

# The Oscillator

---

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430  
Volume 54 Number 1 January 2007 Club Call W9VT

---

## Up Coming Programs

### Show and Tell Night January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Did Santa Claus leave a nice ham radio goodie under your Christmas tree? The January meeting will give you the chance to show it off in front of all your friends. Or, perhaps you finished that special project that makes your ham shack run better. Bring it in and share the idea with club members. Maybe you have something not necessarily ham related but is nevertheless an item of general interest. Bring it along and give a demonstration. This is one program that we did not do last year, so I'm sure you have had a new addition to your toy box in 2006. Bring it to the meeting. Don't forget, the meeting will be at 8 pm in the village municipal center, adjacent to the police department.

## Ham Radio Toy Store Closed!

Sad news for the Chicagoland Area, Roberto's Amateur Radio Toy Store has closed its store front in Wheaton  
Phone:(630)668-9577 Service: (630)668-5688 Fax:(630)690-9335

The store's website is still up at: <http://www.amateur-radio-toy-store.com/>

Tom, AB9A reports that he got a call from Roberto and that he will be setting up something to still work on repairing equipment in a month or so. Roberto also added that he will be keeping the same number to get a hold of him.

## Tri-Town's 1000<sup>th</sup> 10 Meter Net

From Carl, KB9EVD

Do you want to be a part of Tri-Town history?

If so, the Tri-Town 10 meter net will be celebrating it's **1000th** net on February 8, 2007.

Frequency: 28.490 MHz Time: 8:00pm CST

A great celebration is planned for the evening. We encourage all guests and visitors to check-in!

## Trading Post

For Sale: Dick, K9ZZH has a Ten Tec Omni VI for Sale, Call Dick for Details

**Winter Finally Got Here! Time to do Antenna Work!**

# Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2007:

Jerry Dagenais,	K9PMV	President and W9VT Station Mgr	708.385.2866	K9PMV@msn.com
Rich Poortinga,	KB9IPS	Vice President	708.957.4421	richardpoortinga@juno.com
Jim Everand,	WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None
Sharon Gunderson,	KA9IIT	Treasurer	708.957.7944	sgunderson@gwclow.com
Mark Thompson,	KA9MDJ	Director	708.946.2877	cinjontim@juno.com
Todd Schumann,	KA9IUC	Director	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Brian Denk	N9BTH	Chairman of Board	708.389.7481	bjdenk@comcast.net
Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Raffle Chairman	708.423.7066	mattschuman@yahoo.com
Dave Dell	N9LGP	Field Day Chairman	708.235-1703	n9lgp@aol.com
Bruce Haffner,	WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@earthlink.net
Tom Gunderson	W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe,	WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee & Oscillator Editor	815.469.1383	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, and Other Amateur Radio Publications

## 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.

Official Club 2 Mtr hangouts: 146.49 Simplex, & The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL  
Unofficial Club Hang Outs 442.375 WA9WLN/R, & 443.325 WD9HSY/R both using 114.8 PL +5mhz

**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

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

## Hamfest Calander

28 Jan 2007 + WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest  
Wheaton CRA <http://www.wheatonhamfest.org> Talk-In: 145.390 (PL 103.5)

24 Feb 2007 + "Cabin Fever Hamfest"  
LaPorte ARC <http://www.k9jsi.org> Talk-In: 146.610- (PL 131.8)

10 Mar 2007 + WVARA 2007 Hamfest and Computer Expo  
Wabash Valley ARA Wabash Valley Fairgrounds

11 Mar 2007 Sterling Rock Falls ARS  
<http://www.sterlinghamfest.com> Talk-In: 146.85 (PL 114.8) Sterling, IL

## **From the New Chairman's Desk**

From Brian, N9BTH

Since our members are so used to Brian being the Chairman of the Board of Tri-Town, the board of directors elected another Brian to fill the Chairman position. Besides, no one else wanted the job.

