

The Oscillator

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430
Volume 68 Number 3 May 2021 Club Call W9VT

Future Tri-Town Programs

May 28, 2021 - Tim Duffy, K3LR of DX Engineering via Zoom
Subject: Contest Station K3LR and Q&A

June 25, 2021 - Business Meeting, Program will be on Field Day 2021

***** Please Note New Temporary Location for Meeting *****

Our facilities at the Village of Hazel Crest are still Closed. Brian's (where the Tuesday morning Breakfasts are held, has provided their East Room for us to conduct our meetings for the time being.

(Meetings will also be on Zoom)

It is planned that both meetings will be in-person at Brian's located at 25665 Governors Hwy (50) in Monee, Illinois phone 708 534 8833. All meetings are on Fridays and will start at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the far East (back) building at Brian's. As a precaution masks are requested as is Social Distancing. After the meeting is called to order, the program will be presented and then the business meeting will be conducted.

From The President's Desk

73, Todd, KA9IUC

I hope that everyone has gotten their two Covid 19 shots or are striving to do so. It protects yourself, others and helps develop the herd mentality against the virus.

The club is pushing ahead with meeting and programs. Zoom has worked well but we are investigating in-person meetings. Things may be changing in that regard. Please check into our nets to keep up on meeting status.

I am glad to report that club membership is up to 48 as of this writing. Thank you for your continued support. Please continue to participate in meetings, nets and club activities including Field Day. Hope to see you at the May meeting. Guests are always welcome.

ARRL Field Day is June 26 - 27. Field Day rule waivers that were in place in 2020 are in place for 2021, and Classes D and E have a limit of 150 W PEP output.

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2021

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
John Krueger, N9DWE	Vice President	708.534.2686	johnk17856@aol.com
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer, COB	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	jimgxu15@outlook.com
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708.341.8900	wa9cyl@comcast.net
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
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466.0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee Oscillator Editor	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 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!

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

Tri-Town's 2021 Calendar

Regular monthly meetings are held the fourth Friday of the month except July when we are on vacation. Meetings announcements are on the front page of The Oscillator.

Fox Hunt May 23, 2021, 2 PM Starting at Brian's in Monee

Field Day is June 26 and 27, 2021.

Club Picnic is September 18, 2021.

Nothing has been established regarding Drivin the Dixie or a Club Christmas party which could also be the celebration of our Club's founding 90 years ago.

Board Meetings are held the second Monday of the Month, all members welcome. We are having 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.

2021 will be Tri-Town RAC's 90th Year as a club. The first Club meeting was December 18, 1931. Tri-Town has been Affiliated with the ARRL since March 15, 1932.

All dates subject to change.

Field Day 2021

Field Day 2021 will be June 26 and 27, 2021. What form it will be in is unknown at this time but best bet is that the Bunker will not be open and we will participate from home QTH. The ARRL has released some information concerning operating procedures. Again this year Class D stations will be able to work other Class D stations just like in 2020. Also, Clubs can again submit arrogant scores from club members. The individual must indicate what club he wishes his points to go to, again just like 2020. A new rule for 2021 is that all Class D and Class E are limited to 150 watts. This was done to counteract the "Big Gun" base and EOC stations.

Tri-Town Fox Hunt

Tri-Town held a Fox Hunt on April 25, 2021 starting at Brian's in Monee. John N9DWE and Todd KA9IUC were the Fox having won Tri-Town's last Fox Hunt. Thanks to John for all the heavy lifting on the event. Todd was along for the ride and broadcasting. Thanks also go to Billie K9QT, Don K9NR, Ken K9KO, Sandy KA9GMB and Jim WD9GXU for being Hounds. Billie K9QT was first to find the Fox by traveling the shortest distance. Next hunt is May 23, 2021, 2 PM starting at Brian's in Monee.

