

The Oscillator

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May 18, 2007 Program Driving the Dixie and Field Day Video

At our May meeting, we will show a video of last year's *Driving the Dixie* event. Last year was our first outing with *Driving the Dixie* and it turned out to be a fun event. For those of you who did not participate, the video will show you how Tri-Town provided helpful communications and had fun all at the same time. There will also be a portion of the video that was taken at the club station during last years Field Day.

June Program Field Day 2007

2007 Folks on Spokes Easter Ride

By Jerry K9PMV

Sunday April 22, 2007 was a beautiful clear sunny warm day. My job for the day was driving SAG wagon; looking for stranded cyclists. I arrived at Governor's State University early to get my driving assignment from **FOS SAG leader Phil Lincenberg**. Everything seemed to be right. **Bruce WD9GHK** was stationed at GSU as net control, **Gene KB9RNM** was on station at Monee Reservoir and **Jim NV9X** was on duty at Goodenow Grove. Going back to my car, I thought that this is just the moment to use our beautiful Tri-Town magnetic signs. I applied the signs to each side of my car and I stepped back to admire how well this is going to advertise our participation in this event. I took off and started to patrol the route. After a few miles, I had a suspicion that all was not right with the magnetic signs. I stopped and inspected the car a found that the sign from the passenger door was gone! Somewhere between where I was and the University, the road wind had peeled it off. Oh No! Good Grief! ... These things are not cheap. So the only thing to do was to back track and see if I could spot it somewhere along the roadside. It seemed hopeless after a half an hour of searching and I was really disgusted. Then came a strong, clear, signal on the 146.805 repeater. By some miracle the lost sign had made its way to the doorstep of **Jim KB9VR**. A local commuter was following me had seen the sign peel off and had picked it up. Seeing the ham radio call sign, this person thought immediately of the area's most famous ham resident and brought it to Jim. Whew! Conclusion? My car does not like magnetic signs. What is the solution to the conclusion? I replaced my old car with a new one a week later!

With that crisis over with, the rest of the day proceeded very nicely. Midday temperatures were in the low 80's albeit windy enough to make biking a challenge going to the south. **Gene KB9RNM** was relieved at Monee by **Jim WD9GXU** at noontime. Jim stayed there till the ride was over. Our group handled the usual messages regarding low supplies and stranded riders. We have gone from using 146.49 simplex to using the 146.80 repeater to trying out the new UHF **WALDOFAR** north and south linked repeaters that, in total, gives us unbeatable radio coverage in this area. Thanks to all that participated and especially to the repeater crew.

With Our Condolences, W9FHW, Herm, SK

Herman Andrew Fabert, Jr., passed away on Sunday, **April 29**, 2007 at Martha & Mary Health Services in Poulosbo, Washington. He was 85 years of age. Herman was born on September 23, 1921 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Herman A. Fabert and Estella Schaub. Services are pending at Madison Avenue Retirement on Bainbridge Island, WA and will be updated on this web site.

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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, and Other Amateur Radio Publications

Club Meetings & Nets

Club meetings are the **3rd Friday** of each month at the **Village of Hazel Crest Village Hall**, 170th and Holmes. All are welcome and refreshments will serve. Don't forget to bring a Friend.

Official Club 2 Mtr hangouts: 146.49 Simplex, & The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
Unofficial Club Hang Outs 442.375 / 441.300 WA9WLN/R, & 443.325 WD9HSY/R 114.8 PL

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net - Wed, 8:00 PM Local, 146.490.

40 Mtr SSB Net - Saturdays, 8:30 AM Local, 7.2625.

10 Mtr SSB Net - Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490.

Cracker Barrel Net - Monday-Friday 3:00 PM Local 146.49

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

The **W1AW Operating Schedule** may be found on the web: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>

