

The Oscillator

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Up-Coming Events

March - Smart Grid Technology - Friday, March 17, 2017. A general meeting will be held at the Hazel Crest Village Hall starting at 7:30 PM. The program for the evening will be a presentation by Pat Graves from Commonwealth Edison on Smart Grid Technology. Refreshments and raffle will be available. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

April - Satellite Operation - Friday, April 21, 2017. A general meeting will be held at the Hazel Crest Village Hall starting at 7:30 PM. The program for the evening will be a presentation by Peter Schaper, KE9YX and it will be on our satellite operation during Field Day 2016. Refreshments and raffle will be available. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

From The President's Shack

Best regards and 73, Todd, KA9IUC

With the mild winter that we are experiencing, I hope everyone is taking advantage and getting an early jump on outdoor projects. I put up a new 40/20 meter fan dipole at the end of February. It was sure great having warm temperatures and wild wind conditions to deal with. We have had some great programs so far this year and March and April should continue the trend. I thanked Kermit for attending our February meeting and giving a great presentation. It was an hour plus each way for him. What sounds like a lot but not when you consider he covers three states! I would like to thank Sharon Gunderson, KA9IIT, for stepping up to fill the vacant Director position. More net control operators are needed as is a refreshment chairman. It is a lot easier when the workload is spread across many rather than a few. Bunker social nights are planned for those meeting nights when attendance is low due to the Dayton Hamvention in May and vacation time in July and August. Please mark your calendars for the Driving the Dixie event June 17th and Field Day 2017 on June 24th and 25th. We always have a good turnout for the Driving the Dixie event and I hope we can get more operators out this year for Field Day, especially CW operators. It is unfortunate that our two biggest club activities fall on consecutive weekends.

The last subject I would like to address is our membership. As of now, membership includes 24 regular members, 7 Life members and 6 Family members for a total of 37. This is down from last year and all previous year for that fact. We cannot afford this trend. If you have renewed, Thank You. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible. If there is something that the Club is failing to do or could be doing better, please let me know. We can all be recruiters to help the Club grow. Got any ideas? Please let me know.

Board Actions

The Tri-Town Board of Directors took the following actions at recent meetings. At the January meeting, Sharon Gunderson, KA9IIT, was confirmed to fill the vacant Director position. Also, Matt Schumann, K9OTL, was elected Chairman of the Board.

At the February meeting, it was confirmed that Tri-Town would again, for its 13th year, support the Driving the Dixie event with parade communications and a special event station.

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2017:

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	mattschumann@yahoo.com
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	jimgxu15@outlook.com
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708 341.8900	wa9cyl@comcast.net
Sharon Gunderson	Board Member	708.957.7944	d.gunderson@sbcglobal.net
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@comcast.net
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466.0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Dir.	815.370.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com

Members of the Tri-Town Radio Club Inc. publish the Oscillator 6 times a year. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Officers or members of the Tri-Town RAC, but of the contributors. All articles may be reprinted as long as full credit is given. Other publications are asked to reciprocate their newsletter. Some Articles printed here are from AMSAT, ARRL Letter, TAPR, World Radio, QRZ.COM, Eham, and Other Amateur Radio Publications.

Club Meetings & Nets

Club meetings are the 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.

Club Hangouts:

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

Club Nets

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net	Wednesday, 8:00 PM Local,	The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
2 Mtr FM Preparedness Net	Sundays, 8:00 PM local,	The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
10 Mtr SSB Net	Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local,	28.490 SSB USB.
40 Mtr Tri-Town Alumni Net	Weekdays, 2200 UTC	7.285 SSB LSB
80 Mtr SSB Net	Saturdays, 9am local	3.860 SSB LSB

Hamfests in the Area

04/08/2017 | [Madison Hamfest](#) Location: Stoughton, WI
Sponsor: Madison Area Repeater Association Website: <http://www.gsl.net/mara>

04/22/2017 | [North Central Indiana Hamfest](#) Location: Peru, IN
Website: <http://nci-hamfest.net>

05/07/2017 | [The DeKalb Hamfest](#) Location: Sandwich, IL
Sponsor: Kishwaukee ARC Website: <http://karc-club.org>

Tom Niemeyer, AB9LA - SK

Tom served four terms as Tri-Town President, 2009 thru 2012. He promoted activities for the club, increasing the membership, was net control for the Sunday night net, and did grounding work for the antennas and towers at the Club station.