I served on the board in the past as well as club secretary, Oscillator co-editor, program chairman and a few other odd jobs over the years. Recently my travels and charity work have kept me away from a few meetings but, hopefully, my schedule will change enough so I can again attend most of our Friday night meetings.

I started in the club when we use to meet on the second floor of the old fire station. I remember Bill, W9TX, standing at the top of the stairs with a coffee can for a 'volunteer' collection for the refreshments. He actually wouldn't let you pass without sticking in a buck or two so 'volunteer' was not the correct term to use. It's funny, we had a need to collect money to help pay for our refreshments then and I found out tonight during my first board meeting that we still need money. Although we don't have or need W9TX to collect for us, there is a coffee can usually sitting out near the refreshments so we can continue a tradition established years ago. I was surprised to find out that sometimes we only collect a buck or two to cover \$25 - \$30 in refreshment costs. Please try to help or we will be forced to buy cheaper products or, heaven forbid, no refreshments. Refreshment time is our time to network and we need good nourishment to network properly.

It's going to take a while to get back into the flow of board work and I thank you for electing me to the board. I have to admit that I have been a little lax at using my radios and being involved with club activities over the past few years. I trust that I will get back into operating and being active at the bunker. Speaking of the bunker, our Pres Jerry is looking at getting us all into using the bunker for contests as well as friendly communication on our own. We have a first class radio shack and should use it to it's fullest.

We are also looking at some great activities this year. It has been a long time since we have had a club picnic. There happens to be a great park facility directly behind the bunker owned by the village park district. We think it would be fun to have a picnic in July or August rather than a formal club meeting. That way we can get to meet or renew friendships with XYL's and significant others as well as your families. There will be more on this later.

Our club can only be as good as our members what it to be so please participate and don't forget to renew your membership for this year. \$20 is a heck of a deal for what our club has to offer, with the repeater, web site, special events, good speakers, and friendship, to name a few.

## **From the Old Chairman's Desk**

From Brian, WD9HSY

Well friends it's been a blast. I can't believe it's been 3 years! That's 3 years as Chairman of the Board, my 2<sup>nd</sup> tour of duty as Chairman. Let's call this a brag tape: Since the early 80's I have been Club President, VP, Club Secretary, and Sargent of Arms (we don't have that one any more!) Refreshment Chair, Program Chair, Field Day Chairman, and Oscillator Editor, (I think on and off over the last 10 years? I may need some help on the time on that one, and the Repeater Trustee.

**Does the ARRL have an award for working all Club Positions? ... (Never mind)**

**So what am I going to do until my next call to duty?  
Heckle everyone from the back of the room!**

**73, Brian**

# From the Chairperson of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ann. W9H

Trish, N9WDG

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who came out to support the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. A good time was had by all- pictures are on the web site and in the bunker in photo books. Also in the bunker is all the QSL cards received for W9H- we received over 50 in the mail but missed by 13 states in achieving WAS. I even received a QSL card on Christmas eve. My thanks to the operators during W9H week- Brian WD9HSY who helped with coordinating the event, Jim NV9X, Greg WB9MII, Rich KB9IPS, Tom W9SRV, Jerry K9PMV, Matt N9OTL, John KB9QCQ and Bruce N9XGC.

In commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> year of TTRAC we are selling a special limited edition 75 year pin at the price of \$7.50, and only 75 were made so don't miss out. I will be at the meetings with them and if you can't make it but would like one- email or call me and I will get one to you. All proceeds from this sale will go to support the club.

There are also DVDs available- information is on the website- get your copy today.

In addition to all of this, Mayor Donaldson of Hazel Crest came out to our December meeting and presented our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary proclamation. In addition, we also received a proclamation from Mayor Holfeld of Homewood, and letters commemorating our 75 years from Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Senator Barack Obama. All of these can be viewed at the bunker in the scrapbooks I have on the shelf. Come and see the history of the club there.

There is also at the bunker and on the website (for a limited time) the retyped version of the 1981 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. Read up on our first 50 years and in the works is the updated version, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, to come out in 2007- no dead line yet.