Hamfests

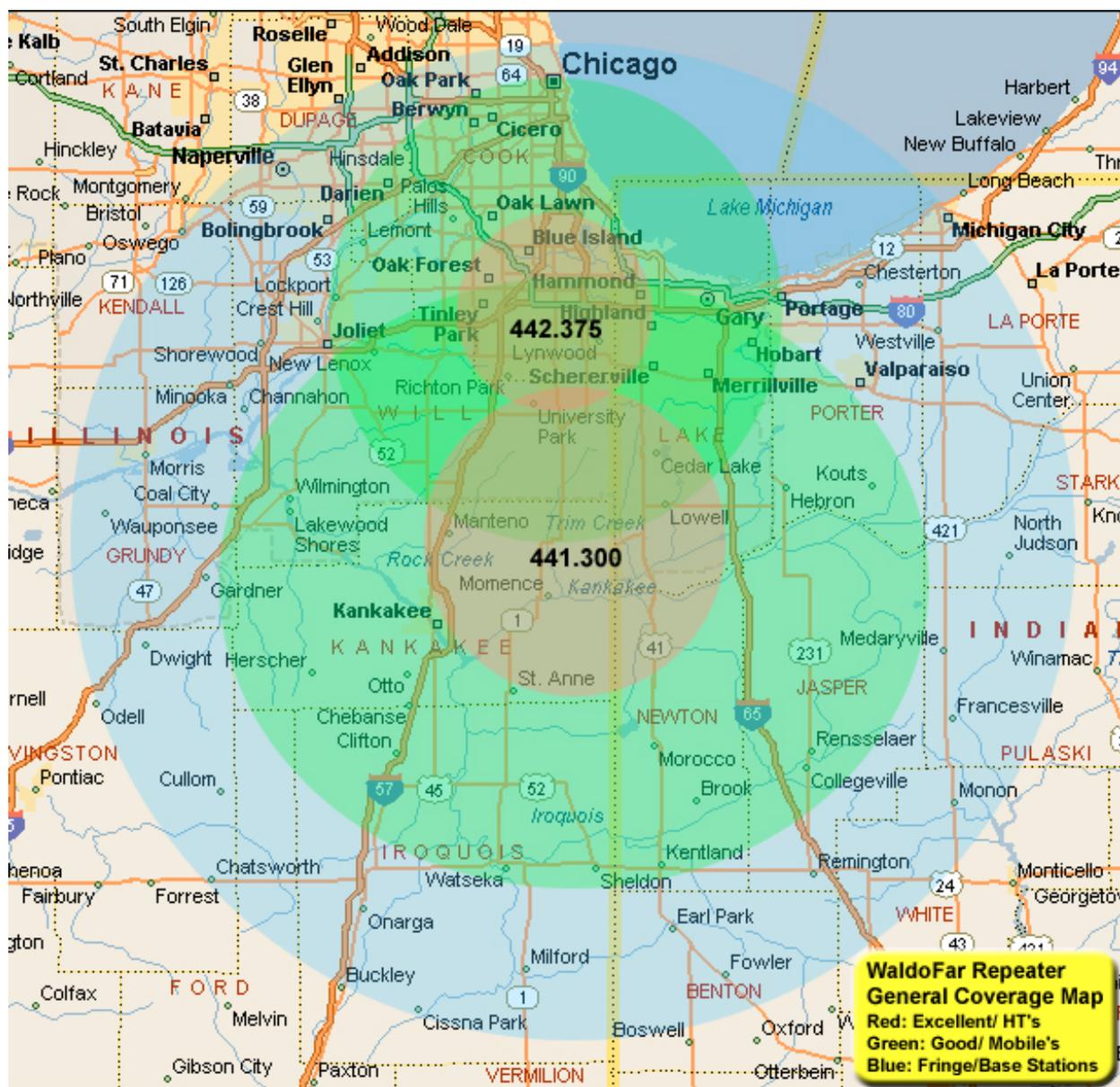
18-20 May 2007	Dayton Hamvention Dayton ARA http://www.hamvention.org/Hara Arena
2-3 Jun 2007	Hamfest, Computer & Hobby Show Starved Rock Radio Club http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm 146.955 PL 103.5 Princeton, IL
10 Jun 2007	6 MTR Club of Chicago http://www.qsl.net/k9ona Talk-In: 146.970 Wheaton, IL
15 Jul 2007	Fox River Radio League http://www.frrl.org Talk-In: 147.210 MHz PL 103.5 Aurora, IL
5 Aug 2007 **	Illinois State Convention Bolingbrook ARS http://www.k9bar.org 147.33 PL 107.2

Waldofar South has BIG Signal! (The Corn is not very tall yet! Hi Hi!)

