

# The Oscillator

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## Upcoming Meetings

**January 15, 2010 8 PM Hazel Crest Village Hall**  
**February 19, 2010 8 PM Hazel Crest Village Hall**

## December Meeting elected the following for the 2010 year.

Tom Niemeyer AB9LA

Tom Niemeyer	AB9LA	President
Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Vice President
Tricia Jagard	N9WGO	Treasurer
Jim Everard	WD9GXU	Secretary
Brian Bedoe	WD9HSY	Board Member
Todd Schumann	KA9IUC	Board Member
Dave Dell	N9LGP	Board Member

Also the following Certificates of Merit were awarded to the following for their efforts.

Todd Scumann, KA9IUC for providing the raffle prizes at our meetings  
Matt Schumann, N9OTL for providing the raffle prizes when Todd is not available.  
Mark Thompson, KA9MDJ for furnishing the refreshments for our club meetings.  
Richard Poortinga, KB9IPS for furnishing the refreshments for our club meetings.  
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV for being our Webmaster, hosting our club picnic, and support of Driving the Dixie.  
Martin Monahan, WD9JGG for organizing the support for Driving the Dixie.  
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK for organizing the Folkes on Spokes, and being our club trustee.  
Clarke Lembke, W9BQL for running the 49'rs net for more than 30 years.  
Brian Bedoe, WD9HSY for editing the Oscillator and maintaining the Club Repeater

Please also note that dues are due for 2010.

## From the Treasurer Shack

Trish, N9WDG

Hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. Thanks to all who came out to the last two meetings. A wonderful time was had by all. Just a quick reminder that dues are due for 2010- if you haven't paid now is the time. Also, quick congrats to Matt, N9OTL for being elected Vice-President and the re-election of all other officers/board member. See you at the January meeting.

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[WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)

# Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2010:

Tom Niemeyer	AB9LA	President	708.672-5844	<a href="mailto:tom1485@sbcglobal.net">tom1485@sbcglobal.net</a>
Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Vice President	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:mattschuman@yahoo.com">mattschuman@yahoo.com</a>
Jim Everand	WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	<a href="mailto:None@NoI'donthaveone">None @ No I' dont have one</a>
Trish Jaggard	N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	<a href="mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net">the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net</a>
Todd Schumann	KA9IUC	Director	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:tschum3063@aol.com">tschum3063@aol.com</a>
Bruce Haffner	WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee	708.614.6134	<a href="mailto:WD9GHK@comcast.net">WD9GHK@comcast.net</a>
Jerry Dagenais	K9PMV	W9VT Station Mgr.	708.385.2866	<a href="mailto:K9PMV@sbcglobal.com">K9PMV@sbcglobal.com</a>
Tom Gunderson	W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	<a href="mailto:webmaster@w9vt.org">webmaster@w9vt.org</a>
Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Raffle Chairman	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:mattschuman@yahoo.com">mattschuman@yahoo.com</a>
Tom Gunderson	W9SRV	Webmaster	815.466-0245	<a href="mailto:tomg@thelittleguys.com">tomg@thelittleguys.com</a>
Dave Dell	N9LGP	Chairman Field Day Chairman of Board	708.235-1270	<a href="mailto:n9lgp@sbcglobal.com">n9lgp@sbcglobal.com</a>
Brian J. Bedoe	WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Director	815.469.1383	<a href="mailto:Bbedoe@aol.com">Bbedoe@aol.com</a>

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 WD9HSY/R

### Unofficial Club Hang Outs:

442.375 Homewood, 441.300 Grant Park WA9WLN/R, "Waldofar"  
443.325 Frankfort WD9HSY/R & 147.165 Kankakee Co. WD9HSY/R  
441.975 Elwood, W0COP (underconstruction & on air at WD9HSY'S QTH)  
All UHF's use a 114.8 PL All VHF's use a 107.2 PL

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

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

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

**Cracker Barrel Net** - Monday-Friday 3:00 PM Local 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL

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

## Upcoming Hamfests

**Wheaton Mid Winter Hamfest:** Jan 24,2009 8am, Kane County Fair Grounds <http://wheatonhamfest.org/flyer.pdf>

## Sunday night Weather Net

Well the Change to Daylight savings time has caused a snafu with the Sunday Weather net. The Repeater changes over to net mode to allow a longer time out time for the announcements and Rain. Since the change over the timer change is not taking place! Opppps! Hopefully this has been corrected but it can only be tested during the net (would you really want the time out timer set at 20 minutes?) (rag chewers please take note!) It should be OK now, but only time will tell! Sunday 8PM on the Club Machine 146.805 73, Brian WD9HSY ..... seems to be OK now!

