

# The Oscillator

---

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430  
Volume 53 Number 4 July 2007 Club Call W9VT

---

## Up Coming Programs

**No July Meeting!! Why? Club Picnic at Tom's, W9SRV  
See Related Article**

**August 17<sup>th</sup> Field Trip!  
National Weather Service, Romeoville More to Come!**

## From the President's Desk, July 2007

By Jerry K9PMV

Summer of 2007 finds Tri-Town Radio Amateur club busy with all sorts of fun activities. Else where in this issue, I have written detailed accounts of Drivin' the Dixie and Field Day. Needless to say, all who participated had fun. With this column, we welcome new member **Ron WB9JYZ** of Homewood and also the return of **Pete KE9YX** to the membership.

**Jon KB9QCQ** has precipitated a major publicity event for the club. Through his contacts at Russell Publications, namely reporter **Kathy Tierney**, Tri-Town got a lot of publicity. Ham Radio articles appeared in the *Neighbors* section of the June 21<sup>st</sup> edition of local papers in northern Kankakee and southern Will county communities. She wrote no less than 3 articles. The front-page article covers Tri-Town's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Field Day, how the club got its start and the Gunderson family connections. Inside, on page 6, is a story that describes a brief history of ham radio. Kathy attended our April 2007 Sky Warn presentation given by **Bill Wilson KB9ZXN**. So, from that session, she wrote an exclusive full-page story about ham radio and the sky warn program. Folks, this is a lot of copy! I'm getting comments from friends outside the Amateur Radio community about seeing my picture in the paper. This is great for Amateur Radio and Tri-Town RAC. Thanks Jon for selflessly stepping up to help the club get such great PR.

Go to <http://russell-publications.com/neighbors/20070621/Neighbors%206-21.gif> to see the front page on the internet. Click on the lower right corner of the page to enlarge the article.

I think that due to HF band conditions, our Field Day score was lower that last year. However, there were many new faces participating in the event and a corresponding increase in enthusiasm for operating at the bunker. Our tri-band beam seems to finally be working properly and now there is an effort being made to get it higher above ground. The networked contest logging software, generously donated by Jim NV9X makes keeping track of things a lot easier. Our younger, computer savvy operators quickly took to the text-messaging feature of the N3FJP log program. That is all for my report this issue. Stay tuned to the nets, repeaters and club website for the latest happenings at Tri-Town.

**OK, The Cicadas are gone, back to 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

5 Aug 2007      \*\* Illinois State Convention\*\* Bolingbrook ARS      <http://www.k9bar.org>  
11 Aug 2007      Annual Swapfest Western Illinois ARC Quincy, IL      <http://www.w9awe.org/>  
12 Aug 2007 Hamfesters ARC, Peotone, IL <http://www.hamfesters.org/hamz22.htm> 146.52 Simplex

25-26 Aug 07      Radio Expo 2007 Chicago FM Club      <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

**New Location!! Boone Co Fairgrounds Belvidere IL**

14-15 Sep 2007      W9DXCC Northern Illinois DX Ass. Elk Grove, IL      <http://www.w9dxcc.com>  
15-16 Sep 2007      Peoria Superfest 2007      <http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>



## Serving Our Country!

Ensign Nancy Harris is serving on a Navy Destroyer, DDG-53 John Paul Jones. The John Paul Jones is away at sea, so I'm not going to tell much more! Greg, WB9MII (Navy Retired) tells us Nancy is having a great time, "Boating with the Navy" and as a Pollywog has experience the right of, "King Neptune's Royal Court! What's that? Ask Greg, he will tell you the rest of the story!

Here is Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Daniel Bedoe, son of Brian, WD9HSY and Betsy, N9FUW and Little Brother of Libby, KB9WOV. Dan will be on leave the later part of July and might be able to swing by the Club Picnic! Dan will then be off to Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, WY. Dan will be doing computer type stuff but cant tell me anything about it or he will have to kill me! This is what I get for being his Dad!

