

# The Oscillator

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## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **March Meeting - Friday, March 20, 2015, 8 PM, at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.**

Following the business meeting, there will be a program on Digital Voice for Amateur Radio (a video). Refreshments will be available as well as raffle tickets for a door prize.

### **April Meeting – Friday, April 17, 2015, 8 PM, at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.**

The program will be on Weather Spotting by Dave Bukowski, N9KDP. Dave is a trained trainer for the National Weather Service. The evening will include the usual business meeting. Refreshments will be available as well as raffle tickets for a door prize. Please plan on attending what is sure to be an interesting presentation and please, bring a friend.

## **From The President's Desk**

73, Todd, KA9IUC

I feel very honored that the membership has once again elected me to be their President. I promise to do my best to lead the Club in 2015. I would like to thank Ed Stroh for his leadership in 2014. Thanks also to the other Officers and Board members for their service. The biggest thanks of all go to the membership for their support of the Club by being members and participating in Club activities. I ask for your continued support of the Club by both membership and participating in Club activities. Can you help with meeting programs, nets, operating events such as the Driving the Dixie Special Event Station and Field Day or hosting the Club picnic? Remember, this is your Club and it only as great as you are. Now for some Club related business. Due to budget constraints the phone line for the Repeater has been discontinued. An alternate means of remote Repeater control is being developed. The list of insured Club owned equipment has been reviewed to see if some items can be eliminated to reduce insurance cost. Our liability insurance cost is fixed. This insurance will be retained

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

## **Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2015:**

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:tschum3063@aol.com">tschum3063@aol.com</a>
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:mattschumann@yahoo.com">mattschumann@yahoo.com</a>
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	<a href="mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net">the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net</a>
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None @ No I' don't have one
Pete Schaper KE9YX	Board Member	708.481.4273	<a href="mailto:p.k.schaper@sbcglobal.net">p.k.schaper@sbcglobal.net</a>
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## **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 Preparedness 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**

MAY 3	Kishwaukee ARC	Sandwich, IL	<a href="http://www.w9icu.com/flyer.html">www.w9icu.com/flyer.html</a>
16-18	Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, OH	<a href="http://www.hamvention.org">www.hamvention.org</a>
JUNE 7	Starved Rock Club	Princeton	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm">www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm</a>
21	6m Club of Chicago	Wheaton	<a href="http://www.k9ona.com">www.k9ona.com</a>

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

## 2015 Tri-Town Activities

**Nets, Sundays and Wednesdays, 8PM local, on the Club repeater.**

- March 20, Meeting, 8PM, Hazel Crest Village Hall, Digital Communication.
- April 17, Meeting, 8PM, Hazel Crest Village Hall, Weather Spotting.  
April 26, Service project, Folks on Spokes, Bruce, WD9GHK is contact.
- May 15, Meeting, 8PM, Radio Night at the Bunker.  
May 15-17, Dayton Hamvention.
- June 19, Meeting, 8PM, Bunker, Special Event Station, Driving the Dixie and Field Day.  
June 20, Service project, Driving the Dixie and Special Event Station, Trish, N9DWG is contact.  
June 27-28, Field day, details to follow. Chairman needed.
- July and August, No meetings – Vacation & August, Annual Club picnic Host needed!
- Sept 18, Meeting, Program suggestions needed.
- October 16, Meeting, Program suggestions needed and Nomination of 2016 Officers.
- Nov 20, Meeting, 8PM, at the Bunker, White Elephant Sale, Show and Tell, Elections.
- December, Christmas Party, details to be Announced

## Folks on Spokes

Bruce Haffner WD9GHK, wd9ghk@comcast.net

Tri-Town Radio Club has been helping out with communications with Folks on Spokes for over 25 years. We provide communications from the starting point which is Park Forest village hall to the three rest or sag stops. These are Crete, Goodenow Grove, and the Willowbrook area of Crete.

I am looking for volunteers to man the rest stops on Sunday April 26. The Crete stop is on Benton Street, the other Crete stop in the Willowbrook area is at Burville Road and Cedar Lane. The Goodenow Grove stop is in the Goodenow Grove forest preserve.

