

# The Oscillator

---

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430  
Volume 67 Number 1 January 2020 Club Call W9VT

---

## Up-Coming Events

### January Meeting & Program: The Queen Mary & W6RO (DVD)

Friday, January 24, 2020, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Municipal Building, 3000 W 170th Place in Hazel Crest. The first meeting of the year will include the introduction of the newly elected Officers. Raffle and refreshments will be available.

### February Business Meeting

Friday, February 28, 2020, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Municipal Building, 3000 W 170th Place in Hazel Crest. Raffle and refreshments will be available. Program TBD. Bring a friend.

### From The President's Desk

From Todd, KA9IUC

It was a nice year to be away from Club leadership but now its back to work. I look forward to working with my fellow officers, board members and club members in the coming year. The club needs all of our work to make it a successful year. Club activities such as Driving the Dixie, Field Day, social nights at the club station and other Special Events seem to work themselves out with good results. The one problem area, that I see, is our monthly meetings, Mainly attendance and programs. We all must work to make these areas a success. We need ideas and leads on programs. My other big hope is that membership numbers stay level and even grow.

### Don't Forget the NEW Meeting Location (about 100' West!!)

This year we will be in a new meeting room. The new room is still in the same building were we have been meeting for years but will be in the far West end of the building, the opposite end from where we have been meeting and where the Police Department is located. The room is known as the Senior's Room. That seems appropriate somehow. We will enter thru the double doors.

**Membership Renewals for 2020 are Due!**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>**

**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

## **Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2020**

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
John Krueger, N9DWE	Vice President	708.534.2686	johnk17856@aol.com
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer, COB	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	jimgxu15@outlook.com
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708 341.8900	wa9cyl@comcast.net
Pete Schaper KE9YX	Board Member	708 481-4273	p.k.schaper@sbcglobal.net
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@comcast.net
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466.0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee Oscillator Editor	815.370.1383	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, QRZ.COM, Eham, and Other Amateur Radio Publications.

### **Club Meetings & Nets**

Club meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month 7:30 pm at the Village of Hazel Crest Village Hall, 170th and Holmes. All are welcome and refreshments will serve. Don't forget to bring a Friend.

### **Club Hangouts:**

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

### **Club Nets**

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

### **WCRA 2020 Mid-Winter Hamfest**

January 19, 2020, 8AM to 1PM  
Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center  
525 S. Randall Road, St Charles, IL

**General meeting 4 th Friday of the Month 7:30 PM**  
**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>**  
**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

## **2020 Tri-Town Election Results**

Since no one came forward to serve as Election Chairman, the Club Officers, Board Members, and selected members, engaged in Boiler Room politics to develop a slate of officers for 2020. The slate was as follows:

### Officers

- President - Todd Schumann, KA9IUC
- Vice-President - John Krueger, N9DWE
- Secretary - Jim Everhard, WD9GXU
- Treasurer - Trish Jaggard, N9WDG

### Board Members

- Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK to replace John Kruger and serve the last two years of John's term. Bruce will continue to serve as trustee of W9VT.
- Peter Schaper, KE9YX to replace Sharon Gunderson and start a new three year term.
- Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL to complete the third year of his three year term.

At the December Meeting/Christmas Party there were no additional nominations from the floor for any position. There was motion, a second and vote for the slate as presented.. That motion passed. A vote was then taken to elect the slate into office and that also passed. Congratulations to the Officers and Board Members for 2020.

The Club thanks out going officers Sharon Gunderson and Matt Schumann for their years of service.

## **New Tri-Town Meeting Location**

Last year we had to get used to meetings being on the fourth Friday of the month. This year we will be in a new meeting room. The new room is still in the same building were we have been meeting for years but will be in the far West end of the building, the opposite end from where we have been meeting and where the Police Department is located. The room is known as the Senior's Room. That seems appropriate somehow. We will enter thru the double doors.

This move is necessary as the Village of Hazel Crest has moved its offices to a new location on 183rd Street. The Police department will remain where it currently is and expand into our old meeting area after remodeling. We have been meeting in this location since September 1984 due to the good graces of the Village.

