

# The Oscillator

---

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430  
Volume 57 Number 3 May 2011 Club Call W9VT

---

## Up coming meetings

**May** meeting, Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 PM at the Bunker Short meeting, refreshments, raffle, and operating.

**June** meeting, Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 PM at the Village Hall will be final planning for the Driving the Dixie (which the next day) and final planning for Field Day which is always the last full weekend of June 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Board Room

By Todd Schumann, KA9IUC, Chairman

Spring is here and summer is hot on its heels. This month and next will be very active for the club. For those of you not going to the Dayton Hamvention, We will have a night at the Bunker planned for May 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a short meeting, the usual raffle and refreshments, and time to try out the radios and antennas. While you are there, we still have stuff for sale in the front room. Make an offer!

Driving the Dixie will be on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>. The club has provided communications for the event in past years and this year will be no different. Please contact Martin, WD9JGG, for more information and to volunteer to help.

Field Day will be June 25-26<sup>th</sup>. We will be at the Bunker for this year's operation. Our biggest need is a Chairman for the operation. The Chairman's duties include getting operators, especially CW operators, coordinating rigs, antennas, bands and operators, and submitting our report to the ARRL. There are always lots of help available but someone is needed to oversee the operation. Our main man of the past two years, Dave, N9LGP, will not be able to be with us this year. As always, there will be food and refreshments provided. Prior to Field Day, there will have to be some workdays to get all the equipment ready and working its best to meet the challenge.

## Want some of the surplus Club Equipment? Offers being Taken!

Todd KA9IUC Board Chairman

The previously announced Equipment Sale was held at the November meeting. Forty-two items were offered for sale. The items remained on sale for offers. There were on additional sales. The items remain on sale. If you are interested in anything, please see a Club officer.

Please do not forget to renew your club membership. Necessary form is included with The Oscillator. Your membership dollars are needed to pay fixed costs such as phone and insurance bills and raffle and refreshment deficits. It seems that we have less members each year so your dollars do count. Dues are payable at any meeting or mail them in. Thanks to all you those who have paid their 2011 dues.

**CQ FD, CQ FD, CQ FD, de W9VT, Whiskey Nine, Very Tired, W9VT, CQ FD!!**

# Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2011:

Tom Niemeyer AB9LA	President	708.672-5844	<a href="mailto:tom1485@sbcglobal.net">tom1485@sbcglobal.net</a>
Matt Schumann N9OTL	Vice President	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:mattschuman@yahoo.com">mattschuman@yahoo.com</a>
Jim Everand WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None @ No I' dont have one
Trish Jaggard N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	<a href="mailto:the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net">the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net</a>
Todd Schumann KA9IUC	Chairman of Board	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:tschum3063@aol.com">tschum3063@aol.com</a>
Tom Gunderson W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	<a href="mailto:webmaster@w9vt.org">webmaster@w9vt.org</a>
Matt Schumann N9OTL	Raffle Chairman	708.423.7066	<a href="mailto:mattschuman@yahoo.com">mattschuman@yahoo.com</a>
Bruce Haffner WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir.	708.614.6134	<a href="mailto:WD9GHK@comcast.net">WD9GHK@comcast.net</a>
Brian J. Bedoe WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Dir.	815.469.1383	<a href="mailto:Bbedoe@aol.com">Bbedoe@aol.com</a>

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

## Club Meetings & Nets

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

## Official Club 2 Mtr hangouts:

146.49 Simplex, & The Club's Repeater 146.805 WD9HSY/R

## 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, 146.490.

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

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

## Upcoming Local / Major Hamfests

05/20/2011	Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, OH	Website: <a href="http://www.hamvention.org">http://www.hamvention.org</a>
06/05/2011	Starved Rock Radio Hamfest	Princeton, IL	Website: <a href="http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm">http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm</a>
06/11/2011	South Bend Hamfest	South Bend, IN	Website: <a href="http://w9ab.org">http://w9ab.org</a>
06/19/2011	54th Annual Wheaton Hamfest	Wheaton, IL	Website: <a href="http://k9ona.com">http://k9ona.com</a>
07/09/2011	SMARC Swapfest	Oak Creek,	Website: <a href="http://www.qsl.net/WA9TXE">http://www.qsl.net/WA9TXE</a>
07/10/2011	Fox River Radio League	Aurora, IL	Website: <a href="http://frri.org">http://frri.org</a>

## Trading Post

For Sale from N8EAT (Jim) 708-361-2657 Cushcraft 3 ele 10 mtr beam in excellent condition \$50

Check out the Club Website: **WWW.W9VT.ORG**

## 2011 Field Day Packet Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, 2011! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.

