

The Oscillator

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Upcoming Meetings

Friday, July 18, 2014, 8 PM, Radio Night at the Bunker

July is normally a vacation month from regular meetings. However we will have an opportunity to socialize and play radio at this Bunker Night. There will be no raffle and refreshment will be limited to pop and water.

Friday, August 15, 2014, No Meeting/Bunker Night, its Summer Vacation!!

Annual Tri-Town Picnic to be Held

Mark your calendars for the Tri-Town Picnic to be held on Saturday, August 23, 2014 starting at 1 PM. The picnic will again be held at the QTH of Jim, KB9VR and be hosted by Jim and his XYL Joy. The cost of the picnic will be \$5 per person and this will include a raffle ticket for door prizes. You are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share with others. Jim's QTH is 5333 Mill Street, Monee, IL.

Field Day 2014 is History

Tri-Town's 2014 effort included ten members and four guests. Members included Ed K9EGS, Jim WD9GXU, Todd KA9IUC, Paul N9JFQ, Ron WB9JYZ, Randy KB9LIL, Mark KA9OOI, Steve K9SGB and Peter KE9YX. Member Bruce, WD9GHK was not in attendance but he contributed to the effort by providing the hand crank generator and 2M rig for Bonus Points. The guests included Mike KD9AFO, Bob W9ESX, Dave N9LGP and Neil N9NL. All of the CW contacts were made by our two guests. All of the radios and antennas, with the exception of the beam worked great. The beam was able to transmit and receive but could only be turned a few degrees. This was because one of the ropes for lifting/lowering of the 160M dipole broke in the past and the wind blew the rope into the beam wrapping the end around an element and boom of the beam. Plans are being made on how to remedy this problem.

The total points for Field Day 2014 include 650 points for contacts and 1050 bonus points for a total of 1670 points. Thanks to all who participated in Field Day.

Raffle to be Held for Dual Band Radio

A raffle will be held this fall by Tri-Town for a Baofeng UV-5RA dual band hand held radio. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or three for \$5. Raffle Ticket sales will start at the picnic and will be available at all club meetings until the drawing for the radio which will take place at the Christmas Party in December. The radio comes complete with antenna, charging base, ear phone/mike attachment, programming cable and best instructions, found to date, for programming. Thank you for your support of this year's raffle.

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2014:

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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 **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, on The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
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
Tri-Town Alumni Net	Monday through Friday, 2200 UTC on 7.285 MHz SSB

Hamfests in the Area

SUN JULY 13	FRRL Hamfest	Aurora, IL	Fox River Radio League
SUN JULY 20	KARSFEST	Peotone, IL	KANKAKEE ARS
SUN AUG 5	Hamfesters	Peotone, IL	Hamfesters

**Membership supports the Club Station, The Club Repeater, The Website,
The Oscillator, and many Club Activities!**

From The President's Desk

Ed Stroh - K9EGS

I hope that none of you had any radio equipment or property damage from the big storms on June 30th. There sure was a lot of powerful lightning and strong winds. I believe that the winds got up to about 70 MPH. Thankfully my station and my house was unscathed. Radios and antennas survived without a problem. As a precaution I always totally disconnect all my equipment from any antennas and I unplug all my equipment from the electric power source preceding a thunderstorm. The 4 trees on my property survived too, no broken branches. Even our electricity stayed on the whole time, what a blessing! There were people on the next block from my house that were without electricity for 3 days. When I see things like that it makes me think about installing one of those whole house generators that takes over automatically during a power outage. It is quite expensive, even though I could do the installation myself, for one that will handle everything including the air conditioning,.

Driving The Dixie was a success this year as it usually is every year. We had a good turnout of Tri-Town members to help with the communications for this event. As far as I know, every site along the Driving The Dixie route was covered by a Tri-Town member. Thanks to all for your participation and special thanks to Tricia Jaggard for taking the lead role for coordinating the event this year and to Martin Monahan for assisting. Also special thanks to Bruce Haffner, Brian Bedoe, Todd Schumann, Tom Gunderson and Jerry Daganais for manning the Tri-Town tent at the starting line of Driving The Dixie in Blue Island. We decided to set up this tent this year to help promote the Tri-Town Radio Club as well as amateur radio in general. Thanks for the use of your tent Brian!

