

# The Oscillator

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Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430  
Volume 58 Number 3 May 2012 Club Call W9VT

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## 2012 Membership Dues Are Now Due!

Membership in Tri-Town runs from January 1 to December 31 each year. Please renew your membership as soon as possible in the new year. Membership dues cover the Club's expenses of insurance, repeater phone costs and other costs relating to the operation of the Club. Please use a membership application form. It will give you the costs involved and help keep track of member's addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

## Upcoming Meetings and Programs

**Friday, May 18, 2012, 8 PM** at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. In addition to the business meeting, there will be a presentation by a Public Education Team Member from Ecom911 Center in Homewood.

**Friday, June 15, 2012, 8 PM** at the Bunker. We have rescheduled the presentation by Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN of the ARRL. There will also be a general business meeting and our participation in the Driving the Dixie and Field Day will be covered.

## From the Board Room

Todd, KA9IUC

I would like to thank the Club officers and my fellow board members for reelecting me as Chairman of the Board. It is an honor to continue to service the Club and its members in a leadership position. Since the first of the year we have talked a lot about renewal of memberships. As of the April meeting we had 46 members. Thank you to all of you who have renewed and to the new members that have joined. There were 14 non-renewals from last year. This hurts us right in the bank account. Email reminders were sent out but two were sent back because of invalid email addresses so please keep your contact info current with the Club. With the number of paid members down, this will be a challenging year for our finances. You can continue to help by supporting the raffles and the refreshment fund. Thanks to those who helped out on the Folks on Spokes. Don't forget that Martin will need help on the Driving the Dixie and we can all help out on Field Day.

## Field Day 2012

The ARRL Field Day 2012 will take place June 23-24, 2012 starting at 1800 UTC and continuing for 24 hours. There are no rule changes for 2012. Complete Field Day information can be read on or downloaded from the ARRL web site. Tri-Town will participate this year and operate from the Bunker. As always, lots of help is needed for setup, operating, logging, cooking and cleanup. Pete KE9YX has already volunteered to help with the computer logging system and report preparation. It is thought that our operation would be 4F again this year so one additional HF rig (as spare) and a 6M rig will be needed. The 2000 rig covers 6M but it is used on HF. Please mark your calendars and operate Field Day 2012.

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

# Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2012:

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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, QRZ 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

May 18-20	Dayton Hamvention	Dayton, OH	Dayton Hamvention
SUN JUNE 3	Starved Rock	Princeton, IL	Starved Rock Radio Club
SUN JULY 15	FRRL Hamfest	Aurora, IL	Fox River Radio League
SUN JULY 22	KARSFEST	Peotone, IL	KANKAKEE ARS
SUN AUG 5	Hamfesters	Peotone, IL	Hamfesters
SEPT 15 (Sat Only)	RADIO EXPO	Belvadere, IL	CFMC
SEPT 14 - 15	W9DXCC	E. Grove, IL	Northern Illinois DX Association
SEPT. 22	Peoria Superfest	Peoria, IL	Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club

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

# Tri-Town and the Folks on Spokes

From Bruce WD9GHK

Our club has been helping the Folks on Spokes bicycle club with their Easter Ride for over 23 years. The purpose of our help is to provide safety and other communication between the rest stops and the starting and finishing location. This year we had Mike WA9ZPM at the Monee Reservoir and Jim KB9VR at the Willow Brook rest stop near Crete. Also helping were Pete KE9YX roller blade mobile I was told, and Jim WD9GXU helping me at Park Forest Village Hall where the ride started and stopped. I was told that we had 515 riders on the road that day. The people at the rest stops had cell phones to call back to Park Forest, but I had to call Jim KB9VR on the radio to tell one of them to turn them on. Bruce WD9GHK Tri-Town and FOS member and husband of April, the Easter Ride bunny.

## FCC Seeks Higher Vanity Call Sign Fee

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on May 4, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The NPRM can be found in PDF format on the web at: [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2012/db0504/FCC-12-48A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0504/FCC-12-48A1.pdf) .

Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$14.20 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$15 for 10 years, an increase of 80 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 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). The FCC said it anticipates some 14,300 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units," or applications, during the next fiscal year, collecting 214,500 dollars in fees from the 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. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal six years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1993 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1996. 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 web site at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

## 7O6T - Yemen Approved For DXCC Credit

Bill Moore NC1L Awards Branch Manager

For those questioning the legitimacy of the 7O6T operation from Yemen, the answer is that it is approved for DXCC credit. See note below received a few moments ago from the ARRL DXCC Desk.

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit:

7O6T – Yemen Current Operations

6O3A – Somalia 2012 Operation

**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

# Amateur Radio Club KB4SA Goes on the Air

Boy Scout of America, the North Florida Council announces the charter of amateur radio station, KB4SA, at Camp Echockotee in Orange Park, Florida. The inaugural event is scheduled for May 12, 2012. Operating frequencies will be 3.940, 7.190, 14.240 and 21.290 MHz beginning at 1300 UTC. QSL can be sent to ARC KB4SA, 7109 Newman Lake CT., Jacksonville, FL 32222. See [www.kb4sa.org](http://www.kb4sa.org) for more information.

## 7O6T Yemen DXpedition

Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) and the [K8CX Ham Gallery](#) for some information 04/30/2012

*The Daily DX* is reporting that the [7O6T Yemen DXpedition](#) will start 2100 UTC Monday, April 30 and will continue through 2100 UTC May 15. Yemen [currently sits at #5 on DX Magazine's most wanted list](#), behind North Korea, Navassa, Bouvet and Heard Island. The ARRL DXCC Desk will review the 7O6T DXpedition's documentation before granting approval for the operation to count for DXCC credit.

The DXpedition will be on Socotra Island -- the largest island in the four-island Socotra archipelago located in the Indian Ocean -- about 353 kilometers south of the Yemen mainland. Socotra Island ([AF-028](#)) is also ranked #1 on the RSGB's Islands on the Air ([IOTA](#)) list, with only .3 percent of IOTA participants claiming it. Socotra also counts for one of the three [Diamond DXCC](#) Entities that make up today's Yemen (including Aden City and Yemen itself) from the [1937 DXCC List](#).

The DXpedition is led by Dmitri Zhikharev, RA9USU, and assisted by Harry Booklan RA3AUU, and Dave Collingham, K3LP. Currently, there are 11 operators on Socotra, with a rotation planned later in the operation. Operators [plan](#) to be on 160-10 meters on six stations using CW, SSB and RTTY. Five of the stations are equipped with an Elecraft K3 and ACOM 1010 amplifier; the sixth station has a Kenwood TS-590 and THP-400 amplifier. There will be various beams, verticals and vertical arrays, as well as Beverages and other receiving antennas. Look for 7O6T on the following frequencies:

Band	CW	SSB	RTTY
160	1.824 MHz	1.845 MHz	
80	3.504 MHz	3.780 MHz	
40	7.004 MHz	7.065/7.180 MHz	7.035 MHz
30	10.104 MHz		10.140 MHz
20	14.024 MHz	14.145 MHz	14.080 MHz
17	18.074 MHz	18.145 MHz	18.100 MHz
15	21.024 MHz	21.295 MHz	21.080 MHz
12	24.894 MHz	24.945 MHz	24.920 MHz
10	28.024 MHz	28.495 MHz	28.080 MHz

[Logs, photos](#) and [propagation forecasts](#) will be posted to the 7O6T website as the DXpedition continues. QSL via Nick Averyanov, UA3DX. Updates regarding OQRS, direct, bureau and LoTW QSLing will also be [posted to the website](#).

Only one Amateur Radio operation has taken place from Socotra Island: VS9SJF (VS9 Socotra Joint Forces), operated by [John Farrar, G3UCQ \(ex 5B4JF\)](#) during a Royal Air Force/Army expedition. At that time, Socotra was under British rule. "The Expedition was on the island for two months (December 1964-February 1965) and I contacted over 100 countries with my little 75 W rig, including, many from USA," Farrar [recounted](#). "The Heathkit DX-40U transmitter gave 74 W input on CQ and 60 W input controlled carrier modulation (AM). The receiver was an RCA AR88D. No electronic keyers in those days, so a good wrist was needed! The antennas comprised a W3DZZ trap dipole (80-10 meters) and a V-beam was later erected, aimed at USA, with the legs about 200 feet long and 30 feet high."

