

# The Oscillator

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## Up Coming Programs

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** The March program is Andy Finick, W9FXT- Emergency Preparedness

### Note from Vice President

Tom Niemeyer, AB9LA

First, a commercial note: Dues for the 2009 year are due. Compared to other clubs our dues are very reasonable. As they say on TV commercials, it is less than \$2.00 a month.

Second, If you have any thoughts on what you would like to have as a program, please let an officer or board member know. If you have some aspect of ham radio that you would like to know more about, someone that you would like to give a program, or any other ideas for our programs, please let us know.

### Disposal Process of Club Equipment

At the last Club meeting the Membership voted on a new by-law to the Club Constitution on the **Disposal Process of Club Equipment**

The Club Board of Directors (The Board) shall dispose of Club equipment in the following manner.

1. The Board, or its appointed committee, will determine what equipment is to be sold the selling price and when it will be available for purchase.
2. Equipment will be priced by the Board, or its appointed committee at fair market value based on age, operating condition and the results of recent sales of comparable equipment.
3. Notice of equipment sales will be made to the Club membership. An announcement must be made at least one club meeting prior to the equipment being put up for sale. Additional notifications must be made to the membership. Examples include: listing on the Club website, listing in the Club newsletter (The Oscillator) or a special email notice, and direct mailing to members not receiving email communications from the Club.
4. Club membership will be able to buy equipment at its published price, on a first come basis.
5. The Board of Directors may opt to accept/reject any best offered price by a Club Member after the item has been listed for 30 days.
6. After 30 days any equipment not acquired by the membership can be disposed of by any public method approved by the Board. This could include but is not limited to: Online auctions, Hamfests, Equipment Lists, Ham Web sites.
7. A full accounting of all equipment sold will be made to the membership at the next Club Meeting and published in the next club newsletter.

# Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2008:

Jim Anderson	NV9X	President	708.389.2479	nv9x@comcast.net
Tom Niemeyer	AB9LA	Vice President	708.672-5844	tom1485@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand	WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None
Trish Jaggard	N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	rjaggard@netzero.com
Todd Schumann	KA9IUC	Director	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Bruce Haffner	WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@earthlink.net
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Tom Gunderson	W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Matt Schumann	N9OTL	Raffle Chairman	708.423.7066	mattschuman@yahoo.com
Dave Dell	N9LGP	Field Day Chairman	708.235-1270	n9lgp@sbcglobal.com
		Chairman of Board		
Brian J. Bedoe	WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Director	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 **WD9HSY/R** -600kc 107.2 PL

Unofficial Club Hang Outs **442.375, 441.300 WA9WLN/R,**  
**443.325 WD9HSY/R** all UHF's using 114.8 PL +5mhz

The former **KB9JZJ/R (Kankakee Co)** repeater is now **WD9HSY/R 147.165 107.2 PL**

The **W1AW Operating Schedule** may be found on the web: <http://www.arrrl.org/w1aw.html>  
Starting Monday, March 9, Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160-meter frequency for its CW transmissions. To accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz to reduce the possibility of interference.

**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 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL

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

## Live Air Traffic Control via the Internet

Want to listen to almost any airport radio traffic? Check out: <http://www.liveatc.net/>

## **Fox Hunt in Terre Haute, IN on 3.22.09**

Jim, WD9EYB

The next EOHC fox hunt will be Sunday, March 22nd, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The fox will be Dan, W9OOT. This will be a combined mobile/foot hunt. Dan will be hiding somewhere in or near Terre Haute, Indiana, but he will not necessarily be in his jeep. You have to find Dan, not his jeep, to complete the hunt.

He'll use one of the KT9E fox boxes which will transmit on 147.45 MHz for 1 minute out of every 5 minutes. Modulation will MCW, which you can copy with an FM receiver. The message will be MOS MOS MOS MOS MOS MOS MOS MOS DE KT9E or similar.

We've talked about using a second transmitter in Dan's jeep connected to the jeep antenna to give better range. That will make it easier to find his jeep than it will to find him. However, you must find Dan to complete the hunt. The second transmitter might not be used.

Start from anywhere but a good place to start fox hunts in Terre Haute is at Meadows Elementary School, 55 S Brown Ave. That's behind Rural King. It's a good place to start because there's a big open field and the lack of light standards and overhead wires cuts down on multipath reflections. I will be starting from there. Hopefully Dan will be not to far away.