Fox Hunt Ride-a-Long --- 2 PM May 23rd

From John N9DWE

If you have never participated in a fox hunt and would like to see what it is all about. I have room for 2 people in the passenger seats that are available. Just let me know.

It is at Brian's in Monee at 2 PM May 23rd, this coming Sunday. If Interested, I can be reached at johnk17856@aol.com and or cell phone 312-519-2686. Hope to hear from you.

Belong to the ARRL? Are you getting all your Benefits?

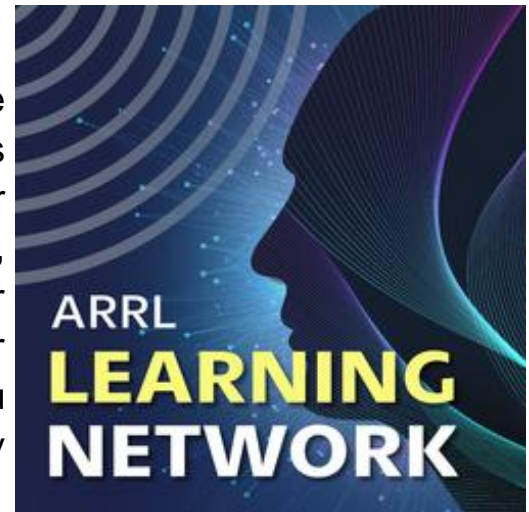
The ARRL offers a long list of benefits to its members. If you are a member check your profile page (you must log in). Listed there are all the benefits available including newsletters, email updates on membership and licensing, ARRL email address availability, and bulletins from you Division and State Directors. Don't miss out and don't forget to check out the Learning Network!

Improving Your Club's 2021 Field Day Score

by Paul Bourque, N1SFE, ARRL Contest Program Manager

Thursday, June 10, 8 PM EDT (0000 UTC on Friday, June 11).

Learn how your club or group can take advantage of the 2021 ARRL Field Day rules waivers while operating as Class D or E from home. We'll discuss how individuals or groups can boost their scores by earning bonus points, review how to use the Field Day web applet to submit your score, and go over how to attribute your score to your club's aggregate score. This presentation highlights all you need to know to operate as a group for ARRL Field Day 2021.



Introduction to Remote HF Operation

by Davide Lanfranconi, W6DGE, and Kevin Shin-Wheeler, N7KSW

Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club / Tuesday, June 22, 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC).

COVID-19 has triggered a renewed interest in remote operation. Lanfranconi and Shin-Wheeler will discuss the idea, process, and challenges encountered while getting their club's remote HF station on the air, as well as some methods and resources available for those with a similar interest. A Q&A session and live demo are included.

ARRL members may register for upcoming presentations and view previously recorded Learning Network webinars. ARRL-affiliated radio clubs may also use the recordings as presentations for club meetings, mentoring new and current hams, and discussing amateur radio topics.

The ARRL Learning Network schedule is subject to change.

Ham-Firefighter Rescues Drowning Man from River

ARRL member and Edmonson County Emergency Coordinator Tim Skees, K9KSP, a firefighter in Brownsville, Kentucky, was among those responding to an April 23 fire dispatch call he heard on his ham station scanner reporting a possible drowning in the Green River. Radio traffic indicated that the potential victim was a 40-year-old male.

"After assessing the information provided by family members at the scene, [I] went downriver approximately 300 yards, located the victim in water, washed up on a shallow rock shoal in the river," Skees told ARRL. "[I] waded out to the victim, dragged him to the riverbank, and, as other responders showed up and came to where the victim was, he was pulled up the bank of the river. He was suffering exposure/hypothermia from being in the cold water for hours."

Skees said the man's family had at first called in the incident as a confirmed drowning. The man was first taken to the vehicle of Edmonson County Emergency Management Director Terry Massey and warmed up until an ambulance could arrive. Massey told local media that the local dispatcher paged the Brownsville Fire Department around 2 AM after a caller had reported a possible drowning at the Brownsville boat ramp.