The Downtown Crete sag stop is open from 8 AM to 1:30 PM.

The Willowbrook Crete sag stop is open from 8:15 to 11:30.

The Goodenow Grove sag stop is open from 9 AM to 2:30 PM.

If you can help get in touch with me.

## 2015 Officers Elected

At the January meeting the following Officers for 2015 were elected: Todd Schumann, KA9IUC President, Matt Schumann, N9OTL Vice-President, Jim Everard, WD9GXU Secretary, Trish Jaggard, N9WDG Treasurer and Randy Iliff, N9KKN Board member. Todd Schumann's election to President created an opening on the Board of Directors. Peter Schaper, KE9YX was appointed by the Board to fill the position.

# US Amateur Radio Numbers Reach an All-Time High

*Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A; FCC ULS licensing statistics*

Amateur Radio growth in the US continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of radio amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) database reached an all-time high of 726,275. The trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the ham population rise to slightly more than 727,000. Over the past decade the number of Amateur Radio licenses in the ULS database grew by some 8.1 percent. But 2014 also was a banner year for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).

"For the first time in the ARRL VEC program's history, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "A total of 7216 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2014, compared to 6823 in 2013." Somma said the number of new licensees spiked to more than 33,000 in 2014, up by about 15 percent from the previous year. Successful license upgrades rose last year by an unprecedented 13 percent over a year earlier.

At the end of 2014, there were 136,405 Amateur Extra, 169,524 General, and 357,236 Technician class licensees — all record numbers, Somma pointed out. Last year's overall upward trend quickly recovered, however, during the final quarter of 2014. The General population also dipped briefly in May 2014, before rebounding.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 102,806 at the end of February. Texas was a distant second, with 51,022, Florida came in third, with 40,743, Washington was fourth, with 30,511, and Ohio was fifth at 28,256

The state with the fewest number of Amateur Radio licensees in 2014 was North Dakota, with 1477, but in an overall upward trajectory since around 2009. Others with small ham populations include Delaware (1715 and growing), Rhode Island (1926 and drooping), Wyoming (1868 and headed up), and Vermont (2101 and slipping after a bump in 2013 and 2014). The numbers may go a long way toward explaining why these are rare multipliers in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and other events. Club station licenses in the US number 11,501, according to Speroni's web pages. —

## Drivin the Dixie Save the Date June 20, 2015

Drivin the Dixie 2015- Celebrating 100 Years of the Dixie Highway

We will need Volunteers for the Towns along the route- from Blue Island to Mومence.

And for the 100th year Anniversary of the Dixie Highway we will have a Special Events Station ON THE AIR from the Beecher Caboose! Yes, operating and promoting Tri-Town and Ham Radio!

Contact Trish at [the\\_jaggards@sbcglobal.net](mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net) if you can volunteer for the ride and the On Air Station

Even if you can't come out that Saturday the Special Events Station, Tri-Town will have the SES on the air the week before the event! contact Brian WD9HSY [bbedoe@aol.com](mailto:bbedoe@aol.com) for more details.

More information on both coming in May Oscillator and with Special Emails

**Special Events Station at the Beecher Caboose  
Drivin the Dixie June 20, 2015**

## Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Introduced in Congress

“The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015” — H.R.1301 — has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle — seven Republicans and five Democrats. Kinzinger also sponsored “The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, which died at the end of the 113th Congress. H.R. 1301 is an essentially identical piece of legislation.

“The introduction of H.R. 1301 with so many original co-sponsors, so early in this session of Congress, is very encouraging,” said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. “Several additional members of Congress already have agreed to be co-sponsors. This bill has momentum, but introduction is only the first step. Many of the next steps will be taken as ARRL members contact their US Representatives urging co-sponsorship and thanking them as they sign on to the bill.”

If Congress approves the legislation, and it is signed by the president, H.R. 1301 would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners’ association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as “covenants, conditions, and restrictions” (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 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. The League had worked with Walden on the 2014 bill during the 113th Congress.