Everybody that finds the fox wins. The prize is bragging rights. Talk-in and coordinate on the W9EQD repeater 147.15 MHz (151.4 Hz). Let us know that you're hunting. If you have any questions contact wd9eyb0707@wirelessinfield.com or call (812) 238-0584.

## **Police Detonate Ham Radio Equipment Mistaken for Bomb**

A ham radio operator had a contractor cleaning the inside of his house after a fire. during the cleaning this outfit found an MFJ balun. They called the cop's thinking it was a pipe bomb. You can read what happened next below.

OMAHA (KPTM) - Police evacuated a midtown neighborhood briefly Thursday morning for what was originally thought to be a bomb, but in the end, it turned out to be ham radio equipment.

The house, caught fire last week. A cleaning company found the equipment and called police, thinking it was a pipe bomb. Police were called, and officers detonated the equipment. The neighborhood was evacuated during the investigation.

## **FREE DTV seminar at the Little Guys**

The Little Guys, Inc are offering every Thursday night a FREE DTV seminar from now thru the June 12th DTV transition. The seminar starts at 6:00PM & is given by David Wexler, Co-Owner of The Little Guys, & Tom Gunderson (W9SRV), Operations Director at The Little Guys.

This seminar covers the basics of DTV, It's Pro's & Con's and all the REAL facts on the transition. The presentation is 30-45 minutes long, then questions are taken from the attendees to address any of their specific needs.

The Little Guys, INC is located in Glenwood, IL at the corner of 183rd St & Halsted St.

**Dues are Due for 2009! Don't Wait!!**

# FCC SPECIAL COUNSEL LAURA SMITH VISITS ARRL HQ

Laura Smith visited ARRL Headquarters on March 5 and 6, her first official visit as Special Counsel. Smith was named to the position earlier this year, filling the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008; Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the Commission's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>>.

While at Headquarters, Smith visited with various departments, such as the Lab, the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC), the Regulatory Information Branch and Membership and Volunteer Programs (MVP).

Spending all Thursday afternoon with ARRL Lab staff, Smith discussed power line noise and how it can affect Amateur Radio. "Since Riley had retired last year, very little had been done at the FCC with regard to the power line noise enforcement," said ARRL Laboratory Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG. "The Lab staff discussed the status of the ARRL-FCC Cooperative Agreement on power line noise with Laura and how best to proceed forward <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/07/26/3/?nc=1>>. While the ARRL is not in the enforcement business, the Cooperative Agreement was an attempt to help the FCC focus its limited resources in the area where they are most needed -- enforcement. The ARRL's goal is to help resolve as many of these cases as possible with technical and other help before they ever get to the FCC."

Gruber also briefed Smith on some power line noise basics, including a demonstration of some professional grade locating equipment. Using a Model T spark coil as a noise source, Gruber was able to show Smith how a utility can locate power line noise - in many cases, without too much difficulty.

Smith, a lawyer, is no stranger to the FCC or Amateur Radio. She began her legal career with the Commission, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), working with Senior System Analyst Bill Cross, W3TN; she also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith also knew Hollingsworth through her father-in-law Richard M. Smith, former Chief of the Field Operations Bureau, at the time responsible for all FCC field engineering and enforcement activities. Richard Smith led many investigations of illegal uses of the radio spectrum, including the successful apprehension of "Captain Midnight" who overrode a satellite television broadcast signal <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain\\_Midnight\\_%28HBO%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_Midnight_%28HBO%29)>. Smith also served as Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET).

"Riley worked for my father-in-law for years," Smith said. "My father-in-law was the Chief of the Field Operations Bureau at the FCC for 25 years. So enforcement is actually something that is a long-standing family tradition. A member of my family -- the Smith family -- has worked at the FCC continuously since 1964: Myself, my husband and my father-in-law."

Calling Hollingsworth "irreplaceable," Smith said what he did for the Commission and for the amateur community was "amazing. He volunteered for that job. He stood up and said, 'I'm an amateur. I love this community and I want to give back to it.' This position needs to be filled by somebody who is interested in doing it long-term. This [job] is not a stepping stone; it's not a short term process. This wouldn't work if I were trying to be Riley. I'm not going to be Riley. We're very different people. But we both have the same goal: To make the amateur community better."

Smith emphasized that an Amateur Radio license is "a privilege, not a right. When you come to the FCC and you sign up for a license and you get that license, you have agreed to abide by those Rules. That is inherent in the application process. As an applicant and a licensee, you have said, 'I will hereby comply with the Rules that have been enacted by the FCC.' So you have said, 'I will adhere to that.' And if you choose not to, then you are subject to losing that privilege."

