

The Oscillator

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Up Coming Programs

November- White Elephant Fest and Nominations

November 18 8pm at the Bunker. Bring out your Dead! Bring out all your stuff you don't want to put out on Ebay, or drag out to a Hamfest or mention on "Swap and Shop" or "The Trading Post!" The Club gets a little commission for hosting this massive, crazy event, but it all goes to the Club! Bring out all your stuff you want to dump. Good stuff, broken stuff, and empty out the closet!

Remember Your Junk is another Guy's Gold!

December- Christmas Party/Elections

From the President's Desk.....

Trish N9WDG

Get well wishes to **Clark, W9BQL** and my dad **Dan WB9ACN**- speedy recoveries to all. As the year approaches to the end I want to thank the membership for all they did this past year. Without you this club would not be what it is today. Tri-Town turns 75 next year and its the membership that has contributed to its longevity. A new administration will be ushering in year 75 with new ideas and fun things to do. Again thanks to all (you know who you are) and have a wonderful holiday season. And remember dues are due so get your renewal in today. See you at the next two meetings at the bunker.

From The Chairman of the Board!

Brian, WD9HSY

Hi All! Fall is here! The leaves, frost, Back to UTC -6 (Central Standard Time), Halloween and Thanksgiving! How many days till Christmas? Things are looking up and great for the Club! The New Web Site is flying and getting great reviews! And No, I say again, I'm not the Website Editor! This is becoming kind of fun because I'm one of the contributors, but all the others are staying in the background. Why? Why not! Send all of your news to the webmaster at: webmaster@w9vt.org Stay tuned for the repeater updates and upgrades! As the fall approaches so do the Club Elections. Who will it be? What about you? Any member with 2 yr. of membership can step up to the plate! This is your chance! Every one else is staying on unless you want to run in their place. Questions? Call me or any of the Officers at our numbers on page 2! (We only bite if we have not been fed!)

Election Chairman and Committee Needed- No experience necessary. If you are on the committee it means that you can't be nominated for an office. Contact a board member/officer if you are interested in the position.

Candidates Needed! For the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board Member-non officer needed.

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2005:

Trish Jaggard,	N9WDG	President	708.957.1973	rjaggard@netzero.net
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
Bruce Haffner,	WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@earthlink.net
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, KB9WOV**.

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

Congratulations!

It's a Boy!

Name: Ian Joseph Faber

Born:

Monday, October 24, 2005

*Statistics: 8 lbs. 9oz. 21 in.
long.*

Parents: Judy & Carl Faber



Tri-Town Does a CW Contest

by Gerry K9PMV

Saturday, October 8, 2005 was a cool, overcast, autumn day; a perfect day to stay inside the Bunker and work a CW contest! FISTS operators **Dave N9LGP**, **Jay AA9KH**, **Chris KC9FVP**, **Jim NV9X** and myself held an informal meeting to decide our strategy. We decided to use the club call and just see what we could do. After that decision was made, we arranged four operating positions similar to Field Day. The Bunker's antenna patch panel and inside cabling made the set up easy. After working out a few minor glitches, we started pounding brass at 12 Noon.

We worked all bands 80 through 10 meters (except WARC bands). The bulk of the activity was on 20m and 40m. Chris could hear many beacons on 10m but did not hear any FISTS calls. I made one QSO on 15m and later switched to 80m where Jim and I made 3 QSOs. Dave made 30 QSOs on 20m and Jay made 26 QSOs on 40m. The contest ended at 4 p.m.

Our statistics are:

60 QSOs
28 States
8400 contest points.

One thing we learned is that **W9VT** should have had a FISTS number for this event. The contest rules said it wasn't really necessary to have one to participate but, it would have been nice. Well.... afterwards, a quick email exchange with **Nancy WZ8C** at FISTS headquarters got our club the complimentary FISTS number of 11875!