# Driving the Dixie 2007

By Jerry K9PMV

For the second year in a row, Tri-Town lends communications to Drivin' the Dixie. Here is a great summertime activity that has universal appeal. Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, was your typical Midwestern summer day; sunny, hot and humid. It was a perfect day for a drive in your vintage car along the Dixie Highway. Approximately 130 cars assembled in Blue Island for the drive to *Island Park* in Momence. Everything was there from Model A Fords to 1960 era luxury and muscle cars. There was good food to be had in Steger, Beecher and Momence. It was the perfect event to try the Club's newest repeater improvements. Our "embedded mobiles" were **Tom W9SRV** with junior op **Riley, Paul KB9PZC** in his U.S. Army Jeep with **Bruce WD9GHK** riding in the passenger seat. **Leonard KA9SMH** was also in the convoy with his vintage car. **Martin WD9JGG**, who does double duty as Drivin the Dixie committee member and TTRAC liaison, was our man at large; he covered all towns.

In addition to those mentioned above, the following were assisting in the communications:

1. **Jerry K9PMV**: Blue Island, Posen, Flosmoor, Beecher and Momence.
2. **Richard KB9IPS**: Homewood.
3. **Pete K9OWQ** and **Gard K9GBT**: Flosmoor and Beecher.
4. **Tony W9VN**: Chicago Heights.
5. **Jim NV9X**: Steger.
6. **Tom AB9LA**: Crete/ Balmoral Park.
7. **Mark KA9MDJ** and **Jon KB9QCQ**: Beecher.
8. **Danny WB9ACN**, **Sharon KA9IIT** and **Trish N9WDG**: Homewood and points south.

Weeks before this event, however, TTRAC repeater gurus **Brian WD9HSY** and **Tom W9SRV** were hard at work making improvements to their systems. Tom established WALDOFAR north and south sites. These two repeaters have been linked together to provide handie talkie coverage over almost the entire Drivin the Dixie route. Brian linked the club's 146.805 mhz machine to his UHF repeater. This allowed access to the system on either VHF or UHF with total transparency. In addition to these land-based repeaters, Tom had a MURS radio to help communicate with other non-ham vehicles in the convoy. All this enabled our mobiles to relay travel information to the event organizers in all of the towns along the route. By working Drivin' the Dixie, we are able to test our repeater systems, sharpen operating skills and have fun all at the same time. Let's do it again next year!

## Tri-Town Trading Post

### Cassette Code tapes

I have Five (5) Cassette Code tapes, Free! (708) 474-4258. Thanks Bob, KA9PMZ

### Icom 745

Icom 745 HF/General Coverage Transceiver (as seen at White Elephant Sale) This is a 100 watt, 160-10 mtrs HF Rig w/WARC Bands. Works Great, but 15 acts up. Comes with power supply and hand mic. \$400 or best offer, Brian, WD9HSY EMAIL [BBEDOE@AOL.COM](mailto:BBEDOE@AOL.COM) Call 815.469.1383

I have a PDF file of QST's Product review for the '745 email me and I'll send you a copy of that review.

# Tri Town Field Day 2007

By Jerry K9PMV

Once again, Tri-Town does the ARRL's annual Field Day communications exercise. I believe that part of the operating criteria is work as many stations as possible under less than optimum conditions. The weatherman certainly made sure of that. Rain began early Saturday morning and did not let up till early evening. It would have been worse if we were setting up operations in the field somewhere. We stayed dry, however, snug in the bunker. The rain kept daytime temperatures moderate so we had a relatively easy time at the club station. Most of our preparations were done Thursday and Friday. A permanent digital mode station was set up using the Yaesu FT 757, a West Mountain Rig Blaster and one of our spare Windows 98 computers. With this station, 50 - PSK 31 QSOs were made. The other big item of preparation was setting up the Mosley TA 33 triband beam. We have attempted to use this beam on previous Field Days but with minimal success. This time, **Jim WD9GXU** and myself, completely disassembled the traps and associated tubing. We then cleaned, adjusted and reassemble the beam. It took all day Thursday and Friday to do this. We mounted it on a fence pole just north of the bunker door. The beam worked quite well during Field Day even though it was only 15 feet above the ground.