Thank you to all those who participated in Field Day this year. As usual we conducted Field Day at the Bunker as we have been doing for several years now. Some people have wondered why we do not operate Field Day in the "field". We are allowed, according to ARRL Field Day rules, to operate from the Bunker because it is technically an Emergency Operations Center. I was glad to see that we had someone show up that was able to make our CW contacts. Especially since CW contacts are worth 2 points for each contact compared to only one point for a phone contact. We also had the PSK-31 station running which gave us two points for each of those contacts. We even ran Bruce Haffner's portable hand crank military surplus generator to power a 2 meter radio in order to make 5 contacts which gave the club 100 bonus points.

Remember that there will NOT be a regular meeting during the months of July and August because we take a summer break. Although we may have a Bunker night on July 18th as an alternative to a regular meeting. We will be having the club picnic during the month of August. The date is set for August 23rd at 1:00 PM at the home of Jim Boothe KB9VR in Monee, IL. There may be additional information elsewhere in this newsletter.

If I don't see you at the club picnic at Jim's house in August then please remember that the next regular club meeting will be Friday September 19th at the Hazelcrest Village Hall. Have a great and safe summer!

FCC Seeks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fee to \$21.60

The FCC is requesting to raise the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from its current \$16.10 to \$21.60 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.50 increase would be the largest vanity fee hike in many years. The proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2014; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2013; and Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees," which appeared in The Federal Register on July 3.

The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014. The Commission said the vanity program generated \$230,000 in FY 2013 revenue, and it estimated that it would collect nearly \$248,000 in FY 2014.

FCC Invokes “Red Light Rule” in Denying Glenn Baxter K1MAN License Renewal Application

The curious Amateur Radio enforcement case of Glenn Baxter, now ex-K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine, appears to be winding down and may be at an end. The FCC dismissed Baxter’s long-standing license renewal application on June 23, invoking its “Red Light Rule,” which gives the Commission authority to turn down a pending application if the applicant has an unpaid fine on the books. Baxter was liable for a \$10,000 FCC forfeiture stemming from violations over a period extending back several years.

“Anyone filing an application [who] is found to be delinquent in debt owed to the FCC and who fails to pay the debt in full or make other satisfactory arrangements in a timely manner will have their application dismissed,” said the Notice of Dismissal appended to Baxter’s Universal Licensing System (ULS) file. “Because you have failed to resolve this matter timely, your application is hereby dismissed.”

The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau dismissed Baxter’s 2005 renewal application “without prejudice,” which means that if Baxter wants to be licensed again, he must file a new application — and the FCC could again invoke its Red Light Rule. Baxter’s license expired in October of 2005, but FCC rules gave him the authority to continue operating while his renewal application was pending. He lost that privilege effective on June 23.

“If you are currently operating under authority provided by the Commission’s rules based on your submission of [a renewal] application, you must immediately cease operation until such time as you come into compliance with the rules,” the dismissal letter said.

The legal history in the case is extensive. In 2011, the FCC issued a Hearing Designation Order to determine, among other things, if Baxter’s Amateur Radio license 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 directive, engaging in broadcasting without communicating with any particular station, and failing to exercise control of his station.”

In 2012, On January 10, the US District Court for the State of Maine issued a ruling in the FCC’s lawsuit to collect Baxter’s fine, initially \$21,000. In writing for the Court, Chief US District Judge John A. Woodcock Jr agreed with the FCC on the first two counts — willful or repeated failure to respond to FCC requests for information, and willful or malicious interference — and granted summary judgments to the FCC in the amounts of \$3000 and \$7000, respectively. The Court declined to rule on the third issue — communications in which an amateur station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest — asserting that issues of material fact remained to be litigated in the Court.

Earlier this month, in a seeming game of “hot potato,” FCC Chief Administrative Law Judge Richard L. Sippel turned down an FCC Enforcement Bureau request that he dismiss Baxter’s renewal application with prejudice. The Enforcement Bureau filed a Request for Dismissal of Application and Termination of Proceeding in March of this year.

“Mr Baxter did not submit a substantive opposition to the Request,” Sippel wrote in his June 20 Order. While Sippel said the Bureau made a “convincing” case for him to drop the other regulatory shoe in the Baxter case and end the matter, he said he did not have that broad authority and turned the matter back to the Enforcement Bureau, which dismissed Baxter’s application 4 days later.