# Illinois Section News

From Tom Thomas T. Ciciora, KA9QPN  
815-498-4929 [ka9qpn@arrl.org](mailto:ka9qpn@arrl.org)

**ALERT: Thu, December 31, 2009; 1:47 PM ET**

Effective 1 January, Illinois has severely restricted text messaging while in a vehicle. Unfortunately, the definition of 'mobile communications devices' in the law is miserably broad and does not contain a specific exception for Amateur Radio. We will be addressing this very quickly after the first of the year with members of the General Assembly. At this time, I don't see any reason for general alarm, as the intent of the law is to stop mobile texting. Nor do I see a wholesale effort to target hams just for the ticket revenue, despite what the tinfoil hatters might think. Please be careful while we work on this. It's going to take a little time to turn the battleship.  
Happy and Safe New Year.

\*\*Congratulations to Kermit Carlson W9XA, who has been declared the winner of the recent Vice Director's election for the Central Division. Kermit takes office on 1 January. I also salute Howard Huntington K9KM, for his long and selfless service as Vice Director. Howie, it's been a pleasure and I hope to see you around and on the air. Kermit: congratulations and I look forward to a long association.

\*\*The FCC has (properly, IMHO) [dismissed](#) a Petition for Rulemaking filed by one Murray Green K3BEQ. Mr. Green was exercised over the matter of closed repeaters. He made his argument by suggesting that closed machines fostered a 'pay for use' atmosphere which allegedly caused inefficient spectrum usage. The FCC suggested that K3EBQ take up any usage issues with his local repeater coordination body. Every so often this issue rears its head, usually brought up due to an overblown personality conflict because someone was tossed off of someone else's repeater. Instead of solving the problem locally, some people insist on running to tell Uncle.

\*\*Here's an interesting item of which I had no prior knowledge. The IL Secretary of State's office has a program by which you can have emergency contact information accessible via the barcode strip on the back of your driver's license or state ID card. If you are incapacitated, public safety personnel can scan the license or ID card and retrieve your contact information. This is an 'opt-in' service. You can [apply online](#).  
Thanks to Ron Roeder KB9FPY via W9FX for this one.

\*\*However you spend your winter holiday, whether it be with the lighting of candles on menorah or kinara, the heralding of the birth of Christ, the raising of a Festivus Pole (ugh...but they have one on the State Capitol Building grounds) or merely time with family and friends, I hope that this finds you of good cheer and good health. This last year has left us all beat up in some way, and most of us will be anticipating New Year's Eve in the same way that one attends the wake of a blood adversary--we want to make sure that it's gone. I fervently hope that the New Year finds you healthy, a little more prosperous, and at peace with your world. And GOD BLESS US--EVERY ONE!

## Christmas Meeting and Party Was A Great Success

Following the business portion of the December meeting, we swung into party mode. Trica Jaggard was the hostess for the party and it was just excellent. The tables were set with Christmas tablecloths and centerpieces. Food included sub sandwiches, chips, cookies, cake and drinks. A raffle was held for several donated prizes. It was a great evening of friendship and camaraderie. Thanks Trica for all your hard work.

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# Free Standing Tilt-Over Mast (page 1)

by Ed Stroh K9EGS

I have been a SWL/DXer for about 41 years and a licensed Amateur Radio Operator for about 7 months. In the course of that time period I have pursued my radio hobby in four separate locations with each having different backyard configurations and space limitations.

Over the years I have tried several commercially manufactured antennas as well as several home brew antennas. I have tried the Mosley SWL-7, Mosley SWV-7, Alpha Delta DX-SWL Sloper and the Alpha Delta DX-CC which is my present antenna of choice.

I have also tried several different lengths of home made end-fed long wire antennas as well as several different mast/mounting variations for all these antennas.

Up until recently I had a 15 foot mast mounted on the eaves of my house at the peak of the roof using a Radio Shack eave mount bracket screwed to the fascia board. The mast also needed to have several guy wires to hold it up. In my opinion, it was rather unsightly with those guy wires as well as being kind of flimsy. If the guy wires ever came loose, the eave mounting bracket would never be able to hold up the mast and it would tear out my fascia board as it tumbled to the ground.