## **2020 Christmas Party is a Rap**

Tri-Town's 2020 Christmas Party was held December 13 at Aurelio's Pizzeria in Frankfort. About twenty-four members and guests attended. A buffet dinner was served and included salad, multiple entrees, pizza and deserts. There was one piece of Club business conducted and that was the election of officers for 2020. There were drawings for door prizes and a whole lot of socializing.



## Trading Post

Kenwood TS-450 with Automatic Antenna Tuner \$500

Kenwood TS-590 with Automatic Antenna Tuner \$600

Kenwood Speaker goes to the 1<sup>st</sup> radio Sold --- Call Ron

73, Ron WB9JYZ Call - 708.957.3625 wb9jyz@comcast.net

# Puerto Rico Volunteers Deployed to Red Cross, ARRL Sending Equipment

Puerto Rico Section Manager Oscar Resto, KP4RF, reports that several Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers have been deployed to earthquake-ravaged regions of the island at the request of the American Red Cross. Initial operations got under way in the town of Yauco, where the Red Cross has a central warehouse for the earthquake relief effort. Operations are on VHF and UHF, although commercial telecommunication services remain in operation for the most part. A station has also been activated at the Red Cross Headquarters in the capital of San Juan, which is not in the earthquake zone. Aftershocks continue on the island. A magnitude 5.9 tremor struck over the weekend.

“The stations are operating as a backbone, in case a new or stronger earthquake hits the region,” Resto explained. “HF equipment is stored in Pelican Cases for protection from a larger catastrophic event, if communications fail.” Power has been re-established over more than 90% of Puerto Rico, and water service is operational in most places, Resto added.

ARRL is shipping six VHF/UHF base/repeater antennas and six 50-foot rolls of LMR-400 coax, through the **Ham Aid Fund**.

Since January 12, the ARES Zone 5 amateur radio volunteers have been handling health-and-welfare traffic from the earthquake zone, reports Yauco ARES District Emergency Coordinator Heriberto Perez, WP4ZZ, who said internet service has been slow. He said the Red Cross has been providing food and drinks for the volunteers. Operations are running from 9 AM until 5 PM each day.

“Today was a bit of a rough day,” Perez said on Saturday. “Many quakes during the day. It feels like you’re in a simulator.” He said the three-person team is using UHF for direct contact with San Juan, with a backup support frequency on VHF, and communication has been solid.

“During the course of the day, we began to handle health-and-welfare traffic from nearby victims,” he said. “We are now reaching out to affected communities asking for tents for the community [as well as] diapers or medicine, and many other requests. We also initiated food collection in our community.”

Resto said over the weekend that he’d been told that the Red Cross was relocating the disaster relief operation to Mayagüez, which is a much closer site to the initial impact area, and ARES will provide communication support at the new site.

“A personal comment,” Resto added. “[It] is very difficult to sleep with so many earthquakes — more than 3,000 from December 28 — shaking your house. I hope that my house survives these intense seismic events.”

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck the southwestern part of Puerto Rico on January 7, fast on the heels of a magnitude 5.8 tremor the day before. The worst-impacted cities were Guayanilla, Peñuelas, Yauco, and Guánica, where, Resto said, engineers have determined that 80% of the houses in the earthquake’s impact zone are uninhabitable.

Resto told ARRL last week that the earthquake disaster has definitely been a setback for the US territory as it continues its long recovery from severe hurricane damage in 2017.



# Earthquakes Compromised Power Generation Capacity, Puerto Rico Section Manager Says

ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager Oscar Resto, KP4RF, says small tremors continue on the island in the wake of the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck the southwestern part of the island on January 7. A magnitude 5.8 quake struck a day earlier. The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) reported widespread power outages after generating plants automatically activated protective shutdown systems following the earthquake. Resto told ARRL this week that considerable generating capacity was lost to earthquake damage, and that it will take at least several days before replacement units can be brought back on line. Only about 20% of the island has electric power at this point, he estimated on January 8.

“We have a shortage of about 1,100 megawatts of power,” Resto told ARRL. “We normally need about 2,000 megawatts for the island.”

Resto cited the largely operational telecommunications network as the reason why no Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) activations have been necessary. “We have cellphones all over the island working,” he said. Resto told ARRL that he’s been working up a list of ready and resilient amateur radio volunteers who would be able to muster if needed to assist the American Red Cross, with which Puerto Rico ARES has a memorandum of understanding.

