

The Oscillator

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ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Tech Licensees

Upcoming Meetings & Events May Meeting

Social Night at The Club Station W9VT

Friday, May 18, 2018. Because so many Club members go to the Hamvention, we will have a social night at the bunker in lieu of a regular meeting. The social night will starting at 7:30 PM and refreshments will be available. There are several boxes of leftovers from previous flea markets that will be up for grabs. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

June Meeting

Driving the Dixie and Field Day Event Planning

Friday, June 15, 2018. A general meeting will be held at the Hazel Crest Village Hall starting at 7:30 PM. The program for the evening will be planning for the Driving the Dixie and Field Day events. Refreshments and raffle will be available. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

From The President's Shack

Todd, KA9IUC

The Club's busiest month, June, is fast approaching. While the work load for Driving the Dixie is light, it does take a good number of members to cover the check points, supervise, and to operate the special event station. We do need someone to operate the special event station. Field Day is the next weekend. Please see the item concerning Field Day else were in this issue of The Oscillator. There was a very low turnout for the April meeting and I begin to worry about planning meeting programs. Having a low turnout with a guest speaker would be an embarrassment. We need to get our membership and meeting attendance up. How do we do this? I would like your suggestions. We are always in need of program material, net control operators and to take on some of the jobs a few are doing now. As always I ask that you keep your contact information (address, phone number and email address) current with the Club.

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

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2018

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
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Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Dir.	815.370.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com

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Club Meetings & Nets

Club meetings are the 3rd Friday of each month at the Village of Hazel Crest Village Hall, 170th and Holmes. All are welcome and refreshments will serve. Don't forget to bring a Friend.

Club Hangouts:

The Club's Repeater 146.805 WD9HSY/R & 146.49 Simplex 442.375 Homewood, 441.300 Grant Park WA9WLN/R, "Waldofar" 443.325 Frankfort WD9HSY/R & 147.165 Kankakee Co. WD9HSY/R All UHF's use a 114.8 PL & All VHF's use a 107.2 PL

Club Nets

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net Wednesday, 8:00 PM Local, The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL 2 Mtr FM Preparedness Net Sundays, 8:00 PM local, The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL 10 Mtr SSB Net Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490 SSB USB. 40 Mtr Tri-Town Alumni Net Weekdays, 2200 UTC 7.285 SSB LSB 80 Mtr SSB Net Saturdays, 9am local 3.860 SSB LSB

Upcoming Hamfests

18-20 Dayton Hamvent.	Greene Co. Fair	http://www.hamvention.org
June 3 Starved Rock	Princeton	http://www.w9mks.org/hamfest/
17 6m Club of Chi	Wheaton	www.k9ona.com
July 7 South Milw ARC	Oak Creek, WI	www.qsl.net/wa9txe/SWAPFEST.HTML
15 Kankakee ARS	Peotone	http://www.w9az.com/karsfest.html
Aug 5 Hamfesters	Peotone	https://www.hamfesters.org/hamfest

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Drivin The Dixie- Save The Date

Tri-Town is looking forward to participating in the 2018 event scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2018- come rain or shine.

This will be the 17th year for this annual event and the 13th year for participation by Tri-Town. The 2018 is expected to operate much like recent years, with a fleet of over 100 really cool classic cars stopping for various lengths of time in locations that change each year by the 12 participating communities along Dixie Highway between Blue Island and Momence. Tri-Town tries to put a radio equipped member in as many communities as possible during a plus or minus two hour window.

Martin, WD9JGG and Trish, N9WDG have been attending the 2018 planning meetings as liaisons between Tri-Town and the other event organizers.

This year is also the 200th Bicentennial of the State of Illinois- I am seeing if there is any interest in doing a Special Events Station to commemorate this during Drivin the Dixie- Please contact Trish if you are interested

Participating in prior events has proved to be a fun and rewarding experience for Tri-Town operators.

SAVE THE DATE- JUNE 16th- IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING PLEASE CONTACT TRISH AT 708-828-8592 or at the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net- DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TOWNS:

BLUE ISLAND	POSEN	MARKHAM	HAZEL CREST	HOMEWOOD	FLOSSMOOR
CHICAGO HEIGHTS	STEGER	CRETE	BEECHER	GRANT PARK	MOMENCE

Event starts at 8 a.m at Old Western and Broadway Ave in Blue Island and will end at the Island in Momence

Please let me know if you can volunteer for any of the above towns- or email me, Trish the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net or leave me a voice mail 708-828-8592

Logbook of The World has Online Status Monitor

Logbook of The World (**LoTW**) now has a full-time **status monitor**. The system's status is displayed in real time and is available offsite, offering a single spot for all users — web, Facebook, Twitter, etc. — to quickly check what's happening with the online repository of contacts and confirmations.