Except for two brief periods, Socotra Island belonged to the sultans of Mahra. During the early 16th century, it was occupied by the Portuguese. In 1886, it became part of [Britain's Aden Protectorate](#) until 1967, when it was joined with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), which became the Republic of Yemen in 1990. --

# TRI-TOWN GEARING UP TO SUPPORT THE DRIVING THE DIXIE

Martin WD9JGG

Saturday June 16 (the day before Father's Day) will mark the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary for this event and the 7th 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 4-5 PM regrouping on Island Park in Mokena.

Stops at various locations and attractions are planned in the communities of Posen, Markham, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Flossmoor, Chicago Heights, 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-Us 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.

This year Martin is particularly looking for volunteers to cover Chicago Heights from about 10AM to noon-where a one hour car show is planned in front of the Union Street Art Gallery; another to cover the free food stop for driving participants at Steger's Veteran's Memorial Park from about 11AM to 2PM; and one or two volunteers to join Tom (AB9LA) in working the Crete area since this year they are planning a driving route in the area of the Lincolnshire Country Club.

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 16, 2012 event. If you have not participated in prior years or committed yourself to Martin for the 2012 event, and have mobile 2 meter or 440 capabilities, just contact him (707-957-9654; MartinM524@aol.com ) relative to getting involved this year. A number of new stops and route changes will be in use again this year so the help of Tri-Towner's in handling the confusion that is sure to arise will be appreciated.

## A milestone for International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

Jim Linton VK3PC

The **West Side Amateur Radio Club** of Los Angeles **W6A** is the 200th registration for this year's International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend with its members to set up at the Port Fermin Lighthouse.

The Stick Style lighthouse is an early Victorian architectural method characterised by its gabled roofs, horizontal siding, decorative cross beams and hand carved porch railings. A decade ago the lighthouse was restored.

The entry by the West Side Amateur Radio Club put the USA on 28 registrations, behind Australia with 38 and Germany 33, followed by England 16, and The Netherlands on 13 with the total countries so far involved nearing 30.

International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend is a fun event. It will be held for the 15th time on August the 18th and 19th. Check it out and register for the weekend by visiting the website [ILLW.NET](http://ILLW.NET)

**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

# Dayton Hamvention, 146.49 simplex and a 107.2 PL

Brian, WD9HSY

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

- 1) On 146.49 with TX only on 107.2 PL           so you hear all traffic on 146.49
- 2) On 146.49 with TX and RX set to 107.2!       so you hear only 146.49 w/107.2 PL

That way you can play both ways and if the noise gets too bad you can flip over to full PL! Have I have confused you yet? Give me a call and I'll talk you though it!

**Note from Brian,** I'm asked to reprint this just about every year because it makes a lot of sense at Dayton. Remember, set one channel for just PL on TX, (so you hear everything on 49) and one with PL on TX & RX! (only stations with 107.2 on 49!)

## Announcing QRZDroid - for your Android Device

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ Publisher, QRZ.COM

Today we're proud to announce the arrival of QRZDroid, the official QRZ Android application. This app gives you simple, fast access to the QRZ Callsign database in the palm of your hand. The app is completely FREE and is expected to run on most recent versions of the Android OS. It includes a 100 callsign memory as well as the ability to text, email, or send lookups via bluetooth.

The app is available in the Google Play (formerly Android Market) now. Just search for QRZ and choose the app with our logo, or use the direct link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.abase.callsign>

## Logbook of The World Marks 50,000 Users

On May 1, Dragan Pavlovic, YT3PDT, completed his registration process for Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)), becoming the 50,000th person to take advantage of the ARRL's online QSL confirmation system. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, there are more than 3500 individuals from outside the US in the process of obtaining a digital certificate, and more than 1800 individuals inside the US who have started the certificate process, but not yet finished.

Earlier this year, the ARRL and CQ Communications [announced](#) that the ARRL will provide support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by LoTW, beginning with the WPX Award. This project has [entered the beta testing phase](#) with a select group of hams and, barring any unforeseen circumstances, is on track to be launched to the Amateur Radio community this month.

