The Oscillator

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January Club Meeting 1/21/2011

The next Club meeting will have a power point presentation from Dave Hooper, Communications Ad Public Affairs from Argonne National Laboratory.

Tri-Town Officers Elected for 2011

Todd KA9IUC Board Chairman

At the December 2010 meeting elections were held for the 2011 Officers of Tri-Town. Elected were the following: Tom Niemeyer AB9LA President, Matt Schumann N9OTL Vice-president, Jim Everard WD9GXU Secretary, Tricia Jaggard N9WDG Treasurer and Todd Schumann KA9IUC Member of the board. Brian Bedoe WD9HSY and Bruce Haffner WD9GHK continue their terms as Board Members. We thank these individuals for their commitment and efforts for the Club. All members are asked to support these people and the Club.

Dues Are Due!

Todd KA9IUC Board Chairman

Please do not forget to renew your club membership. Necessary form is included with The Oscillator. Your membership dollars are needed to pay fixed coasts such as phone and insurance bills and raffle and refreshment deficits. It seems that we have less members each year so your dollars do count. Dues are payable at any meeting or mail them in. Thanks to all you those who have paid their 2011 dues.

Bunker Equipment Sales Report

Todd KA9IUC Board Chairman

The previously announced Equipment Sale was held at the November meeting. Forty-two items were offered for sale. Only one item, an Icom HM9 HT Speaker/Mike was sold for the asking price of \$15. The items remained on sale for the December meeting for offers. There were on additional sales. The items remain on sale. If you are interested in anything, please see a Club officer.

From The Board Room

Todd KA9IUC Board Chairman

We want to send out a special thanks to Trish and her staff for a job well done on the Christmas Party. The food and decorations were just great and a good time was had by all. A thanks also goes out for the donated raffle prizes. Officers for 2011 have been elected and will be installed at the next meeting. A new chairman of the board will be elected at the board meeting following that installation. 2011 will be the Club's 80th year. We are looking forward to another active year with a strong membership and activities second to none. Please support your Club by participating! I wish you the best in the New Year and 73, Todd KA9IUC Board Chairman

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2010:

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 All UHF's use a 114.8 PL All VHF's use a 107.2 PL

Club Nets

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net - Wed, 8:00 PM Local, 146.490. 10 Mtr SSB Net - Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490. 2 Mtr FM Weather Net - Sundays, 8:00 PM local, on The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL

Trading Post

Items for sale from N8EAT (Jim) 708-361-2657 All antennas in excellent condition: Cushcraft 3 element 10 meter beam\$50.00

SPAR Announces Winter Field Day 2011, Yes! Winter FD!!

Not only during Field Day in June, do the bands come alive with improvised signals proving the ability to respond to emergencies. Since emergencies and natural disasters don't always happen in the summer, during Winter Field Day, frigid winds, icy limbs and bitter cold replace the thunderstorms and blistering heat of summer. In 2007 SPAR established a Winter Field Day event and invited all Amateur Radio operators to participate. The event was repeated in 2008 and was considered a success, so it was then designated an annual event to be held the **last full weekend each January**. In 2007 - 2010 the event was enjoyed by many, but it is time to issue the invitation for the Fifth Annual SPAR Winter Field Day!

The 2011 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 29, 2011 through 1700 UCT (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 30, 2011. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: set up emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.

The official rules can be found at the SPAR web site. The event is open to all amateurs, although we encourage everyone to join in the discussions and other activities sponsored by SPAR. Information about SPAR can be found on the SPAR Home Page. Membership is free and open to all amateurs who want to encourage technical and operating skills. You can register by going to the SPAR Forum and registering, using your amateur callsign as your user name.

Please join with SPAR in promoting amateur radio and keeping our bands alive!

US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI, Tweets News of Chairmanship

When US Representative Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), learned December 16 that he would be chairing the House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet when the 112th Congress convened in January, he let the world know about it by tweeting the news in Morse code. "Just the ham radio operator in me having fun," he posted to his official Web page. The subcommittee has jurisdiction over "interstate and foreign telecommunications including, but not limited to all telecommunication and information transmission by broadcast, radio, wire, microwave, satellite or other mode."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, was pleased to hear the news: "We're delighted that the subcommittee is in the hands of such a well-qualified chairman. Greg was an early cosponsor of <u>HR2160</u>, and while he may not always be able to agree with every ARRL position, we know his door will always be open to us."

