

The Oscillator

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430
Volume 67 Number 6 November 2020 Club Call W9VT

Nov. 20, 2020 Meeting, Friday, 7:30 PM - Program: Fusion Digital Voice

The meeting will be held via Zoom. Everyone on the Club's email list will receive an invitation to join the meeting. The program for the meeting will be Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, and he will give a presentation on Fusion Digital Voice. Please join us. Please note that the meeting date has been moved up a week due to the fact that our normal date is Black Friday after Thanksgiving.

December 18, 2020 Meeting, Friday, 7:30 PM

The meeting will be held via Zoom. Everyone on the Club's email list will receive an invitation to join the meeting. Besides being our Christmas Party on the Internet, we will announce Officers and Board Members for 2021. Please note that the meeting date has been moved up one week due to our normal meeting date of the 25th is Christmas Day.

From The President's Desk

Stay well and 73, Todd, KA9IUC

I do not take well to change. This condition comes from years of being told it will better and that is not how it necessarily turns out. In the last two months, I have had three changes for the presumed betterment and I have found them not so. The changes range from my blood sugar testing device to the cable TV box to my home's gas meter. In the first two cases it takes longer to do something and not as conveniently. The gas meter has been in the basement for over 60 years and now it on the front of my house for all to see. I guess that's the price of change.

So much for the soap box. Trish and her husband Rob made at trip to inspect the inside of the Bunker. Things are as we left them but the place will need a good cleaning when we can get back to being able operate again. All the antennas seem OK but the roof of the Bunker is still looking more like a forest. The village has done nothing regarding the building but the ground level grass is being cut.

The willingness of the officers and board members to stay on for 2021 is a good sign of continued interest in the club. Dues will be coming due January 1st so I hope each of you will have the same feeling and renew your memberships. The club does have continuing overhead cost. Mainly our equipment and liability insurance. Having extra in the bank is always good for that rainy day.

I am sure looking forward to resuming normal Club activities when all of this is behind us. In the mean time, there is plenty to do so don't sit idle and mope.

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2020

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
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Pete Schaper KE9YX	Board Member	219.226.4474	p.k.schaper@sbcglobal.net
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@comcast.net
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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
10 Mtr SSB Net Thursdays, 8:00 PM local on 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

Tri-Town 10 meter net

As previously announced Jerry, K9PMV, of Blue Island, has reactivating this net. The net meets each Thursday at 8 PM on 28.490 MHz SSB. So far Jerry has had as many as 7 check ins plus some DX stations. Of late it has been a core group of 4-5 check ins.. There are general discussions on ham related subjects and other topics of interest. Please support Jerry's efforts by getting on 10 Meters and check into the net!

From Chairperson of the Board

73s Trish

Well 2020 is finally winding down- Don't know about you but I am ready to close this year out. I hope 2021 will be better than 2020. Tri Town will be celebrating 90 years and there will be more to come on celebrating this milestone.

I want to thank all who participated in our Zoom meeting in October. Looking forward don't forget to put on your calendars Friday 11/20 – watch for the Zoom Link. I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving - Be Safe!

2020 Tri-Town RAC Calendar

November 20	Meeting (1 Week Early)
December 18	Meeting – Elections (1 Week Early)

Note - Christmas party has been cancelled and normal meeting date of the 4th Friday is Christmas.

2021 - Tri-Town RAC's 90th Year

2021 will be Tri-Town RAC's 90th Year as a club. Tri-Town has been Affiliated with the ARRL since March 15, 1932. Did you know that there are 89 ARRL Affiliated Ham Clubs in Illinois?

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.

Field Day 2020 Results

The ARRL publishes Field Day results each year in the December issue of QST. The December digital issue of QST is now available on-line. ARRL made two rule changes due to Covid 19. The first was to allow 1D stations to work other 1D stations and the second was to allow operators to submit their scores and have them dedicated to a specific club.