"Radio amateurs around the world consider LoTW to be the 'must have' awards and electronic confirmation system," Patton said. "We look forward to planned improvements and upgrades, and we are gratified that so many people have helped the system grow and become more and more useful."

**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**

# Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to be CQ Columnist

from G4TUT

Retired FCC amateur radio enforcement chief Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has been named a CQ magazine contributing editor, it was announced today by CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Hollingsworth will succeed "Washington Readout" editor Fred Maia, W5YI, who recently became a Silent Key.

Hollingsworth, a ham since 1960 and a longtime FCC attorney, became a household name in amateur radio in 1998 when he was named Special Counsel for Amateur Radio in the Commission's newly-created Enforcement Bureau. His highly-visible enforcement actions were cheered by a vast majority of the amateur community after more than a decade during which FCC enforcement on the ham bands was virtually non-existent. Hollingsworth retired from the FCC in 2008, but has continued to be in demand as a speaker at hamfests and radio club meetings.

His new monthly column - to be titled "Riley's Ramblings" - will incorporate "Washington Readout's" coverage of legislative and administrative actions that affect amateur radio, as well as additional topics of importance and/or interest to CQ's readers, all related in the distinctive common-sense style that has made Riley a sought-after speaker. His first column will appear in the July, 2012, issue of CQ, and will explain why ongoing FCC enforcement actions since his retirement have been somewhat "under the radar."

"We are pleased and honored to have Riley joining our staff," said Moseson. "His stature in the amateur radio community is second-to-none, and his ability to explain sometimes-arcane legal and regulatory language in plain English fits right in with CQ's long-standing dedication to providing practical, useful information for our readers to help them get the most enjoyment possible out of the amateur radio hobby. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship."

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to CQ and to amateur radio generally," noted Hollingsworth. "As a 13-year-old Novice in South Carolina nervously making my first contact with an overheated Johnson Challenger and a barely effective vertical, not in my wildest imagination did I think I would be writing for a ham radio magazine someday."

Hollingsworth holds a Master's degree from the University of South Carolina, and a law degree from Wake Forest University. He lives in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Pat.

## Solar Update

Tad "[Our days run as fast away as does the Sun](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: The average daily sunspot numbers declined 38 points to 106.7 this week, while the average daily solar flux declined nearly 18 points to 116.2. The data reporting week runs from Thursday through the following Wednesday, so this comparison is between April 26-May 2, contrasted against April 19-25. The predicted solar flux is 115 for May 3-6, 110 on May 7-8, 115 on May 9, 130 on May 10-12, 135 on May 13, 140 on May 14-17, 135 on May 18-21, and 130, 125, 120, 115, and 110 on May 22-26. The predicted planetary A index is 5 on May 3-8, then 10, 15 and 8 on May 9-11, 5 on May 12-13, 8 on May 14-15, then 5, 8, 5, 8 and 10 on May 16-20, 15 on May 21-23, 8 on May 24, and then 5 on May 25-June 4.

The [NASA solar cycle prediction](#) from the Marshall Space Flight Center has changed over the past month: The predicted maximum smoothed international sunspot number changed from 61 to 60, but still predicted for next spring 2013. The date of the new prediction is May 1, 2012 and last month's was on April 2, 2012. International sunspot numbers have much lower values than the sunspot numbers we use in this bulletin. The prediction is still for Solar Cycle 24 to be the lowest sunspot cycle in the past century. Look for more on the ARRL website on Friday, May 4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Robert Herrick's [Corinna's Gone A-Maying](#).

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# Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test set for May 12

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day ([AFD](#)). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 19 in 2012 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 12 to prevent conflict with the [Dayton Hamvention®](#), scheduled for May 18-20.

The annual celebration features traditional military-to-amateur crossband communications SSB voice and Morse code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

Military-to-amateur crossband operations will take place on the dates and time in UTC on the frequencies [listed](#) for each station. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some stations, depending on propagation and staffing, may not operate the entire period. Participating military stations will transmit on selected military MARS frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in the amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. The Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via digital modes, including RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31, MFSK and MT63 from certain stations.