“We are in continuous communication with the ARC in case we’re needed,” he said. Resto stressed that he wants to avoid situations where volunteers activate only to be told they’re not needed.

Puerto Rico Section Public Information Officer Angel Santana, WP3GW, told ARRL that VHF and UHF repeaters with emergency power have carried reports of power and water outages, continuing aftershocks, and other information on an informal basis. Bottled water and canned food have been in high demand, he said. Santana said the PREMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated.

Earlier this week, Resto called the situation “scary, with houses, schools, and roads collapsing.” At least one death has resulted from the earthquake. He said the earthquake disaster has definitely been a setback for the US territory as it continues its long recovery from severe hurricane damage in 2017. But, he added, the restored telecommunications infrastructure is more robust, to minimize damage in future disasters.

## Swains Island W8S DXpedition Set for March 10 – 25

An international team of 10 operators will be active as **W8S** from Swains Island from March 10 to March 25. The DXpedition team will be active on all HF bands on CW, SSB, FT8, and RTTY.

Operation will be from two separate camps on the island — a Red Camp and a Blue Camp — each with two stations. The four stations will be on the air 24/7. The station equipment complements are identical. Two stations will be dedicated for 160 and 80 meters. A WiFi network will link the Red and Blue camps to network all logging laptops. Hans Griessl, DL6JGN, and Ronald Stuy, PA3EWP, are co-leaders.

Swains Island (Olohega) is an atoll in the Tokelau chain. Swains is a US territory and considered part of American Samoa. Swains Island is the 34th most-wanted DXCC entity, according to **Club Log**.

## The K7RA Solar Update

A single new Cycle 25 sunspot appeared over the past week, January 1 through January 8. NOAA did not record or number the new spot until January 2, but Spaceweather.com indicated it (sunspot region 2755) began on January 1.

Then another new Cycle 25 spot emerged on Thursday, January 9, with a daily sunspot number of 14. I was excited to see Spaceweather.com post “Solar Cycle 25 Continues to Intensify.”

Average daily sunspot number rose from 3.1 to 8.4. The solar flux average rose insignificantly from 71.7 to 71.8. Geomagnetic indicators were slightly higher, with average planetary A index increasing from 3.1 to 6.3, and average middle latitude A index rising from 2 to 5.3.

Predicted solar flux for the next 45 days is 74 on January 10-12, 72 on January 13-25, 70 on January 26 through February 7, and 72 on February 8-22 and 70 on February 23.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on January 10, 5 on January 11-12, 8 on January 13, 10 on January 14-15, 8 on January 16, 5 on January 17-31, then 8, 8 and 5 on February 1-3, 10 on February 4-6, 5 on February 7-9, 10 on February 10-11, 5 on February 12-22 and 8 on February 23.

Geomagnetic activity forecast for the period January 10 until February 5, 2020 from OK1HH.

Geomagnetic field will be

Quiet on January 12-13, 18-19, 29-30

Quiet to unsettled on January 10-11, 20-21, 24-28, February 5

Quiet to active on (January 14, 16-17, 22-23, 31, February 1-4)

Unsettled to active on (January 15)

Solar wind will intensify on January 14-16, (17, 22-24,) February 4-6

Parenthesis means lower probability of activity enhancement.

## Norway Experiences Unexpected Ground Current Shockwave

**Spaceweather.com** reports that on January 6, unexpected electrical currents were detected in the soil of northern Norway starting at around 1930 UTC.

“It seemed to be some kind of shockwave,” said Rob Stammes, who monitors ground currents at the **Polarlightcenter** geophysical observatory in Lofoten. “My instruments detected a sudden, strong variation in both ground currents and our local magnetic field. It really was a surprise.”

NASA’s ACE spacecraft detected something as well. About 15 minutes before the disturbance in Norway, the near-Earth interplanetary magnetic field abruptly swung around 180 degrees, and the solar wind density jumped more than five-fold. According to Spaceweather.com, Earth may have crossed through a fold in the **heliospheric current sheet**, described as “a giant, wavy membrane of electrical current rippling through the solar system.” Such crossings can cause these kind of effects, the Spaceweather.com report said.

