

The Oscillator

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Upcoming Programs

May 20th Mock Field Day

At the bunker- Learn what Field Day is all about as we run a 2-hour simulated Field Day at the bunker.

June 17th Field Day Prep-

Final Plans and prep for FD '05 which is June 25 and 26th. FD runs from 1pm Saturday to 1pm Sunday! Some people like to Set Up, Some Tear Down, Some Operate Radios, Some want to Cook, and lastly Some like to stand around and act important! (Editors Note "Me") Come on out and "Play Field Day"

July 15th

Need a volunteer to give a presentation

August 19th Art Paton, N9AEP

Art will be giving a short presentation on the motorized mag mount antenna he developed that was featured in QST. Come see what it is all about, and he is looking for suggestions/comments on improving his design. He will also give a brief presentation on the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club, which he is a member, our neighbors to the Northwest

September 16th - U-505 Submarine

Keith Gill, curator of the U-505, will join us again with another wonderful presentation, giving us insight into the installation of the sub into its new home.

October 21st

Need a volunteer to give a presentation

November 18th

White Elephant Sale and Nominations for Elections

December 16th

Christmas Party and Elections

**Club Roster will be emailed to all Members of Record
All you currently a member of Record??**

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2005:

Trish Jaggard,	N9WDG	President	708.957.1973	rjaggard@netzero.net
Henry Van Bogaert	N9HVB	Vice President	708.687.3946	N9HVB@W9VT.ORG
Jim Everand,	WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	NONE
Sharon Gunderson,	KA9IIT	Treasurer	708.957.7944	sgunderson@gwclow.com
Rich Poortinga,	KB9IPS	Director	708.957.4421	richardpoortinga@juno.com
Jerry Dagenais,	K9PMV	W9VT Mgr / Dir.	708.385.2866	K9PMV@msn.com
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Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Raffle Chairman	708.423.7066	mattschuman@yahoo.com
Brian J. Bedoe,	WD9HSY	Chairman of Board	815.469.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com
		Repeater Trustee, & Oscillator Editor		

Members of the Tri-Town Radio Club Inc. publish the Oscillator 6 times a year. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Officers or members of the Tri-Town RAC, but of the contributors. All articles may be reprinted as long as full credit is given. Other publications are asked to reciprocate their newsletter. Some Articles printed here are from AMSAT, ARRL Letter, TAPR, World Radio, and Other Amateur Radio Publications. Illustrations by **Libby Bedoe, KB9WVOV**.

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.

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net - Wed, 8:00 PM Local, 146.490.

40 Mtr SSB Net - Saturdays, 8:30 am Local, 7.2625.

10 Mtr SSB Net - Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490.

Cracker Barrel Net - Monday-Friday 3:00 PM Local 146.49

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

Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!

Be sure to checkout: **www.w9vt.org**. This is Tri-Town's page and it will lead you to a lot of interesting and useful web sites. There you find information about the Club, Bunker News, Nets and the ability to send E-mail to the Club officers.

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

Up coming Hamfests

4-5	Jun 2005	Princeton Hamfest	Princeton, IL
4	Jun 2005	SVRC HAMFEST 2005	Springfield, IL
12	Jun 2005	Six Meter Club	Wheaton, IL
10	Jul 2005	Fox River Radio League	Aurora, IL
17	Jul 2005	Kankakee ARS	Peotone, IL
14	Aug 2005	Hamfesters Radio Club	Peotone, IL
21	Aug 2005	Bolingbrook ARS	Joliet, IL

Minutes of TTRAC meeting, April 15, 2005

Meeting began at 8 PM. Program for the meeting was "Show and Tell". Health and welfare report: **Sam KB9HTV** is in the hospital suffering from injuries that happened at his home. **Jim WD9GXU** is confined to home with illness. **Jerry K9PMV** is filling in for Jim tonight as secretary. After the Pledge and introductions, committee reports were given.

Up coming events are:

- April 24th. Folks on Spokes Easter Ride communications assist
- May 1st.... 2nd annual Homewood railfest. TTRAC will have an info booth and radio setup.
- May program will be a "mock" Field Day at the bunker for those uninitiated in field day operations.
- September program will be about the new home for the U505 submarine.
- Also mentioned was TTRAC's 75th anniversary in 2006 and the possibility of a dinner dance.