Before operations began Saturday, we had the pleasure of a visit from **Craig Dieckman KC9HWK**. He is the *American Red Cross* volunteer communications director for our area. Following a tour of the bunker, Craig showed Tri-Town members the Red Cross's fully equipped communications van. It was quite impressive. At 17:00Z Field Day began. **Dave W9HW** and XYL **Renae K9DO** started operating 20 M SSB and **Dave N9LGP** worked 40 CW. These two bands were the only bands open. **Jim WD9GXU** and **Brian KC9JVX** did work 10 M SSB but the band was good for only 4 contacts. **Tom AB9LA** and myself tried to work 20 M PSK 31. We made one contact but we had to stop as we were causing Dave and Renae a lot of interference. **Mark KA9OOI** and I tried a few tricks with  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave coax band traps for 40 and 20 meters to reduce the cross band interference. In spite of our efforts, the intensity of the second harmonic was too strong for the filters to do any good. However, it was worth a try and we learned how to prune coax using Jim's MFJ antenna analyzer. Since all other bands besides 20 and 40 were dead, **Tom AB9LA** and myself gave the AMSAT station a try. With Tom spinning the dials and me on the mic, we made a good solid satellite QSO with VE2DWE in Quebec. I might add that this was the first successful satellite QSO that I have experienced using the club station. **Bruce WD9GHK** came with his WWII hand crank 12 VDC generator. **Matt N9OTL** made five 2 M FM QSOs using this power source.

We all took a break for dinner at about 5 pm. **Brian KC9JVX** and myself went to the Ariston restaurant, on the corner of 175<sup>th</sup> & Kedzie for carryouts. They have a wide assortment of fast food there; Italian beef is my favorite. We went back to the bunker with the food and **Mark KA9MDJ**, **Dave N9LGP**, **Brian KC9JVX**, **Jim WD9GXU** and I enjoyed a dinner break. After dinner, the SSB and CW operators swapped bands. We had many more visitors and operators come to the bunker during evening time. **Anthony KC9ADK** and friend **Melissa** came with his new Icom IC 7000 to operate. I hooked them up to the hustler 3 BTV antenna. At that time, there were strong signals from the west coast on 20 M SSB but we just could not break thru the pile-ups. We switched the antenna to the triband beam and that made all the difference. We were making contacts on the first or second call. Not bad for the beam being only 15 feet above the ground.

Toward the end of my shift, **Tom W9SRV** and **Ken KC9BXA** came to operate. Tom had a great time during the wee hours on 75 M SSB using the Drake TR7 and the 160 M inverted vee antenna. **Ken KC9BXA** and **Brian KC9JVX** had fun working HF. Also visiting Tri-Town were ARRL ARES coordinator **Neil N9NL** and friend **Matt KC8YFW**. I went home at midnight for some rest and returned at 12:30 PM Sunday for the shut down. Here is a summary of 2007 TTRAC Field Day operations:

# ARRL Field Day 2007

1.	Field Day Call Used:	<b>W9VT</b>
2.	Club or Group Name:	<b>Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club</b>
3.	Number of Participants:	30
4.	Number of transmitters	4
5.	Entry Class:	4F
6.	Check power sources used.	Commercial mains
7.	ARRL / RAC Section: IL	
8.	Total CW QSO's:	578 289 X 2 = 578 Total CW QSO points
9.	Total Digital QSO's:	100 50 X 2 = 100 Total Digital QSO points
10.	Total Phone QSO's:	456 456 X 1 = 456 Total Phone QSO points
11.	Total QSO points:	1134
12.	Power Multiplier (select only one)	
13.	Power Multiplier:	X2 (150 Watts or less = 2)
14.	Claimed Score:	2268
15.	Bonus points claimed:	600
	100% Emergency power	0
	X Media Publicity	100
	X Set-up in Public Place	100
	X Information Booth	100
	NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	0
	W1AW Field Day Message	0
	Formal NTS messages handled (#)	0
	X Satellite QSO completed	100
	X Natural Power QSO's Completed	100
	X Site Visited by invited officials	100