The ground currents were accompanied by spectacular displays of aurora borealis visible in Finland.  
— *Thanks to Spaceweather.com*

## ARRL DX Advisory Committee receives Comment on Award Criteria, DXCC Annual List

The ARRL DX Advisory Committee (**DXAC**) is seeking feedback from members on two items as soon as possible. Email comments to your **DXAC representative** (list is also linked from the DXAC page).

The first issue involves the question of revising 5-Band DXCC (5BDXCC) requirement to accept contacts on any five band as opposed to the existing requirement of 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. The DXAC wants to know if this opinion appears to be widely shared, whether it's motivated by the current ebb in the solar cycle, whether it devalues the award, and if it goes against the original intent of the 5BDXCC award. Comments should include "5BDXCC" in the subject line.

The second issue seeks consensus on the removal of silent keys from the *DXCC Annual List*, which records individuals who have made at least one application in the past year. Ed. Note comment period has ended.

## South Orkney Islands DXpedition will Use VP8PJ

The Perseverance DX Group's **DXpedition to South Orkney**, set for February 20 until March 5, will use the call sign VP8PJ. The group initially announced that it would use VP8/VP8DXU.

"Alan Armstrong, VK6CQ, a recent addition to the team, holds the call sign VP8PJ that was issued to him for operation from the British Antarctic Territory," the DXpedition has announced. "After submission of a copy of Alan's license, ARRL has issued us a new LoTW certificate for the use of this call from South Orkney for the duration of our expedition." . INFO FROM The DXpedition via email.

## New England Radio Amateur Hosts Video on Tower Safety

Jim Idelson, K1IR, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, recently provided a club meeting program on ham radio tower safety for the Billerica Amateur Radio Society (BARS). Kayla Creamer, W2IRY, recorded and edited the presentation and **made it available online**. It runs approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IW\\_oRMzACQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IW_oRMzACQ&feature=youtu.be)

In his presentation, Idelson said an estimated 38,000 amateur radio towers are standing in the US, with 24 hours of climbing time per tower each year. He noted that two tower-climbing fatalities have occurred in the past year, with a calculated fatality rate that's twice that of commercial tower workers. In more than half of amateur tower incidents, the climber fell while tied into the tower, while another 37% involved falls. Idelson advised radio amateurs to plan, identify, and mitigate risks in advance of a climb, to focus and be patient, and not to get distracted.

"Risks of tower work are far too high," Idelson told his audience. "Success depends on creating a culture that values safety."



# Australian Bushfires Causing Major Telecom Outages, Hams Asked to Remain Alert

Wireless Institute of Australia (**WIA**) President Greg Kelly, VK2GPK, says the bushfires in Australia have caused or are expected to cause significant disruption of telecommunication services in the states of Victoria and New South Wales.

"The scope and range of these impacts is unknown at this stage but are predicted to cover all internet and phone (fixed and mobile) and other commercial radio services," Kelley said. Radio amateurs are supporting relief operations and communication.

WICEN (Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network) in New South Wales reports it has been active assisting in a number of multi-agency activities during the bushfire emergency, in its role as a support squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA) operations center in Bega. WICEN teams in NSW and in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) have sent a team to Bega, to help re-establish radio communication services, disrupted by fire activity.

WICEN and other VRA squads continue to support the Rural Fire Service (RFS) at various Fire Control Centers and the Bushfire Information Line. Other WICEN members remain active with the RFS and the State Emergency Service.

Kelley has asked radio amateurs in International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 to monitor the emergency communications frequencies, per the IARU Region 3 band plan, whenever possible, as well as repeaters. "Amateurs seeking to establish emergency communication should use these EMCOMM frequencies in the first instance, or repeaters if available," he said in a statement posted on the IARU Region 3 website.

"Radio amateurs who are volunteers for [WICEN and other emergency communication organizations] should keep themselves updated," Kelley advised. "Emergency communication is one of the main reasons radio amateurs have access to RF spectrum. Please assist if and when you can."

The IARU Region 3 emergency "center of activity" frequencies are 3.600, 7.110, 14.300, 18.160, and 21.360 MHz. These are not net frequencies, but they are recommended as starting points for emergency traffic, and activity may extend 5 kHz above or below the designated center frequency.

South of NSW in the state of Victoria, WICEN VIC reports that the amateur repeater network is largely off the air, possibly due to a lack of power. "Some sites may have been directly affected by fire," WICEN VIC reported on January 4.