[http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS/docs/AMC\\_Test\\_2012.pdf](http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS/docs/AMC_Test_2012.pdf) Click [here](#) for the schedules and frequencies of participating military stations, including the stations that will be transmitting the message from the Secretary of Defense. Instructions on how to copy and submit the message are also included.

## Upcoming MIDWEST ARRL Conventions and Events

May 18-20	<a href="#">Dayton Hamvention,</a>	Dayton, Ohio
June 9	<a href="#">ARRL Arkansas State Convention,</a> <a href="#">ARRL Tennessee State Convention,</a>	Rogers, Arkansas; Knoxville, Tennessee
June 30	<a href="#">ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Convention,</a>	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
July 26-28	<a href="#">Central States VHF Society Conference,</a>	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
August 4	<a href="#">ARRL Ohio State Convention,</a>	Columbus, Ohio
August 18-19	<a href="#">ARRL Southeastern Division Convention,</a>	Huntsville, Alabama
August 19	<a href="#">ARRL Kansas State Convention,</a>	Salina, Kansas
August 26	<a href="#">ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Convention,</a>	New Kensington, Pennsylvania

To find a convention or hamfest near you, click [here](#).

## Fred Maia, W5YI, SK

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ Publisher, QRZ.COM

CQ columnist Fred Maia, W5YI, a leading amateur radio journalist, educator and pioneer of volunteer examining, passed away on March 28 after a battle with cancer.

Maia, 76, published "*The W5YI Report*," dubbed "America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter," from 1978 to 2003, and has been a CQ contributing editor since 1985. His regulatory affairs column, first titled "Ticket Talk," then "Washington Readout," offered news and perspective on FCC and ITU (International Telecommunication Union) actions, and helped untold numbers of hams wend their way through often-confusing mazes of the volunteer examining and vanity call sign systems.

A resident of Arlington, Texas, Fred was a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Radio Operator's School, and was first licensed as an amateur radio operator as a teenager in Rhode Island, where he grew up. He is survived by his wife, Doris, and two daughters. A memorial service will be held, 3:00pm, Saturday March 31, 2012 at Moore Funeral Home, 1219 North Davis Dr. ,Arlington, TX 76012.

# Three Hams Venture to ISS Next Week

QST de W1AW Space Bulletin 002 ARLS002 From ARRL Headquarters Newington, CT May 10, 2012

NASA will televise the launch and docking of the next mission to the International Space Station (ISS), scheduled for May 14. NASA Flight Engineer Joseph Acaba, KE5DAR, and his two Russian crewmates, Soyuz Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Flight Engineer Sergei Revin, RN3BS, are completing their training as they undergo Soyuz spacecraft fit.

Live NASA TV coverage of the Soyuz TMA-04M spacecraft launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan begins at 9 PM CDT on Monday, May 14 (0200 UTC May 15), with the launch scheduled for 10:01 PM CDT (0301 UTC).

The trio will arrive at the station May 16, joining Expedition 31 Commander Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, of the Russian Federal Space Agency, Flight Engineer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, of NASA and Flight Engineer Andrei Kuipers, PI9ISS, of the European Space Agency, who have been aboard the ISS since December 2011. Padalka, Acaba and Revin will transition to the Expedition 32 crew in July and return to Earth in mid-September.

NASA TV's scheduled coverage is as follows:

- Thursday, May 10 \* 11 AM CDT (1600 UTC) -- Video file of the Soyuz TMA-04M crew activities in Baikonur.
- Friday, May 11 \* 11 AM CDT (1600 UTC) -- Video file of Soyuz TMA-04M crew activities in Baikonur.
- Sunday, May 13 \* 11 AM CDT (1600 UTC) -- Video file of Soyuz TMA-04M mating and rollout to launch pad.
- Monday, May 14 \* 11 AM CDT (1600 UTC) -- Video file of the Soyuz TMA-04M final pre-launch crew news
- Tuesday May 15 \* 9 PM CDT (0200 UTC May 15) -- Soyuz TMA-04M launch coverage (launch scheduled at 10:01 PM 0301 UTC), including video of the crew's pre-launch activities and launch replays.
- Tuesday, May 15 \* 12 AM CDT (0500 UTC) -- Video file of Soyuz TMA-04M pre-launch, launch video and post-launch interviews.
- Wednesday, May 16 \* 11 PM CDT (0400 UTC) -- Soyuz TMA-04M docking coverage (docking scheduled at 11:38 PM 0438 UTC), followed by a post-docking news conference from Mission Control in Korolev, Russia.
- Thursday, May 17 \* 2 AM CDT (0700 UTC) -- Soyuz TMA-04M hatch opening and welcoming ceremony (hatch opening scheduled at 2:20 AM 0720 UTC).
- Thursday, May 17 \* 4 AM CDT (0900 UTC) -- Video file of Soyuz TMA-04M docking, hatch opening