Following is his obituary from the Crete Funeral Home website. Thomas L. Niemeyer, age 76 of Crete, Illinois passed away on March 2, 2017. Beloved husband to Judith (nee Hill); loving father to James (Gina) Niemeyer, Patricia (John Lombardo) Niemeyer, Stephen (Deidre) Niemeyer, Sheila 'Kate' Kendrick, and Michael (Michelle) Niemeyer. Cherished grandfather of 14; great grandfather of 1. Dear brother to Jay (Johanna) Niemeyer. Thomas worked for Electrical Systems Inc. (E.S.I.) as an Electrical Engineer. He was also a Ham Radio Operator, member of the On Target Archery Outfitters in Steger, enjoyed golfing with his family, and he was an avid motorcycle rider. Memorial mass on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 12 noon at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 227 Monee Road, Park Forest, Illinois.

Help Needed!

The Club is in need of a Refreshment Chairman for 2017 and hopefully beyond. Mark Thompson, KA9MDJ has retired from the position due to health concerns. Anyone who comes to Club meetings knows what the position entails. Drinks and snacks must be purchased along with paper goods such as napkins and paper towels, for which you are reimbursed. The counter and floor must be cleaned and it is believed Mark has the Club's vacuum to help with that chore.

We are also in need of net control operators for the Wednesday and Sunday night nets. At present, three guys run eight or more nets a month. Please contact any Club officer if you can help

FCC Consent Decrees Must Get Okay from Full Commission

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has put in place another process reform measure that he says will enable the commissioners "to become more fully involved in the agency's enforcement activities."

From time to time, the FCC Enforcement Bureau resolves cases by entering into a consent decree, in which the party under investigation agrees to comply with certain terms — and typically make a "voluntary contribution" to the US Treasury — in exchange for the government's closing its inquiry.

"But over the past few years, in cases in which the full Commission has previously voted to propose and/or impose a forfeiture, such consent decrees have generally not been presented to the Commissioners for a vote," Pai said in announcing the change. "Instead, they have simply been signed by the Chief of the Enforcement Bureau at the direction of the Chairman's Office." Pai said in many instances, the commissioners were given scant notice of consent decrees prior to their public release.

"That process ends now," Pai said. "If Commissioners vote to propose and/or impose a forfeiture, the Enforcement Bureau should not settle that matter without their approval." As of February 9, any consent decree settling a *Notice of Apparent Liability or Forfeiture Order* issued by the full Commission must now be approved by a vote of the full Commission. "This will help promote Commissioners' involvement in and accountability for important enforcement decisions," Pai said.

Need an Antenna? Build One!

By Todd, KA9IUC

Last fall, with the help of my son Andy and Jerry K9PMV, a new A99 vertical was installed on my garage roof. The A99 is a broad banded CB antenna that, with a tuner, will work 17m-10m. The A99 antenna has been used at the Tri-Town club station for many years with great results. I needed an antenna for 40m and 20m but another vertical was out of the answer due to having a small city lot.

I spent time reviewing antenna design books and commercial offerings and decided on a multiband dipole. The use of traps was eliminated due to weight concerns as the dipole would only be supported by the ends. A "Fan" dipole was the antenna of choice.

The end to end lengths of each dipole was cut for the mid-point frequency of the phone portion of each band. The antenna is feed through a 1:1 balun (see photo #1). The dipoles are 4 inches apart vertically (See Photo #2). This



Photo #1 Center Insulator

distance was taken from antenna designs that were reviewed. The spacers between the wires are made from 1 inch x 5 inch x 1/16 inch thick Plexiglas. The wires are attached to the spacers by the use of split bolts. Split bolts are



Photo #2 One Leg of the Dipole

typically use to join wires together and have a slot cut in the threaded bolt and a floating cross bar in the nut (See Photo #3). As shown in Photo #3, the plastic spacer is squeezed between the wire on one side and the split bolt nut on the other. The split bolt on the right in Photo #3 is the size used. The larger split bolt on the left shows more detail. There are six spacers on each side of the 20 m dipole.

