net

The Club wants to thank Jerry, K9PMV, of Blue Island, for reactivating this net. The net meets each Thursday at 8 PM on 28.490 MHz SSB. So far Jerry has had 5-7 check ins each net. There are general discussions and even QSYs to try other modes on 10 meters. Get on HF, check into the net!

Socially Distanced In-Person Exam Sessions Held in US and Norway

With some states starting to relax restrictions on events and activities, the Grant County, Oregon, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) held an in-person exam session on April 26 in the town of John Day that adhered to social distancing recommendations. Exam organizers held the gathering to within Oregon's 10-person limit for gatherings, keeping everyone 6 feet apart and requiring all participants to wear face masks. The exam session was held outdoors under a car port.

"We had an exceptionally successful test session, with candidates passing exams at every amateur radio level," said Ed Elleson, AF7YX, the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Liaison for the Grant County Amateur Radio Club. Grant County Emergency Coordinator Steve Fletcher, K7AA, noted that many clubs had canceled their planned sessions due to the coronavirus pandemic. "Grant County decided to approach the problem by obeying all the restrictions but still holding the exam," he said. "As a result, we had people come here from all over the state."

In Oklahoma, the Mid-Del Amateur Radio Club, W5MWC, administered an open-air exam session on April 25 that held to social distancing guidelines. Over the course of the 3-hour session, 16 candidates tested and all were successful. One candidate passed all three exam elements to come away with his Amateur Extra-class license.

Not to be deterred, International Amateur Radio Union Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, arranged with Norwegian regulatory authorities to hold an outdoor exam session compatible with the social distancing and other safety guidelines in place. Garpestad met with the three candidates in the forest outside a local scout cottage, and, with candidates seated at tables at least 5 meters (about 16 feet) apart, he administered the exam. With the temperature at around 10 °C (about 50 °F), everyone dressed warmly. Garpestad reported that all three candidates passed, and LA5EUA, LB8QI, and LB8RI were welcomed to the world of amateur radio. — *Thanks to Steve Fletcher, K7AA, and Don Beattie, G3BJ, via IARU Region 1*

COVID-19 Creating Short-Term Delays from ARRL Headquarters

ARRL is currently experiencing delays in the fulfillment of orders due to a record number of orders received in the past weeks. Combined with excessive demands on many shipping carriers, our members and customers should expect a 1 – 3 week delay in the delivery of their orders over the next few weeks.

State of Connecticut safety requirements limit the number of employees allowed within the warehouse at one time to ensure their health and safety, further contributing to the fulfillment slowdown. Warehouse personnel are utilizing all available resources to get customers their products as quickly as possible and anticipate that the standard 3 – 7 day US delivery time will be restored sometime in June, once the state mandate has relaxed. ARRL remains committed to making sure that all customers get their orders as quickly as possible. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this time and thank you for your continued support of amateur radio and ARRL.

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Radio Amateur Finds Another “Zombie Satellite”

British Columbia radio amateur Scott Tilley, VE7TIL, has found another “zombie satellite,” as he calls them. This time, he tracked and identified radio signals from the experimental UHF military communication satellite LES-5. Tilley says he found the satellite in what he called a geostationary “graveyard” orbit after noting a modulated carrier on 236.7487 MHz.

“Most zombie satellites are satellites that are no longer under human control, or have failed to some degree,” Tilley **told** National Public Radio (NPR) earlier this month. It’s not clear whether LES-5 is still capable of receiving commands.

LES-5 was built by MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory and launched in 1967 as part of the military’s Tactical Satellite Communication Program. It was supposed to shut down in 1972, but it continues to operate as long as its solar panels are facing the sun. Tilley told NPR that he was inspired by a ham in Cornwall who, in 2016, found an earlier satellite — LES-1 — built by the same lab and launched in 1965. What intrigued Tilley about LES-5 was that it might be the oldest functioning geostationary satellite in space.

After British Columbia went on lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tilley found himself with a lot of free time for such a search. He located LES-5 on March 24.

From his home in Roberts Creek, British Columbia, Tilley, an amateur astronomer, routinely scans the skies for radio signals from classified objects orbiting Earth. Since he started, he’s located dozens of secret or unlisted satellites.