"It could be some weeks until the sites can be reached for inspection. The Mt Taylor UHF repeater, which is currently linked to the Carrajung UHF repeater, is still operational, although Mt Taylor has been under direct threat a few times, and currently has an 'Evacuate Now' warning to the area immediately north."

## New 60 MHz Beacon Now on the Air from Ireland

The first — and so far only — beacon on 60 MHz went on the air on December 16. The call sign is EI1KNH. In early 2018, the 60 MHz (5-meter) band was allocated to radio amateurs in Ireland on a secondary, non-interference basis. The beacon is on 60.013 MHz and runs 25 W into a vertical folded dipole. The new 5-meter beacon is sharing a site already occupied by EI0SIX on 6 meters, and EI4RF on 4 meters, about 12 miles south of Dublin in IO63VE. An 8-meter beacon is scheduled to be on the air in the next few months. It will operate on 40.013 MHz.

## Winter Field Day & the WFD Association (from the Website)

Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators who believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns.

We believe as do those entities of ARRL Organizations like ARES & RACES that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios. The addition of Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations. This is why WFD is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide.

Disasters are unpredictable by nature and can strike when you least expect them. WFDA's goal is to help enhance your skills and ready you for all environmental conditions found in the US and Canada during the spring, summer, fall and winter Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event and this is what local and state authorities are expecting when they reach out to the emergency service groups that offer their services.

If you are serious about emergency communications as we are; we welcome you to join us for our yearly event. We are sure you will find this event a pleasant change and challenge to that of a normal summer time field day.

## W1AW to be on the Air for Winter Field Day (1/25-26/2020)

Members of the Warren County (New York) Amateur Radio Club (**W2WCR**) will activate Maxim Memorial Station W1AW for Winter Field Day 2020 over the January 25 – 26 weekend. Winter Field Day is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA), which believes that emergency communication is important throughout the year. Winter Field Day is open to radio amateurs worldwide.

The WFDA's goal is to help enhance operating skills and to prepare participants for all environmental conditions. Winter Field Day runs for 24 hours. Station set-up may start no earlier than 1900 UTC on the day before the event and may not take any longer than 12 hours in total. Expect activity on all amateur bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. All modes that can handle the required exchange are welcome; this does not include FT8. Entry categories include indoor, outdoor, and home.

**Full details** are on the Winter Field Day website. <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

## Radio Amateurs of Canada Announces a New Section

The number of Sections needed for a clean sweep in the ARRL November Sweepstakes (SS) will rise to 84 in 2020, with the addition of a new Prince Edward Island (PE) Section. Radio Amateurs of Canada (**RAC**) announced this week that the new Section will become effective on April 1.

RAC said its Prince Edward Island members have been working for some time to create a separate Section for RAC ARES activities there. The provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will continue to be in the Maritimes (MAR) Section. In addition to Field Day and Sweepstakes, the new Section in Canada will affect the ARRL 160-Meter Contest but *not* the ARRL 10-Meter Contest, which uses states/provinces for US and Canadian multipliers.

# Winter Field Day is Just Ahead

Field Day is not just for summertime anymore. Winter Field Day, sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (**WFDA**), will take place over the January 28-29 weekend, and it can be a terrific time to prep for ARRL Field Day in June. The annual event's stated purpose is to encourage emergency operating preparedness in the winter, but it's also an excuse to get out of the house and enjoy the great outdoors. According to the WFDA, getting ready for emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that take place each June during ARRL Field Day, and — let's face it — it's not cold and snowy everywhere during the winter months. Your local climate could be quite the opposite.

"Don't let those winter doldrums keep you locked up in the house," the WFDA says. "Get out and play some radio!" The WFDA said it believes that maintaining operating skills should not be limited to fair-weather scenarios.

The event, which got its start in 2007, is not restricted to North America. All Amateur Radio operators around the world are invited to participate, and there are three entry categories — indoor, outdoor, and home. The **rules** are similar to those for ARRL Field Day. Operation will take place on all HF bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters, as well as on VHF, UHF, and satellite. The event runs 24 hours. US and Canadian stations exchange call sign, operating category, and ARRL or RAC section.