Sippel said that upon dismissal of Baxter’s application “by appropriate authority,” he would terminate the proceeding upon the Enforcement Bureau’s motion.

MARS Teams Remember D-Day With a Present-Day Purpose

For the second year in a row, hams in the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) have reached overseas to demonstrate interoperability in cross-border emergencies. The June 6-7 exercise also had a historical aspect — to commemorate the role of HF radio in the D-Day landings of 1944. Joining MARS stations in the US and Europe in the drill were the Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio System (CFARS) and units of the British Defence Ministry's Combined Cadet Force. Replicating beachhead communications on D-Day, the operation called for using minimal power and simple wire antennas in a friendly competition to make the most contacts. Army MARS Headquarters Operations Officer David McGinnis, K7UXO, who created the drill scenario, dubbed it "Operation QRPX" — the "X" for "exercise."

The drill reflected earlier barrier-breaking during the Normandy invasion 70 years ago. Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force deployed three "Joint Assault Signal Companies" (JASCOs) that pooled front-line ground, sea, and air communicators to support the three US landings.

"In the spirit of the JASCOs, this is a global, low-power exercise, using field equipment and antennas, open to military stations of each US military department, Allied military stations, and their respective military communications auxiliaries," said the exercise order issued by Army MARS Headquarters in Arizona.

Army MARS Headquarters invited Allied military stations to join in two categories. One consisted of 20 W operation within North America and Europe; the other of stations running up to 100 W across the Atlantic. Participants were scored according to the number of contacts plus a bonus for making automatic link establishment (ALE) contacts.

"I train our operations troops on HF comms, so I saw it as a great way to reinforce my knowledge and see what we could accomplish," Belanger explained. "The exercise also served as great radio operations and communications etiquette training for the airman assisting me. Exercises like this really give practical training and understanding of how far HF can go."

Dan Wolff, KA7AGN/DL4VCW, operating with 50 W on emergency power near Spangdahlem Air Base in northwest Germany, logged a few contacts with stations operated by high school-aged British cadets, drawn from separate Army, Navy and RAF auxiliaries. "They were enthusiastic, professional, and demonstrated a high degree of radio discipline and skill," said Wolff, who had briefly coached them on MARS procedures. "We look forward to future opportunities to interoperate with them."

A year ago in the auxiliary's first outreach operation, Army MARS provided the HF link between the US Pacific Command in Hawaii and indigenous amateurs in remote Nepal. That exercise, which involved a simulated earthquake disaster requiring relief assistance from American military forces, was conducted by the US-sponsored Multinational Interoperability Communications Program (MCIP). Some two dozen Asia-Pacific military establishments pool resources in the MCIP, sharing a humanitarian mission. A second MCIP drill in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to follow in August. The organization was established after the 2004 tsunami that killed upward of 230,000 people in countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Tangled communications were a problem during relief efforts, and the MCIP has met annually to coordinate frequencies and procedures to address future calamities.

In 2012 the MCIP checked the feasibility for Amateur Radio to interoperate with military circuits. Based on the successful outcome, Army MARS was invited conduct a communications exercise last year with one of the most isolated countries, Nepal, which has a history of disastrous earthquakes. Two amateurs in Kathmandu, Sanjeeb Panday, 9N1SP, and Satish Krishna Kharel, 9N1AA, transmitted simulated distress traffic that was copied by McFadden in Kabul, who relayed it to Wolff in Germany for posting on the Pacific Command's online network for civil emergency operations.

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

NASA ISS Field Day Operation Puts Smiles on Several Faces

Some lucky — and happy — ARRL Field Day participants managed to snag a contact with NASA Astronaut Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, operating from NA1SS on board the International Space Station. Wiseman, who just came aboard the space station this spring, seemed to have fun working the pileup.

“Enjoyed ARRL FD 14,” Wiseman said on Twitter. “I operated from the ESA Columbus module. So many calls!” Wiseman used NA1SS on the standard VHF frequencies of 144.49 MHz up and 145.80 MHz down. It’s not yet known how many stations he was able to contact.