For 2020 there were 10,213 entries and 18,886 participants vs. 3,113 entries and over 36,000 participants for 2019.

Thanks to **Ed K9EGS, Jerry K9PMV, Todd KA9IUC, Bruce WD9GHK and Brian WD9HSY**, Tri-Town racked up 6,826 points. QST has published the results both by club name and as usual by station class.

Thanks to all who participated and we look forward to a more normal 2021 Field Day.

Neutron-1 CubeSat Deployed from ISS; Other Sats Pending



The [Neutron-1 3U CubeSat](#) was deployed from the International Space Station (ISS) on November 5 at 10:40 UTC. For the satellite's first month and during its commissioning phase, the Neutron-1 beacon will transmit 1,200 bps BPSK [telemetry](#) every 60 seconds on 435.300 MHz. Developed by the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), the satellite's payload includes a VU FM amateur radio repeater during available times and according to the spacecraft's power budget. The Neutron-1 science mission is spelled out in a [formal paper](#), *Neutron-1 Mission: Low Earth Orbit Neutron Flux Detection and COSMOS Mission Operations Technology Demonstration*.

HSFL operates and maintains a satellite UHF, VHF, and L/S-band amateur radio ground station at Kauai Community College.

The primary mission of Neutron-1 is to measure low-energy neutron flux in low-Earth orbit (LEO). The science payload, a small neutron detector developed by Arizona State University, will focus on measurements of low-energy secondary neutrons -- a component of the LEO neutron environment.

A number of other amateur radio satellites are expected to launch or be deployed in the next few months. AMSAT's RadFxSat-2 (Fox-1E) is expected to go into orbit by year's end on Virgin Orbit's LauncherOne vehicle. RadFxSat-2 carries a 30 kHz wide VU linear transponder.



The Tevel Mission -- a series of eight Israeli 1U CubeSats, each carrying a UV FM transponder -- is expected to launch from India on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in December. Also from the Herzliya Science Center is a 3U CubeSat called Tausat-1, which is scheduled to launch on a Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) ISS resupply mission in February for subsequent deployment. Tausat-1 carries an FM transponder.

AMSAT-Spain ([AMSAT-EA](#)) reports that its PocketQubes, EASAT-2 and HADES, have been integrated for launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 in December, while GENESIS-L and GENESIS-N have been integrated for launch on Firefly's Alpha rocket. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to *AMSAT News Service*

Neutron1 Launched from the ISS

Hawaii's first 3U CubeSat designed to detect neutrons was launched on November 5, 2020 by the ISS and is now in Low Earth Orbit.

The science payload, a small neutron detector developed by Arizona State University, will focus on measurements of low-energy secondary neutrons - a component of the LEO neutron environment.

For the first month and during the spacecraft commissioning phase, the beacon will transmit 1200bps BPSK every 60 seconds on the IARU coordinated frequency of 435.300MHz. The Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory welcomes the worldwide Amateur Radio community to collect the beacons and forward them to n1-info@hsfl.hawaii.edu. The beacon format is now public and published at: <https://tinyurl.com/ANS-313-Neutron1> . <https://www.hsfl.hawaii.edu/missions/neutron-1/>.

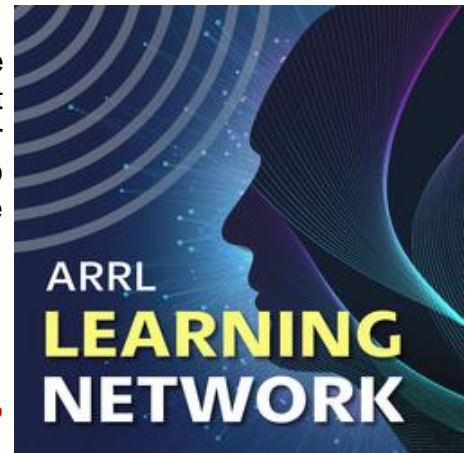
ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the ARRL Learning Network website (a members-only benefit) to [register](#) for upcoming sessions and to view previously recorded sessions. The schedule is subject to change.