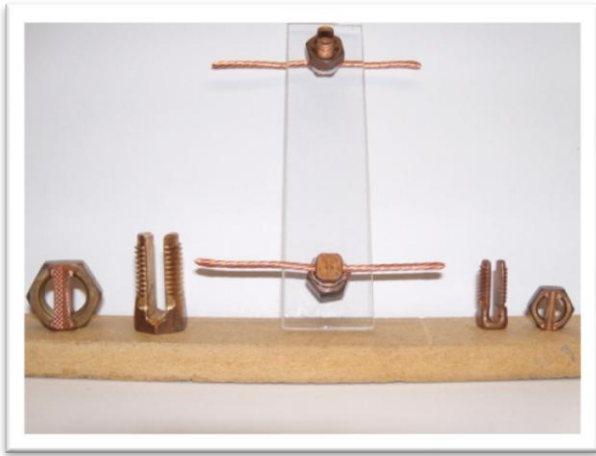


Photo #3 Spacer Construction

The antenna went up with the help of Andy and it seems to work great. No tuner is needed for 40m but the 20m portion is short on length and needs the use of a tuner. I thought ahead when cutting the wire lengths and left an extra foot of wire on each end in case they had to be lengthened. The extra length wire was folded tightly back on its self and secured.

The only thing I had to buy was the balun. The junk box provided the rest. It feels real good to research something, build it, and have it work. Well, now on to something for 160m, 75m and 6m.

Xenia High School Closing on May 19 to Let Students Attend Hamvention

Xenia High School [has announced](#) that it will cancel classes on Friday, May 19, so students there can attend the opening day of [Hamvention](#). The largest Amateur Radio gathering in the US will take place in Xenia for the first time this spring after being forced to relocate when long-time venue, Hara Arena, closed.

A message on the high school's website says, "Xenia will welcome Hamvention to our community for the first time ever this year. Hamvention will be taking place May 19-21. Since this is the first year of Xenia hosting it, we want our students to have the opportunity to take advantage of all of the sessions associated with this program.

"We also anticipate a large number of people from outside the city coming to Xenia for the convention. Thus, the Board of Education has decided to cancel school on Friday, May 19th. Teachers will be involved in professional development programs on this day. We are excited about what Hamvention can mean to our city. Additional information will come regarding student tickets to the convention and any other opportunities that may be available."

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>
Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Tri-Town's Tentative 2017 Event Calendar

- March General meeting Friday March 17th, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. Program will be a presentation by Pat Graves of Commonwealth Edison on Smart Grid technology.
- April General meeting Friday April 21st, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. Program will be a presentation by Peter Schaper, KE9YX on our satellite operation during Field Day 2016.
- May Bunker Social Night May 19th, 7:30 PM at the Club Station W9VT. (No meeting due to Hamvention)
- June General meeting Friday June 16, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. Program will cover Driving the Dixie and Field Day 2017.
- June Driving the Dixie - June 17th.
- June Field Day June 24th and 25th.
- July Bunker Social Night Friday July 21st, 7:30 PM at the Club Station W9VT.
- Aug Bunker Social Night Friday August 18th, 7:30 PM at the Club Station W9VT.
- Sept Club Picnic, Saturday September 16th, Noon at the Monee Reservoir.
- Oct General meeting Friday October 20th, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.
- Nov General meeting, Friday November 17th at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. Program will be nomination of officers for 2018, Show and Tell, and White Elephant Sale.
- Dec Christmas Party, Saturday December 9th at Aurelio's in Frankfort. Short program for the election of officers for 2018.

Board of Directors Meetings: 2nd Monday of the Month, 7:30 PM at the Club Station. Members are welcome.

Field Day 2017 Packet is Now Available

The [Field Day 2017 packet](#) now is available from the ARRL website. Field Day 2017 is June 24-25 — always the fourth full weekend in June. There have been no significant rule changes from 2016.

The Field Day packet contains everything you or your club will need to succeed in June, including explanations, FAQs, articles from experts, and even a log page template, if you log on paper for FD. For more information on Field Day, [contact](#) the ARRL Contest Branch.