The WFDA encourages both group and solo operation, and if you're not up for an outdoor winter adventure involving Amateur Radio, you can operate from the comfort of your shack. As the WFDA says on its **Facebook page**, "The object is winter fun!" <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

## NO FT8 in Winter FD – Here is why! (from the rules page)

FT8 Notes: WFD has always had an Ecomm emphasis, even back when SPAR sponsored it.. We waited for FT8 2.0, hoping it would be more flexible as we were told it would be, but were disappointed that the new release would NOT do the WFD Exchange as it currently stands. That alone rules out using FT8 for WFD. Also, its ability to carry any emergency message is near nil... try sending "SOS - HMS TITANIC - HIT ICE - SINKING - 82.566N 34.713W". Almost any other mode can send that (or the WFD Exchange). Getting a message through bad conditions is great.. but getting only a grid square and a signal report is hardly a message of value to Ecomms. When FT8 can do the WFD exchange verbatim, as written in the rules, it'll become part of WFD. That has been the consensus of the WFDA board for some time...

We are not anti-FT8. The ARRL did not change any rules in its contests to allow FT8... FT8 developers changed what it could send to fit a few ARRL contest exchanges.

PS... There are a few folks talking about using JS8Call... you might want to try that. It works similarly to FT8, but is far more robust in what it can send and receive.

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

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

# Yahoo Groups Shutdown has Ham Radio Interest Groups Seeking to Save Content

Yahoo Groups, which has hosted a considerable number of ham radio interest groups over the years, is **shutting down**. All previously posted content on the site became unavailable in mid-December, but Yahoo is processing requests to download content until January 31, 2020. Yahoo also has provided group administrators (“admins”) a way to **export data** ahead of that deadline. Groups will continue to live on in some limited fashion, but all groups will become private, and nearly all of the functionality that made them popular in the first place will disappear.

Around since 2001, Yahoo Groups, now owned by Verizon, has provided online repositories of communications and information on a wide variety of specialized subjects and activities, including Amateur Radio. Yahoo Groups for nearly every radio have been established, where owners could exchange information and ask questions. Other groups on the Yahoo platform offered a watering hole for those interested in a particular ham radio activity as well as for those who want to buy and sell gear and components. Some clubs and ham radio logging software users have taken advantage of Yahoo Groups.

New platforms such as Groups.io, Facebook, and Google are looking to assume the role that Yahoo Groups is stepping away from. Groups.io charges fees to migrate content onto its platform, however, and Facebook and Google lack the ability to import content at all. With Groups.io as the most likely successor platform, many admins have assumed the migration expense and relocated group content so it would not be lost. Not all groups have been as fortunate, however, putting them into the position of starting from scratch and losing years of conversations, files, polls, and data.

Web application developer Andy Majot, K5QO, of Sellersburg, Indiana, took the initiative to download archives of Yahoo Groups devoted to individual ham radio gear and **uploaded them** to his personal website.

“I hope to have them hosted in perpetuity for future hams to use,” Majot told ARRL. “It should be noted that I backed up groups regardless of whether they are living on in other platforms; I wanted to snapshot the groups as they were on Yahoo prior to their deletion.” Majot noted that several of the groups he has archived have already migrated their content to Groups.io, but many more have not.

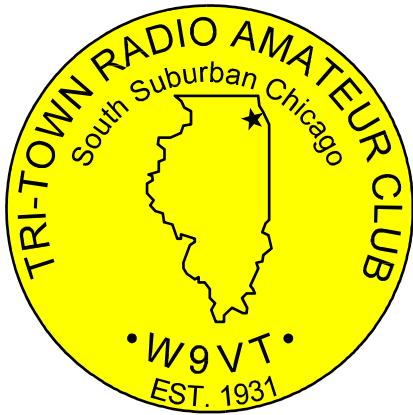
Majot said an organization called **Archive Team** is helping to save as many Yahoo Groups as possible and has been backing these up since the closure announcement in October, but, Majot said, progress has nearly halted since Yahoo cut off access to many group features in mid-December.

Majot invited those seeking to relocate Yahoo Groups archives to **contact him**. “I would be happy to host these files, alongside my other archives,” he said. — *Thanks to Andy Majot, K5QO*

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

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

**January 2020**



## **Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application 2020**

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

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

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

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid by Club Member

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

**Membership Renewals for 2020 are Due!**

**General meeting 4 th Friday of the Month 7:30 PM**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>**

**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**