Among H.R. 1301 initial co-sponsors is Rep [Joe Courtney](#) (D-CT), who attended the ARRL National Centennial Convention last summer to speak with League officials and those attending the event about the earlier bill.

Craigie encouraged ARRL members to urge their US House members to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor. The ARRL has an [H.R. 1301 resources](#) page on its website. If the House member is already a co-sponsor, call the member’s local office or send an e-mail via the member’s official website to express their thanks. She called on League members to encourage other hams to do the same, and to be sure to refer to the bill by its number, H.R. 1301.

“Remember what those pile-ups on the W1AW portable stations sounded like last year?” Craigie said. “Let’s be that avid in calling for even greater support in Congress for this essential legislation.”

## ARRL Publishes Field Day 2014 Results

QST contained the 2014 results for Field Day. Some basic number about the event include 1,285,589 total QSOs were made, 37,428 people participated and a total of 2686 entries. Tri – Town was in class 4F and totaled 1670 points. This score placed the Club fifteenth out of twenty three in 4F.

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## N Dakota Ham Marks 80th Anniversary as ARRL Member

A North Dakota radio amateur — Alex Muggli, W0ZTL — was recently honored on the 80th anniversary of his ARRL membership, a very rare milestone. At the recent Bismarck Hamfest, Muggli, who still lives in his home town of Glen Ullin, was presented with an 80-year membership plaque and a framed commemorative cover of *QST* from 1935, the year Muggli joined the ARRL.

“Alex has been a ham since he was 17, and now is 97 years old,” said ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Kent Olson, KA0LDG, who joined North Dakota Section Manager Lynn Nelson, W0ND, in honoring Muggli. “His wife had him quit climbing his tower a couple of years ago, but he seems like he could still do it today.” Nelson said the presentation was a surprise to Alex and his wife, Alice. Their son Dave, N0JLY, and his wife Karen were on hand for the recognition.

Born in 1917, Muggli got interested in radio as a youngster and built a cat’s whisker “crystal set” as his first radio. He learned Morse code in the Boy Scouts — he became an Eagle Scout — and was first licensed as W9ZTL in 1937, a couple of years after he joined the League. He subsequently became W0ZTL, when the FCC reshuffled US call districts. Muggli served in the US Navy during World War II and was a radio and radar instructor. He later worked in his family’s business, managing a grain elevator until he retired.

Muggli remains active on the daily ARRL North Dakota traffic nets and still drives a car. “Many old hams and even the new ones remember Alex on 160 meters,” said Nelson. “He is always active on 160 meters in the winter months and sends out many QSLs. Although Alex is pretty reserved, he is in good health, has lots of stories to tell, and is a special person to visit with at hamfests or on the air,” he added.

## FCC “Paperless” Amateur Radio License Policy Now in Effect

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission maintains that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)), although the FCC had routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses until this week.

In mid-December, the FCC [adopted final procedures](#) to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had [proposed](#) in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its “process reform” initiatives. Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization (“Active” status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees will also be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager.

“We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs,” the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including staff expenses.

The ULS License Manager now permits licensees to change the default setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document.



## “Gray Radio Gang” Reactivates Battleship Iowa HF TX'er

It's a massive project on a number of levels, but the so-called “Gray Radio Gang” that's been working to restore some of the vintage US Navy radio gear onboard the [Battleship Iowa](#) (BB-61), docked in Los Angeles, recently fired up one of the vessel's transmitters for the first time in about 25 years. Restoration team member Jim Jerzycke, KQ6EA, recounted on his “Every Blade of Grass” [blog](#) how the group was finally able to get 950 W into a dummy antenna from one transmitter on 20 meters.

“We still have quite a way to go before we attempt to put one [transmitter] on the air, but the results were quite encouraging for at transmitter that was last powered up sometime in 1990,” Jerzycke said in his blog. “BB-61 should be on the air later this year with a *big* voice!”