I had a new roof put on the house recently. As a result I had to take down the mast so I thought this would be a good time to come up with a new design. I only needed a mast configuration to hold up my Alpha Delta DX-CC. I wanted something that would look sleeker and neater and be stronger than the old one.

My new antenna mast design is a stand-alone, no guy-wire, 25 foot high mast mounted at ground level. This gets the antenna to approximately the same height as it was when it was mounted on the eaves of the house. No more roof top mounting.

The really nice thing about this new design is that it is a tilt over mast. Now if I need to work on the antenna there will be no more waiting for a calm windless day, or climbing up on the roof, or disconnecting the guy wires, or teetering on the edge of the roof while struggling to take the mast down.

If I need to work on the antenna now, all I do is loosen and remove 1 bolt and tilt the mast down to the ground. The new design is much safer than the old way. No climbing is required. I don't know why I didn't think of this sooner.

## WARNING

Make sure that this metal antenna support cannot come in contact with overhead power lines during tilting or at full height. Consult your local zoning authority for any restrictions in your area. Call your local "Miss Utility" prior to digging if there is any doubt about the location of underground utilities. Neither the author, nor your editor, nor Tri-Town Radio Amateur Radio Club make any representation regarding the structural soundness of this design nor have we tested the design to determine the ultimate load-bearing capability.

The mast is made out of 1¼ inch rigid steel electrical conduit, (one could use even heavier conduit if desired such as 1-1/2 inch or even 2 inch) . The conduit comes with threaded couplings that allow two or more pieces to be joined together. The mast itself is made from two ten-foot lengths and one five-foot length of the conduit screwed together end to end. Two more ten-foot lengths are partially buried in the ground and are used to serve as the mounting base for the mast.

To begin the installation I used a post-hole digger to dig a four-foot deep hole. Prior to setting the pipes in the ground, I drilled two holes in each of them at a point that would be about three inches above ground level once the pipes were set in the ground. These holes, as well as 2 holes in the bottom of the 25-foot mast would all line up and serve as the pivot point so the mast could be tilted over.

I then put two ten-foot lengths of the conduit in the hole with 6 feet of each pipe protruding above ground level. These two pipes were set in the ground side by side with about two inches of space between them to allow for the 25-foot mast. They serve as the base that holds up the 25 foot mast.

After carefully checking the pipes to make sure they were perfectly plumb (i.e. vertical), I filled up the hole with four sixty-pound bags of concrete mix. This gives the mast a very solid base. Once the concrete has set, the mast was ready to be erected.

## Free Standing Tilt-Over Mast (page 2)

I inserted an 8-inch long by ½ inch diameter bolt through the holes for the pivot point. I also drilled two holes in each ground-mounted pipe at a point about three inches from the top of each pipe. I then drilled two holes in the 25-foot mast at a point which would line up with these holes at the top of each ground mounted pipe once the 25 foot mast was tilted up to it's fully erected position.

I inserted another 8 inch long by ½ inch diameter bolt through these holes to hold the mast in the erect position.

I took advantage of the base mount pipes being threaded on the ends and screwed caps on them to keep the weather out. Even the very top of the mast where the 5 foot section of pipe is, I had that threaded at the hardware store so I could screw a cap on it to keep the weather out.

To mount the Alpha Delta DX-CC antenna itself to the mast, I drilled two holes at a point about three inches from the top of the mast and inserted a stainless steel eye bolt so I would have something to hook the antenna to. All bolts, nuts, and washers are galvanized and/or stainless steel to ensure long life without rusting.

I also used clear silicone sealant at all points where holes were drilled to seal out the weather.

All that was needed to secure the coax cable as it traveled from the antenna down the mast was some plastic, UV resistant, cable ties that are available at Radio Shack. These cable ties made it a very neat looking installation. I wrapped a cable tie about every 12 inches around the mast to secure the coax cable to the mast. One could use electrical tape to wrap around the mast to secure the coax cable as it travels down the mast but the tape would eventually come loose and start flapping in the wind.