Amateur Radio's Role at the Boston Marathon Bombing: Steve Schwarm, W3EVE

Amateur radio has played a significant role in public service communications for the Boston Marathon for several decades. That role was put to the test in 2013 when two bombs were exploded near the finish line. This presentation will describe the role that ham radio played at the marathon and how that role changed due to the bombing.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 10 AM PST / 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)



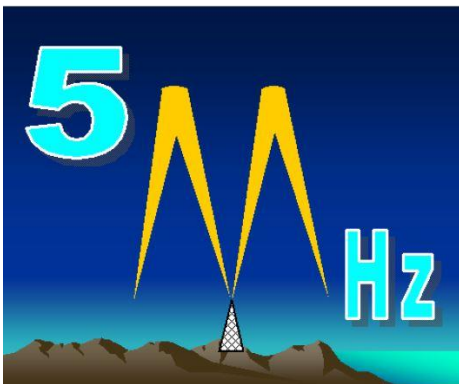
Learn and Have Fun with Morse Code: Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE, and Jim Crites, W6JIM

Morse code, or "CW," is a popular ham radio operating mode. Learning CW does not have to be an arduous or lonely experience. Learn, practice, and enjoy CW with the methods used by the Long Island CW Club.

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 5 PM PST / 8 PM EST (0100 UTC on Friday, December 18)

New Zealand Radio Amateurs Lose Access to 60 Meters

Radio amateurs in New Zealand no longer have access to 60 meters, effective on October 24. Use of the band by radio amateurs in New Zealand was provisional, allowing hams there to use two frequencies in the band -- 5353.0 kHz and 5362.0 kHz -- as part of a "trial."



New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART), the national amateur radio organization, said the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) advised the organization that it was not willing to approve another renewal of the 5 MHz trial allocation. NZART has indicated that it will continue to work with telecoms regulator RSM to see if other ways may be available to provide access to 5 MHz.

As in the US, the federal government and military are primary on the 5 MHz band. According to NZART, the decision was not made lightly by NZDF, but said access to that part of the HF spectrum is necessary to support NZDF's new platforms, tactical radio

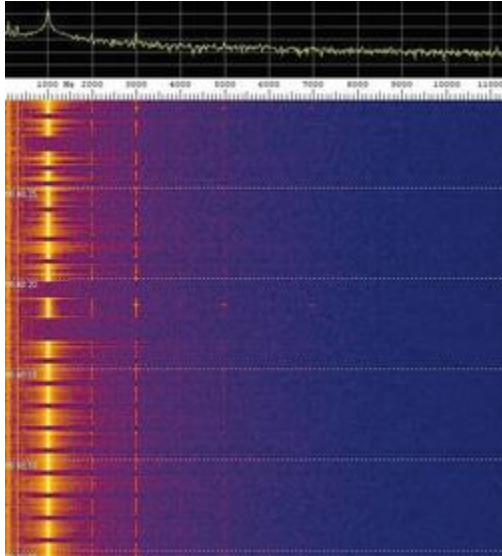
equipment, and updated HF site equipment in the delivery chain.

"Additionally, access to HF is a key part of their communications plans both in New Zealand and to support our forces overseas," NZART explained. "While this is a disappointing outcome, NZART would like to thank NZDF for allowing us to take part in the trial, and we look forward to working with them in the future on matters of common interest." -- *Thanks to Paul Gaskell, G4MWO/The 5 MHz Newsletter*

**Please check into the Club nets to stay in touch
and find out what is going on in the Club.**

Fldigi Could be a Tool in the Nov 13 Frequency Measuring Test

A new frequency-measuring test mode added to the digital communication program *Fldigi* -- developed by Dave Freese, W1HKJ -- makes the program useful for the Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) on November 13. The new test mode replaces frequency



analysis mode, making *Fldigi* useful for FMT participants. *Fldigi* can still measure an unknown frequency to three decimal places (i.e., to 1 mHz), but it can also use a reference frequency to correct the unknown calculation for inaccuracies of the receiver. (An [article](#) by Bob Howard, VE3YX, details the use of *Fldigi* in the FMT.)