In other matters, it was stated that WALDOFAR will be made into a "Club" to facilitate getting a club call of WA9WLN. The village has requested that we leave the meeting room in top notch clean status as they will be holding court tomorrow. Items for sale can be found on the new "Electronic Elephant" on W9VT.org

The bulk of the business meeting was concerning the financial health of the club. Club treasurer, **Sharon KA9ITT** and Club VP **Henry N9HVB** did the presentation. Basically we need more fund raising events or other financial input to cover club expenses and future projects.

"Show and Tell" happened after the business meeting with 4 participants.

- **Lou KB9IPT** with his A.C. Gilbert vintage erector set ferris wheel project.
- **Mike WA9ZPM** had a home built audio class A audio amplifier.
- **Dick K9ZZH** with his home brew 70 cm RF power amplifier.
- **Jerry K9PMV** with a display of antique Rail Road communications equipment.

Meeting attendance was 30 members. Meeting officially adjourned at 10 PM.

From The President's Desk

73's Trish N9WDG

Welcome to returning members and new members who have paid dues. I hope to see you at the meetings coming up- have some great programs coming up. Have two dates open so please volunteer and make a great presentation. Turnout at the recent meetings has been outstanding- thank you to all who are coming. Tri-Town seems to be thriving, and I want that to continue. Along these lines, I want to thank the Treasurer for her proposed budget and presentation, along with the Vice-President. I will state it here briefly – we need more members so we can do more things. The donation can to cover the cost of refreshments will be at each meeting by the raffle, so please contribute. Thank you to all who donated at the last meeting- your generosity is not going without notice by me and I thank you very much. The proposed budget will be included in the treasurer's report this month. If anyone has any questions please contact me and I will be happy to talk to you. This year I would like to improve the quality of the antenna we use for the repeater, but it takes money. With your help we can do this so come out to the club meetings and support Tri-Town. See you at mock Field Day- the alternative place to be if you are not going to Dayton.

Some Health and Welfare News

Get well wishes to Jim, GXU, Club Secretary on his recent illness while recovering from surgery- his comment was that he has not had a great start to 2005. Also, get well wishes to Sam, HTV, who had a bad fall and broke some ribs- speedy recovery to you both.

Major Solar Flare hits Earth on 5/15

This is a special edition of the Propagation Forecast Bulletin.

On Friday the Thirteenth (May 13, 2005) at 1650z a tremendous explosion near sunspot 759 blasted toward earth. The impact on the earth's magnetic field was felt at 0230z on May 15, producing an extreme geomagnetic storm.

On Sunday, May 15 the planetary K index reached 9. This is huge. The middle latitude, high latitude and planetary A indexes for Sunday were 44, 77 and 105 respectively, all very high values. The planetary A index predicted for Monday, May 16 is 40. Solar flux is expected to stay around 100 for Monday through Wednesday, May 16-18.

I use a service from <http://www.spaceweather.com> called "SpaceWeather PHONE." I can set parameters for alerts, and the service calls my cell phone when events occur, such as the planetary K index rising above a set value. The service rang me up so many times this weekend that I finally shut the phone off. I could have gone to the web and shut it off or raised the parameters, but at the time I just wanted to roll over and go back to sleep.

Michael Shaffer, KA3JAW is currently in Tampa, Florida. On Friday, May 13 Michael began to scan low VHF television channels because of the possibility of aurora from a coronal mass ejection on May 11. He emailed several photos he took of his television displaying KGAN, channel 2, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He received both audio and video for about 30 minutes after 5:00 PM local time. The distance was about 1,100 miles.

Steven Smith, K6BZ of Carmichael, California wrote to ask if "in the early period of a new solar cycle, sunspot groups tended to form in the higher latitudes on the solar disk and towards the end, favored more equatorial latitudes." This is true, and the greater emergence of sunspots toward the sun's equator later in the cycle heightens the probability that the energy from those spots will be earth-directed.

Large Geomagnetic Storm Generates Fantastic Auroral Displays

NEWINGTON, CT, May 16, 2005--The space weather appears to have calmed down a bit, but things got quite exciting over the May 14-15 weekend, and a watch remains in effect through May 16 for a geomagnetic A index of 30 or greater. An extended warning for a K index of 6 was in effect until 1500 UTC today. The activity prompted ARRL propagation guru Tad Cook, K7RA, to issue a special bulletin.

"On Friday the Thirteenth at 1650 UTC, a tremendous explosion near Sunspot 759 blasted toward Earth," he reported. "The impact on Earth's magnetic field was felt at 0230 UTC on May 15, producing an extreme geomagnetic storm." A geomagnetic storm is a disturbance of Earth's magnetic field.