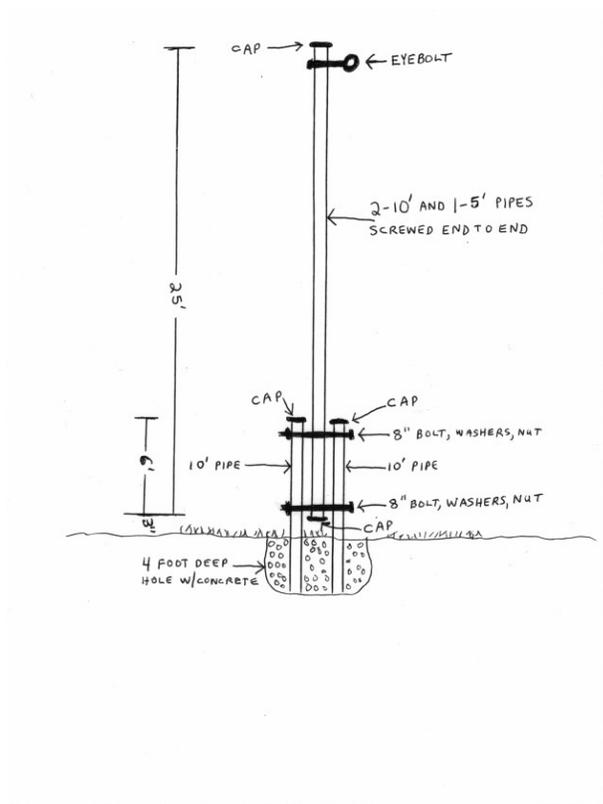
Now when I want to tilt the mast down to work on the antenna all I have to do is remove the top bolt that is at the approximate 6 foot level, and walk the mast down to the ground. Simple and safe!

I would recommend that you use only a lighter-weight wire type antenna on this mast because the antenna will exert a pulling force on the mast in only one direction since there are no guy wires pulling in the opposing direction. Too much of a pulling force (weight) could cause the couplings that connect the 10 foot pipes end to end to become weakened and possibly break. A home made end fed long wire antenna or dipole antenna should not be too heavy as long as the antenna is not extremely long and not made out of too heavy a gauge of wire. You could even erect 2 of these masts, one at each end of the antenna. The Alpha Delta DX-CC is a somewhat heavier antenna than a plain long wire or dipole because it has large coils in it so I am a bit more concerned about the mast than I would be with a lighter weight plain end fed wire or dipole antenna mounted on it. So far my mast with the Alpha Delta DX-CC on it has been subjected to 50+ MPH winds and held up just fine.

I bought all the necessary parts for this project at the local Menards Home Center and Radio Shack. The total cost was just under \$100. That might seem like a bit much for a 25-foot mast but it sure beats the danger of standing near the edge of the roof and struggling with the old set up, especially in winter. It looks so much neater too, especially since there are no guy wires. It is also much cheaper than a commercially available 25-foot free standing tower or crank up mast which would cost hundreds of dollars.

A sketch of the mast is available by sending me an e-mail message requesting it. I will send you a jpeg format file with the detailed sketch. **Here is the parts list:**

- 5 - 10 foot x 1-1/4 inch diameter rigid steel electrical conduit pipes
- 4 - 1-1/4 inch caps to screw on the ends of the pipe
- 4 - 60 pound bags of concrete mix available at any home center or hardware store
- 2 - 8 inch x 1/2 inch diameter galvanized bolts
- 4 - galvanized washers to fit the 1/2 inch diameter bolts
- 2 - galvanized nuts to fit the 1/2 inch diameter bolts
- 1 - stainless steel 4 inch x 3/8 inch diameter eye bolt with 2 nuts and 2 washers
- 1 - tube of clear silicone sealant/caulk
- 1 - package of cable ties from Radio Shack



## General Class License Class To Begin January 21, 2010

From Gregg AB9MZ PH 708-444-2690 email [gregg@ricis.com](mailto:gregg@ricis.com)

Winter General License Class starts Thursday, January 21st, 2010 hosted at the Tinley Park EMA Good afternoon Hamfesters, STARS, and Tri-Town ARC members, as well as friends of Amateur Radio,

The class will be held at the Tinley Park Emergency Management Agency's EOC classroom as it has in the past. The class will start Thursday, January 21st, 2010 and run eight weeks total. Please see the press release for further details. Please engage your family members, neighbors, and friends that have an Amateur Radio Technician License and twist the arms into taking the plunge and getting their General Class License. We can hold up to 27 students in the classroom. We will pre-order the books and look forward to perspective students to ideally pay ahead of time and get their book ahead of time. If they can, it is a good idea to read the first chapter or two of the book for the first class. They can call 708-267-6664 or email [ab9mz@arrl.net](mailto:ab9mz@arrl.net) to register for the class. The cost is \$30.