Bob McCown, N3IYI, reported the Goddard Amateur Radio Club’s WA3NAN Field Day station in Greenbelt, Maryland, was among those that succeeded in contacting NA1SS during Field Day on Saturday afternoon. “The pass was almost over way to the east over the Atlantic, so things were no doubt quieting down up there,” McCown told ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and others in a post-Field Day e-mail. “When I mentioned Goddard, he came back with ‘Goddard! That’s just down the road from where I grew up! Good to hear from you.’”

Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK/VA7EWK, in Arizona reported working Wiseman as the ISS passed over the Western US. “I worked NA1SS as it passed over the western USA at 1818 UTC this morning for my first ARRL (and AMSAT) Field Day QSO,” he said in an ISS Fan Club forum post. “First time working NA1SS during Field Day!”

“It was such an out-of-the-world experience having a voice contact with Wiseman, surrounded by many club members,” Ghodke posted. “Due to the uncertainty of his possible on-the-air operation, we were set up for both voice as well as the usual packet. And we were scanning both frequencies every few seconds. When we started ‘hearing voices,’ we were so excited that it never occurred us to make a voice recording. This is a once in a lifetime contact.”

Stoddard said Wiseman was having occasional difficulty copying call signs. “With so many stations calling, and being on FM, that is understandable,” he said. “I could hear times during the two North American passes where he was picking up a different call each time he was transmitting. He was going very quickly, knowing the limited time he had over the continent on each pass.” Stoddard said he heard nothing on the 70 centimeter frequency, 437.55 MHz.

Another Field Day group that was fortunate enough to connect with the ISS were the Boy Scouts of Raymore, Missouri, Troop 32. “I bet the boys could be heard up in orbit even without a radio when Reid answered our call!” Scout Leader Jim Reicher, W0HV, said afterward. The Maui Amateur Radio Club’s KH6RS on the north shore of Maui said the contact between the group’s Amanda Schaefer, WH6DUB, and NA1SS was among the weekend’s highlights.

TRADING POST

FOR SALE: Ameritron AL-811H Amplifier (800 watt Amp w/ 4 – 811 tubes)

Very Good Condition. Strong tubes, strong output on all bands. Amp currently wired for 220VAC.

Asking \$625 or Best Offer, pick-up only (I can meet you at the club meeting).

Contact: Marty, WJ9Q, martyd64@sbcglobal.net or cell 219-789-0374.

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SKYWARN Pioneer Alan R. Moller, N5ZCB, SK

Sam Barricklow, K5KJ

National Weather Service forecaster, storm chaser, and SKYWARN pioneer Alan “Al” Moller, N5ZCB, of Benbrook, Texas, died June 19. He was 64. Moller and Chuck Doswell were the primary contributors to the development of the national SKYWARN program.

Moller was a Senior Forecaster (retired) at the National Weather Service Fort Worth, Texas, Office, where, the NWS said, he “tirelessly worked to better understand thunderstorms and tornadoes, while at the same time teaching others to responsibly observe and report storm information from the field. He was a voice and a bridge between operational and research meteorology, and thus, was respected by both of these meteorological disciplines.”

He also was a writer and cinematographer, known for StormWatch (1995), Tornadoes: A Spotter's Guide (1977), and Chasing the Wind (1991). In addition, Moller enjoyed nature and landscape photography.

Moller held bachelor's and master's degrees in meteorology from The University of Oklahoma. Doswell, a friend and colleague Moller met at the University of Oklahoma, described Moller as passionate about public service as well as about forecasting and severe storms.

Changes to Amateur Part 97 Rules Go Into Effect on July 21

The FCC's recently announced revisions to the Part 97 Amateur Radio rules governing exam credit to former licensees, test administration, and emission types will go into effect on Monday, July 21. The new rules were published in The Federal Register on June 20.

In a wide-ranging Report and Order (R&O) released June 9, the Commission announced that it would grant examination credit for written elements 3 (General) and 4 (Amateur Extra) to holders of “expired licenses that required passage of those elements.” The FCC will require former licensees falling outside the 2-year grace period to pass Element 2 (Technician) in order to be relicensed. The Commission declined to give exam credit to holders of expired Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCEs) or to extend lifetime validity to CSCEs.