And last, but not least, we had two inductees into the Hall of Fame this year- Jerry Bette, N9BMT, SK, and Jerry Lasater, WD9FZL. Both of them well deserved this honor for their many contributions to TTRAC in the 1980s. They were honored at the December meeting for this award. Briefly, Jerry N9BMT, was past president, a net control for the 49er net, supporter of the club station, was part of Operation Warm Green for the veterans, participated in many club events, rebel rouser, and big supporter in getting the youth interested in amateur radio. Jerry WD9FZL, was our first female vice president, assisted with getting the Oscillator mailed out for many years. She was our chief cook and bottle washer at many a Field Day, chaired a HT raffle, supported Operation Santa. She greeted visitors to the club who eventually became members, and if any job needed to be filled or something needed to be done she was there, without any hesitation. Thank you to both of you for all you have done for the club.

## Cheap and safe rust remover

From Mark, KA9OOI

I came across a cheap and efficient rust remover that works very well and doesn't even pollute the environment. Most all of us have it in our kitchens at home. The product I speak of is molasses. I was skeptical when I first heard about it, so I tried it on a gas tank from my old motorcycle. I had left some gas the tank for quite a few years and when I moved recently, I check the tank and found that the gas had turned rancid and the tank was completely filled with rust. I'm not saying a film of rust, but this was the heavy-duty industrial chunky kind of rust. I thought the tank was junk. So I mixed up a batch of the rust remover using molasses and water and filled the tank to the very top. The mixture is 1 part molasses and 9 parts water. I let the tank sit for 2 weeks and then rinsed it out with plain water. I couldn't believe it! Chunks of rust washed out of the tank by the handfuls and I was left with all new shiny metal on the inside. The best part of it is that this is all natural and won't hurt the environment or stink up the house. The cost for doing the tank was 2 8oz bottles of molasses at 1.29 each. I am now using it to clean the rust off an old telegraph key and an old ball mount for a HF antenna. So if you have any old rusty metal parts from old radios or other things, give this a try. You will be surprised at the outcome. -

# My Thoughts on the Removal of Morse Code

Thomas T. Ciciora, KA9QPN, ARRL Illinois Section Manager: [ka9qpn@arrl.org](mailto:ka9qpn@arrl.org)

I'd like to divert a bit from normal organizational issues and comment on the recent FCC R&O removing the need to test for Morse code proficiency. Quite frankly, I've heard some really appalling comments from some quarters about the future of the Service. More disturbing is the resurgence of the awful prejudices against no-code licensees in general, prejudices which have no place in our Fraternity. There have been loud and dire predictions of the Service becoming 'another Citizens' Band', obviously coming from people who don't listen to certain sections of the HF spectrum. There have been broadside blasts against the 'dumbing down' of the Service in particular and society in general. And there has been a lot of ill will generated for no real good reason. Let's look at this with a clear eye:

First, the ITU left it up to member nations to decide the need for a code test. The Union itself removed the Morse test requirement as an international requirement. Reasons for this being that there is no general commercial or military use of Morse code. Consequently, there is no perceived need to generally require testing for the proficiency of Morse. After this decision, it was only a matter of time before the requirement fell on a nation by nation basis. The list of nations that now require a code test is very short. The Commission's action was inevitable. Why the fireworks now?

Second, let's stop fooling ourselves. Morse code proficiency alone was never an adequate barrier to bad operators. The Service was founded (and further steps were taken with the establishment of the Amateur Auxiliary) to make US responsible for keeping our peers headed in the same general direction while behaving within the rules and the accepted norms of our group. If it's gotten screwed up, it was ours to keep from being so. How? We are the recruiters and the mentors of those who follow. If we end up with CB redux after this, it's my opinion that we didn't go out and find the 'right' folks to bring into the Service. It will be because we didn't Elmer them properly; or worse, didn't Elmer them at all. A garden takes work in plant selection, cultivation, and care. If you let your garden get overrun with weeds, it's because you didn't put the time and effort in on your plants. Sure, there will be incorrigibles and renegades. For those few that just won't listen, we have the FCC and the Federal courts. Only a damn fool wants to go to prison or pay big fines for playing radio.