During the contest, visitors **Mark KA9OOI**, **Jim WD9GXU**, and **Todd KA9IUC** came by to lend support to the contest crew. Everyone had fun and asked; " Are we going to do this again?" and " When is the next contest?" The answer is YES! The November Sweep stakes weekends are coming up and we plan to operate them. If that works well, there are the 160m and 10m contests in December that we can work.

So, if you enjoy the fun and camaraderie of events like Field Day, come out to the Bunker for the following events:

ARRL SSB Sweepstakes on November 19-21.

During these events we will utilize our wonderful club station and represent the best that Tritown Radio Amateur Club has to offer. You will have fun, renew your interests and sharpen your operating skills. Come out and enjoy! Email me at K9PMV@sbcglobal.net if you are interested.

White Elephant Sale is November 18 At The Bunker!

Bring out Your Stuff!

ARRL SAYS MEANINGFUL ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE TOP PRIORITY

The ARRL again has urged the FCC to provide meaningful operating privileges to entry-level Amateur Radio licensees, including access to HF, even if the Commission doesn't want to create a new license class. Commenting in response to the FCC's July 9 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, the League also stood by its stance that the Commission retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra applicants, but do away with it for General applicants.

"Retaining Morse telegraphy as a requirement for only the Amateur Extra class license, in ARRL's view, places Morse telegraphy in a proper, balanced perspective," the League told the Commission October 31, the deadline to comment in the proceeding. Reply comments are due November 14.

The FCC's NPRM&O proposed eliminating the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes but denied requests to create a new entry-level license class with limited HF privileges. The League said the FCC needs to finish the job of license restructuring it began in 1998 by reviewing operating privileges for all classes--especially at the first rung of the licensing ladder.

"The elimination of Morse telegraphy, absent a more thorough review of operating privileges in the Amateur Service, will not address the ascertained flaws in the only entry-level license class," the ARRL asserted, referring to the Technician license. "That license class is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration, and it needs fixing right now."

The ARRL argued that if the FCC will not create a new Novice class license as the League had suggested in its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) in the proceeding, it should modify Technician operating privileges instead. The present licensing regime limits Technicians to VHF bands and above, "leaving newcomers to the Amateur Service isolated from their peers holding higher class licenses," the ARRL said. "The Technician class is, for too many, a 'dead end' to what might otherwise be an active, progressive interest in Amateur Radio, technical self-training and incentive-based educational progress in the many facets of the avocation." The ARRL reminded the FCC that its restructuring plan enjoyed the support of the two Amateur Radio licensees in Congress--Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR).

Eliminating the Morse requirement for General class applicants "creates an anomaly with respect to the Technician class license," the ARRL noted. "If the telegraphy requirement for the General class license is eliminated, the distinction between the Technician class licensee and the Technician Plus class licensee will have disappeared completely." Therefore, the League contends, there is a logical basis for affording Technician licensees entry-level HF privileges.

Under the ARRL plan, Technicians would have telegraphy and data privileges on 3.55-3.7 MHz, 7.05-7.125 MHz and 21.05-21.20 MHz at 100 W output and on 28.05-28.3 MHz at 50 W output. The League wants the FCC to provide HF phone and image privileges to Technicians on 3.9-4.0 MHz, 7.2-7.3 MHz and 21.35-21.45 MHz at 100 W output, and on 28.3-28.5 MHz at 50 W.

To back up its assertions, the League pointed to surveys it conducted in 1992 and 2003. Nearly half of the licensees responding in the latter poll indicated that they were not currently active in Amateur Radio--up 30 percent from the earlier survey. "The number of inactive Technician class licensees is 46 percent," the ARRL noted, adding that more than a quarter of Technicians responding in 2003 said they'd never even been on the air.

The League pointed out that the FCC's proposed across-the-board elimination of the Morse requirement eliminates a simple mechanism for current Technician licensees to obtain HF operating privileges--passing the 5 WPM code exam. If the FCC does nothing other than eliminate the Morse requirement for the General license, the ARRL commented, it would make no sense to continue to deprive Technician licensees the HF operating privileges that Tech Plus licensees now enjoy. "To do otherwise is to draw a distinction that is entirely arbitrary," the League concluded.