**Total Bonus 600**  
**Total score 2007 2868 (2006 3722) (2005 3396)**

BAND	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
160	0	150	0	150	0	150
80	110	150	0	150	182	150
40	98	150	26	150	136	150
20	81	150	24	150	121	150
15	0	150	0	150	2	150
10	0	150	0	150	5	150
6	0	150	0	150	0	150
2	0	150	0	150	10	150
1.25	0	150	0	150	0	150
70	0	150	0	150	0	150
33	0	150	0	150	0	150
23	0	150	0	150	0	150
GOTA	0	150	0	150	0	150
<b>Totals</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>CW</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Dig</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>Phone</b>

# It's about time for a Picnic!

On July 28th we will have our annual radio club picnic! This year it will be "down on the farm" at Tom (W9SRV) and Cindy Gunderson "Farm"! We Have a nice setting on 3 acres surrounded by farm fields for you to enjoy. Here are the details:

- John N9DWE is cooking, the club is providing hot dogs and hamburgers, as well as drinks. Everyone else is invited to bring a dish for a "Potluck" style dinner.
- Bounce house for the Kids
- Playground, Tree house, and a tire swing for the kids
- Hayride for kids and adults
- Bonfire in the evening
- Stay until dark for a lightning bug show you will not believe!
- More surprises, come and find out!

We need an RSVP to [webmaster@w9vt.org](mailto:webmaster@w9vt.org) or to Tom, W9SRV at 708-825-7027 by July 20th so we can get food/drinks for all. Everyone should bring his or her own chairs. If it should rain we will still have it in the barn! (Bring your shovels!)

Start time is at 5 P.M. or so and eat at 6. Stay until you like, but we charge for overnight rooms! We will also have handicapped accessible port-a-potty on site for the event.

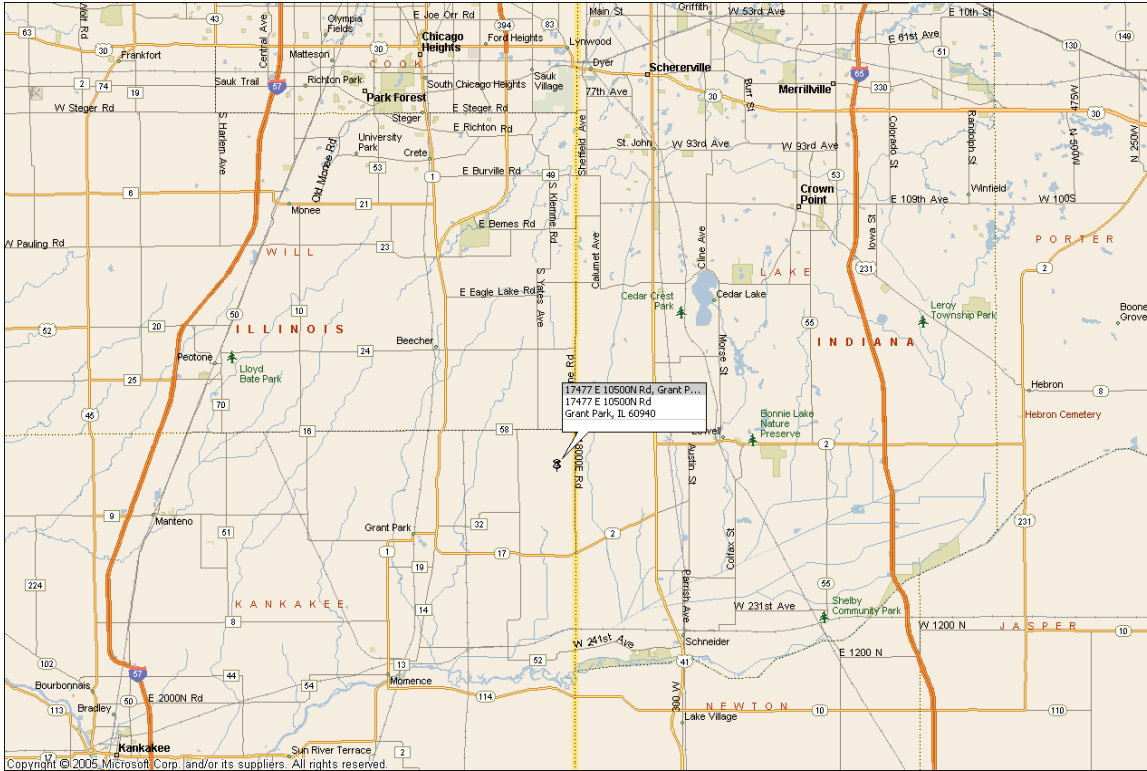
Talk in on the 146.805- 107.2 PL / 443.325+ 114.8PL Linked Repeaters or on the Wadlofar Repeater system, 441.300+ 114.8 PL/442.375+ 114.8 PL.