He told ARRL that, once the transmitter — or transmitters — are deemed operational, they probably would not be used for routine Amateur Radio work. The *Iowa* already has a ham radio station, NI6BB, under the auspices of the Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association ([BIARA](#)), an ARRL-affiliated club. BIARA's president is Doug Dowds, W6HB. NI6BB has more modern gear but makes use of the ship's own antennas. The BIARA is active from the *Iowa* most Wednesdays and for many national holidays, such as Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Memorial Day, and for operating events such as the Museum Ships Weekend and International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. The station also has hosted Boy Scouts' Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) groups each fall.

The AN/URT-23(C) transmitters, he joked, are “built like a battleship,” with 4CX1500Bs in the final and nominally capable of putting out a couple of kilowatts. He noted that once the Gray Radio Gang has confirmed the signal paths for the various shipboard transmitters and receivers, it will be able to put a transmitter/receiver pair in operation for certain special events. “Jerzycke explained. “It's an honor and a privilege to be able to work on the *Iowa*, and I enjoy every minute of it!”

## The K7RA Solar Update

Weakening sunspot activity continues. Average daily sunspot numbers dropped from 59 in the previous seven days to 54.1 during the week of February 26 through March 4

Average daily solar flux actually rose a little, with values increasing from 116.3 to 122.9 over the same two weeks. In addition, on March 5 the noon reading for solar flux in Penticton was 140.2, but this was an outlier, reduced by NOAA to an official value of 130 for the day.

Don't forget: the vernal equinox is only two weeks away and around this time the Northern and Southern Hemispheres are bathed in equal measures of solar radiation. We should enjoy enhanced HF radio propagation. Also, this weekend is the SSB portion of the ARRL International DX Contest. See <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx> for details. The outlook is good for the weekend.

Predicted solar flux from NOAA and USAF is 135 on March 6-7, 130 on March 8-10, 135 on March 11-12, 130 on March 13-15, 135 on March 16-17, then 130 and 125 on March 18-19 and 120 on March 20-21. Flux values then hit a minimum for the short term on March 24-25 at 110, then rise to 135 on April 12-13, according to the forecast.

The predicted flux values for March 6-12 are significantly higher than in the March 4 forecast, used in Thursday's edition of the *ARRL Letter*. Those reported values averaged to 121.4, while a day later the average values for the same period is 132.9. This indicates a temporary upward trend in the prediction.

## April 15 new Deadline is to Apply for FAR Scholarships

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio ([FAR](#)) has shifted to April 15 the deadline to [apply](#) for the 2015-2016 academic year [scholarships](#) it administers. Individuals and Amateur Radio clubs across the US sponsor these academic awards, and the FAR scholarship application process is open to Amateur Radio licensees worldwide. Applicants must hold a valid Amateur Radio license and be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school.

FAR's scholarship program is one of the largest for Amateur Radio licensees in the US. The organization's purpose is to further Amateur Radio in all of its various facets. For the coming academic year, FAR is administering 67 scholarships worth \$125,500 in all. The list includes 36 Quarter Century Wireless Association scholarships worth a total of \$77,000 for 2015 (these require a recommendation from a QCWA member). Individual awards range from \$500 to \$5000.

The preferred application method to use the [electronic form](#) on the FAR website. Information entered on the form goes directly into an encrypted, password-protected PDF file that is available only to the review committee. Raw data are not stored online. Applicants will have an opportunity to print their applications and to edit them. The application cannot be downloaded and completed, however. Applicants who are unable or unwilling to use the online application should contact [Dave Prestel](#), W8AJR. FAR may be able to provide an alternate form of the application.

Visit the [FAR Scholarship Information](#) page or [contact](#) FAR, if you have questions about the 2015 scholarship application process.

## ARRL 2015 Field Day Gear, Supplies Now Available!

[ARRL Field Day](#) — the most popular operating event on the calendar — is June 27-28, and official gear and supplies now are available from ARRL. [Shirts](#), [hats](#), [pins](#), [patches](#), and coffee [mugs](#) are a great way to acknowledge — and commemorate — your participation in this annual event. New for 2015 are two T shirt color options — [cardinal red](#) and [ice gray](#). Order one or both!

Encourage family, friends, and fellow hams to take part in ARRL Field Day with recruitment [posters](#) and attractive "Get on the Air" (GOTA) [pins](#) for newcomers. All items are available for order now while supplies last and will begin shipping in early April.