FIVE YEARS OF CONTINUOUS ISS HUMAN HABITATION

Five years ago this week, the International Space Station Expedition 1 crew of US astronaut and Expedition 1 Commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, became the first humans to inhabit the ISS on a long-term basis. Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, who commands Expedition 12, the current ISS crew increment, took note of the occasion when he spoke with reporters this week.

"We've done things that were just inconceivable 50 years ago," McArthur said. "I think that we have demonstrated that human beings can live and work in space, and, given the will, we can return to the moon not just to visit but to stay there permanently and in not-too-distant future, send people to Mars."

Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for space operations, called the five-year milestone the first leg of a much longer journey "The experiences we're having on station with crews on long-duration missions are teaching us what it will take to send astronauts on longer missions to the moon and into the solar system," he said.

It was on October 31, 2000, that a Russian Soyuz transporter carrying the ISS space pioneers blasted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and docked with the ISS November 2. At the time, Shepherd was only the second US astronaut to go into space aboard a Russian launch vehicle. Krikalev went on to serve as commander of the ISS Expedition 11 crew.

Each of the 12 crews that have lived on the ISS to conduct assembly and research activities has included at least one US radio amateur. McArthur just this week completed the 200th successful Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contact. Crews also have gone on the air to participate in such events as ARRL Field Day and scouting's Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) as well as to make casual QSOs. The Expedition 12 crew of McArthur and Russian cosmonaut Valery Tokarev will remain on the ISS until next April.

The initial ARISS gear already was aboard the space station by the time the first crew arrived. The Expedition 1 team installed and activated the VHF gear on FM voice and packet under the US call sign NA1SS and the Russian call sign RS0ISS.

In late 2003, the ARISS program attained another milestone with the installation and checkout of the Phase 2 Amateur Radio gear. A Kenwood TM-D700E transceiver is at the heart of the Phase 2 station, located in the ISS Zvezda Service Module--the crew's living quarters. Crew members now routinely use the Phase 2 station to conduct ARISS school group contacts. ARISS is looking forward to activation of a Yaesu FT-100 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver and a slow-scan television (SSTV) system in the near future.

NASA has been marking the fifth anniversary of continuous ISS human occupancy with special activities and has set up a special Web site <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/5_year_anniversary.html>.

The largest and most complex spacecraft ever built, the ISS is the result of a 16-nation partnership led by the US. More ISS information and photos are on NASA's Space Station page.

ARISS is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.--some information from NASA

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.

“FOUNDATION LICENSE” IN AUSTRALIA

Australia has introduced an entry-level Foundation Amateur Radio license and established a new overall licensing and certification structure. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) put the new regulations into effect October 19. Other rule changes combined Novice and Novice Limited licensees into a new Standard license class, and all Limited, Intermediate and Unrestricted licensees are now Advanced licensees with full amateur privileges. Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) President Michael Owen, VK3KI, welcomed the "long-awaited" changes--in particular the new Foundation license--and expressed the hope that they would encourage newcomers.

"We also know that there will be many amateurs operating on the 40 and 20-meter bands for the first time with those bands available to Standard licensees," he said. "We urge all amateurs to make all these newcomers welcome." Owen also praised ACMA for what he called its "cooperative approach" in establishing examination standards and procedures.

The first Foundation license was issued October 21 to Amanda Gray, who requested the call sign VK4FRST before knowing that hers was, indeed, the first Australian Foundation license issued. ACMA has adopted the distinctive and unusual four-letter suffix starting with "F" for all VK Foundation licensees.