**See You There!!!**



# Directions to the Gunderson Farm, 17477 E 10500N Rd, Grant Park, IL:

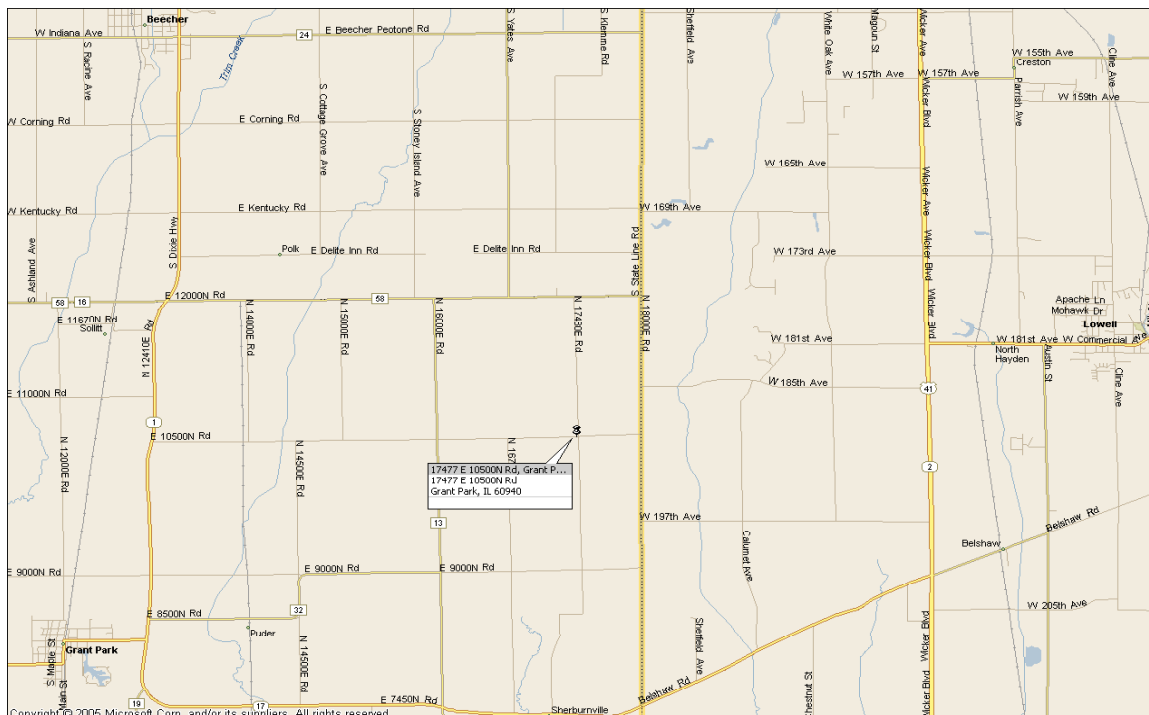
## Well, It's not as bad as you think!