At a glance, the LoTW status monitor shows if the system is up, paused, or down; overall uptime statistics, and quick stats. A green status means all systems are go, a red status means the system is down, and a black status means the system has been paused. The monitor indicates overall uptime for the past 24 hours, the past 7 days, and the past 30 days, as well as the most-recent downtime occurrence.

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Dayton Hamvention, 146.49 Simplex and a 107.2 PL Tone

Brian, WD9HSY

As we all know, the 3-day Dayton Hamvention is the biggest “RF Jungle” in the world. As in past years, 146.49 will be the freq of choice for all of us Tri-Town’ers at Dayton. A number of us on 146.49 also had our radios in Full PL encode / decode (TX/RX) using 107.2 (the same PL as the Repeater) This ALMOST eliminates all the noise, junk, garbage, and nonsense on 146.49. It also just about removed all non-club activity so that when the squelch opens it was usually a Tri-Town’er on the air! If you want to hear all 146.49 activity just turn on your TX PL on, so we will hear you while we are in PL mode. Go PL TX and PL RX to hear nothing but peace and quiet and us! Not sure how to set up your radio? Check your manual for setting your PL. If you have lots of memory positions set up 2 memories:

- 1) On 146.49 with TX only on 107.2 PL so you hear all traffic on 146.49
- 2) On 146.49 with TX and RX set to 107.2! so you hear only 146.49 w/107.2 PL

That way you can play both ways and if the noise gets too bad you can flip over to full PL! Have I have confused you yet? Give me a call and I'll talk you though it!

Note from Brian, I’m asked to reprint this article every year because it makes a lot of sense at Dayton. Remember, set one channel for just PL on TX, no PL on RX (so you hear everything on 49) and one with PL on both TX & RX! (That way you only stations with 107.2 PL on 146.49!)

W5KUB to Stream Hamvention® 2018 Worldwide

“Amateur Radio Roundtable” Host Tom Medlin, W5KUB, will once again **livestream** selected activities from the 2018 **Hamvention®** in Xenia, Ohio, during what he calls the “Hamvention Marathon Webcast” — more than 40 hours of live video from the annual show. This will mark Medlin’s 17th year covering the show for those unable to attend Hamvention.

“Our motto is ‘Bringing ham radio to you,’” Medlin said. “We want to give everyone the experience of feeling like they are part of this ham radio event.” Medlin said viewers can not only see what’s going on at Hamvention, but they can also use the chat room to communicate directly with the W5KUB group.

“Astronaut Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, is scheduled to be with us again for the 5th year as a co-host,” Medlin noted. “Amateur Radio Roundtable” is webcast Tuesday evenings (Wednesday at 0100 UTC). Medlin invites radio amateurs to join the **W5KUB Facebook group**.

Tentative 2018 Event Calendar

May	Social Night at the Bunker, Friday May 18th, 7:30 PM (Hamvention Weekend).
June	General meeting, plans for Field Day 2018 and Driving the Dixie, Friday June 15th, 7:30 PM VH.
June	Driving the Dixie and Special Event Station, Saturday, June 16th.
June	Field Day 2018, June 23-24 at the Club Station.
July	Vacation, no meetings.
August	Hamfester’s Hamfest, Sunday, August 5, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone.
August	Social Night at the Bunker, Friday August 17th, 7:30 PM
September	Annual Club Picnic, Monee Reservoir, 11-4.
October	General meeting, Friday October 19th, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.
November	White Elephant Sale, Show and Tell and Officer Nominations 7:30 PM at the Club Station
December	Annual Christmas Party and Election of Officers. Details TBD.

Board of Directors Meetings – 2nd Monday of the Month, 7:30 PM at the Club Station. Members are welcome.

Field Day - 2018

Field Day this year is on June 23rd and 24th. Plans are to be at the bunker and operate our normal 4F plus a GOTA station. There is a real need for operators this year. Last year was sad to say the least. We need operators for CW, PSK31, Satellite and SSB. Someone needs to copy the Field Day Message from the ARRL for bonus points (it is transmitted in CW, SSB and PSK31). If someone could come to Field Day and give a short class on something ham radio related, we would get bonus points. Bruce's hand crank generator and five contacts gets us bonus points. It can really be a fun event if our efforts are combined. The rigs are in fine shape. Some antenna work needs to be done and hopefully that can be taken care of before Field Day. Refreshments will be provided and something will be arranged for dinner Saturday night. Please let a Club officer know if you are going to be able to help. Some members are going to be asked if they can help in specific areas. Hope to see you at Field Day! There will be a prep day Friday afternoon the 22nd.