Foundation licensees will have limited access to 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as the entire 2 meter and 70 cm bands using voice modes or "hand-keyed" CW only (ie, no keyboard or computer-generated code). Licensees will be permitted to run up to 10 W on SSB and 3 W on AM, FM and CW--although the WIA wants ACMA to increase that limit to 10 W as well. Foundation licensees may only use commercially manufactured transmitters. The new license is similar to the Foundation class license that's been available in Great Britain since 2002. Said Owen: "The WIA believes that these changes to the Australian amateur license structure will strengthen our hobby and encourage many more people to become licensed radio amateurs." More information is on the ACMA Web site

<http://www.acma.gov.au/ACMAINTER.65690:STANDARD::pc=PC_1256>.

160 METERS INTRUDER IN ASIA

The IARU Monitoring System (IARUMS) says radio amateurs in Japan and elsewhere in Asia and Oceania are reporting an unidentified intruder signal on 160 meters. In Japan, the wideband signal, which IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, has dubbed "Top Band Dragon's Fire," reportedly began transmitting continuously about October 1, blanketing 160 meters and rendering it useless for Amateur Radio work in some places.

"The intruder is detectable from approximately 1700 kHz up to about 1930 kHz," said one report, likening the sound to "a diesel motor with a ticking sound at a constant rate which is evenly spread across the band." The signal has been heard in the US Northwest at about 1830 kHz on a north-pointing Beverage. Reports also have arrived from New England.

First heard as long ago as December 2004, the signal turns up at different times at different locations, reports indicate. In some cases, it's only during so-called "gray line" propagation, while others hear the signal 24/7. Near Perth, Australia, the intruder was heard slowly rising out the noise floor about a half-hour after sunset, increasing to around S7 and remaining long into the night. Amateurs in Singapore report that the signal recently shifted from wideband noise to a pulsed signal.

Veteran Top Band DXer Tom Rauch, W8JI, in Georgia says he can "just detect a noise floor increase some mornings," but was unable to identify an actual signal. Forward reports, accompanied by sound recordings if available, to Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG <cskolaut@arrl.org>, at ARRL Headquarters.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations close December 31 for the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is dedicated to an amateur or amateur group devoted to promoting human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster.

The ARRL International Humanitarian Award recognizes Amateur Radio's unique role in international communication and the assistance it regularly provides to people in need throughout the world. Amateur Radio is one of the few telecommunication services that allow people throughout the world from all walks of life to meet and talk with each other, thereby spreading goodwill across political boundaries.

A committee appointed by League President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, will recommend an award recipient to the ARRL Board of Directors, which will make the final selection. The committee is now accepting nominations from Amateur Radio, governmental or other organizations that have benefited from extraordinary service rendered by an Amateur Radio operator or group.

Nominations must include a summary of the nominee's actions that qualify the individual or group for this award plus verifying statements from at least two individuals having first-hand knowledge of the events warranting the nomination. These statements may be from an official of a group (for example, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, a local or state emergency management official) that benefited from the nominee's particular Amateur Radio contribution. Nominations should include the names and addresses of all references.

All nominations and supporting materials for the 2005 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing in English to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA. In the event that no nominations are received, the committee itself may determine a recipient or decide to make no award. The award recipient receives an engraved plaque and is profiled in QST and other ARRL venues.

Complete information on how to nominate is available on the ARRL Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>

SOLAR UPDATE

Propagation guru Tad "Sunshine On My Shoulders" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: Conditions have recovered from zero sunspots, which lasted for five days. Average sunspot numbers rose nearly 10 points to 17.6 this week. Average daily solar flux rose just 1.2 points to 75.4.

If the planetary A index is 20 or higher this weekend it may cause some difficulty reaching those Alaska or Northern Territories multipliers in Sweepstakes, but don't count on any major flare activity.

Sunspot numbers for October 27 through November 2 had a mean of 17.6. The 10.7 cm flux had a mean of 75.4. Estimated planetary A indices had a mean of 6.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices had a mean of 4.4.

The W1AW Operating Schedule

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

Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!

WWW.W9VT.ORG

Would you like some ice with your Repeater?