From Illinois: Get yourself to IL Rt 1 however it suits you best. Coming from the north on Rt 1 you go thru Beecher and about 4 more miles to 10500N Rd. It is the next street past 12000N(also marked as County Line Rd). There is a sign for St. Pauls Church and you can only turn left to go east. Turn left and go another 3-4 miles. You will pass thru one stop sign. We are on the North West corner of 10500N and 17500E. You will see two red barns next to each other on the corner and a tan 2-story house next to a

mobile home. Coming from the south on Rt 1 you go thru Grant Park and make a left where it meets up with Rt 17. Head north and turn Right on 10500N, this will be the SECOND sign for St Pauls Church you see. Go east on 10500N 3-4 miles and you are there!

From Indiana: Take Rt 41 from wherever you are to 185th Ave. This is appx ¼ mile south of the intersection of Rt 41 and Rt 2. You can only go west on 185th Ave. Take that to State Line Rd where it ends. Turn left and go south to 10500N Rd. This is the first road you come to and you can only turn right. Turn right and go ½ a mile to the two red barns on the northwest corner of 10500N and 17500E. You are there!





# TREASURER'S REPORT FROM 1/19/07 TO 6/15/07

(2006) OLD CHECKING BAL: \$1,275.70  
(2006) PETTY CASH: 11.68  
(2006) OLD TOTAL: \$1,287.38

## 1/19/2007

INCOME: \$382.00  
EXPENSES: \$ 74.37

NEW CHECKING BALANCE: \$1,583.33  
PETTY CASH: 11.68  
NEW TOTAL: \$1,595.01

BUNKER BUDDIES: \$ 246.00

## 2/16/2007

INCOME: \$186.00  
EXPENSES: \$180.22

NEW CHECKING BALANCE: \$1,589.11  
PETTY CASH: 11.68  
NEW TOTAL: \$1,600.79

BUNKER BUDDIES: \$ 251.00

## 3/17/2007

INCOME: \$131.36  
EXPENSES: \$181.14

NEW CHECKING BALANCE: \$1,539.33  
PETTY CASH: 11.68  
NEW TOTAL: \$1,551.01

BUNKER BUDDIES: \$ 262.00

## 4/20/2007

INCOME: \$ 89.40  
EXPENSES: \$174.44

NEW CHECKING BALANCE: \$1,454.29  
PETTY CASH: 11.68  
NEW TOTAL: \$1,465.97

BUNKER BUDDIES: \$ 262.00

## 5/18/2007

INCOME: \$201.50  
EXPENSES: \$195.52

NEW CHECKING BALANCE: \$1,460.27  
PETTY CASH: 11.68  
NEW TOTAL: \$1,471.95

BUNKER BUDDIES: \$ 405.00

## 6/15/2007

INCOME: \$48.00  
EXPENSES: \$62.26

NEW CHECKING BALANCE: \$1,446.01  
PETTY CASH: 11.68  
NEW TOTAL: \$1,457.69

BUNKER BUDDIES: \$ 405.00

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AS OF 7/01/07:

54 TOTAL: 34 REGULAR,  
3 FAMILY, 9 NEW, 8 LIFETIME

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Gunderson, KA9IIT  
Treasurer



## Field Day Pics from Jerry, K9PMV

# 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

---

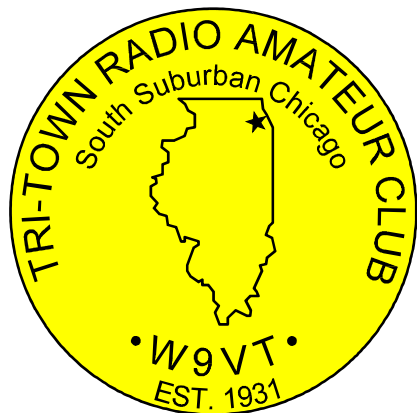
**Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Inc.**

**PO Box 1296**

**Homewood, IL 60430-0296**

**July 2007**

**First Class Mail**



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

**WWW.W9VT.ORG**