In 2018, while hunting for an undisclosed US government spacecraft lost in a launch mishap, he spotted the signature of IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration), a NASA spacecraft believed to have died in December 2005. The **discovery** delighted space scientists. NASA and another ham in the UK confirmed his finding. Launched in 2000 on a mission to monitor space weather, IMAGE mapped plasma patterns around Earth.

International Marconi Day Canceled

Add International Marconi Day (**IMD**) to the roster of amateur radio events canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IMD celebrates the role of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi played in the development of radio technology. The 24-hour event is held annually to celebrate Marconi’s birthday on April 25, 1874. This year, IMD would have fallen on Marconi’s actual birth anniversary. The event would have involved amateur radio operations from historic Marconi sites. — *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Ronny Plovie, ON6CQ*

Japan’s Radio Amateurs Gain Expanded Access to 160 and 80 Meters

Effective on April 21, Japan radio amateurs have **new privileges** on 160 and 80 meters. The new allocations are 1800 – 1810, 1825 – 1875, 3575 – 3580, and 3662 – 3680 kHz. ARRL Life Member Kenji Rikitake, JJ1BDX/N6BDX, said the new regime allows Japanese radio amateurs to operate FT8 on 80 meters (3574 ~ 3577 kHz), and on 160 meters (1840 ~ 1843 kHz) as well as WSPR (1836.6 kHz)

First Guatemalan Satellite Deployed from the ISS

Guatemala's first satellite, a CubeSat called *Quetzal-1*, was deployed from the International Space Station (ISS) on April 28. Its primary mission is to test a sensor for remote data acquisition for natural resource management, which could be used to monitor water quality in inland water bodies.

The satellite is part of the Japanese Kibo CubeSat program, a product of the cooperation between, among others, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG), and other institutions.

The satellite's telemetry (4,8k GMSK) downlink is 437.200 MHz. The *Quetzal-1* project team director is Guatemalan engineer José Bagur, TG8JAV, a graduate of the Universidad Del Valle. — *Thanks to IARU Region 2*

Special Events Commemorate the End of World War II

Several special event stations are on the air to mark 75 years since the end of World War II. Listen for GB75VET through May 28. The RSGB Contest Club will field special call signs GB1945PE, GB1945PJ, and GB75PEACE through May and again during August 1 – 31 to mark victory in Europe and Japan. From Norway, LI8MAI celebrates the end of World War II in Europe on May 8, 1945. Operation will continue through the end of May.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of special event stations marking the end of World War II. — *Thanks to The Daily DX*

RSGB's RadCom Magazine May Edition Available Online

As another facet of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) "Get on the air to care" campaign, the May edition of RadCom magazine is being made available to radio amateurs around the world online as a sample edition. A number of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-societies have taken similar steps. — Thanks to RSGB General Manager Steve Thomas, M1ACB, via IARU

Ham-Com Cancels 2020 Show

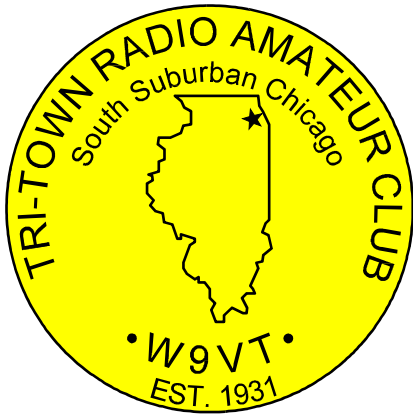
Ham-Com will not take place in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "While we have held out hope that this year we would be able to host Ham-Com 2020 as a light at the end of the long tunnel of the COVID-19 virus, it is with great sadness that we must inform all that we are canceling Ham-Com 2020, with the event postponed until June 17, 18, and 19, 2021," Ham-Com Board of Directors President Bill Nelson, AB5QZ, said in a **statement**. "Payments made to Ham-Com for the 2020 event for general admission, vendor booths, and flea market tables will also be rolled to the 2021 event. Thank you for your understanding and we are looking forward to the next Ham-Com."

Participation in the 3.862 MHz Net Grows

Jim, KB9VR of Monee, started the Saturday morning SSB net on 3.862 MHz some time ago and check ins to the net have continued to grow ever since. The last few nets have been very busy with eighteen and twenty-four check ins. Jim and others act as net control and there is a friendly competition to see who gets more check ins. Be active on HF and give the net a try.

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

May 2020



Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application 2020

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

Membership Renewals for 2020 are Due!

General meeting 4 th Friday of the Month 7:30 PM

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