Clubs are encouraged to order early. Place a group order and pay just \$12.50 shipping for all orders over \$50 (while supplies last).

Get your 2015 ARRL Field Day supplies from the ARRL [online store](#) or by calling 888-277-5289 in the US, Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time (outside the US, call 860-594-0355).

The complete 2015 [ARRL Field Day](#) packet is online, and there are no rule changes for 2015. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs are expected to gather with their clubs, in groups, or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. ARRL encourages participants to register their Field Day operations using the [FD Site Locator](#). If you have questions about Field Day, [e-mail](#) them or call 860-594-0232.



## German Hams Breathe New Life into “Orphaned” SWL Channel

Some radio amateurs are frustrated broadcasters, and when German national broadcaster the Deutsche Welle closed down a 500 kW shortwave broadcast transmitter near Munich, an entity headed and operated by hams applied for and was granted the vacant channel of 6070 kHz in the 49 meter shortwave band. DARC Radio — which has a business association with the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club ([DARC](#)) but is privately owned — now has a 10 kW broadcast station, branded “[Channel 292](#),” up and running, and a new Amateur Radio DX program will debut next month.

The DARC is a customer, and under its banner, a weekly Amateur Radio-oriented magazine of DARC news, contest schedules, DX information, interviews, DXpedition reports, market reviews, technical hints, and “some nice old music from the 70s and 80s” will debut on Sunday, March 22, at 1000 UTC, Englert told ARRL. The program will be in German, but the RSGB has expressed interest in contributing English-language program segments, he said. The inaugural DX magazine will be repeated on Monday, March 23, at 1600 UTC.

According to the DARC, the initial March 22 broadcast will air from a 100 kW transmitter in Austria, while the repeat broadcast on March 23 will emanate from Radio DARC’s 10 kW transmitter near Ingolstadt, Germany. “The antenna is a low-hanging, simple dipole with very high radiation angle, optimized for short-range coverage,” Englert explained. The station easily covers much of Western Europe, he said, and also has been heard in Russia. “The transmitter sucks almost 40 kW out of the grid at 100 percent modulation.” All [reception reports](#) to Channel 292 will be answered with a QSL card. Outgoing cards will go out via the DARC QSL bureau.

## K1N Navassa Island DXpedition is Ham Radio History

The [K1N Navassa Island](#) DXpedition wrapped up on schedule early on Sunday, February 15. While some seekers went away empty handed — even after hours of trying to break the massive pileups (and some intentional interference) — thousands were more fortunate. Going into the DXpedition, Navassa Island (KP1) was the second most-wanted DXCC entity (after North Korea) on [ClubLog's Most Wanted List](#). After starting up in the waning hours of February 1, K1N logged 138,409 contacts with 35,702 unique call signs. The final K1N contact was made on February 15 at 1127 UTC.

“The last helicopter flight left the island at 1500Z with the last three team members who overnighted to keep stations QRV until the last possible moment,” said team member Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, in a K1N media release. “There was an excellent opening to Asia/Oceania almost all day and all night during the last 24 hours. All team members are back safe, healthy and happy in Jamaica.”

Right after shutting down, the skeleton crew of operators remaining on the island packed and stowed the radio equipment and their gear for the return trip. The US Fish and Wildlife Service ([USFWS](#)) oversees access to the small island, and it has indicated that it would not allow any more DXpeditions to Navassa for another decade.

February 4 was the team’s most prolific day, with 15,706 contacts. Twenty meters was the money band, with 14,563 CW, 16,895 SSB, and 2498 RTTY contacts. K1N also did well on 12 meters, logging 10,094 CW and 1423 RTTY contacts. The Navassa team even managed 411 phone contacts on 60 meters, and 231 on 6 meters. K1N also was active on the FO-29 satellite.

Logs have been uploaded to ClubLog. A log search engine and more contact statistics are on the [K1N Navassa Island](#) website.

# ARRL Seeks Member Input on Draft HF Band Plan Proposals

The ARRL is asking members to [comment](#) by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF [Band Plans](#) suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters — excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400 member comments in response to a [March 2014 solicitation](#) that sought suggestions for using the spectrum more efficiently so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

“The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments,” ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ said. His article detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April edition of *QST*.