See what an Ice/Snow storm can do for you at your Repeater site! These shots are from K1JR/R on top of Mt Kearsage, New Hampshire. One Summer shot and after an ice storm. The winter pictures were taken Jan '95 after several days of low cloud cover, high winds and freezing temperatures. The mountaintop had white-out conditions till the storm cleared. That is mostly ice on everything, check out the guy wires! The site is a fire tower, microwave relay and home to one of the New Hampshire Public TV stations. Check out the grid antennas, towers, and vertical antennas! --- Courtesy of Joel, WA1ZYX.

Joel was also kind enough to help with that wonderful police sound “beep-boop” courtesy beep on the Repeater during net time that everyone thinks is annoying!



Tri-Town Family of Repeaters

Tri-Town Club Repeater

146.805 Tri-Town WD9HSY/R PL 107.2

Members Owned, Open Repeaters

442.375 WaldoFar W9WLN/R PL 114.8 Homewood
443.325 Brian's WD9HSY/R PL 114.8 Frankfort

All of the above Repeaters are coordinated by the Illinois Repeater Association and are listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory. The Tri-Town Family of Repeaters are Open, Friendly Repeaters. We welcome all area and visiting hams and encourage system use. IRA rules require all Coordinated Repeaters in Illinois be 100% PL encode and decode by the end of December 2005. All of our Family of repeaters are PL.

Currently our Family of Repeaters are all Motorola designed Micors, Mitreks, and Maxtracs. Our systems cover the South end of Chicago; it's South and Southwest suburbs, and Northwest Indiana.

ARRL IN BRIEF:

* ARRL Foundation approves more new scholarships: The ARRL Foundation has announced the addition of two new scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year, thanks to a generous endowment from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. The ARRL Foundation Board recently approved addition of the \$1000 scholarships to the 43 awards it now offers. "The recent success of the Dayton Hamvention prompted DARA to revitalize its scholarship program," commented ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "These scholarships represent DARA's commitment to plow some of that success back into Amateur Radio and offer a brighter future to talented Amateur Radio operators." To be eligible, an applicant must be an Amateur Radio licensee attending or accepted at an accredited two or four-year college or university. Information on all ARRL Foundation-administered scholarships is available on the ARRL Foundation Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen.html>>. The application period for ARRL Foundation scholarships closes February 1, 2006.

* Hurricane volunteers to be honored in QST: Amateurs who provided communication support during recovery efforts for hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma will be honored with a special listing, including names and call signs, in the February issue of QST. To be eligible for the list, complete the ARRL Hurricane Relief Volunteer Service Report on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/agencies/vol-report.html>>. The reporting deadline for the QST list is December 9. You do not have to be an ARRL or ARES member to be included in the list.

* FCC further extends filing deadlines for Katrina-affected licensees: The FCC has extended from October 31 until November 30 filing and regulatory deadlines for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) licensees directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. The WTB said it was taking the action "because of the continued devastation and recovery efforts in parts of the affected states and to further alleviate any additional burden that may be caused by our filing requirements and regulatory deadlines." After November 30, the WTB said, it will consider waiver requests related to Hurricane Katrina on a case-by-case basis. The WTB already has extended filing and regulatory deadlines for licensees affected by Hurricane Rita to November 21 and by Hurricane Wilma to December 22, 2005. Because the deadline extensions affect the two-year renewal "grace period" for Amateur Radio licensees, the FCC also has suspended vanity call sign processing "until further notice."

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

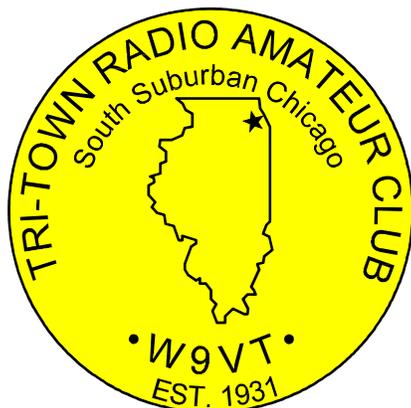
\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

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

November 2005

First Class Mail



Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!

WWW.W9VT.ORG