Massey said he and Skees arrived at the area and saw two unoccupied vehicles. "In just a minute, we could hear some yelling down at the river and could tell it was downstream a good ways," he [told *The Edmonson Voice*](#). Massey said he and Skees followed the commotion and found the man in about a foot of water, lying on his side, and Skees waded in to retrieve him. Massey said that according to others on the scene, the man had fallen into the water while trying to retrieve some fishing gear.

"I submit this as a testament to the need of hams to get involved with emergency services and foster good working relationships with [emergency managers] and local agencies," Skees said.

FCC's RF Exposure Evaluation

The FCC enacted new rules regarding RF Exposure on May 3, 2021. If you have done an evaluation in the past, you do not have to update it until May 3, 2023. To keep on top of this, Todd, KA9IUC, presented some comments and guidance at the April Tri-Town meeting. Disregard everything he said! His comments must be ignored as they were all incorrect since they were based on old data.

There has been much published on the new rules with more to come. Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory Manager has prepared a white paper on the subject. It can be found at: <http://central.arrl.org/docs/RFX%20FAQ%20V1.3.pdf>

Additional information can be found at:

ARRL website Learning Network program Amateur Radio RF Exposure.
<http://arrl.org/rf-exposure> - some references are made to outdated data and will be updated.
<http://www.lakewashingtonhanclub.org/resources/rf-exposure-calculator>.

YouTube - Ria Jairan N2RJ - many videos including RF Exposure.
It is recommended that you start with the Learning Network presentation and Ed Hare's paper.

ISS Ham Crew Makes First Nighttime Splashdown Since 1968

The International Space Station SpaceX Crew-1 mission with astronauts **Michael Hopkins, KF5LJG; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP**, splashed down safely in the Gulf of Mexico on May 2. It marked NASA's first nighttime splashdown since 1968, the first ever from the ISS, and the first operational mission for SpaceX. Launched last November to carry the crew to the ISS, the Crew Dragon spacecraft *Resilience* returned the crew to Earth. Crew-1 is the first of six crewed missions NASA and



(L - R) Expedition 64 Flight Engineers and SpaceX Crew-1 members **Michael Hopkins, KF5LJG; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP**. [Photo courtesy of NASA]

SpaceX will fly as part of the agency's Commercial Crew Program, which worked with the US aerospace industry to return rockets, spacecraft, and launches with astronauts to the US.

"We welcome you back to planet Earth, and thanks for flying SpaceX," SpaceX mission control official Michael Heiman told the astronauts. "For those of you enrolled in our frequent flier program, you have earned 68 million miles on this voyage."

In advance of departure from the space station, Crew-1 astronaut and Station Commander Walker handed over command of the station to astronaut and Crew-2 member Akihiko Hoshide last week during a change of command and farewell event.

The Crew Dragon undocked and departed the space station autonomously. In addition to the crew, *Resilience* will also return important and time-sensitive research to Earth.

While still in space, some of the returning astronauts had hosted Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS)

contacts with schools. ARRL is an ARISS sponsor.

Hara Arena is now a pile of rubble!

Former Dayton Hamvention Venue Hara Arena is now a pile of rubble. Hara Arena originated as a ballroom in 1956. Dayton Hamvention began using Hara Arena in 1964, when the main 5,500-seat arena was built. Six buildings were added later. Over the years, Hara Arena was home to sports teams, concerts, conventions, and social activities. It closed in August 2016, due to ongoing financial issues and a 20-year-long legal fight over the unresolved estate of founder Harold Wampler. Eventually a new owner was found. In May 2019, Hara was severely damaged by a tornado and considered not worth rebuilding. The building's iconic logo as well as bricks from the structure were to be auctioned for charity. The site has since been cleared for redevelopment, and only piles of rubble remain of the original Hara Arena facility.