For Sale: Astron 35A Regulated Power Supply

25A Continuous, 35A Peak (NEW \$179) \$ 90 Call Ron WB9JYZ, 708.957.3625

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Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Business News Broadcaster Paul H. Kangas, W4LAA, SK

Business news broadcaster Paul H. Kangas, W4LAA, of North Miami Beach, Florida, died on February 28. He was 79 and had been in hospice care. From 1979 until 2009, Kangas was the co-anchor of the popular “Nightly Business Report” aired on public television, on which he signed off wishing viewers “the best of good buys. He received an Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement in Business and Financial Reporting from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

“With his booming voice, easy laughter and quick wit, Paul Kangas was a tremendous asset to ‘Nightly Business Report,’ right from its inception in 1979,” said Linda O’Byron, who once co-anchored with Kangas. “He helped invent stock market reporting on television.” O’Byron said Kangas, who worked without a script, had an “encyclopedic knowledge of the stock market.”

Kangas was among the original members of an informal group that began meeting more than 3 decades ago on 20-meter SSB. Group member Bill Cate, K5EEF, told ARRL that Kangas was “a favorite with all of us, a great and fun wordsmith, with whom we would play spelling and definition games all the time.” Cate has the opportunity to visit Kangas at home in 2014 and said he’d always remember “his wonderful hospitality, his engaging personality, and his great sense of humor.”

A graduate of the University of Michigan and the New York University Stern School of Business, Kangas was a US Coast Guard veteran and former stockbroker who broke into broadcasting as a stock commentator on Miami PBS station WPBT, becoming co-anchor of the “Nightly Business Report” in 1990. Tom Hudson, who succeeded Kangas after his retirement, said that Kangas “set the standard” for stock market reporting on television.

The Detroit Free Press called Kangas “the Walter Cronkite of business broadcasting.”

Orlando HamCation a Hit, Posts New Attendance Record

When [Orlando HamCation®](#) hosted the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention February 10-12, it posted a new attendance record. As a result of its growing popularity, the Orlando show may now be the third largest ham radio gathering in the world — behind the JARL Tokyo Ham Fair, with an estimated 37,000 attendees in 2016, and Hamvention®, which attracts some 25,000 visitors each May. This year, HamCation logged a record 19,000 attendees, up from 2,000 last year, moving it ahead of Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

HamCation’s sponsor, the ARRL-affiliated Orlando Amateur Radio Club. Representing ARRL Headquarters at HamCation this year were CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF; ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, and ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. They were joined by ARRL Southeastern Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK; Vice Director Joey Tiritilli, N4ZUW; Northern Florida Section Manager Steve Szabo, WB4OMM; ARRL Honorary Vice President Frank Butler, W4RH, and a handful of other ARRL Field Organization volunteers.

Volunteer Don Search, W3AZD, headed up DXCC card checking. Membership sign-ups were brisk, Inderbitzen reported, “and we couldn’t have kept up without the additional help of volunteers Lindy Gallagher and Dr. Sherry Mahafza, KM4VSW.”

Jahnke and Inderbitzen also attended the Florida Contest Group dinner, which included a keynote presentation by elite contester Tim Duffy, K3LR. Inderbitzen has posted a [photo album](#) on ARRL’s Facebook page.

The K7RA Solar Update

On March 2 at 2353 UTC the Australian Space Forecast Centre issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning.

“The Earth is currently under the influence of a high speed solar wind stream from a recurrent coronal hole. On 3 March geomagnetic activity is expected to reach active levels. Isolated minor storm periods are also possible.”

This reporting week (February 23 through March 1, 2017) sunspot and solar flux averages rose while geomagnetic indices remained about the same, compared to the previous seven days. Average daily sunspot numbers increased from 19.1 to 34.1, and average daily solar flux went from 78.5 to 81.3.

Average planetary A index barely changed from 11.3 to 13.1, and average mid-latitude A index (measured in Virginia) went from 9 to 8.7. The numbers went in opposite directions, but were each barely changed.

More Countries Authorize 5 MHz Bands; Comments Due on ARRL 5 MHz Petition by March 20

Uruguay and Hong Kong are among the latest countries to establish new bands in the vicinity of 5 MHz. The *Final Acts* of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service.