Very little equipment is necessary to participate in the FMT. A software-defined radio (SDR) accessed by the internet will work; check out the GPS-stabilized SDRs [Kiwi SDRs](#). A hardware cable or a virtual cable can connect SDR audio to the *Fldigi* input. Calibration will be required.

While older rigs can be used, *Fldigi* works best with a rig that can be controlled by a serial or USB connection from the PC to set the VFO with 1 Hz resolution. Some rigs display frequency to 1 Hz. Others only display to 10 Hz but can be set by the PC to 1

Hz. Most rigs dating from about 1995 and later will work well. *Fldigi* needs to know the frequency that the radio *thinks* it is tuned to or the frequency that you think it is tuned to.

The new FMT modem works best with a reference signal injected along with the FMT transmitted signal -- the FMT's unknown signal. The reference signal must have some accurately known frequency that can be set near the unknown frequency (within 1 kHz or so). The reference can be a signal generator stabilized by a GPS Disciplined Oscillator (GPSDO) that can easily be set to output a useful frequency. Using *Fldigi*'s new FMT modem without a reference can still provide good results, but requires careful calibration.

ARRL sponsored earlier FMTs. The first ARRL FMT took place in [1931](#). Back then, it was required that Official Observers participate and meet certain standards.

Solar Physicist Predicts a Slightly Better Solar Cycle 25

Solar physicist Leif Svalgaard of the W.W. Hansen Experimental Physics Laboratory at Stanford University a maximum sunspot number of 128 ± 10 , slightly better than Solar Cycle 24.

“The overall average is 132 ± 47 (median 124),” he said. “None of these numbers are substantially different, so one could perhaps just go with the ‘wisdom of the crowd.’ All predictions that we consider have the underlying assumption that the sun has not changed its behavior (its ‘spots,’ so to speak) on a time scale of a few centuries (the Maunder Minimum may be a possible violation of that assumption), and that there will be no such changes in the near future, in spite of speculative suggestions.” Those included one of his own in 2013.

Svalgaard characterized the science of solar cycle prediction to be still in its infancy, “borne out by the extreme range of predictions of Cycle 25.” — *Thanks to Frank Donovan, W3LPL*



ARRL LOTW has harmonized the designation of FST4 Protocol.

The Logbook of The World (LoTW) Committee worked with *WSJT-X* developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, to harmonize the designation of FST4 among *WSJT-X*, the ADIF standard, and LoTW. At present, FST4 is only supported in a [recently released beta version](#) of *WSJT-X*. The action was to avoid the sort of confusion that cropped up among LoTW users logging contacts in FT4 when that protocol was first included in *WSJT-X*. The update should help users avoid difficulties and obtain the maximum number of contact matches. The ADIF standard has been updated to support FST4 as a sub-mode of MFSK, and configuration file CONFIG.xml for LoTW has been updated to version 11.13, accordingly, to support FST4. Users will be offered the update when they run *TQSL*. -- Thanks to Greg Widin, K0GW

FCC - AM radio stations to operate using all-digital broadcast signals.

"AM broadcasters will be able to voluntarily choose whether and when to convert to all-digital operation from their current analog or hybrid analog/digital signals," the FCC said. "All-digital broadcasting offers AM listeners significantly improved audio quality and more reliable coverage over a wider listenable area than analog or hybrid digital broadcasts. It also allows broadcasters to provide additional services to the public, such as song title and artist information."