Friedrichshafen, Germany's HAM RADIO Goes Virtual Again This Year

The annual HAM RADIO show in Friedrichshafen, Germany, will once again be held virtually. The June event is sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), in cooperation with Friedrichshafen Fair (Messe Friedrichshafen).

"Under the current circumstances, HAM RADIO can no longer take place in June, as planned," said Messe Friedrichshafen CEO Klaus Wellmann. He said to remedy the situation -- and send a clear signal of resilience -- the virtual "Ham Radio World" will take place from June 25 until June 27, the original show dates. Admission and participation will be free.



The annual ham radio gathering, known popularly as simply "Friedrichshafen," typically draws between 15,000 and 17,000 visitors from all over Europe and around the world. ARRL has traditionally sent a contingent to staff a booth at HAM RADIO each summer.

This is the second virtual presentation of HAM RADIO due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "This year, Ham Radio World will offer a completely new virtual world in 2D, and its unique live character will be impressive," DARC said.

DARC Chair Christian Entsfellner, DL3MBG, said the live character of the event's virtual environment will be recreated in great detail, opening up new possibilities and offering plenty of space for community networking and virtual meetings, in addition to an online lecture program and commercial offerings.

To allow participants a more personal experience, individual hams represented as customizable avatars "will move around the virtual exhibition grounds and video chat with each other," explained Messe Friedrichshafen Project Manager Petra Rathgeber. Messe Friedrichshafen and DARC are working closely together "to ensure that a diverse line-up of ham radio products, trends, and innovations will await our visitors at the 3-day digital event," she said.

Ham Radio World will offer presentations and discussions on ham radio topics, as well as a program presented on DARC's virtual stage. Further details are forthcoming.

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the ARRL Learning Network (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

Ask the Lab: How ARRL's Technical Information Service Can Help You -- ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI / Tuesday, June 8, at 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC)

Learn all about the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) and the expert ARRL Laboratory staff who answer thousands of questions each year from members. Get tips about projects, suggestions to address various station installations, and help for some of your most pressing ham radio questions. You'll discover how to search ARRL's extensive Periodicals Archive, find helpful articles, read test reports, access technical forums, and find answers to technical questions.

ARRL Field Day is June 26 - 27. Field Day rule waivers that were in place in 2020 are in place for 2021, and Classes D and E have a limit of 150 W PEP output.

ARRL Extends 2020 FD Rules, Adds 150w max Class D/E Power Limit

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified **ARRL Field Day** rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 – 27.

"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021:

Class D stations may work *all other* Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

An *aggregate* club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules waivers, individuals and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the web applet. The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions on how to submit entries, which must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

The **ARRL Field Day** web page contains for complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day **Facebook page**.

FCC Issues Enforcement Advisory

On April 20, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued a new Enforcement Advisory, repeating the admonishments contained in a January Advisory that no licensee or user of the Amateur or Personal Radio Services may use any radio equipment in connection with unlawful activities of any nature. The Commission specifically cautioned that individuals found to have used radios in connection with any illegal activity are "subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and in some cases, criminal prosecution."

In addition, licensees should be aware that illegal operation in any service or band, including completely outside the amateur allocations, could potentially disqualify a person from holding any FCC license in any service, not just the Amateur Radio Service.

Any amateur observing suspicious activity that might be of an illegal or criminal nature should report it to their local law enforcement office or the FBI.



Wireless Institute of Australia Seeks More HF Ham Radio Spectrum

The Wireless Institute of Australia ([WIA](#)) Spectrum Strategy Committee has called for more amateur radio spectrum in the 3 - 12 MHz range. The committee raised the issue in its [response](#) to regulator ACMA's *Five Year Spectrum Outlook 2021*.

"Global demand for HF amateur spectrum has grown, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic," the panel said. "Congestion (particularly on the 7 MHz band) from both legitimate and unauthorized illegal transmissions is often severe during times of increased ionospheric propagation." The committee pointed out that heightened global tensions have increased the use of high-power HF radars, "which frequently disrupt HF amateur communications across large segments of spectrum, particularly on the lower-frequency bands."