Field Day packets are now available for download and include the complete rules (including a change for 2011), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations and a kit to publicize your event with the local press.

There is one rule change for 2011. Starting this year, all stations operating in Class A may use a free VHF station without increasing their operating category. This is designed to encourage more activity on the VHF bands, especially 6 and 2 meters, during the best sporadic-E season of the year.

We have also included in the FD packet a brief one-page flier with basic "What is Field Day" information that may be reproduced as a handout for your information table.

## Find an ARRL Field Day Station Near You (W9VT, of course)

First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's Field Day Station Locator Service has proved a popular addition to the Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. So far, hams in all 50 states and Puerto Rico have listed Field Day sites on the Field Day Locator. If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started -- just go to the Field Day Station Locator website and follow the instructions. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On June 25-26, join tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators as they gather for a public demonstration of the Amateur Radio Service.



## Space Weather Prediction Center to Discontinue Broadcasts on WWV and WWVH at 18 minutes past the Hour!!

Beginning Tuesday, September 6, the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) will cease broadcasting its geophysical alert message on WWV and WWVH. These messages inform listeners of the solar flux, the mid-latitude A and K indices and space weather storms, both current and predicted. Currently, the message is heard on minute 18 from WWV and minute 45 from WWVH. The information will still be available on the SWPC website. If you care to comment on this, or if you have any questions, the SPWC -- part of the National Weather Service (NWS) -- would like to hear from you

**Field Day is June 25-26<sup>th</sup>**  
It's Time to Play Radio!!

# James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF, Killed By Afghan Pilot

Thanks to Russ Bentson, K6KLY, CNN and Fox News for the information

James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF, was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan on Wednesday, April 27. News sources say that eight American troops and a US contractor died Wednesday after an Afghan military pilot opened fire during a meeting in an operations room of the Afghan Air Corps at the Kabul airport -- the deadliest episode to date of an Afghan turning against his coalition partners, officials with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISF) in Afghanistan said. McLaughlin -- a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel -- was a contractor serving as a flight instructor for Afghan pilots.

Licensed since 1972, McLaughlin was a career US military officer. Bob Magnani, K6QXY, told the ARRL that McLaughlin was just in the US a week ago, visiting his family: "His son Adam, KD6POE, works for me. He told me that his dad had been in Afghanistan and Iraq many times over the past few years, most currently serving as a flight instructor." McLaughlin posted on his qrz.com page that "almost every day, I operate at around 1230 - 1430 UTC. Sometimes I am QRV until around 1500 UTC."

Steve Herman, W7VOA/T6AD/HL9OA -- currently in Seoul, South Korea -- remembers meeting McLaughlin for the first time. "I first met Jim in August 2009 when we were the only two hams operating in Kabul," he wrote in an e-mail. "We exchanged tips on operating in our unusual environment. Jim had put together a fine radio shack in his quarters and was especially enthusiastic about his RTTY and PSK capabilities, as well as the ladder line-fed wire dipole he had managed to string up at a height of 50 feet through some trees.

"Less than 24 hours after our initial discussion, a suicide bomb went off in Kabul near the spot where we had arranged to meet. The blast killed seven people and injured nearly 100. The explosion site was also close to Jim's QTH and it blew out windows in his residence adjacent to the US Embassy. It was obvious from spending time with Jim that ham radio was an important morale-boosting pastime and he usually spent a couple of hours per day QRV, logging thousands of QSOs." As of March 26, 2011, McLaughlin had logged 4359 QSOs, most of them on RTTY and PSK.