The FCC also embraced the use of remote testing methods, allowing volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators “the option of administering examinations at locations remote from the VEs.” The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in 2002 endorsed experimental use of videoconferencing technology to conduct Amateur Radio testing in remote areas of Alaska. The Commission dropped its earlier proposal to permit two VEs to administer exams; the requirement remains at three VEs. The Commission did not spell out the “mechanics” of remote testing, however, which it said would “vary from location to location and session to session.” VEs administering examinations remotely must grade such examinations “at the earliest practical opportunity,” rather than “immediately,” as the current rule for conventional exam sessions requires.

The FCC also adopted an ARRL proposal to authorize certain Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the Amateur Service. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in 2013 granted an ARRL request for a temporary blanket waiver to permit radio amateurs to transmit emissions with designators FXD, FXE, and F7E, pending resolution of the rulemaking petition. That waiver becomes permanent on July 21.

The Commission also made “certain minor, non-substantive amendments” and corrections to the Amateur Service rules.

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Drivin' the Dixie 2014

Martin WD9JGG & Trish N9WDG

Tri-Town once again was an integral part of the event this year. It started out with great weather in the morning and then the rains came for the afternoon. Over 100 cars participated in the event this year- and our volunteers enjoyed seeing some great classic cars that came through each town on the route. This year Tri-Town had a display at the start of the route in Blue Island- many thanks to Bruce, WD9GHK, along with Jerry K9PMV for getting this together- and Brian WD9HSY and Todd KA9IUC for coming out to help.

Thanks goes out to Tom W9SRV and his Harmonics, Riley and Westin for again being Mobile Net Control. Tom along with Brian Had the Club Repeater and WALDOFAR linked in advance. Ed K9EGS was our Posen person. Markham & Hazel Crest were covered by Trish N9WDG with her "crew" of Laura, Emily and Rob. Martin WD9JGG covered Homewood and along with Trish attend the meetings of the Drivin' the Dixie committee and get things together each year. Mike WA9ZPM covered Flossmoor on very short notice, while Pete KE9YX covered Chicago Heights. The Steger check point was covered by the great couple of Ken K9KO and Sandy KA9GMB. Manning Crete was Ron WB9JYZ with Mark KA9MDJ down in Beecher. Dan WB9ACN and Sharon KA9IIT was in Grant Park (Yes, Trish did get the family crew out to help) did a great job with the weather reports and making sure everyone was safe. Mokence was covered by Trish and crew along with Martin at the end. Despite the weather- everything turned out well with the event –

See you in 2015 for the 100th Anniversary of the Dixie Highway- special plans are in the works for this historic commemoration.



Voice of America Makes More Cuts to International Shortwave Broadcast Schedule

With no public announcement or fanfare, the Voice of America has phased out some 14 hours per day of international shortwave broadcast transmissions and will cease broadcasting on some of its customary frequencies, effective July 1. Another 10 hours of daily cuts have been made to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and Radio Free Asia (RFA) broadcasts. The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) oversees the VOA, RFE/RL and RFA. Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL, who maintains The SWLing Post Internet site, said he contacted BBG spokesperson Letitia King for details on the cuts, which he learned about from a leaked memorandum, "Farewell to Shortwave," from recently retired VOA staff member Dan Robinson. Information King provided to Witherspoon said the cuts, okayed by Congress, will save taxpayers some \$1.6 million annually.

"US international media must optimize program delivery by market," said the statement King provided. "We are ending some shortwave transmissions. We continue shortwave to those countries where these transmissions are still reaching significant audiences or where there are no reasonable alternative platforms at a lower cost to the BBG."

The cuts include essentially all shortwave broadcasts in English to Asia — some 6.5 hours a day in all. "Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, English speakers are rarely users of shortwave radio," the BBG explanation said. "They are more likely to be educated and affluent, and to have access to a broad range of media. Years of BBG research questions on consumption of VOA English on shortwave have failed to find any significant audiences outside Africa, in large part because usage of shortwave radio in other regions is mostly very low."

The VOA also will end 5.5 hours per day of "Special/Learning English" transmissions on shortwave, although learning English programs will continue on shortwave to Africa. Shortwave transmissions for the Azerbaijani, Bangla, Learning English, Khmer, Kurdish, Lao, and Uzbek are being dropped as well.

"It's sad that they're giving their listeners so little notice," Witherspoon commented.