**Dues are Due for 2009! Don't Wait!!**

# One of the original Voices of WWV has Passed away

The recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has fallen silent. This with word that announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia, who gave WWV its human touch passed away on Thursday, February 19th.

Known in the broadcast world as Don Elliot, Heald had distinguished career that ranged from work at Atlanta Georgia's WSB to his automated and internationally heard WWV broadcasts on shortwave. He was also the voice of the Audichron telephone dial-in Time-Weather-Temperature service and of the Protestant Hour radio show for over 40 years. For nearly five decades Heald narrated the televised Christmas Eve service from Atlanta's Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, where he served as a vestryman, junior warden and senior warden.

Heald was originally from Massachusetts, but came to Atlanta via Lakeland, Florida. He was a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville and began his broadcast career after graduation when he accepted a position at WRUF where remained for three years. In Atlanta he spent much of his spare time devoted to public service work with charities and civic clubs.

A Service of Celebration of Don Elliot Heald's life took place on Tuesday February 24th at the Cathedral of St. Philip. He is survived by his wife Sara Farmer Heald of Atlanta, GA; sons and daughters-in-law David and Deborah of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, Tom and Evelyn Heald and Frank and Mary Heald of Atlanta. Don Elliot Heald was 86. WWV Info <http://tinyurl.com/5mw55c> from Don KA9QJG

## SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The green field sleeps in the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: There have been no new sunspots since the recent brief three-day appearance of quickly fading sunspot 1013 on February 24-26. It was another Solar Cycle 24 sunspot, but this is not too encouraging, considering how brief and weak it appeared. There are no predictions for new sunspots, but these events tend to occur suddenly. Sunspot numbers for February 26-March 4 a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux with a mean of 69.5. The estimated planetary A indices a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices a mean of 3.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Wordsworth's "Written in March" <<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/written-in-march/>>.

## Upcoming Hamfests

3-4 Apr 2009 **AES Superfest 2009**, Amateur Electronic Supply <http://www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml>

3 May 2009 **DeKalb Hamfest**, Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club <http://www.w9icu.com>

15-17 May 2009 **Dayton Hamvention**, ARRL Nat Convention, <http://www.hamvention.org>

## Dayton Hamvention, 146.49 simplex and a 107.2 PL

Brian, WD9HSY

As we all know, the 3-day Dayton Hamvention is the biggest RF jungle in the world. As in past years, 146.49 will be the freq of choice for all of us at Dayton. Last year a number of us on 146.49 also had our radios in Full PL encode / decode (TX/RX) using 107.2 (the same PL as the Repeater) This ALMOST eliminates all the noise, junk, garbage, and nonsense on 49. It also just about removed all non-club activity so that when the squelch open it was usually a Tri-Towner on the air! If you want to hear all 49 activity just turn on your TX PL so we will hear you while we are in PL mode. Go PL TX and RX to hear nothing but peace and quiet and us! Not sure how to set up your radio? Check your manual for setting your PL. If you have lots of memory positions set up 2 memories. 1. On 146.49, with TX only PL, and 2. On 146.49 with TX and RX set to 107.2!

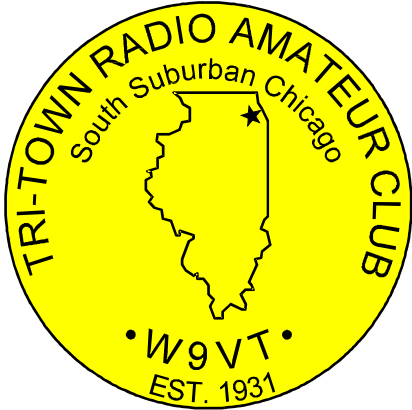
That way you can play both ways and if the noise gets too bad you can flip over to full PL!

If I have confused you give me a call and I'll talk you though it!

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

March 2009

First Class Mail



Visit Tri-Town's Web Page! [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)  
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## Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

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

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

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

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

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_____ Regular Membership	\$ 20.00
_____ SWL Membership	\$ 20.00
_____ Extra Family Membership	\$ 6.00
_____ Bunker Buddie	\$ 5.00
_____ Auto Patch w/1 Speed Slot	\$ 25.00
_____ Extra Speed Slots	\$ 5.00

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

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