The committee said increasing HF spectrum access is vital to support sufficient frequency agility, "so that communications can be maintained when large amounts of spectrum are suffering interference from international radar-based intruders."

The WIA -- Australia's [IARU](#) member-society -- intends to seek expansions to amateur bands in the 3 - 12 MHz segment over the next 5 years, at least for Australian amateurs, in alignment with international allocations, although the WIA acknowledges that this is a lower priority than other items it has proposed.

The 3 - 12 MHz spectrum is already home to four amateur allocations: 80/75 meters, 60 meters, 40 meters, and 30 meters.

New rules for 1st Time Ham Radio Test Exam Takers

Beginning May 20, 2021, all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number ([FRN](#)) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.

Amateur candidates who already have an FCC license, whether for amateur radio or another service, and already have an FRN may use the same number. All prospective new FCC licensees, however, will be required to obtain an FRN *before* the examination and provide that number to the volunteer examiners on the Form 605 license application. An FCC [instructional video](#) provides step-by-step instructions on how to obtain an FRN through the FCC's COMmission REGistration System (CORES).



The FRN is required for all new applicants to take an amateur exam and is used afterward by the applicant to download the license document from the FCC Universal Licensing System. In addition, after June 29, all applications will be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence.. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents.

Russian Robinson Club Announces Activation of Rare IOTA Islands in the Aleutians, Alaska in July

The Russian Robinson Club (RRC) has resumed its plans to activate rare Kiska Island (IOTA NA-070) and Adak Island (IOTA NA-039) in Alaska's Aleutian Islands chain in July for Islands On The Air (IOTA) enthusiasts. Plans to activate these islands in 2020 were called off because of COVID-19 concerns.



The uninhabited Kiska Island (52.06° N, 177.57° E) lies in the North Pacific's treacherous Bering Sea, which RRC calls one of the most intense patches of ocean on Earth and where strong winds, freezing temperatures, and icy water are the norm. The island also features the prominent conical Kiska volcano. Kiska Island is a National Historic Landmark and part of the Aleutian Islands World War II National Monument and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR). Permission to visit is required from both Alaska's Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The KL7RRC team plans to have a minimum of two stations on the air on 40 - 6 meters, SSB, CW, and FT8. Operators will place special emphasis on the difficult trans-polar path to Europe.

The 56-foot aluminum sailing vessel *Sea* will make the 1,000-mile journey along the Aleutians to Kiska with a stop at Dutch Harbor to pick up Tim, NL8F, and the gear sent in advance to his location. The team will continue sailing west to Adak Island, where some team members will activate Adak Island on June 30 - July 3. The SV *Sea* will pick up the entire crew there, which will have flown in by July 3. Then, they hope to arrive at Kiska and be on the air as KL7RCC on July 7 - 12, before the return sail to Adak and flights home. Additional KL7RRC activity may take place from Adak July 14 - 16.

Donations are welcome. QSLs for KL7RRC (Kiska Island NA-070) and KL7RRC (Adak Island NA-039) are via N7RO. All donors will receive direct QSLs.

Updates will be posted on the Russian Robinson Club website. --
Thanks to Hal Turley, W8HC, via [The Daily DX](#)

A slot is open for a fifth operator. Contact team leader Yuri, N3QQ, if interested.



Hamvention Alternatives

Miss Hamvention? Well there are alternatives to keep you in the mood. Contest University will again be free via Zoom on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Hamvention will have an webinar on Friday, May 21, 2021 and the Hamvention QSO Party will be on Saturday May 22, 2021. See the websites for these activities for more information on each and to register for Contest University and Hamvention Webinar. Everything gets warmed up Wednesday evening the 19th with a Contest Super Suite hosted by Val, NV9L, at 7 PM local time at www.comtestsupersuite.com. Eight Icom radios will be given away over Thursday and Friday.