The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz, and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2700 Hz.

## ***Band by Band Draft Recommendations***

The committee suggests several modifications to the 80 meter band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data subband to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3600-3700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. “Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3500-3600 kHz will not improve the situation,” Sumner said.

The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

- Shift the ACDS band segment from 3585-3600 to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.
- Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3525-3600 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Add 80 meter RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

On 40 meters, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz.

The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the “Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide,” with wide data modes — outside of ACDS — at 7115-7125 kHz. The “Guide” shows 7070-7125 kHz for RTTY/data, while the ARRL band plan shows 7080-7125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7100-7105 kHz segment.

See next page .....

## HF Band Plan Proposals cont from previous page:

On 30 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10.140-10.150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10.130-10.140 MHz.

On 20 meters, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14.0995-14.1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14.1005-14.112 MHz segment, and narrow ACDS in the 14.095-14.0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14.070-14.095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called “weak-signal” data modes often are used between 14.070 and 14.078 MHz.

On 17 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18.105-18.110 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18.100-18.105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18.110 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 15 meters, the committee recommends that 21.070-21.090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21.090-21.100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21.100 MHz for any additional wide data activity. The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 meter segment, where they’re now limited to CW.

On 12 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24.925-24.930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24.920-24.925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24.930 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 10 meters, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28.120-28.189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28.070-28.120 MHz.

## Comments Due by April 6 on 76-81 GHz Radar Sharing

Comments are due by April 6 on an FCC proceeding that could lead to expanded spectrum for various radar applications in the 76-81 GHz band, which Amateur Radio shares with other services. The band 77.5-78 GHz is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services on a primary basis, and to the Radio Astronomy and Space Research services on a secondary basis. The FCC released a detailed *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Reconsideration Order* ([NPRM&RO](#)) in ET Docket 15-26 on February 5. The Commission said the proposals include allocation changes as well as provisions “to ensure that new and incumbent operations can share the available frequencies in the band.”

The FCC *NPRM&RO* was in response to a 2012 *Petition for Rulemaking* (RM-11666) from Robert Bosch LLC and to two petitions for reconsideration of the Commission’s 2012 *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) addressing vehicular radar systems in the 76-77 GHz band. ET 15-26 incorporates earlier proceedings. Among many issues, the FCC seeks comment on the possibility of reallocating the Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite services from 76-81 GHz, and it asks for suggestions on “alternative spectrum that we might make available in this general region.” More than 10 years ago the FCC suspended Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite operation in the 76-77 GHz segment and recently extended the suspension.

# ARRL Counters Move for 10 GHz Wireless Broadband Sharing

The ARRL [has told](#) several US House and Senate members that the 10 GHz band, where the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services have allocations, is not a suitable choice to expand wireless broadband. Three Republican and three Democratic lawmakers [wrote](#) FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler on March 2, asking the Commission to “explore potential sharing opportunities within the 10 GHz band” to alleviate “the well-documented spectrum crunch.” The primary allocation of 10.0-10.5 GHz is for federal radiolocation, with Amateur Radio secondary in the entire band and Amateur-Satellite secondary at 10.45 to 10.50 GHz. The League pointed out that plans for additional sharing are already in the works.

“Based on extensive compatibility studies conducted during preparations for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), additional sharing for an important scientific purpose is already planned,” ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out in a March 4 letter to the Congress members. Sumner explained that several years of work went into an agreed-upon US proposal at WRC-15 for a primary allocation at 9.9 to 10.5 GHz for the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (active), “subject to appropriate protections for incumbent services.”

Sumner said the ARRL is satisfied that the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (active) “can be accommodated in the band without causing intolerable harmful interference to the Amateur Service,” while the same would not be true for wireless broadband. “Accordingly,” he concluded, “the ARRL opposes the introduction of wireless broadband into the 10 GHz band.”