Time to dig out those UHF HT's and try the other side of your dual band radio again! Waldofar has given birth to a new repeater located in Grant Park, IL. The new frequency is 441.300 output, 446.300 input, and a PL frequency of 114.8. The equipment is a Motorola Micor 75 watt repeater with a S-Com 7K controller, Sinclair Duplexer, and for the time being a Motorola CDM-1550 for a link radio. It's located at a fairly good site and works quite well around the farm fields. Best of all- It's linked up to the Homewood 442.375+ 114.8 system! What goes in up north comes out down south and vice versa! The two repeaters work together as one system. It's up and running, and aside from some on-going tweaking it's ready for prime time!

Here is a coverage map based on both Radio Mobile prediction software and real-world testing. It should be considered a guideline, terrain, trees, buildings and other factors can effect actual performance, especially at UHF. Find the one closest to you and give it a try!

See you on the air! Tom W9SRV



From the President's Desk

By Jerry K9PMV

I hope everyone is enjoying the new spring season and all the pleasant weather we have been having. Perhaps you are now able to get started on some of the antenna projects that you have been dreaming of during the winter. Our April meeting was well attended. We were fortunate to have **Bill Wilson, KB9ZXN** come out and give us another weather spotter training seminar. To accomplish its mission, the *national weather service* has a significant need for amateurs to report severe weather conditions. To this effect, there has been an initial meeting of a new Sky Warn group. Look for developments in the near future. One of the latest club developments that could enhance Sky warn activities is the new **WALDOFAR (WA9WLN)** repeater system. **Tom, W9SRV** and friends have put together a linked system of two UHF repeaters. The north site is in Homewood and the south site is in Northern Kankakee County. Handie talkies will access the system over 80% of the coverage area. Check the WALDOFAR web site for details.

I have been keeping the bunker up to par as much as I can. The Collins 30L1 linear amp started blowing fuses recently. The solution was to re-tube the amp. Four new Russian made 811a tubes were purchased and installed to put our big signal back on the air. In the process of purchasing the tubes, Tri-Town gained a new member. He is **Bob N9TEW** from Highland, IN. It works out that an Internet search for tube dealers lead me to Bob's website. Bob decided to join our club after a tour of the club station.

Our next meeting program will feature a video of last year's Driving the Dixie and Field Day events. Driving the Dixie will take place on Saturday June 16th. This proved to be a fun event last year and with the new **WALDOFAR** system in place, promises to be ever better. If the Dayton Hamvention is not on your agenda this year, come out to the May meeting. It will be held on May 18th, 8 PM at the Hazel Crest village hall. Field Day will be quickly coming up too. We need to begin discussions of what our Field Day plans are. Field Day will be held on June 23rd and 24th, at the bunker.

Don't forget *Homewood Rail Fest*. It should be a great event with the new train watching platform and static display of the Illinois Central engine and caboose. This event takes place in downtown Homewood at the Municipal Auditorium. The flea market, dedication and rail fest activities take place on Sunday, May 20th from 9am to 3pm.

For the first time in many years, Tri-Town will hold a family style picnic on Saturday, July 28th. It will take place in a beautiful rural setting that the whole family will enjoy. Stay tuned for further details.

Henry, N9HVB is on the Mend!

From Brian. WD9HSY

I had an email come from Henry when I sent out the request for stuff for the Oscillator. Henry has been off his feet for a while because of circulation issues in his legs. Blood doesn't want to go back to the heart without the compression socks. Henry knows why we see old men in sandals wearing brown socks and shorts!

Henry has been helping nurse his wife, Annette, KB9LYA back to normal. She was back to normal up until last Tuesday evening (5/1/07), right now she's a patient @ South Suburban from complication from her surgery 2 years ago.

Henry has also upgraded to General. He wanted to do it February 24th Stars Test Session, but he knew he couldn't sit in the room for any amount of time and concentrate. Henry was passing the tests 100% at home, but didn't want to get in the room then be uncomfortable. I'm moving around somewhat, still seeing wound care once a week.

Henry plans to up and around and back to normal by August 11th. MicroHenry, N9YZU gets an attachment on that date, Mrs. MicroHenry.