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: The 10.7-centimeter solar flux density was 88.1 on Wednesday, November 4, the highest since October 14, 2016, when it was 92.8. The average daily solar flux for that week as **reported** in this bulletin was 76.9, and average daily sunspot number was 18.7, so activity 4 years ago was similar to recent activity; in fact those numbers closely match the flux and SSN in last week's bulletin. But in 2016, Solar Cycle 24 was declining, reaching a minimum about 3 years later in December 2019. The daily solar flux is measured at noon local time (GMT -8 hours) in Penticton, British Columbia, but actually three daily measurements are taken, at 1800 UTC, 2000 UTC, and 2200 UTC.

Solar flux has been steadily increasing since the 2000 UTC reading on November 2.

Average daily sunspot number during the October 29 – November 4 reporting week was 21.3, compared to 17 over the previous 7 days. Average daily solar flux was 81.6, compared to 76.9 reported last week.

ARRL Urges Members to Join in Strongly Opposing FCC's Application Fees Proposal

ARRL will file comments in firm opposition to an FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees. With the November 16 comment deadline fast approaching, ARRL urges members to add their voices to ARRL's by filing opposition comments of their own. The FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* MD Docket 20-270 appeared in the October 15 edition of *The Federal Register* and sets deadlines of November 16 to comment and November 30 to post reply comments, which are comments on comments already filed. ARRL has prepared a ***Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC*** which includes tips for preparing comments and step-by-step filing instructions. File comments on MD Docket 20-270 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (**ECFS**).

Under the proposal, amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio application for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. The FCC also has proposed a \$50 fee to obtain a printed copy of a license. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees. Amateur Service licensees have been exempt from application fees for several years.

The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "**Ray Baum's Act**." The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees. The FCC proposal affects all FCC services and does not single out amateur radio.

ARRL is encouraging members to file comments that stress amateur radio's contributions to the country and communities. ARRL's ***Guide to Filing Comments*** includes "talking points" that may be helpful in preparing comments. These stress amateur radio's role in volunteering communication support during disasters and emergencies, and inspiring students to pursue education and careers in engineering, radio technology, and communications.

As the FCC explained in its *NPRM*, Congress, through the Ray Baum's Act, is compelling regulatory agencies such as the FCC to recover from applicants the costs involved in filing and handling applications.

In its *NPRM* the FCC encouraged licensees to update their own information online without charge. Many, if not most, Amateur Service applications may be handled via the largely automated Universal License Service (ULS). The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service, and the FCC stopped assessing fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

See also "**FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees**," reported by ARRL in August, and a **summary page** of the proceeding.

See next page for filing Comments to the FCC!

ARRL Urges Members to Join in Strongly Opposing FCC's Application Fees Proposal

Comments must be into the FCC by November 16, 2020

It is real easy to file your comments on this very important proposal. Here is a step by step process for making your voice heard at the FCC.

1. Go to the ARRL website.
2. Click on the news item dealing with this subject.
3. That will take you to a full article on the subject.
4. At the end of the first paragraph there is a link to the FCC's **ECFS**, click it.
5. At the FCC's website click on **EXPRESS COMMENT** at the top of the page.
6. Proceed to fill out the requested information. You are commenting on Proceeding 20-270.
7. Request an e-Mail confirmation if you want.
8. Click on continue and finish the submittal.

That's all there is to it!

It's Membership Time

Since March the world we live in has completely changed- but the Club is here and getting ready to ring in its 90th year in 2021!!

The Club has survived through many wars, storms, and turbulent times- let's remember that Amateur Radio keeps us linked in the world. So renew your membership and have some fun in 2021- celebrate with us.

Do you have ideas on how the Club can celebrate in 2021--- contest, share your favorite memories, Special Event Station, bring your mobile set up to the 2021 Picnic, ----- all ideas can be submitted to Trish at the_ jaggards@sbcglobal.net

Remember we still have bills to pay- so make sure you pay your 2021 dues- come and celebrate with us.

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

Oldest US Radio Amateur, Cliff Kayhart, W4KKP, SK at 109

Charles Clifford “Cliff” Kayhart, W4KKP, of White Rock, South Carolina, died on October 26, a few days past his 109th birthday. An ARRL member, he was the oldest known US radio amateur and possibly the oldest ham in the world.