FCC Sends License Renewal for K1MAN to Adm. Law Judge

The FCC has issued a Hearing Designation Order to determine, among other things, if the Amateur Radio license of **Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN**, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine, should be renewed. According to the Order, "Baxter has apparently willfully and repeatedly engaged in unlawful Commission-related activities, including causing interference to ongoing communications of other amateur stations, transmitting communications in which he had a pecuniary interest, failing to file requested information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) directive, engaging in broadcasting without communicating with any particular station and failing to exercise control of his station."

Baxter, whose amateur license expired in 2005, filed a timely renewal on July 22, 2005; his license expired on October 17. Because of the timely renewal, Baxter's license remained in effect past the expiration date. The FCC said it "believe[s] that Baxter's apparent continuing course of misconduct raises a substantial and material question of fact as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee."

ARRL Shows BPL Systems Are Interfering, Violating FCC Rules

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio has filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission documenting ongoing harmful interference and egregious rules violations by Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) systems installed by IBEC, Inc. in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. The ARRL has requested that the FCC "initiate immediately an enforcement proceeding regarding these BPL systems, and cause them to cease operation until such time as they are each in full compliance with the Commission's Rules."

Contrary to earlier representations to the ARRL and to statements in the online BPL database, IBEC's systems in these locations are not universally notching the Amateur bands as is necessary in order to avoid emissions at levels that are likely to cause harmful interference to licensed Amateur Radio stations. In fact, measurements by ARRL staff and confirmed independently show that IBEC systems are not even notching the aeronautical bands that the FCC rules require BPL systems to avoid and are operating at power levels that cause radiation well in excess of the FCC limits.

The ARRL even discovered IBEC BPL systems in operation that are not listed in the online BPL database – another clear violation of the FCC rules, which require listing 30 days prior to initiation of service.

"While IBEC was cooperative in the early stages of their BPL system development and appeared to understand what was necessary to avoid harmful interference, it appears that corners have been cut in the course of deployment," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We can only speculate as to the reasons why they have taken this path, but the fact is that IBEC is not playing by the rules and their systems must cease operation until they are brought into compliance."

For months, amateur operator Kevin Ward, K4BDR of Afton, Virginia has experienced harmful interference at his home as well as during mobile operation during his regular commutes to work. The BPL system in his area uses power lines owned by the Central Virginia Electric Cooperative. Complaints to IBEC have been fruitless. Measurements taken in the area of Lovingston and Arrington, Virginia show that the system is operating well in excess of maximum radiated emission limits and without necessary notching. Measurements of radiated emissions from an IBEC system in Martinsville, Indiana using power lines owned by the South Central Indiana Rural Electric Membership Cooperative (SCI REMC) gave similar results.

IBEC systems were observed operating in Somerset, Pennsylvania and Fairfield, Virginia well above permitted radiated emission levels, despite there being no listing in the online BPL database anywhere in the vicinity of these locations.

ARRL General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD observed, "The information supplied to the FCC in support of this complaint amply justifies the modifications of the BPL rules urged by ARRL in ET Docket No. 04-37, including the mandatory, full-time notching of all Amateur Radio allocations by BPL systems, to a notch depth of at least 30 to 35dB." This rulemaking proceeding was reopened by the FCC as a belated response to an April 2008 order by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which ruled in favor of the ARRL in finding that the FCC had failed to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act and had not provided a reasoned justification for some of its decisions in adopting rules for BPL systems.

Other Hobby News

Todd KA9IUC

Most of us have other hobbies or interests other than ham radio. For those who are Fire Buffs, the Fire Museum of Greater Chicago has announced it will be open on regular bases. The museum will be open the last Saturday of each month from 10am to 2pm. It is located at 51st and South Western Avenue in Chicago. Check out their web site: www.firemuseumofgreaterchicago.org

FCC Cites Retailer for Marketing Amateur Radios as CB Radios

In October 2010, an agent from the FCC's Enforcement Office visited Monroe, Michigan-based <u>Doctor Radio's CB Shop</u> to find that the store was selling, among other items, a radio that was described as "an Amateur Radio that could operate on CB frequencies" that was modified to operate above the approved power limits. As such, the FCC issued a <u>Citation</u> to the store on January 4 for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States in violation of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Commission's rules.