In Uruguay, new Amateur Radio regulations that came into force on February 24 provide for a 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz 60-meter band as well as for allocations on 472-479 kHz, 47-47.2 GHz, and 77.5-78 GHz. In addition, radio amateurs in Uruguay now have extended allocations on 80 meters, 3,500-4,000 kHz, and on 160 meters, 1,800-2,000 kHz. The new bands and sub-bands were adopted according to the recently updated International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 (IARU-R2) band plan.

Holders of the General license in Uruguay may operate with 15 W EIRP, while *Superior* licensees may operate with 25 W EIRP.

Uruguay also has established a Beginner (*Inicial*) class license and a training program for new radio amateurs with mandatory operating practice on 80, 40, 10, and 2 meters. Uruguay has established procedures for non-citizens to apply for and renew Amateur Radio licenses, and reciprocal permits for non-residents will be available.

In Hong Kong, the local telecommunication authority OFCA [has allocated](#) 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis. The maximum power permitted is 15 W EIRP. All 60 meter allocations are on a secondary basis.

While US radio amateurs have access to five discrete 60-meter channels, they do not yet have access to a contiguous band in that part of the spectrum. Comments are due on March 20 on the ARRL's January 12 [Petition for Rule Making](#) to allocate a new, secondary amateur band at 5 MHz, while keeping four of the current five 60-meter channels — one would be within the new band — as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum in the US.

The FCC has designated the League's *Petition* as RM-11785 and has put it on public notice. Interested parties may comment on the League's petition via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)).

Former White House Cybersecurity Advisor Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, SK

Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, of Muskego, Wisconsin — a global leader in cybersecurity and the first person to hold the post of White House Cybersecurity Coordinator — died on March 2. An ARRL member, he was 67. Schmidt served both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama as their administrations' top cybersecurity advisor. He also held top security posts at Microsoft and eBay. In 2009, after President Obama named him as White House Cybersecurity Coordinator, [Schmidt told ARRL](#) that he credited Amateur Radio with getting involved in technology. A friend who was a ham turned him on to shortwave radio, which got him into building radios and other equipment, including many Heathkits. First licensed as WB7NUV in the late 1970s, Schmidt was active on VHF and UHF, including packet, and said [TAPR](#) was “a real inspiration.”

By the time he joined the Obama administration, which he left in 2012, he had only recently gotten back into Amateur Radio owing to what he called “an administrative error.” Due to a clerical mistake, the FCC had erroneously mailed him an Amateur Extra ticket, prompting him to buy a full complement of gear. By the time the error was resolved, he said, “I was hooked on Amateur Radio all over again.”

Schmidt distinguished himself in both the public and private sectors, including more than 26 years of military service with the US Air Force — he served three duty tours in Vietnam — and later as an Army Reserve special agent with the Criminal Investigation Divisions' Computer Crime Unit. As director of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Computer Forensics Lab and Computer Crime and Information Warfare Division, he established the US government's first dedicated computer forensics lab.

In 2011, at Schmidt's invitation, an [ARRL delegation briefed](#) several National Security Staff members on the capability of Amateur Radio to assist in emergencies. “The White House is looking for ways that the great work of Amateur Radio operators can continue to support emergencies in the future, with particular attention to increased use and dependency on internet-based technologies,” Schmidt told the delegation.

RST-Suffix Special Event is Back

Members of the North Country DX Association ([NCDXA](#)) are on the air for the entire month of March from locations in Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Greenland using RST-suffix fixed-station call signs. Expected to be active are KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST, VY0RST, and OX7RST. The goal is to promote Amateur Radio in *northern* North America.

The 2017 event, the second annual RST operation, features the addition of OX7RST, as well as more rovers and fixed stations, new QSL cards, and certificates. Plans call for operation from a Canadian research station near the North Pole on Ellesmere Island, a diamond mine in Northwest Territories, an Alaskan bush school, and many other locations. Activity will be on all modes, 160 through 6 meters, including 30, 17, and 12 meters. SWLs may participate too.

The object is to work or log as many NCDXA RST stations as possible from their various locations. NCDXA RST stations will send a signal report and location. Receiving stations should send signal report and state, province, or DXCC entity.