The A and K indices indicate the severity of magnetic fluctuations and, as a result, the disturbance to the ionosphere. The K index describes the same level of magnetic disturbance, no matter whether the observatory is located. The A index, a daily average, is derived from incremental readings of the K index. During very severe geomagnetic storms it can reach values of up to 200 or greater. The A index can vary from one observatory to the next.

K indices of 2 or 4 indicate unsettled or even active magnetic conditions--likely to be reflected in a degradation of HF conditions. An index of 5 represents a minor storm, 6 a larger storm and 7 through 9 represent a major storm that would result in an HF blackout.



Libby, KB9WOV Competing in her Conference Track meet at the University of Missouri, Kansas City where she placed 2nd place in the Woman's Heptatlon! Check out the related story on Brian & Betsy's drive out to the meet!

What I did on my Summer Vacation

Tales of a Reluctant Weather Spotter on Vacation..... by Brian, WD9HSY

How I spent my summer vacation has a long tradition of school reports, playground stories, back to school activities. Well, it is the same for my wife Betsy, N9FUW and me, Brian, WD9HSY

Our daughter Libby, KB9WOV is a College Athlete at Western Illinois University. Her last Track Meet of the year was her "Mid Continent" Conference meet at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. This was a 3-day meet where Libby was in the Woman's Heptatlon and a few other events.

Betsy and I left early Wednesday in our Brand New Chevy Venture mini-van and set out on I-55 to Springfield and decided to cut across Missouri on US-24 and save the 100 or so miles than taking I-70 into St Louis. The weather was great! The scenery was rolling countryside, a picture perfect drive across Middle America! Well at least till the sky got DARK!.... The weather for that Wednesday had warm air to the south and a Cold Front moving across the Western Plains. The forecast didn't really call attention to Severe Weather, but later when I saw the Satellite pictures on TV it was your classic "Blow-Up" of summer storms. From nothing to Super Cells in a couple of hours!

We had stopped for lunch in eastern Missouri and were about a 1/3 of the way across the state when we 1st started to notice the darkening to the north. I have all 7 NOAA Weather Radio Freqs programmed into VHF side of the dual band mobile and that is when we heard the 1st weather warning. As we dodged that storm to the South, other Cells were developing all around. We went thought one town about 15 minutes after the serve T-Storm hit it. Tree branches, leaves where scattered all over, all the coverts were flooded as well as farmers fields. This went on for about 2-3 hours as storms went North of us, South of us and crossed our paths both in front and behind us. We were playing hide and seek with Super Cells! At one point there were 3 tornado warnings, North, South, and behind us as we raced toward Kansas City. The local radio stations were activating the EBS systems to warn people of the weather. Keep in mind we were going to a track meet. I had all my camera gear and were ready to take any neat storm picture, but I was driving my nice, new, expensive mini-van with less than 1500 miles on it! When I heard the report of baseball and softball size hail we turned south and ran like hell for I-70. All of the weather now was north of us or getting behind us. Some of the storms that we went though were now causing all kinds of grief to east of us. We thought we were out of it! Not a Chance!

As I said, Betsy and I made a quick turn to avoid the storms and ran the 30-40 miles to the south to catch I-70. It appeared the worst was over and we started to relax as the last hour of the drive got us to the KC suburbs... Do you think it was over? Nope! The storms were waiting for us just as we entered KC. These were the strongest storms yet. It was dark! It was only 4:30pm and it was as dark as night! But no rain! We thought we had driven thought most of it as it appeared to be more wind than rain, but just as we passed the Kansas City Royals Baseball Park (very nice looking field I may say) we got hit with marble size hail and sheets of rain! It had to hail! It had to hail! At this point we were about 10 miles from the hotel, and it stayed a steady rain the rest of the way in. That night and the next day KC got more than 3 inches of rain! Thursday turned out to be a warm, muggy drizzly day. Friday was a mixed bag of cool weather and light rain. Saturday was perfect for me, but cold for Betsy, Sunny and in the 50's! There did not appear to be any hail damage to the van!

I should mention Libby won 2nd place in the Heptatlon which is 6 events, 100 mtr hurdles, javelin, shot put, 200 mtr sprint (1/4 mile), long jump, and 800 mtr run (1/2 mile)

2nd Annual Homewood Railfest Day, May 1, 2005

By Jerry K9PMV

On Friday, April 29, 2005, Jim KB9VR and the antenna committee dutifully showed up at the HF Park District Auditorium. Our objective was to put up antennas for our ham radio demonstration booth. We were just about to haul up a 20 Meter dipole when village officials showed up enforce to say: " You can't do that!" Whaaat? "No antennas are to be hung on our building". Oh well.... We all felt dejected to say the least.