McLaughlin was also an active MARS operator. "He was one of our most dedicated MARS members in Army MARS Region 11," Dan Wolff, KA7AGN/DL4VCW/AEM1WF/AEA1RD, told the ARRL. Wolff is the MARS Region 11 Director. "He relayed and delivered literally hundreds of MARSgrams every year for our region. I've known him for many years and he was always devoted to supporting our deployed service members. He will be deeply missed on MARS circuits and the ham bands as well."

## Solar Update

Tad "The Sun is swimmin' on the rim of a hill" Cook, K7RA, reports: Geomagnetic conditions are quiet this week, but they may become slightly unsettled over this weekend. The average daily sunspot numbers were down more than 18 points to 74.9, while average daily solar flux was off less than four points to 113.4. The predicted solar flux values for April 28-30 are 105, May 1-2 is 100, May 3-4 at 105 and 110 on May 5. The next peak in solar flux is May 11-13, with a value of 120. This is actually higher than the flux values over the last month, except for one day -- April 15 -- at 129. Over the last eight days, we have seen seven new sunspots emerge, but the daily sunspot numbers have fallen since April 22. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions on April 29, unsettled to active on April 30, unsettled May 1-2, quiet to unsettled May 3 and quiet May 4-5. Look for more information -- including a report from the Caribbean on 20 meter propagation and information on a new online propagation tool -- on the ARRL website on Friday, April 29. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by the song Surrey with the Fringe on Top from the musical Oklahoma!

## TRI TOWN RADIO CLUB ALUMNI NET

Bud N9ML

The TRI-TOWN RADIO CLUB ALUMNI NET had 1584 checkins from 31 states in 2010.. With Bill W9TX and Cal W9JAN being SK's our totals dropped but we anticipate further improvements in 2011 as band conditions have improved. We run the net at 2200 UTC 5 days a week and 52 weeks a year so it would be nice if more club members would drop by and say hello. We normally operate at 7295 but due to sharing with AMer's we sometimes have to QSY down to 7285 for a part of net. Look for us out there as a great bunch of hams visit us daily. Best of 73's to all... Bud N9ML

## Counting Down to Dayton, Where Global Friendship Takes Center Stage

The ARRL is making all the final plans and preparations to bring its “show and tell” exposition -- known as ARRL EXPO -- to the Dayton Hamvention® next month. Hamvention, sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) since 1952, will be held May 20-22 at the Hara Arena Conference and Exhibition Center in Trotwood, Ohio.

“ARRL EXPO has been the centerpiece of the ARRL’s participation at Hamvention since 2005,” said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. Inderbitzen is also the ARRL EXPO coordinator. “This large exhibit area, located in the Ballarena Hall, will be filled with ARRL program representatives, exhibits and activities. Our goal is to provide opportunities that inspire a high level of peer-to-peer interaction among ARRL members and prospective members -- so that following Hamvention, attendees will return home with new ideas to get involved and get on the air!”

A new feature to ARRL EXPO this year -- a large QSL Card Wall -- will be located near the international exhibits. “We’re encouraging all attendees to bring a QSL card to affix to the wall,” Inderbitzen said. “If you don’t have QSL cards, please bring a postcard from your hometown. Together, we’ll have fun eye-balling QSLs from around the country -- and around the world!”

The popular kit-building booth returns to ARRL EXPO this year. The booth will be supported by a team of instructors and ARRL Lab personnel who will mentor participants through the activity. Those who sign up to participate in the kit building event can choose to build one of the two affordable kits: the Ten-Tec 1054 4-band regenerative shortwave receiver -- considered a classic “first receiver” project -- or a Morse code oscillator produced exclusively for ARRL by MFJ Enterprises. “The oscillator is a great kit for newcomers, clubs, instructors and teachers seeking a classroom kit-building experience,” Inderbitzen said. “The kit-building fun is sure to beckon do-it-yourselfers of all skill levels.”

Drop by the Emergency Communications exhibit area to learn about opportunities to volunteer and explore resources and training. Meet with program representatives for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) and the National Traffic System (NTS) and network with other public service volunteers.