## NCVEC Releases New Technician Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

# **Richard P. Bennett K9ZZH, SK**

Published in Southtown Star on December 29, 2009  
from Martin, WD9JGG

BENNETT, Richard Paul Chisholm Bennett ("Dick"), March 6, 1926 - December 27, 2009.

Loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and uncle, passed away peacefully aged 83 at his home in Frankfort, Illinois, on December 27, 2009, after a long battle with multiple myeloma. Dick is survived by his wife of 56 years, Doris (nee Kirkpatrick) Bennett; his two children, Cathie Bennett Warner of San Anselmo, California, and Richard C. Bennett II, DPM, of Chicago Illinois; his brother Gordon of Seattle, Washington; niece Diane Bennett Simpson and nephew Stephen Bennett; as well as his son-in-law Christopher Warner and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Bennett. Mr. Bennett was a proud grandfather to Christopher and Cody Warner. Richard Bennett was the son of Rufus and Ruth Bennett, and a member of one of Illinois' pioneering families, the Bennett Mill family of Geneva, Illinois.

Mr. Bennett traced his family back to the Revolutionary War and preserved a strong sense of history in his children and grandchildren. He served his country in the mechanized cavalry of George Patton's Third Army in its liberation of Europe during the last days of World War II. In Germany on April 16, 1945, as an enemy soldier attempted to ambush him and members of his company, Private Bennett calmly stood up in his jeep and fired his machine gun, saving his life and the lives of his fellow soldiers. For this bravery, he was awarded the Bronze Star, citing his "alertness, quickness in face of grave peril" and "heroic action." His discharge rank was Staff Sergeant.

Mr. Bennett earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1951, where he met his future wife, Doris Kirkpatrick of Kankakee, Illinois. They were married on September 12, 1953, and enjoyed 56 loving years together. Mr. Bennett worked for Swenson Process Equipment, Inc. and its successors in Harvey for over 40 years, where he rose to become its President and was an internationally renowned expert on crystallization and evaporator technology, in which he held numerous patents on behalf of his company. He authored a chapter on liquid-solid operation and equipment for Perry's Chemical Engineering Handbook, which to this day is a required handbook for chemical engineering students, used in universities around the world. In addition, he authored a chapter on evaporators for Dorf's The Engineering Handbook, another respected chemical engineering textbook. He traveled the world advising global companies on chemical processes throughout the US, Europe, Southeast Asia, China, the Soviet Union, the Eastern Bloc and the Middle East. He was highly sought after for his expertise, including his early work on the team that developed the process to extract potash out of the Dead Sea in the late 1960's. Dick was a Registered Professional Engineer and a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He was sought after for his professional consulting advice well past his eightieth birthday.

Mr. Bennett loved ham radio, and was a long time member of the Tri-Town Amateur Radio Club, where his claim to fame was a 15-foot mobile antenna, located in his backyard to "bounce" radio signals off the moon. He spent many enjoyable weekends traveling to "hamfests" around the Midwest. Other family members were happy to indulge him in his quest for the perfect "transistor." He was devoted to his family and in his later years, enjoyed traveling with his wife to Europe and they accompanied their college friends each year to their beloved University of Illinois Homecoming games. He delighted in watching his grandsons grow up. Richard Bennett and his family were original members of the Parish of St. Lawrence O'Toole, attending mass at the church for over 50 years. A celebration of Richard's life will be held on Wednesday, December 30th, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Kurtz Frankfort Funeral Home, 65 Old Frankfort Way, Frankfort, IL. A funeral mass will be held at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, 4101 St. Lawrence Avenue, Matteson, IL, on Thursday, December 31, 2010, at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his honor may be made to St. Lawrence O'Toole Church or to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, to further research on multiple myeloma and lymphoma.

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# White House Names Ham as New Cybersecurity Coordinator

On Tuesday, December 22, President Barack Obama named Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, as the new White House Cybersecurity Coordinator. According to the White House, Schmidt -- an ARRL member -- is one of the world's leading authorities on computer security, with some 40 years of experience in government, business and law enforcement and "will have regular access to the President and serve as a key member of his National Security Staff. He will also work closely with his economic team to ensure that our cybersecurity efforts keep the Nation secure and prosperous."