But wait! We can have our cake and eat it too! Chris KC9FVP checked in to the Saturday morning 40 meter net. We were all feeling sorry for ourselves as we told the story of being shut down for antennas at Railfest. Chris says " let's crossband on 70cm to the bunker and my Kenwood TS2000 will do the rest!" Hey! Think of that! Now we can use the bunker HF antennas and work the world by remote from Railfest! Chris and I met at the bunker Saturday evening and got that end set up. To get to Railfest on 70 cm we used the Amsat satellite 70 cm beam (The only antenna we presently have for that band)

It was a frigid Sunday morning to start things off next day. Chris was manning the TS 2000 at the bunker. Richard KB9IPS and Lee KB9SUY contributed rigs and antennas for the Railfest site. Once on site, we found by experimenting that our 2 m and 70 cm magnetic mount antennas worked best on the basketball hoop and backboard just above us. Now we had established solid links on 70 cm for the crossband operation. 146.550 MHz was used for a coordination frequency. (146.490 was being used by another club for a MS walkathon.)

Did it work? Yes, quite well, despite poor propagation on HF. Chris spent the whole day at the bunker fishing for contacts for us. The first contact was with John N9DWE on 1935 Khz. Contacts on 17 meters were made with K9DXR, W9VN and N8EAT. So much for DX but thanks for being there guys. Later, the Rotarian Net members on 14.287 Mhz stuck around after their net to work us. Solid QSOs to Massachusetts, New Mexico, Idaho and Texas were made. When asked for audio reports, most were surprised that we were working them crossband. If it wasn't mentioned, they would not have known the difference, most said.

Once radio operations were up and running, the rest of the TTRAC information booth was set up. Literature, brochures and general club information was displayed. Henry N9HVB brought out our new club banner. It is quite attractive. It is a bright yellow banner with black lettering. Our club name, call sign and net frequencies are there for all to see. Many visitors inquired about getting started in ham radio. Todd KA9IUC and son Matt N9OTL came by to help operate and talk to visitors. The Gundersons were busy with Railfest operations but came by to see the club booth. TTRAC members Ken KC9BXA & XYL, Sean KB9WZV, Bruce WD9GHK, and Martin WD9JGG came by to say hello.

CW and the Tonight Show!

NEWINGTON, CT, May 16, 2005--It might have been Friday the Thirteenth, but it was a lucky day for Morse code--and particularly for veteran CW contest ops Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. During a May 13 appearance on NBC's [The Tonight Show with Jay Leno](#), the pair was able to pass a message using good old fashioned Morse code more rapidly than a pair of teenaged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones. The victory, which replicated a similar challenge that took place recently in Australia, has provided immense encouragement to Amateur Radio's community of CW operators, who've been ballyhooing the achievement all over the Internet. The text messaging team consisted of world text-messaging champ Ben Cook of Utah and his friend Jason. Miller said afterward in a reflector posting that the CW team won fairly handily.

"Ben was just getting ready to start entering the last two words when I was done. I already knew that 28-30 WPM would easily keep us in front of even the current world [text messaging] record holder, and also it is the fastest speed that I can make nice readable copy on paper with a `stick' [pencil]." Miller said it was decided he'd be on the receiving end because he wasn't distracted by the noise in the studio.

Margelli recalls that he was sending at 29 WPM. "I believe the goods were suitably delivered," he told ARRL. "CW and old guys rule!"

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

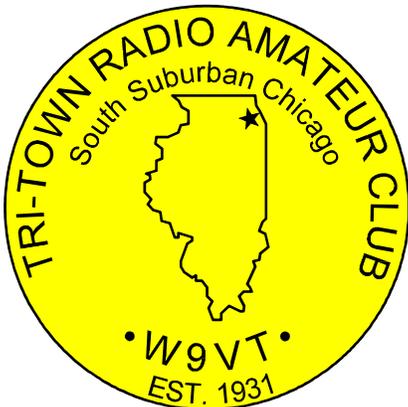
_____ Regular Membership	\$	20.00
_____ SWL Membership	\$	20.00
_____ Extra Family Membership	\$	6.00
_____ Bunker Buddie	\$	5.00
_____ Auto Patch w/1 Speed Slot	\$	25.00
_____ Extra Speed Slots	\$	5.00
	\$	_____ Total Paid by Club Member

For Example: Regular Member, with A/P and Bunker Buddy (20+25+5) = \$ 50.00

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

May 2005

First Class Mail



Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!

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