Other ARRL program representatives and volunteers will staff exhibits for the ARRL Development Office and the ARRL Foundation, the ARRL Legislative Action and Regulatory Information, TravelPlus for Repeaters™ software demonstration, the ARRL VEC, ARRL Education Services and the ARRL Media and Public Relations Office, as well as Amateur Radio and Scouting. And don’t forget to visit the huge ARRL store to browse and purchase popular ARRL publications, join or renew your ARRL membership (and get a free gift) and to pick up official ARRL merchandise -- including 2011 ARRL Field Day shirts and other gear. This is also the place to get your free, commemorative ARRL Dayton 2011 button.

Members may also visit exhibits sponsored by ARRL benefit partners. These include US Bank where you can apply for the ARRL Visa® Card, and Hays Affinity Group to get more information about the new ARRL-sponsored insurance programs.

As part of the Hamvention’s full slate of forums, the ARRL will sponsor presentations covering a variety of topics, including talks by ARRL Lab Manager and EMI/RFI expert Ed Hare, W1RFI, a Public Relations Forum highlighting resources for radio clubs and public information officers, an update on ARRL’s efforts to promote Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill and ARRL Field Day advice and tips, as well as suggestions for radio amateurs who are interested in developing meaningful partnerships with schools and educators.

A special presentation by NASA Astronaut Douglas H. Wheelock, KF5BOC, is planned for Saturday. Wheelock, a Colonel in the US Army, will narrate a video presentation from his recent tour of duty aboard the International Space Station (ISS). While living and working in space, he operated the station’s Amateur Radio equipment, making radio contact with schools and the general ham radio community. Attendees will also have an opportunity to meet and greet Wheelock in the ARRL and AMSAT exhibit areas on Friday and Saturday (times and locations will be posted). Wheelock’s participation is jointly sponsored by ARRL and AMSAT.

If you can’t make it to Ohio in May, another opportunity to experience ARRL EXPO follows just a few weeks later when the 2011 ARRL National Convention is hosted by Ham-Com in Plano, Texas, June 10-11. Visit [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo) for more information.

**Field Day is June 25-26<sup>th</sup>**  
**It’s Time to Play Radio!!**

# VEC Asks FCC to Grant Lifetime Credit for Expired Licenses

In a Petition for Rulemaking filed with the FCC on April 15 (see below for link), the Anchorage VEC -- one of 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the US -- asked the Commission to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed. This would, in effect, create a license exam credit that would be valid throughout an amateurs' lifetime, never expiring.

Currently, Amateur Radio licenses are good for 10 years. Hams may renew their license not more than 90 days before it is set to expire. If a ham fails to renew their license before it expires, but less than two years after it expires (called a grace period), they can reapply for their license and call sign and do not to retake any examination for the license. Under the current rules, hams may not apply to renew the license after the two year grace period. Instead, they must start all over and take new examinations to receive an Amateur Radio license.

In its Petition, Anchorage does not think that this is fair. "It does not matter that the person had at one time passed one or more examination elements," it stated. "This fact is ignored. Does the passage of time somehow invalidate a person's knowledge? We think not. We believe that any applicant who can demonstrate that they have passed certain elements at some previous date or who have held a license grant for a particular class of license, again on or before various applicable dates, should not have to be re-examined on those elements before a new license can be granted. It seems unfair to allow some applicants to claim element credit for items previously passed and not others."

The Anchorage VEC also believes that if a person can show proof of having held a license grant for a specific class of license, they "[have] in fact demonstrated that they have earned credit for having passed the elements required for that class of license." Anchorage's plan calls for the 14 VECs to handle these applications.

Noting that the questions on the various exam elements have changed over the years to reflect changes in both technology and FCC rules, Anchorage maintained that a license granted in 1960 and a license granted today are both valid licenses "even though they were examined on material that anyone can see is significantly different. Again, we believe that an applicant for a re-issued license should receive credit for each and every element passed, without regard to when it was given. Requiring an applicant for a re-issued license to re-take an element just because it has changed in detail over the years is unfair, based on the fact that a license which has been continuously renewed and is still active implies that the long-term license holder does in effect receive credit for material passed long ago, and a person desiring to reactivate an expired license apparently does not."