The equipment in question includes a Cobra 150 GTL DX. A store employee explained to an FCC agent that the transceiver had been modified to generate 170 W of power. The store employee further explained that the Cobra 150 GTL DX was an Amateur Radio transceiver that could operate on CB frequencies. If legally operated, the 150 GTL DX operates from 28-29.7 MHz; the CB frequencies are 26.965-27.405 MHz. Section 95.655(a) of the FCC rules prohibit radios that can transmit on both the amateur and CB bands. According to the Citation, the Cobra 150 GTL DX "offered for sale at Doctor Radio had both CB and Amateur Radio capability and therefore cannot be sold in the United States."

The FCC advised Doctor Radio's CB Shop that if after receipt of the *Citation*, it violates the Communications Act or the Rules by continuing these sorts of sales, the FCC may impose monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation, and up to \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act. In addition, violations of the Communications Act or the Rules can result in seizure of equipment through in rem forfeiture actions as well as criminal sanctions, including imprisonment.

Doctor Radio's CB Shop has until February 4 to respond to the *Citation*, either through a personal interview at the FCC's Farmington Hills, Michigan office, or via a written statement.

DX0DX, Spratly Islands DXpedition Postponed

Chris VK3FY Team Leader DXØDX

To the DX Community at large – It's with regret that as Team Leader, I have to announce the postponement of the DXØDX Spratly Islands DXpedition 2011, due to circumstances beyond the control of the DXØDX Team.

Our situation began when our original mode of transport by ship was terminally damaged back in late October 2010. We then went to our contingency plan which was to fly in, as there were no ships deemed to be safe and provided facilities for safe passage to Pag-Asa, available.

We had landing permission and booked the correct sized aircraft and with the security cleared pilots. To simplify it, there was conflicting agreements and hence the aircraft could not get approval of its flight plan.

The bottom line is this. We have a licence, we have authority to land via ship, hence when the ship becomes available in the near future, it is my intention to activate this entity in 2011. The team has worked tirelessly to remove the hurdles that were placed before the them in the last minute.

As time was running out for this window of opportunity, and before more operators become stuck here in Palawan, the decision was made to postpone the activation. A call was placed to PARA advising them that a postponement of the activation would be sought to a date in the near future, where the activation will look at again taking place.

All equipment will need to be exported out of Philippines to comply with current Philippine Customs Law in which it was brought into the country. The plan is to be re-assessed so the current operators have the first opportunity to be on this future trip. Once more information is at hand, I will advise the DX Community.

General Motors Turns to Ham Radio to Solve Antenna Problem

When General Motors -- the world's second largest auto maker -- encountered a problem with the AM/FM antenna on its 2011 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, it was at a loss as to what to do. Spy photographs showed a pre-production version of the car with a long whip-style antenna on its rear fender. After what GM called "an outcry among Camaro enthusiasts," the company decided to rethink the antenna. But how?

On hardtop Camaros, the antenna is integrated into the rear windshield, but given the disappearing nature of this car's roof, that wasn't possible on the convertible. So GM turned to two antenna engineers -- Don Hibbard, W8DBH, and Gregg Kittinger -- who were tasked with doing what some thought was impossible: concealing the AM/FM antenna without sacrificing radio reception, while not putting it inside the Camaro's windows.

Hibbard and Kittinger managed to find a way to bury the AM/FM antenna inside the svelte spoiler perched on the car's rear deck lid. All that is visible is a shark fin antenna (used for satellite radio, OnStar and cellular signals), while the separate whip antenna -- built into the spoiler -- is used to receive AM and FM radio signals. He and Kittinger knew they had to find a way to preserve the vertical polarization of an AM/FM antenna, so they tried a few possibilities before coming up with the idea of placing the half-wavelength horizontal antenna in the spoiler. According to GM, this is a first.

A ham since 1977, Hibbard -- the holder of an Advanced class license -- is a self-described antenna nut, crediting his Amateur Radio background as a precursor for his love for antennas. He was first licensed when he attended Lansing Community College where he was studying electrical engineering. "One of my professors asked us in class if we would be interested in getting licensed," he told the ARRL. "We already knew the technical stuff from our college courses, but we settled in to learn Morse code, the FCC regulations and everything else you needed to know to become a ham."