First licensed in 1937 as W2LFE in New Jersey, he also held W9GNQ. According to his [obituary](#), Kayhart built his first radio at the age of nine. After working for New York Telephone Company as a young man, he became enamored with engineering, so he headed off to Tri-State University in Indiana, graduating with a degree in aeronautical engineering. Afterward, he went to work for RCA in New Jersey, becoming a quality control manager. Positions followed at Philco Radio and Bendix Aviation.

During World War II, Kayhart joined the US Army Signal Corps, which sent him off to school to study radar. He was assigned to the US Army Air Corps in Georgia and then sent to Hawaii to become part of a Signal Service Battalion. He served at Iwo Jima, shortly after the US victory there, setting up equipment for long-range radio communication and broadcasting, with rhombic antennas in four directions.

In 1946, Kayhart left the Army with the rank of captain, joining Magnavox the following year as its first field engineer; at the time, Magnavox was about to launch a line of television sets. Eventually, he was transferred to the Customer Acceptance Department in Tennessee. Kayhart traveled to Japan in 1963 in search of Japanese television sets. He retired from Magnavox in 1976.

According to his obituary, Kayhart was also the oldest surviving Iwo Jima veteran and eighth oldest living US male. He was also the oldest man on the South Carolina Honor Flight trip to Washington, DC. Kayhart was profiled in the June 2018 issue of *QST*.

Robert Bankston, KE4AL, is New AMSAT President

Robert Bankston, KE4AL, of Dothan, Alabama, is the new president of **AMSAT**. The AMSAT Board of Directors elected Bankston at its annual meeting on October 18, to succeed Clayton Coleman, W5PFG. Bankston has served as treasurer and Vice President of User Services. He is a life member of both ARRL and AMSAT. He volunteered to develop and launch AMSAT’s online member portal and chaired the 2018 AMSAT Space Symposium.

For his part, Coleman said that it had been “both a joy and a privilege” to serve as AMSAT president during 2020, which he called “a rather difficult year” for many in amateur radio. “With the talented and capable individuals sitting on AMSAT’s new Board and its officers, I am confident in a bright future ahead for AMSAT and the amateur radio satellite service.”

Other officers elected included Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, as Executive Vice President; Jerry Buxton, N0JY, as Vice President of Engineering; Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, as Vice President of Operations; Jeff Davis, KE9V, as Secretary; Steve Belter, N9IP, as Treasurer; Martha Saragovitz as Manager; Alan Johnston, KU2Y, as Vice President of Educational Relations, and Frank Karnauskas, N1UW, as Vice President of Development. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

FCC Headquarters Relocates

FCC Headquarters has moved. The new address is 45 L St. NE, Washington, DC 20554. The change is effective immediately. The FCC announced plans to move last spring, but the transition was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCC, like many federal agencies, has its own zip code, so there will be no disruption in mail delivery sent by USPS to the former address. The FCC still prohibits the delivery of hand-carried documents, and all COVID-19 restrictions or instructions regarding access to FCC facilities remain in place at the new location.

Due to the pandemic, the move was accomplished by professional movers without the presence of any employees, all of whom had been working from home. An attempt was made during the summer to let employees back into headquarters for a day to pack up their offices and remove personal belongings, but that plan had to be scrapped after several employees tested positive for COVID-19. Most FCC staff continue to work from home and are not expected to be physically present in their new offices before next June.

In anticipation of the planned move, the FCC last spring also announced the adoption of a new FCC seal. The redesign is the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors. The revised design incorporates several elements: communications technologies; four stars on the outer seal border, drawing from the legacy of the predecessor Federal Radio Commission (FRC) seal, retaining the three-wire dipole supported by two towers; 18 stars on the shield, recognizing the current number of bureaus and offices; and the eagle and shield, identifying the FCC as a federal government agency. Official use of the new seal was to begin following completion of the FCC's move from The Portals to its new location on L Street NE.