Schmidt told the ARRL that he credits Amateur Radio with getting him involved with technology: "In high school, one of my friends was a ham and he got me interested in shortwave radio, which in turn got me into building shortwave radios and equipment, many from Heathkit. As I got older, I took courses from NRI and Bell and Howell in electronics and built a number of projects, preparing me for my first ham radio ticket. I love technology, and it was Amateur Radio that caused me to build my first computer -- a Sinclair ZX-80 to use for EME calculations. I studied all about the OSCAR systems and would build equipment to monitor when they would pass within range of Arizona. Building these computers to support my ham radio hobby gave me the technical skills that I need to not only start doing computer crime investigations and work on the early stages of computer forensics, in turn enabling me to start working on cybersecurity issues."

Schmidt is no stranger to the White House -- he served as a cyber-adviser in President George W. Bush's White House. After the 9/11 attacks, President Bush appointed Schmidt as the Vice Chairman of the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board and as the Special Adviser for Cyberspace Security for the White House. While at the White House, he assisted in the creation of the US National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace, becoming Chairman in January 2003. In May 2003, Schmidt retired from the White House after 31 years of public service in local and federal government.

## Schmidt as a Ham

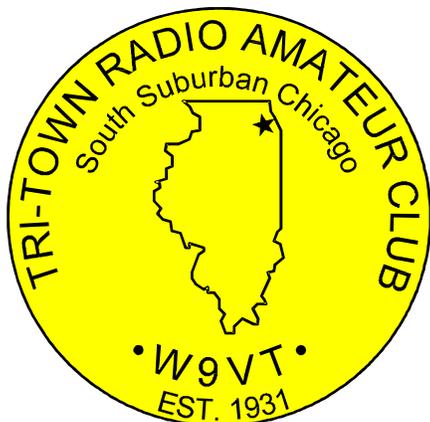
Schmidt has been an Amateur Radio operator for more than 30 years. "I was first licensed in the late 1970s as a Technician class licensee with the call sign WB7NUV," he told the ARRL. "I did a lot on 2 meters, 70 cm and on Packet. The [TAPR](#) group out of Tucson was real inspiration to me as I found the work they were doing absolutely wonderful. I started as a part of the Arizona Repeater Association (ARA) and lived for our annual hamfest at Ft Tuthill in Flagstaff." Back in the 1980s, Schmidt told the ARRL that he tried moonbounce and had "a full shack of RTTY machines -- Teletype Corporation models 15 and 19 and even a model 21. I would spend weekends printing reams of pictures from Ricky, W0CKY, and all of the great TTY pictures he would transmit. I still have my Collins KWM 2A, 312B station console and accessories. While I have not used it for years, it is one of my treasured possessions. Through the years, I had about every type of HF radio made and even have my Collins R-388 and R-390 in a 19 inch rack. I will never forget the day we were able to talk to Southern California on a 2 meter handheld with the repeaters we had from Central Ariz. During the '100 year flood' in Arizona, the community of Rainbow Valley was essentially cut off from the rest of the state to the north when a bridge and power lines were washed away. Using ham radio equipment, we were able to coordinate moving in food, water, medical supplies and generators from the Air Force base I was working at (then Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field) and work with the county sheriff's office to coordinate support."

Schmidt said that as with many other things, his love for Amateur Radio took a back seat to work, family and life in general: "While I got rid of all of my RTTY equipment back in the early 90's, I have continued to follow all of the great advances of ham radio." He said that only just recently, he got back into the hobby after what he called "an administrative error." Someone with a call very similar to mine upgraded to Extra class and when the form was sent to FCC, they mistyped one letter and it was my call that was submitted," he explained. "You can imagine my surprise when I received my Extra class license and new call in the mail. When I tried to find out what happened I was told (wrongly) that I was probably 'grandfathered.' I went out and bought an all band/all mode rig, antennas, power supplies, batteries -- everything I needed to outfit my shack. When all was said and done, we got the error fixed, but by that time, I was hooked on Amateur Radio all over again. I am now in the process of doing a room addition to be my new ham shack! I rejoined ARRL and now have room full of new gear waiting for the remodel to be done. Thanks to what I learned from the many hams on Web sites, I even built in PVC pipes through the walls to run my antennas."

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

January 2010

First Class Mail



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## Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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_____ 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