ISS CONSTRUCTION TO AFFECT HAM RADIO OPS FROM SPACE

In a recent Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) progress report, ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, addressed some questions regarding ARISS operations and equipment upgrade and repair. Bauer says that with the successful space shuttle return to flight, ISS construction again has shifted into high gear. Delivery and assembly of two new ISS modules now are on the near horizon. But that activity's not without a downside for Amateur Radio activity from the ISS.

"If all goes well, the new European Columbus module and Japanese Kibo module will be installed on the ISS in the next 12 months," Bauer told the ARISS team. "This substantial workload on the crew is impacting ARISS operations directly."

Bauer explained that the launch of any new or replacement ham radio gear or computers to support ARISS operations "has been significantly curtailed due to the extremely limited 'upmass' capability." That's NASA's way of saying the cargo weight limits on construction flights are very tight.

"There are just too many higher priority activities from an international space agency perspective, and frankly we are a lower priority," he continued. "The extra workload on the crew has taken its toll on ARISS -- they have had very little extra time for Amateur Radio activities beyond school contacts."

One hoped-for fix during the recent flight of civilian space traveler Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, was that Simonyi would be able to restore the Kenwood D700 ARISS Phase 2 transceiver to full functionality after it was inadvertently reprogrammed during Expedition 13. That has kept the packet system off the air.

"The ARISS team worked diligently with the Simonyi team to get Charles licensed, trained, and prepared to perform the Kenwood reprogramming," Bauer explained. "Unfortunately, the ARISS team hit a major hurdle a few weeks before Charles's launch."

Bauer said ARISS learned at the eleventh hour that additional software certification would be required to allow Simonyi to reprogram software to be used on the ISS computers.

"Through heroic efforts by the team, final software certification was successfully completed," Bauer reported this week. "Unfortunately, this was completed only a few days before Charles' return from space." As a result, there was not enough time for Simonyi to reprogram the D700.

"This last minute hiccup in software certification was not predictable," Bauer allowed, "so there was no way the ARISS team could have better prepared for Charles' flight."

Bauer says that at this point, it appears that reprogramming the D700 to get it back to its normal ARISS configuration "will require a substantial, concerted effort with full cooperation from our international colleagues and the Russian and US space agencies." This means identifying, purchasing (if necessary), certifying, testing and flying the components necessary to ensure the reprogramming is successful, he pointed out.

Given the challenge of weight restrictions on shuttle payloads devoted to transporting construction materials, Bauer said, the process "will likely take several months to accomplish, as the team will have to begin from square one."

ARISS meanwhile is looking into some partial, temporary workarounds. In the near term, ARISS will request the crew do some investigative analysis of the Phase 2 station. "This will enable the ARISS team to determine if the radio can be partially restored to provide some of the unattended operations that it once provided," Bauer said. "With Charles's successful landing, we have started down this new path."

Despite the setbacks, Bauer vowed that ARISS will continue working aggressively on the issue. "While our plans to have Charles reprogram the radio were thwarted, we were happy that he could speak to so many hams around the world during his short stay, and capture the imagination of students around the globe," he said.

FCC DENIES APPL IN "HAM LICENSE HIJACKING" CASE

The FCC has terminated with prejudice a hearing proceeding involving a case of apparent ham radio identity theft. The FCC has said its evidence suggests that Joseph W. Hartmann Jr of Lansing, Michigan, "intentionally submitted fraudulent administrative updates" to obtain the privileges associated with the General class license of a Delaware radio amateur with a very similar name. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) released March 23 <br" ecfs prod gullfoss2.fcc.govnt=6518915438>, the FCC further ruled to dismiss with prejudice Hartmann's pending new Amateur Radio license application, which he filed after the FCC questioned his attempts to change the Delaware ham's record in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). After several apparently unsuccessful attempts to deliver a Hearing Designation Order (HDO) to Hartmann and even affording him more time to file a written appearance, Hartmann sent Presiding Administrative Law Judge Arthur I. Steinberg three identical e-mail messages.

"Mr Steinberg I am writing you in regards to this letter. I do not have the resources to obtain legal counsel for this hearing nor have the resources for driving to hearing in Washington.D.C," the FCC quoted Hartmann, noting that capitalization, punctuation, spelling and spacing were reproduced as they appeared in Hartmann's e-mails. "is there another way we can please have a phone conference in regards to this matter. please write back with your reply."