National Hurricane Center's Annual WX4NHC Station Test is May 29

WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center ([NHC](#)) in Miami will conduct its annual on-the-air test on Saturday, May 29, 1300 - 2100 UTC. The traditional exercise takes place each year ahead of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs June 1 - November 30. This hurricane season, WX4NHC operators plan to be working remotely again; the NHC will maintain all CDC pandemic protocols until the end of 2021. Only the chief meteorologist and staff may enter the building.

"Last year's season was an incredibly busy one, but the remote WX4NHC operations were successful, collecting many important reports via the Hurricane Watch Net, VoIP Hurricane Net, Winlink, the online hurricane report form, as well as many other means and modes," said WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R.

Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 9 - 15. Radio amateurs in hurricane-prone areas of the US should have an emergency plan in place before June 1. Now is the time, too, to harden and prepare your station for power outages. This means having multiple sources of back-up power, including batteries and, perhaps, a gas-powered generator. Test them now. Ensure your ability to take down and install antennas quickly and efficiently when storms threaten your area.

Hurricane Season 2021 nets to know include the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) on 14.325 and 7.268 MHz, the Caribbean Emergency Weather Net ([CEWN](#)) on 3.815 and 7.188 MHz, the Marine Maritime Services Net ([MMSN](#)) on 14.300 MHz, the [Intercontinental Net](#) on 14.300 MHz, and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) on 14.260 MHz. -- *Thanks to [The ARRL ARES Letter](#)*



National Hurricane Conference Set for June 14 - 17

The [National Hurricane Conference](#) will take place June 14 - 17 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference is to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in the US, the Caribbean Basin, and the Pacific. The conference serves as a national forum for federal, state, and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management.

FEMA/Emergency Management Institute (EMI) training courses are offered, as well as workshops and training sessions on a wide range of topics for hurricane responders. General session speakers will include many of the nation's top experts in hurricane-related issues. Radio amateurs involved in hurricane response are invited. [Register](#) online.

Amateur Radio Session Scheduled for Tuesday Afternoon

The traditional Amateur Radio Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 1:30 - 5 PM CDT and will be held virtually. Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Director of Operations, VoIP Hurricane Net, will moderate. The workshop will include Julio Ripoll, WD4R, Assistant Coordinator of the National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC.



April 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report Released

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

A General-class renewal applicant withdrew his application after FCC notice that the renewal application would be held up pending review of Volunteer Monitor complaints. As a consequence, the Quakertown, Pennsylvania, applicant has no operating privileges.

Twenty-one operators in 14 states received *Advisories* because of their operation in the March CQ World Wide DX Contest. While making contacts with VC3T and VC2W, their LSB signals extended below 7.125 MHz, which is the lower limit of the 40-meter amateur phone band.

Volunteer Monitors participated in a nationwide training program on April 7 that was conducted by ARRL and the FCC.

Volunteer Monitors had two meetings in April with FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel.

The totals for VM monitoring in March were 1,394 hours on HF frequencies and 2,515 hours on VHF and above frequencies.



MIT Amateur Radio Club W1XM has been saved!



The campaign to save MIT Amateur Radio Club W1XM has succeeded. After a years-long process involving countless hours of meeting, writing, negotiating, and planning across half a dozen entities within MIT, and after an intense, large-scale fundraising campaign to save the W1XM station atop the Green Building roof on campus, the club will get to keep and improve its station. Additionally, a new radome has been installed around the 18-foot "big dish" on the roof. Helping in a big way to

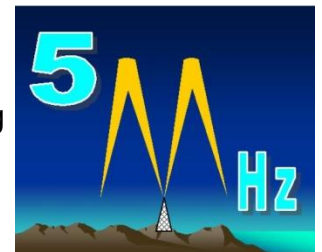
make this possible was a \$1.6 million grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications ([ARRDC](#)), as well as private donations from alumni, members of the MIT community, and friends of amateur radio. "Together, we made this happen," MIT ARC President Milo Hooper, AI1XR, said. "For this, I can only say thank you!" [More information](#) about this effort is available on the MIT news website.