The spoiler AM/FM antenna is an active antenna module that does all its impedance matching and amplification before sending back to the receiver. But when asked about the possibility of an amateur antenna in the spoiler, Hibbard just chuckled. "This antenna just receives, it doesn't transmit," he told the ARRL. "We can get away with a receive-only antenna in the spoiler. I'm not so sure about a ham antenna."

Hibbard said that the unorthodox placement of the antenna within the body of the vehicle created a number of technical challenges, such as balancing form by preserving the car's styling and maintaining unimpeded audio reception. "Where other automakers have tried and failed, Chevy succeeded," said Hibbard. "We hope to take what we've learned with the Camaro convertible, build on it and apply it to future vehicles."

For more information on the spoiler antenna, check out this <u>video</u> of Hibbard and Kittinger. The 2011 Chevrolet Camaro goes on the market in February 2011.

Hamfests within 200 miles!!

1/16/2011 Hazel Park ARC Hamfest 1/23/2011 Wheaton Winter Hamfest 1/29/2011 St. Louis & Sub. ARC	Hazel Park, MI St. Charles, IL Collinsville, IL	Website: http://www.hparc.org Website: http://www.w9ccu.org Website: http://slsrc.org
2/12/2011 Cherryland ARC Swap 2/12/2011 Capital City Hamfest - 2/20/2011 Livonia ARC,	Traverse, MI Madison, WI Livonia, MI	Website: http://cherrylandarc.com Website: http://www.wd8das.net/hamfest Website: http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm
3/05/2011 Dugger ARC Hamfest, 3/06/2011 Sterling-Rock Falls, 3/12/2011 Annual Equipment Auction 3/12/2011 Terre Haute Hamfest 3/19/2011 Crossroads Hamfest 3/20/2011 Hamfest 2011 3/26/2011 Columbus Hamfest	Dugger, IN Sterling, IL Eau Claire, WI Terre Haute, IN Marshall , MI Jefferson, WI Columbus, IN	Website: http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html Website: http://www.sterlinghamfest.com Website: http://www.ECARC.org Website: http://www.w9uuu.org Website: http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html Website: http://w9mqb.org/ Website: http://www.qsl.net/carc

Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, reports: The average daily sunspot numbers were up nearly 24 points this week to 50, while the average daily solar flux rose more than 9 points to 89.5. The lagging three month average of daily sunspot numbers was down 3.5 points from last month's average of the previous three months. The three month moving average of daily sunspot numbers --ending on June through December -- was 16.2, 20.4, 23.2, 28.9, 33, 35.6 and 32.1. The latest forecast from NOAA/USAF for the next 10 days has a solar flux of 88 on January 6-7, 86 on January 8-9, 84 on January 10, 82 on January 11 and 80 on January 12-15. Planetary A index is predicted at 7 on January 6-7, 10 on January 8-10, 7 on January 11 and 5 on January 12-15.

There is a chance of a stiff solar wind and geomagnetic storms on January 7-8. Yekta Gursel, KJ6DRO, alerted us to an article in the February 2011 issue of *Sky & Telescope* titled "The Perfect Solar Superstorm." You can read most of it here; click on "Preview" if you are not a subscriber. Your local library may also provide online access to the magazine. The article begins on page 28. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, January 7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Amy Lowell's A Winter Ride.

ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Announces New Rate Structure

Effective January 17, 2011, a new pricing structure will go into effect for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. With the new rate structure, amateurs will no longer need to count outgoing cards and then guess as to what to pay based upon a half-pound rate; a simple weighing of the cards is all that is necessary to determine what amount to send to the Bureau. This new structure also accommodates a small rate increase in response to recent postage, shipping and handling costs. The last rate revision for the Outgoing QSL Service was in January 2007. Even though international shipping costs have remained flat over the last 4 years, domestic shipping costs have risen more than 16 percent since 2007, while material and handling costs continue to climb 1 to 2 percent each year. The new rate will be:

- * \$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.
- * \$3 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or
- * 75 cents per ounce, for packages with 21 or more cards. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds -- 24 ounces, or about 225 cards -- of cards will cost \$18.

If you have any questions concerning the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service or the rates to use the service, please send them via e-mail to buro@arrl.org.