Several pieces of Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to Hartmann came back to the Commission as unclaimed, the FCC recounted in its March MO&O. "Interestingly, neither of the regular First Class Mail envelopes sent to Mr Hartmann's Lansing, Michigan, addresses has been returned," the Commission noted.

The FCC had put Hartmann's January 2006 application for an Amateur Radio license on hold while it was looking into why he'd filed a half-dozen administrative updates during 2005 seeking to change the name and address of Joseph V. Hartman Sr, K3GUX, of Oceanview, Delaware, to his own name and address.

In its March MO&O, the FCC declined to accept Hartmann's e-mails to Judge Steinberg as a proper written appearance, because he did not file in accordance with FCC rules. Consequently the Commission dismissed the hearing proceeding and Hartmann's pending Amateur Radio application with prejudice "for failure to prosecute."

The FCC had scheduled a hearing on Hartmann's January 2006 Amateur Radio license application after deciding that his alleged actions had raised "a substantial and material question of fact as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be a Commission licensee." In its December 2006 HDO, the Commission said Hartmann's repeated attempts to alter licensee information for the call sign K3GUX from Joseph V. Hartman Sr's name and address to his own name and address also raised "substantial and material questions of fact as to whether Hartmann Jr made false certifications, misrepresented facts to the Commission, and/or demonstrated a lack of candor."

Trading Post

Cassette Code tapes

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

Icom 745

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

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

MOTOROLA SUSPENDS POWERLINE LV BPL DEVELOPMENT

Less than two years after announcing its Powerline LV Access BPL product, Motorola has decided to suspend product development and to devote its resources to more promising markets, industry sources say. Motorola reportedly has decided to focus on a product called Powerline MU, which is for use within multiple-unit dwellings. The decision to stop work on its Access BPL product reflects declining interest in residential broadband service delivery among utilities coupled with more immediate demand for in-building BPL systems. Motorola has indicated that it's not scrapping Powerline LV altogether, however.

Powerline LV united Motorola's Canopy wireless broadband Internet platform with enhanced ham band-notching HomePlug technology, drastically reducing BPL interference potential by restricting the application of high-frequency RF to the low-voltage side of the power transformers serving customers' homes, not the medium-voltage wires that line many residential streets. As a result, Powerline LV avoided the system architecture that poses the greatest risk of BPL interference to radio communication -- radiation from the medium-voltage power lines.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed appreciation for Motorola's approach to the thorny issue of radio interference from BPL systems. In an effort to minimize interference, particularly to the Amateur Radio bands, Motorola designed its Powerline LV system in close cooperation with the League's technical staff, Sumner noted. A test stand Access BPL system was in operation briefly at ARRL Headquarters. Measurements and subjective listening tests on the ham bands showed that Powerline LV was Amateur Radio-friendly.

"As one would expect from a company with such a distinguished record in the field of radio communication, Motorola acknowledged at the outset the seriousness of the interference problem," he said. "Motorola's system architecture influenced other vendors, raised industry awareness of the interference issue, and demonstrated the value of working with the ARRL to find positive solutions."

Armed Forces Day Crossband Radio Test Set:

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will co-sponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio Communications Tests to celebrate the 57th Armed Forces Day. Although Armed Forces Day falls on Saturday, May 19, the 2007 Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will take place a week earlier, on Saturday, May 12, to avoid conflicting with the Dayton Hamvention May 18-20. The annual celebration features military station-to-amateur station crossband tests on SSB and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. Full details on participating stations, times and frequencies are available on the Army MARS Headquarters Web site .