Equipment from the Estate of John Fixari, NM9X, SK.

The Club has benefited from the donation, by his family, of John's ham gear. Items include an ICO2AT HT, IC2000 2M mobile, IC735 HF rig with power supply, Dentron tuner, HP flat screen computer monitor, Hustler mobile antenna with coils, 2M mobile antenna, Keys and various wires and cables. Preliminary testing of the HT and HF rig indicates repairs are needed.

FT8....It Works at Last!

By Todd, KA9IUC

At the March meeting I presented a program "An Introduction to FT8". Information was presented on the equipment and software needed and how it all worked. However, in my case, I was not able to get things to work as they should. Following the meeting I rechecked everything, got some very useful help from Brian, WD9HSY and after restoring my computer to a previous date, I got FT8 to work. Since that time I have been making FT8 contacts on 40 and 20. I have learned how to set the software so it prompts you to log a QSO after a RRR or 73 is received and that FT8 only works in USB and does not follow band plan conventions. Getting FT8 to work has been the most involved part of ham radio I have dealt with. It only works if the computer, software and rig are all set correctly to interact with each other. A word to the wise, do not try to use Skype with a data interface connected to the computer, all you know what breaks lose. How if I could only learn how some stations transmit on multiple frequencies at the same time. Maybe that is a feature of the new version of the software. I fear downloading that due to another long learning curve.

30 Years Ago in The Oscillator

- Elections had taken place and the following were elected: Dan WD9ACN President, Brian WD9HSY Vice -President, Jim KD9RJ Secretary, Sharon KA9IIT Treasurer, Gene WA9BUI Board Member.
- Rich N9DKO turned over the editor duties for The Oscillator to Todd KA9IUC.
- Plans for Field Day 1988 at the Matteson Library and the Dinner Dance at the Lansing Country Club were being made.
- Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention was announced, cost \$35.

Attendance at three recent Club meeting were noted as 32, 50 and 44!

Volunteers Needed for Drivin the Dixie June 16th

Trish N9WDG

Volunteers are still needed for Drivin the Dixie-
Tom W9SRV will be net control and covering Blue Island (Thank you)
Jim KB9VR will be covering Crete (Thank you)
Sharon KA9IIT will be covering Hazel Crest (Thank you)

Still needed are Posen, Markham, Homewood, Flossmoor, Chicago Heights, Steger, Beecher, Grant Park and Momence

If anyone can volunteer for one of these stops please contact me at the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net

And thank you to Ed K9EGS for running the Special Events Station.

Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Set for Saturday, May 12

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will sponsor the traditional military/amateur radio communication tests to mark the 67th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD) on Saturday, May 12. Armed Forces Day is May 19, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event traditionally takes place 1 week earlier in order to avoid conflicting with Hamvention. Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is available on the **US Army MARS website**.

The annual celebration is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between radio amateurs and military stations (authorized under §97.111 of the Amateur Service rules). It features traditional military-to-amateur crossband SSB voice, CW, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, and the opportunity for participating hams to utilize more modern military modes, such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). Military stations and Amateur Radio stations are authorized to communicate directly on certain 60-meter interoperability channels.

These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly-controlled exercise scenario, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station. QSL cards will be available for stations successfully contacting participating military stations.

Military stations will transmit (USB, unless otherwise noted on the schedule) on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur frequencies they are monitoring. MARS stressed that frequencies used for the test will not impact any public or private communications and will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

An Armed Forces Day test message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) Serial PSK waveform (M110) followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY), as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. **Technical information** regarding these waveforms is available. The AFD test message will also be sent at 0300 UTC in CW. Those who want a QSL should complete the **request form** on the MARS website.