Logs will be uploaded to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). [More information](#) is available on the K7ICE QRZ.com profile page. NCDXA is also on [Facebook](#).

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>
Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

HAARP Signals Widely Copied, Experiments to Continue

Many listeners were able to copy signals from Alaska's High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program ([HAARP](#)) early on February 20 (UTC). The facility has begun its first scientific research campaign since being taken over by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute 18 months ago. UAF Space Physics Group Assistant Research Professor Chris Fallen, KL3WX, said the Twitter and e-mail feedback from his first evening's run has been "fantastic." Fallen will fire up the powerful HAARP transmitters again on February 21 starting at 0300 UTC (the evening of February 20 in US time zones) with a few tweaks.

"I may adjust the frequency to 2.83 MHz and 3.33 MHz, but generally it will be 2.8-ish and 3.3-ish either way," he told ARRL.

Fallen is starting and stopping each experiment block with an audio broadcast, transmitting AM carriers on or about 2.8 and 3.3 MHz, with the resulting skywave signal — the "Luxembourg Effect" — being a mix of both frequencies. He has transmitted a simple piece of music, composed locally, specifically to help demonstrate the Luxembourg effect. Fallen said he got reports on the first evening from Georgia, Michigan, British Columbia, Southern California, and Finland — among other locations.

"The CW artificial aurora experiment that follows (weather dependent) is 90 seconds on, 30 seconds off, with the following sequence: 2.80, 2.80, 2.82, 2.84 MHz," Fallen said. "The ionosphere has been looking ratty all day, so I do not have much hope for the artificial aurora experiments."

He said his Twitter feed ([@ctfallen](#)) has included "a lot of great waterfalls, videos, and audio by hams and SWLers. It's quite an event, of sorts."

Fallen is working under a National Science Foundation [grant](#). He's posting additional information on his "Gakona HAARPool 2017" [blog](#). He points out that exact times, transmit frequencies, and experiment modes "are subject to change in response to a variety of factors." Selected updates will be posted via [Twitter](#).

Fallen encourages radio amateurs and SWLs to record the events they hear and post reports to social media or [e-mail](#) him.

ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License

An Entry Level License Committee was established by the ARRL Board of Directors and appointed in September 2016. As part of its ongoing work, the committee is gathering member input and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC.

The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF.

The committee has created an [online member survey](#). Please complete and submit the survey no later than April 7, 2017. Survey results will be published.

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Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

VOA Celebrates 75 Years on the Air

The Voice of America [marked its 75th anniversary](#) on February 1. Not 2 months after the US officially entered World War II, a live, 15-minute shortwave broadcast was transmitted into Germany from a small studio in New York City, introduced by “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

Announcer William Harlan Hale then said, “We bring you Voices from America. Today, and daily from now on, we shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good for us. The news may be bad. But we shall tell you the truth.”

That was the very first broadcast from what is today the Voice of America ([VOA](#)). By the end of the war, the VOA was broadcasting music, news, and commentary in 40 languages and has grown into an international multimedia service, with programming and content in 47 languages on multiple platforms, including radio, television

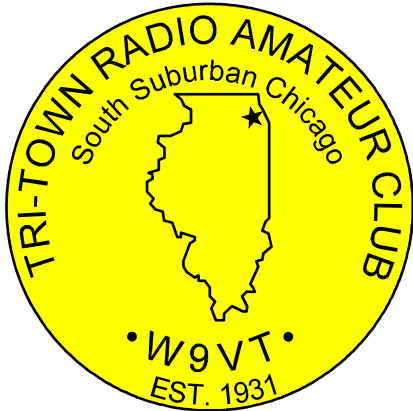
Kermit Carlson, W9XA Visits Tri-Town

ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, addressed the February meeting of the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club. He presented a very informative update on the League's activities regarding rules and regulations, antenna restrictions and operating activities. He brought with him a sampling of the League's publications including QST, license manuals, technical books on a wide range of subjects and handouts of band plan charts and call area maps. Thank you Kermit!



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

First Class Mail



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 2017 dues are now due. Your dues pay for the continued expenses for insurance, repeater operation. 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.

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