Hams in New Zealand again have access to 60M

The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) announced recently that negotiations with regulator RSM were successful in accommodating 60-meter operation for New Zealand radio amateurs. Following the end of the two-channel 60-meter "trial" in New Zealand during 2020, hams there will now have access to a WRC-15 Amateur Secondary Allocation of 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz with a maximum allowable power of 15 W EIRP (about 9.14 W) by applying for a [sub-license](#).

An [FAQ](#) on the new licensing system for 60 meters has been posted. Scan and [email](#) your completed form to NZART Headquarters. Once acknowledged by return email, applicants may begin operation.

This trial will be for 12 months, to allow RSM to assess if any interference issues arise. If none do, then NZART will negotiate with RSM to have the 60-meter band added to the General User Radio Licence, eliminating any need for a sub-license in the future. -- *Thanks to Paul Gaskell, G4MWO, Editor, The 5 MHz Newsletter.*



HF Radars Continue to be Troublemakers, IARU Region 1 Monitoring Service Says

The biggest headache for International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring Service participants continues to be HF over-the-horizon radars (OTH-Rs). Already an interference issue for several years, OTH-R activity seems to be multiplying exponentially. Most of the stations are located in China and Russia.



"The same troublemakers every month, the OTH-Rs [are] by far the most troublesome!" said IARUMS Coordinator Peter Jost, HB9CET, in the [April edition](#) of the IARUMS *Monthly Newsletter*.

Monitor reports from Europe and Africa showed OTH-R signals littering the 20-meter phone band, with some also showing up as high as 15 meters, as well as down on 40 meters and lower. These include the infamous "Foghorn" OTH-R -- so-called because of the sound of the approximately 10 kHz wide transmissions -- mostly in short bursts. The Russian Kontayner OTH-R has also been spotted on 20 meters and elsewhere, generating an approximately 12 kHz bandwidth signal.

A newcomer of sorts has been Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN) HF radar signals causing interference to radio amateurs on 14.210 MHz and possibly elsewhere. The SuperDARN system is an international scientific radar network consisting of 35 HF radars in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. These radars are primarily used to map high-latitude plasma convection in the F region of the ionosphere, but they're also used to study a wider range of geospace phenomena, including geomagnetic storms.

"What is always surprising is how strongly intruders from the Far East can be heard [in IARU Region 1], sometimes even during the day in the 40-meter band, e.g., the 160 kHz wideband radar or also some other radars like the 'Foghorn' or similar," Jost said.

SuperDARN network radars look into Earth's upper atmosphere and operate continuously to observe the motion of charged particles (plasma) in the ionosphere and other effects that provide scientists with information on Earth's space environment. Knowledge gained from this work provides insight into space weather hazards, including radiation exposure for high-altitude travelers and disruptions to communication networks, navigation systems (GPS), and electrical power grids.

Field Day 2021

Field Day 2021 will be June 26 and 27, 2021. What form it will be in is unknown at this time but best bet is that the Bunker will not be open and we will participate from home QTH. Field Day rule waivers that were in place in 2020 are in place for 2021, and Classes D and E have a limit of 150 W PEP output.

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

May 2021



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

You can send your dues via paypal to: the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net

NEW and Easy way to pay your Dues! PAYPAL!

From Trish N9WGD Treasurer

Remember dues are due for 2021. (You can still send us a check too!)

The Board at its last meeting decided to add a PayPal option for paying your dues- so I have a PayPal account that we will be using- it is under my name- Tricia Jaggard- my email the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net. Dues are \$25 per year and \$6 for each family member To All.