Anchorage, however, stated that even though an expired license is granted without examination after the two year grace period, the call sign need not follow the license. Noting that the call sign might not be available for a number of reasons, Anchorage proposed that applicants applying for their license after the two year grace period be granted "a new sequential call sign appropriate for the area where they currently reside. Once the new license grant has been issued, the applicant could then apply for a different call sign if they so desired, including a previously held call sign if it is available, by making use of the vanity call sign program."

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the Petition filed by the Anchorage VEC does not address amateurs who had their licenses suspended or revoked. She said that if this Petition was looked upon favorably by the FCC, a provision should be made that no examination credit should be given if the operator license was ever suspended or revoked, or if the operator license was surrendered to avoid enforcement proceedings.

In January 1994, the ARRL filed a Petition (RM-8418), asking that a former licensee be allowed to obtain a new amateur operator license without passing the requisite qualifying examinations again. The objective was to encourage former amateur operators to become involved again in the opportunities provided by the amateur service. But in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in 1995, the FCC offered its own proposal, namely that the holder of an expired license could apply to a VE team for examination credit for the examination elements previously passed. The ARRL filed comments against this, arguing that the Communications Act of 1934, as amended did not allow the delegation of what amounted to the renewal of a license. In its Report and Order issued April 1, 1997 the Commission did not address that argument, but cited general opposition in deciding not to adopt its own proposal.

**Field Day is June 25-26<sup>th</sup>**  
**It's Time to Play Radio!!**

# FCC Seeks to Raise the Fee for Vanity Call Signs

The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ([NPRM](#)) on May 3, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$13.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$14.20 for 10 years, an increase of 90 cents. The FCC is authorized by the *Communications Act of 1934 (as amended)* to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on [how to comment](#) on this *NPRM* are available on the FCC Web site.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 *Report and Order*). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 14,600 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$207,320 in fees from the program.

## Vanity Fee Due for New, Renewal Applications

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal five years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database. Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the [ULS](#) and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

# ARRL Processes License Renewals, Including Vanities

The [ARRL VEC](#) will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

The ARRL VEC will handle vanity license renewals for ARRL members for a small fee (license renewals for members with non-vanity call signs are free). Visit the [Call Sign Renewals or Changes](#) web page for complete instructions on how to have the ARRL renew your license for you or for how to do it yourself. License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the [ARRL Amateur Radio License Renewal web page](#). The [FCC's forms page](#) also offers the required forms.

# Dayton Hamvention live Internet broadcast

Tom W5KUB

W5KUB.Com will start the live broadcast on Wednesday May 18th at approx 0800 Central Time or 1300 UTC. We will be broadcasting our 550 mile drive live on Wed May 18th.

We will broadcast our shelter set-up on Thursday morning May 19th at Hara Arena at approx 0900 Eastern time or 1300 UTC and then might broadcast the Air Force Museum on that afternoon. Then we will be live for the entire Hamvention Friday 20th through 22nd.

Last year we had over 50,000 unique hams follow us on the broadcast in about 150 countries. Log into the chat room and chat with us or other hams watching the broadcast.

Also Astronaut Col. Doug Wheelock, commander of expedition 25 on the International Space station is scheduled to be our guest at our booth. Watch for that interview. I personally talked to Col Wheelock 28 times while he was aboard the space station. There will also be other surprise interviews and guests.

The site is <http://w5kub.com> . It will have recorded videos when we are not live. Come on over to the website and say hello.

## **TRI-TOWN TO ONCE AGAIN PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR “DRIVING THE DIXIE”**

Saturday June 18 (the day before Father's Day) will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for this event and the 6th year in which Tri-Town has provided communications support to the organizers and participants.

Approximately 150 old time and classic cars are expected to depart Blue Island between 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. in platoons of 10-20 vehicles and make their way down Dixie Highway toward a 3-5 PM regrouping on Island Park in Momence.