Third, it's time to stop all of this "my license is better than yours" nonsense before it starts. I'll not join the debate on the general deterioration of our societal standards here. Suffice to say that it is my own belief that you choose and set your own personal standards, then live to meet or exceed them. I'll say again that there is no general commercial or military use of Morse code. It is a pleasant pastime for those inclined. A lot of us learned our 5WPM and promptly forgot it after passing the exam. The jury will be out for long time on the wisdom of that forgetfulness. Times change and requirements change. Ultimately, Morse code's use and preservation should be encouraged. That said, I note that 55 years ago, my parents had to learn Latin and calculus to graduate high school. 33 years ago, I needed to have passed geometry and French. 11 years ago, my son didn't need a foreign language and barely saw algebra. Do we all have valid high school diplomas? Answer: Yes, as the valid requirements for the certification were met at the time. These new licenses will be as valid as any earned prior, and these new folks will become part of the backbone of the Service, just as their predecessors did. Our Service and our Section thrive because of the help of the enthusiastic newcomers that have come into the Service since the no code license and because of their Old Timer mentors. I am personally excited about the possibilities that will be brought about by the general public's perceived lowering of barriers to entering our Fraternity. The pool of folks who may become interested in our Service will most certainly grow. We need to get out there and find those interested and bring them in. We need to mentor them, get them tested, bring them into our clubs, school them in the ways of A-1 Operating, get them on track to augment our EmComm groups and other community service activities. We need to introduce them to traffic handling, contesting, and the gentle pastime of chewing the rag. We need to show the newcomers how hams still advance the radio art by showcasing new technologies. Only by taking this opportunity can we make giant strides in becoming the premier Citizen Public Servants and preserving Amateur Radio for our grandchildren and their children. The new people are coming, and they are coming without a code test to operate throughout our allocations. It's the law of the land that allows them to do so. It's up to us as to how we spend or waste this golden opportunity for a ham radio renaissance.

Oh, and we will survive, despite the doomsayers. We came back after the First World War, even though the deck was stacked against resumption of Amateur operations. We survived the license class reshuffles of 1951, 1953 and again in 1968, when many wrote ham radio's obituary. We survived the influx of the 'Bash Techs' in 1981-2 (I was one of those). We had CB'ers get ham licenses in the early and mid 80's (I'm one of those, too) and we were supposed to be overrun by lids then, too. We are still here after the No-Code Tech ticket was created. Even that 'sacrilege' didn't ruin Amateur Radio, except in some arguably closed minds. If we 'lose' the Amateur Radio Service after this R&O takes effect, it will be by our own hand through our inactivity, our self-fragmentation, our lack of imagination, and our inability/unwillingness to perceive and seize the future.

**MORE SECTION NEWS AT <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL>**

# Tri Town Club Clothing

Jackets...\$30.00 XXXL & plus \$32.00

Shirts... ..\$25.00 XXXL & plus \$27.00

Caps.....\$ 5.00

All Jackets have TTRAC logo on back with name and all on front. Optional front only logo, specify when ordering.

Golf Shirts have TTRAC logo with Call & Name on front.

Caps have TTRAC logo.

Color is yellow with black lettering and logo.

Sizes S,M,L,XL,XXL,XXXL, 4XL, 5XL, 6XL  
Caps one size fits all (adjustable).

TO ORDER, SEE SHARON KA9IIT

CUSTOM SIZES AND LETTERING  
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST DEPENDENT  
UPON AVAILABILITY. PRICING FOR  
SPECIAL ORDERS WILL BE ADJUSTED AS  
REQUIRED BY THE SUPPLIER BASED ON  
REQUEST.

NO, YOU CAN'T GET A VHF OR UHF  
ANTENNA INSTALLED ON THE HAT FROM  
THE MANUFACTURER.



# 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**

**January 2007**

**First Class Mail**



**Visit Tri-Town's Web Page!**

**WWW.W9VT.ORG**