150th Anniversary of US Transcontinental Telegraph Lines

from W9GB, Greg ELMHURST, IL

On June 16, 1860, about ten weeks after the Pony Express began operations, the United States Congress authorized a bill instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to subsidize the building of a transcontinental telegraph line to connect the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast.

The passage of this US Congressional bill resulted in the incorporation of the Overland Telegraph Company of California and the Pacific Telegraph Company of Nebraska. On July 4, 1861, Edward Creighton began building the Nebraska company's line westward from Julesburg, Colorado, toward Salt Lake City. Twelve hundred miles to the west on the same day at Fort Churchill in Nevada, James Gamble set the first pole in the Overland Telegraph Company's line.

On October 20, 1861, Edward Creighton won the race to Salt Lake City. Four days later James Gamble's crew arrived. On October 26 the wires were joined, and San Francisco was in direct contact with New York City -- completing the US transcontinental telegraph line. On that same day, the Pony Express was officially terminated, but it was not until November that the last letters completed their journey over the route.

ALLEGED HONEYBEE SHOOTER WAS A HAM

From WB9QZB, Chicago Tribune OnLine, Morris Daily Herald, CNN, other sources

The ham believed to be the so called possible 'honeybee' shooter is dead. Gary Amaya, 48, KC9AWD, was shot with his own gun while apparently trying to rob an Orland Park, Illinois, tanning salon on Saturday, December 11th.

Last October, three men were shot, one fatally, near the Illinois-Indiana border. The shootings appeared entirely random. One victim, a farmer, had a conversation with the shooter about honeybees before he was shot, earning the killer his nickname of the honeybee shooter.

Two months later, Gary Amaya was allegedly robbing an L.A. Tan location at gunpoint when a customer, Jason McDaniel, came through the door. McDaniel disarmed Amaya, and ultimately shot him twice, killing him.

Shortly after Amaya was killed, police released survailence video. The tape shows Amaya, clad in black, having bound the attendant behind the counter. McDaniel enters the store, and is brought behind the counter. At one point, Amaya, having set the gun down, bends over, and McDaniel seizes his opportunity, rushing forward to strike Amaya and grab the gun. The two men then move into a hallway just out of the frame, where apparently Amaya lunges at McDaniel. A shot goes off in the ensuing struggle, Amaya appears dazed but still a threat. Then McDaniel shoots him in the stomach.

According to an unnamed family friend, Amaya showed no earlier signs of violence. But something apparently changed in the man from tiny downstate Rankin, Illinois this past summer after helost his job at a Milford trucking company. By October, when the "honeybee" shootings started, Amaya had cut off ties with even his closest friends.

Aim High in the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

VHF operators will be on the bands in force the weekend of January 22-24 as the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes hits the airwaves. This contest gives the VHFer in all of us a chance to do some contesting during the winter months.

According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said that getting on the VHF bands is easy. Technician class licensees have permission to use all amateur bands above 50 MHZ and the antennas for VHF frequencies are smaller than their HF counterparts. A dipole for 6 meters is less than 10 feet long and most modern transceivers come with 50 MHz built-in. So why not string up a dipole for 6 meters and see what you can work?

While most contest QSOs will be made using SSB and CW, Kutzko advised amateurs to remember FM simplex: "Numerous stations enjoy 2 meter FM simplex QSOs, especially if you live near a large population center. Just be sure to keep the national 2 meter calling frequency of 146.52 MHz clear of contest activity. Don't neglect the higher bands, since 222 MHz, 432 MHz and 1.2 GHz and up will see activity this weekend, too."

The 2011 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes runs from 1900 UTC Saturday, January 22 through 0359 UTC Monday, January 24. Participants can submit their Cabrillo-formatted logs via e-mail. Paper logs may be sent to ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 0359 UTC Thursday, February 24, 2011.

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

January 2011

First Class Mail



Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name		Call				
Address			License Class _		ARRL Member Y / N	
City, State			_ Zip	Phone		
Email Address:			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Regular Membership SWL Membership	\$ \$	20.00				
Extra Family Membership Bunker Buddie	\$ \$	6.00 5.00				
Auto Patch w/1 Speed Slot Extra Speed Slots	\$ \$	25.00 5.00				
		\$	Total Paid by Club	Member		

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