“A request by a wireless broadband equipment manufacturer to permit broadband was considered but could not be accommodated,” Sumner added. That manufacturer, Mimoso Networks, filed a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11715](#)) in 2013 that the FCC put out for comment last year, seeking the allocation of the band for what it has called “lightly licensed fixed wireless broadband use.” Mimoso’s petition included a band plan for 10.0 to 10.5 GHz that would cede to Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite users just two small segments of the present allocation. The company claimed its proposal would protect the 10 GHz frequencies most often used by radio amateurs. The FCC has not acted on the *Petition*.

Sumner noted that the FCC already has initiated a proceeding to identify spectrum above 24 GHz that can be designated for mobile wireless broadband, including additional spectrum that could be authorized on an unlicensed basis.

“Sharing opportunities in the 10 GHz band could make more spectrum available and provide another avenue for consumers and innovators to tap into the Internet economy,” the lawmakers told Wheeler. Mimoso Networks expressed support for the lawmakers’ appeal in a March 3 [media release](#).

“Footnote US128 very clearly and without equivocation prohibits all non-federal services in the band 10-10.5 GHz except for the Amateur Service, the Amateur-Satellite Service, and the non-federal radiolocation service,” the ARRL said in its comments. The FCC “is not at liberty to ignore” the US footnote, the League said, and is obliged on that basis alone to dismiss the *Petition*, “because it hasn’t the authority to grant it.”

**Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.NET](http://WWW.W9VT.NET)**





## Officers for 2015

Standing Left to Right: Matt N9OTL, Todd KA9IUC, Trica N9WDG, Jim WD9GXU, Brian WD9HSY  
Front Row: Pete KE9YX & Randy N9KKN

## Mega DXpeditions Honor Roll Posted on GDXF Site

Anyone who likes Top 10 lists or even statistics will find something to appreciate in the [“Mega DXpeditions Honor Roll,”](#) compiled and posted by Jari Jussila, OH2BU, and Bernd Koch, DF3CB. At the very least, this resource will help to settle any arguments as to the accomplishments of any DXpedition that logged at least 30,000 contacts. The German DX Foundation (GDXF) is hosting the Honor Roll, which includes 221 Mega DXpeditions. Each listing provides a link to details of the DXpedition and QSL card image. Individual links sort the database on various categories, including such statistics as QSOs per day and Top 20 modes.

In terms of contact numbers, topping the list was the 2011 T32C DXpedition to Eastern Kiribati. The 32-day operation, which boasted 41 operators, logged 213,090 contacts. By way of comparison, the 15 operators mounting the recent 15-day K1N DXpedition to Navassa put 139,702 contacts into the logbook, putting that operation in 9th place in terms of QSO numbers.

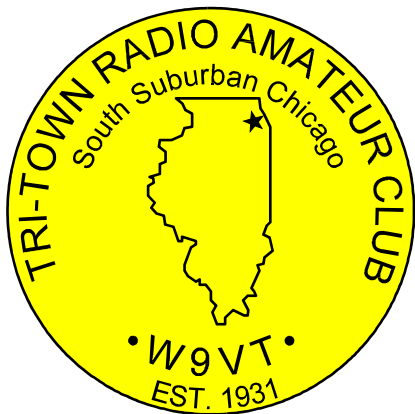
Most contacts made during a single-operator DXpedition? That would have been the 53,849 QSOs that Jukka Heikinheimo, OH2BR, logged as VP6BR during his 88-day [visit to Pitcairn Island](#) in early 2000. This has been recognized as a Guinness world record. The Honor Roll also includes a list of the most active operators to take part in a Mega DXpedition.

Address comments, corrections, or additions to the list to [Jari Jussila](#), OH2BU, and [Bernd Koch](#), DF3CB. — Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)

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

March 2015

First Class Mail



Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://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 \$ 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

## Dues are Due!

Club dues expire the first of the year so 2015 dues are now due. The Board voted to increase the dues from \$20 to \$25 for 2015. The increase is due to continued expenses for insurance, repeater operation and the gradual reduction in membership. Your continued support of the raffles and the refreshment jar also helps. Dues can be paid at any meeting or sent to the clubs mailing address. Please include a membership form so we can keep the Club's roster up to date.