FCC Orders Amateur Access to 3.5 GHz Band to “Sunset”

Despite vigorous and continuing opposition from ARRL and others, the FCC has ordered the “sunsetting” of the 3.3 – 3.5-GHz amateur radio secondary spectrum allocation, effective on November 9. The decision allows current amateur activity on the band to continue, “grandfathering” the amateur operations subject to a later decision. The FCC proposed two deadlines for amateur operations to cease on the band. The first would apply to the 3.4 – 3.5 GHz segment, the second to 3.3 – 3.4 GHz. The FCC will establish the dates once it reviews additional comments.

ARRL will continue its efforts to preserve secondary amateur radio access to 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. Members are invited to share comments by visiting www.arrl.org/3-GHz-Band.

“We recognize that any loss of our privileges will most directly impact radio amateurs who use the frequencies to operate and innovate,” said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. “Such instances only embolden ARRL’s role to protect and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service and Amateur Satellite Service. There will be continued threats to our spectrum. So I urge all amateurs, now more than ever, to strengthen our hold by being ceaseless in our public service, experimenting, and discovery throughout the radio spectrum.”

Please check into the Club nets to stay in touch and find out what is going on in the Club.

Orlando Hamcation / ARRL Convention Postponed to Feb 2022

ARRL and the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC) have announced that the ARRL National Convention and Orlando **HamCation**® — which was to host the convention — have been postponed until February 10 – 13, 2022. The convention had been set for next February.

“The joint decision came after considering the national public health emergency including the health and safety of all participants, the uncertainty that continues to impact our organizations, and the reluctance to travel to, and attend, large events,” said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. “We regret the disruption to the hard work already completed by so many volunteers preparing for the ARRL National Convention and HamCation.”

“While postponing was a difficult decision, our top priority is delivering a safe and successful HamCation experience for everyone, including our attendees, dedicated volunteers, exhibitors, and service partners,” said HamCation General Chairman Michael Cauley, W4MCA.

(Editor’s Note – Will Dayton get Cancelled too?)

Tri-Town 2021 Elections

The Covid 19 has made a lot of things different this year. Its effect on our election process is no exception. It has always been hard to find someone to be the Election Chairman and individuals to run for an office or board position. With Zoom meetings, voting is also difficult. Over the time frame of two board meetings, discussions were held on how to cope with the situation. After debate the current board members, club officers and board members, consented to remain in their current positions for 2021. Thank you! The current list of officers and board members are printed on page 2 of this issue of The Oscillator.

Eta isn’t Done Yet; Florida ARES Group Asked to Staff Shelters

Tropical storm Eta, lingering off the west coast of Florida, was upgraded to a Category 1 hurricane at 1235 UTC today, before weakening to a tropical storm by 1800 UTC. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) reported heavy rains and gusty winds across west-central Florida. As of 1800 UTC, Eta was 115 miles southwest of Tampa with maximum sustained winds of 70 MPH with higher gusts — just shy of Category 1 hurricane status — moving north-northeast at 10 MPH. On its current track, Eta will move closer to — but just offshore — the west-central Florida coast today and tonight before moving inland over the northern portion of the Florida peninsula on Thursday. Eta is expected to continue northeastward into the Atlantic late Thursday or early Friday.

“To say this 2020 hurricane season has been a busy one is an understatement!” said Hurricane Watch Net (**HWN**) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV. He cited the NHC’s 1500 UTC discussion that suggested Eta had peaked in intensity, and that an eye feature is no longer evident in radar or passive microwave satellite imagery. **(Editor’s Note – Now a Cat 1 storm)**

“For now, we will keep a very close eye on Eta,” Graves said. “Should Eta regain integrity and strength, it could make landfall as a hurricane. If Eta looks to be a Hhrrricane at landfall, we will, of course, activate. For now, we are on stand-by.”

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

November 2020



Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application 2021

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 are Due!

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

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