4U1UN Beacon is Back on the Air

After more than four years, the NCDXF-IARU beacon at 4U1UN has resumed transmitting. The beacon was deactivated during the UN Headquarters building renovation. It was restored to operation on June 18

Scout Sets Up Firehouse Ham Station for Back-Up Comm

Thanks to Todd Hockert, KC0MPD/Bay News 9

Florida TV station Bay News 9 has reported that an Eagle Scout project turned into an "Everyday Hero" nomination for a Pinellas County teenager. According to Bay News 9, Parker Mitchell, KI4YAV, of Clearwater, Florida, the 18-year-old ham decided to create a backup communications system for a Palm Harbor fire station. "I decided since we have so many hurricanes in Florida, emergency communications would be a really good thing to do it on," Parker said. Parker got donations for the \$4000 worth of necessary equipment and built the station. He also recruited a volunteer to climb the station's tower to install the antenna. Fire Chief Craig Maciuba said the project provides firefighters with an additional communication route to the county emergency operations center and to other hams, should the 911 system fail. Parker also held licensing courses for the firefighters, and all passed the test

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Campaign to Co-Sponsorship of “Amateur Radio Parity Act”

A grassroots effort is underway to encourage radio amateurs to promote co-sponsorship of HR.4969, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The measure, introduced in the US House with bipartisan support on June 25, would call on the FCC to apply the “reasonable accommodation” three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The bill’s primary sponsor is Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), and it has initial co-sponsorship from Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT). With Congress going on its August recess in a few weeks, the campaign is focusing on contacting Members of Congress or their staffers at or through their district offices.

“This is the ideal time for you to develop small teams of constituents to approach members of Congress in their district offices,” said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, a principal proponent of HR.4969. “Ideally, you’d want no more than three members to go to a meeting with a Member of Congress or top staff members. These need to be active, articulate individuals who present themselves well.” Getting additional law-makers to sign on as HR.4969 cosponsors is essential to the bill’s success. Individual radio amateurs or clubs also may wish to e-mail or write their representatives to urge them to cosponsor the bill.

The primary point to convey is that the greatest threat to Amateur Radio volunteer emergency and public service communication is restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antenna systems. Nearly 30 years ago the FCC, in adopting its PRB-1 policy, acknowledged a “strong federal interest” in supporting effective Amateur Radio communication. In the intervening years, PRB-1 has helped many amateurs to overcome zoning ordinances that unreasonably restricted Amateur Radio antennas in residential areas. The 11-page PRB-1 FCC Memorandum Opinion and Order is codified at § 97.15(b) in the FCC Amateur Service rules, giving the regulation the same effect as a federal statute. After the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ordered the FCC to enact regulations preempting municipal and private land-use regulation over small satellite dishes and TV broadcast antennas, the FCC further acknowledged that it has jurisdiction to preempt private land-use regulations that conflict with federal policy. The Commission has indicated, however, that it won’t extend PRB-1 to private land-use regulation unless Congress instructs it to do so.

If HR.4969 passes the 113th Congress, it would compel the FCC, within 120 days of the Bill’s passage, to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply PRB-1 coverage to include homeowners’ association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as “covenants, conditions, and restrictions” (CC&Rs). At this point, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. HR.4969 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel’s Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure.

Among other tips, Lisenco advises groups setting up in-person visits with representatives to pick a leader, listen carefully, and leave behind information that supports your primary points plus a business card. “Business cards are a big thing in DC,” he pointed out. “Make certain to take them when going to DC or a district office.”

“This isn’t rocket science, but it does take planning and the ability to state your case succinctly in no more than 15 minutes,” Lisenco said. Delegations should follow up with a thank you note within 1 day and a telephone call 1 week later. An information sheet on HR.4969, a list of “talking points,” and a sample constituent letter will be available soon.

Massachusetts Congratulates ARRL on its 100th Anniversary

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ House of Representatives has extended its congratulations to the ARRL in recognition of the League’s centennial. It also recognized the ARRL-affiliated Cape Ann Amateur Radio Association, “for providing service and education to the Cape Ann Community.” “The entire membership extends the very best wishes and expresses the hope for future good fortune and continued success in all endeavors,” the June 28 House resolution said.

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

July 2014

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	\$	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

We need your Membership!

**Membership supports the Club Station, The Club Repeater, The Website,
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