AMSAT announces Dayton Hamvention activities

AMSAT-NA invites Amateur Radio satellite enthusiasts to its events and activities during Dayton Hamvention 2007 . A pre-Hamvention pizza party takes place Thursday, May 17, 6:30-10 PM, at Marion's Piazza, 1320 North Fairfield Road. The AMSAT booth will be open Friday, May 18, 9 AM-6 PM, Saturday, May 19, 8 AM-5 PM, and Sunday, May 20, 8 AM-1 PM, Eagle area with operating components, and outdoor satellite demonstrations; the AMSAT Forum is Friday, May 18, 11:15-2 PM in Room 1, Hara Arena; the IMAX movie "Space Station" is Friday, May 18, 5-5:45 PM at the Air Force Museum; the AMSAT/TAPR banquet is Friday, May 18, 6-10 PM, at the Air Force Museum. AMSAT booth volunteers are welcome. Contact Gould Smith, WA4SXM , if you can help, indicating the hours you're available. AMSAT needs volunteers for two-hour shifts Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as volunteers to set up Thursday afternoon and tear down Sunday afternoon. The "AMSAT at the 2007 Dayton Hamvention" Web page has additional information and directions.
-- AMSAT News Service

SOLAR UPDATE

Solar sage Tad "Sunspot Baby" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: The string of zero sunspot days ended Wednesday, April 25, and -- relative to the bottom of the solar cycle -- sunspot numbers over the past few days have been quite an improvement. Average daily sunspot number jumped from the previous week by 23 points to 25.1, and average solar flux increased over 14 points to 84.8.

This modest increase in sunspot activity may noticeably improve propagation compared to weeks with no sunspots.

For the near term, the US Air Force Space Weather Operation predicts a planetary A index of 5 for May 4-5, 8 for May 6-7 and 5 again for May 8-18, so the expectation is for quiet geomagnetic conditions. Based on the last period of higher geomagnetic activity, April 28-29, the 27.5 day solar rotation probably is what led to a prediction of 25 for the planetary A index on May 25.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions for May 4, quiet to unsettled on May 5, unsettled May 6-7, and quiet to unsettled again on May 8-9.

Sunspot numbers for April 26 through May 2 with a mean of 25.1. The 10.7 cm flux was a mean of 84.8. Estimated planetary A indices with a mean of 14.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices with a mean of 9.9.

FCC posts Amateur Radio enforcement correspondence:

The FCC has posted new Amateur Radio enforcement correspondence on its "Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions" page . Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Anthony M. Amato, KR4UQ; a Warning Notice and request for station information to Edib Zildzo, K2AAW; and a Warning Notice and request for station information to John C. Kimbrough, WR3S. The FCC also has posted a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) in the case of Joseph W. Hartmann Jr, and a Forfeiture Order (NoF) to Parker Construction Inc. Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division.

APPLICATIONS SURGE UNDER NEW AMATEUR RULES

It's been just a little more than two months since the FCC dropped the requirement that Amateur Radio applicants pass a Morse code test to earn operating privileges below 30 MHz. While the initial avalanche of applications immediately following February 23, when the No-Morse testing regime went into effect, has abated somewhat, business remains brisk for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator staff.

"It's slowing down a little bit, but it's still substantially above what we usually see," observed ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. She estimated that new Amateur Radio applications were up by 35 percent, while upgrade applications were up by 150 percent over last year's volume

In a typical pre-February 23 week, Somma said, ARRL VEC would receive paperwork from approximately 115 test sessions. "It's on the order of 150 to 200 sessions per week now!" she exclaimed. Somma and ARRL VEC staffers concurred that applications were roughly evenly split between newcomers and upgraders. She said she's also seen a spike in the number of applications from General and higher class radio amateurs to serve as volunteer examiners.

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ License Class _____ ARRL Member Y / N

City, State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

.....
____ Regular Membership \$ 20.00
____ SWL Membership \$ 20.00
____ Extra Family Membership \$ 6.00
____ Bunker Buddie \$ 5.00

____ Auto Patch w/1 Speed Slot \$ 25.00
____ Extra Speed Slots \$ 5.00

\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

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

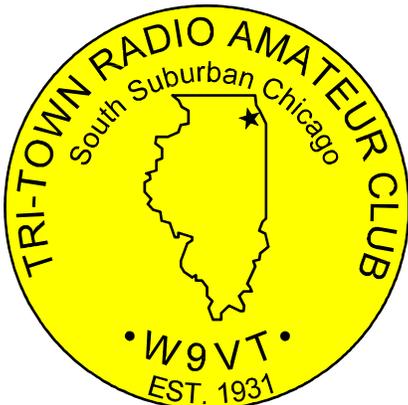
Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Inc.

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May 2007

First Class Mail



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