Stops at various locations and attractions are planned in the communities of Posen, Markham, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Flossmoor, Chicago Height, Steger, Crete, Beecher and Grant Park along the route. Tri-Town members stationed in as many of these communities as possible and others floating along the route keep the event organizers and community representatives apprised of the size and timing relative to the fleet's anticipated arrival in each community as well as caravan logical problems as the vehicles make their way down historic Dixie Highway. The whole purpose of the event is to honor the historic significance of the Dixie Highway route and provide a fun day for car drivers, community residents (and Tri-Towner's).

Martin (WD9JGG) with assistance from Trish (N9WDG) act as the liaison reps between our club and the other event organizers (mainly the A's-R-U's Model A Ford Car Club and individual community reps). A typical tour of duty for a participating Tri-Towner that day is 2-3 hours depending on when the bulk of the participants are expected to arrive and depart a particular community.

Many Tri-Towner's have participated in one or more of the five previous years and have already volunteered their services to Martin for the June 18, 2011 event. If you have not participated in prior years or committed yourself to Martin for the 2011 event, and have mobile 2 meter or 440 capabilities, just contact him (707-957-9654; MartinM524@aol.com ) relative to getting involved in this year's event. A number of new stops and route changes will be in use this year so the help of Tri-Towner's in handling the confusion that is sure to arise will be appreciated.

## **Hays Affinity Group to Provide ARRL Members with Equipment Protection, Club Liability Insurance Plans**

Effective May 1, 2011, the ARRL begins a new partnership to provide its ARRL-sponsored Equipment Insurance and Club Liability Insurance plans. The League has signed an agreement with [Hays Affinity Group](#) to serve as the program administrator to provide equipment insurance to its members who choose to elect coverage. In addition, Hays will also provide club liability insurance to ARRL Affiliated Clubs for those clubs that wish to take advantage of that program. Hays will be replacing Marsh Affinity Group Services as the program's administrator and will be introducing new policies for both plans, underwritten by the Hanover Insurance Company.

Not only is equipment protection coverage through Hays Affinity Group slightly less expensive than with Marsh, it's easier to enroll in the plans. You can [sign up online](#) and even schedule your equipment online, too. With Hays Affinity Group, you can have all your radio equipment covered, even the computers, hard drives and printers in your shack. You can also elect to have coverage for your towers and antennas, up to \$15,000 replacement cost. All losses are settled on the replacement cost value you have stated for your equipment. In addition, any newly acquired equipment during the policy term, up to a value of \$2,000, will be covered until your next policy renewal. All this -- and more -- with only a \$50 deductible (\$25 for repair claims).

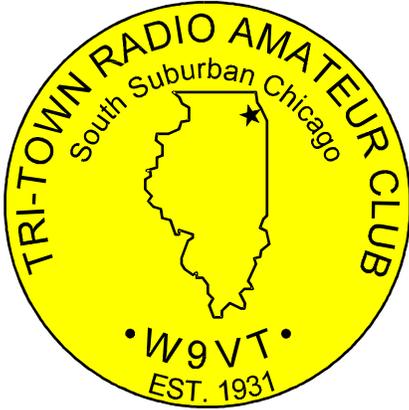
To have your equipment covered under the new policy, you will have to enroll with Hays to continue coverage under an ARRL-sponsored plan. If you wish to switch to either of the new insurance policies now, you can either cancel your policy with Marsh and sign up with Hays, or wait until your policy with Marsh is due for renewal and then sign up with Hays for coverage. If you choose to cancel with Marsh before renewal, you will receive a pro-rated refund of any unused premium fees you have paid.

The ARRL has been providing opportunities for equipment insurance to its members for more than 25 years. By choosing to let Hays Affinity Group cover your equipment, you are helping to support the ARRL; a portion of each premium comes back to the League to help fund programs that enable you to enjoy your on-air privileges.

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

**May 2011**

**First Class Mail**



Check out the Club Website: **WWW.W9VT.ORG**

## **Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Membership Application**

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

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

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

**Field Day is June 25-26<sup>th</sup>**  
**It's Time to Play Radio!!**