RFI Hunting

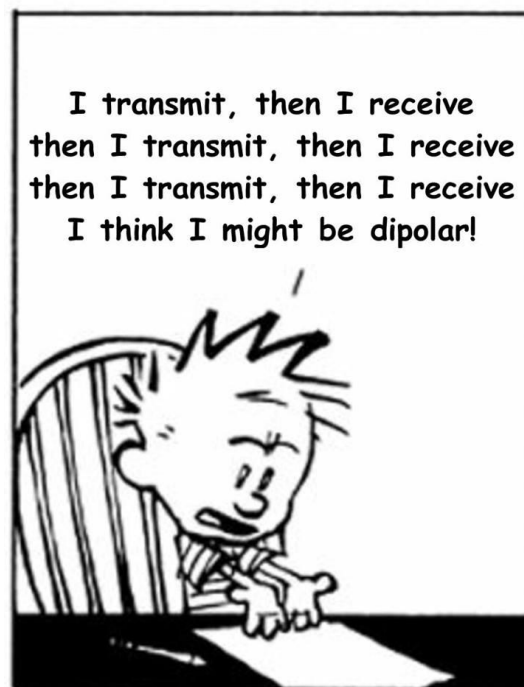
By Todd, KA9IUC

Since November of last year, I have been bothered by RFI on AM radio and the ham bands. Sometimes signal strength is 30 over S9 on 40 meters. The noise blanker on my rig helps some but does not eliminate it. I checked to see if anything in my hose was generating the RFI and found nothing. A portable ham band radio seemed to point to the Com ED wires behind the house. I called Com Ed and it took a long time, but in April they did come out and pinpointed the problem to two poles adjoining my lot. They used a yagi and a dish antenna, each with a field strength meters and a third unit that had an antenna probe and a scope. The scoped showed the max RFI at 40 meters. I let them listen to it on my portable radio. A work order to replace insulators and clean and tighten connections has been created. I hope the work is done soon. I do not think I would be where I am today without my follow up with Com Ed

Amateur Radio Funnies ---- from Facebook



"How can I possibly annoy you by disappearing into my radio shack for hours on end?"



FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Stepping Down

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn is leaving the Commission. She announced at the FCC's April 17 meeting that it would be her last as a commissioner. She plans to leave before the Commission's next scheduled meeting on May 10. Following her 2013 appointment by President Barack Obama, Clyburn served as acting FCC chair, the first woman to head the agency. A Democrat, she is currently serving a second term on the Commission.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai congratulated Clyburn on "her distinguished tenure at the FCC," calling her "a tremendous leader and a committed public servant."

The other Democrat on the FCC, Jessica Rosenworcel, said, "Commissioner Clyburn is a dynamo. She represents the best of public service. I am proud to call her both a colleague and a friend." The majority of the five-member Commission represents the political party of the president..

FOC 80th Anniversary Challenge Set for May

In May 2018 the First Class CW Operators Club (**FOC**) will celebrate with the **FOC 80th Anniversary Challenge**. During the entire month, FOC members from around the world will be active on CW, using special call signs, many of them containing the number “80” or having an “FOC” suffix.

Points will be awarded for working these special call signs. The challenge is being run as a leader board on **Club Log**, which stops at 800 participants, and your ranking in the leader board determines the award level you achieve. At the end of the challenge, stations in the Top 80, qualify for the Gold Award, in the Top 400 for the Silver Award, and in the Top 800, the Bronze Award. **Full rules, a list of active stations, and details on how to claim awards** are on the FOC website. — *Thanks to Iain Kelly, M0PCB*

“Horizons” is Next Mission for Astronaut Alexander Gerst, KF5ONO

European Space Agency Astronaut Alexander Gerst, KF5ONO, will visit the International Space Station for the second time in early June. His “**Horizons**” mission is aimed at evoking exploration of the universe, looking far beyond Earth and broadening knowledge. His first mission was called “Blue Dot.”

A citizen of Germany, Gerst will launch on June 6 from Kazakhstan with US astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor and Russian cosmonaut Sergei Prokopyev aboard a *Soyuz MS-09* spacecraft. Gerst will take over command of the ISS for the second half of his mission, marking only the second time that a European astronaut will assume the top ISS leadership post.

Gerst first served on the ISS in 2014 as part of the Expedition 41/42 crew increment. Gerst likely would use the ISS’s DP0ISS call sign for any Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) activities.

GR9RW will be Royal Wedding Special Event Call Sign

To celebrate the marriage of Great Britain’s Prince Harry to American actress Meghan Markle, special event call sign GR9RW will be on the air May 19 – 23. It’s believed that this will mark the first use of a GR9 call sign prefix in the UK.

The **royal wedding** will take place on May 19 at St. George’s Chapel in England’s Windsor Castle. Members of the Cray Valley Radio Society (**CVRS**) will operate GR9RW from their club station in Eltham. GR9RW will primarily use SSB and CW, with the addition of FM on VHF and UHF.

Two HF stations and one VHF station will cover all bands from 80 meters to 70 centimeters. A commemorative QSL card is available upon request.

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New 630-Meter Band Reported “Very Busy”

Amateur Radio got two new bands last year, but is anyone actually using them? Ralph Wallio, W0RPK, of Greenville, North Carolina, and others who took part in ARRL’s WD2XSH Part 5 Experimental operation or have a deep interest in what now is the 630-meter band, 472 – 479 kHz, say activity is picking up on the new allocation. Wallio has been maintaining an **informal database** tracking the activity of stations on a state-by-state basis, as well as how many states each station has worked. Topping the list is Eric Tichansky, **NO3M**, in Pennsylvania, with 36 states worked on 630 meters, and 35 confirmed, including Hawaii and Alaska. NO3M, who also operates as W3CDX, reports 8 DXCC entities worked on the new band. Wallio said his list will be updated weekly.

“During the past 6 months our list of stations in the US participating in QSOs on 630 meters has steadily increased to 108 stations across 39 states,” Wallio told ARRL. “As of mid-April 2018, we have 6 months of operating experience over the past winter. Our 630-meter band has been very busy.”

Wallio said modes frequently used for 630-meter contacts include CW, JT9, WSQ (weak-signal QSO), and FT8 with occasional additional digital mode experiments and SSB. Numerous US stations are also participating in WSPR beacon transmission, reception, and reporting on 472 kHz. “An analysis of the past 30 days finds 59 stations occasionally transmitting 630-meter WSPR beacons in the US,” Wallio added.

Transatlantic and transpacific contacts on the new band also have been reported.

John Langridge, KB5NJD, posts a **daily discussion** of 630-meter operations and conditions. He advises stations operating on 630 meters to upload their logs to Logbook of The World, so 630-meter operators participating in the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase ([IGC](#)) can receive credit.

Another WD2XSH participant, Rudy Severns, N6LF, discusses **LF-MF antenna design** on his website, with [notes](#). An [archive](#) of 600MRG discussions also is available.

JK Antennas Donates 40-Meter Yagi Antenna to W1AW

JK Antennas of Connecticut has generously donated a new two-element, 40-meter Yagi antenna to Maxim Memorial Station W1AW at ARRL Headquarters. JK Antennas’ Ken Garg, W3JK, and his assistant, Craig Finley, transported the new Yagi to W1AW on April 24 for assembly and installation.

“I am very grateful for Ken’s generosity,” said W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. “His kindness toward W1AW, technical expertise, and pride in his product is most refreshing.” Carcia said the new antenna replaced a Yagi that had not been performing as needed and had failed a couple of times in the past.

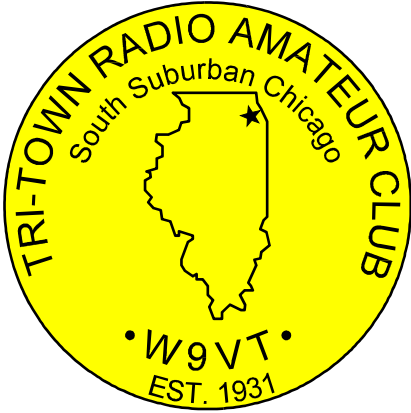
“What we did on April 24 was remove the old two-element, 40-meter Yagi — fixed to the south-southwest and used for all of our 40-meter code practice and bulletin transmissions — and replaced it with the JK402T two-element 40-meter Yagi,” Carcia explained.

Taking down the old antenna were Andrew Toth — who works with Matt Strelow, KC1XX — and Finley. Carcia pitched in to tram the old antenna down a line and off the tower. Strelow and Toth, who handle most of W1AW’s antenna maintenance, were at W1AW to perform spring antenna and tower inspections. “The installation of the JK402T was a bonus! The timing just worked out,” Carcia said, adding that the pair also installed a second 6-meter loop for scheduled transmissions on that band.

In contrast, Carcia said the JK402T offers wide bandwidth, keeping the SWR below 2:1 across the entire 40-meter band.

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

May 2018



Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

_____ Regular Membership	\$ 25.00
_____ SWL Membership	\$ 25.00
_____ Extra Family Membership	\$ 6.00

\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

For Example: Regular Member, with Family (25+6) = \$ 31.00

Dues are Due!

Club dues expire the first of the year so 2018 dues are now due. Your dues pay for the continued expenses for insurance, repeater operation. Your continued support of the raffles and the refreshment jar also helps. Dues can be paid at any meeting or sent to the clubs mailing address. Please include a membership form so we can keep the Club's roster up to date.

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