You can watch live online on the NASA TV Public and Media channels at, <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/index.html>, or on your television set. Contact your local provider for the NASA TV channel in your area.

## Satellite Operations Planned for Worldwide Museum Ships Weekend

Satellite Operations Planned for Worldwide Museum Ships Weekend Museum Ships Weekend Coming Up June 2-3, 2012 by Allen F. Mattis, N5AFV, [n5afv at amsat.org](http://n5afv.amsat.org) The worldwide Museum Ships Weekend Event (MSWE) will be held for two days, June 2-3, 2012. Last year 83 ships in 13 countries around the world participated in the event.

Amateur radio operators make special event contacts from these museum ships on all amateur radio bands with most of the contacts taking place on the HF bands. In the past several years only two or three museum ships in North America have made satellite contacts during the event. This year a number of Houston area AMSAT members, W5ACM, N5AFV and WC5WM, will participate with the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) operating club station KK5W from Seawolf Park on Pelican Island in Galveston, Texas. Seawolf Park is home to two Second World War vintage museum ships - the destroyer escort USS Stewart (DE-238) and the submarine USS Cavalla (SS-244). As a result, a contact with KK5W counts for two ships. Amateur radio operators who make contacts with 15 or more ships qualify for a handsome certificate.

The BVARC KK5W station plans to operate the afternoon passes of AO-27 and FO-29 on Saturday June 2nd and hope other AMSAT members will be operating from other ships. This will be their fifth year participating in the MSWE and hope to make their first MSWE satellite contact with another museum ship this year.

If any AMSAT members are interested in this event they may visit the MSWE website: <http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/index.html> to find out if any museum ships near them are participating.

# Field Day 2012 – Radio Operators, Get Ready...Get Set...

Field Day – the largest on the air operating event of the year – is the last weekend of June (23 & 24)! It's never too early to start planning. Tens of thousands of operators all over the country will be embracing CW, Phone, Digital, PSK31, Satellite and other modes, making the bands come alive with excitement. Let's throw our signal out there as well!

The GOTA station can only be operated by hams newly licensed since last year's Field Day, generally inactive hams, and non-licensed individuals who want a taste of the hobby. Generally inactive hams are those who have not really been on the air for a couple of years. If you've been fairly inactive for a while, come on out and make a few contacts for the club!

The Educational Activity Bonus. This sounds pretty cool. The idea is to set up a learning, hands on activity, at the bunker, that is ham radio related, and that involves active participation. Perhaps a soldering seminar? Or a mini-class on how to jumper one of our antennas to one of the radios? Maybe a mini-seminar on how to tune up one of those old, tube rigs? Any ideas out there? Would someone like to do this? It doesn't have to be done repeatedly throughout the weekend, just once is good. I'm looking for volunteers. Give this some thought, and let me know what your ideas are.

There are other bonus points activities as well.....

<i>Emergency Power Bonus...</i>	Got generator? We don't need to use it, just test it to see if it will power a radio.
<i>Media Publicity Bonus...</i>	We don't need to actually get the publicity, just make an attempt to get it.
<i>Public Information Table...</i>	Yep, we set up a table with information on the hobby, the ARRL, our club, etc.
<i>Satellite QSO...</i>	Just one satellite QSO gets us 100 points!
<i>Alternate Power Bonus...</i>	Bruce, WD9GHK has afforded us the 100 points by bringing his hand-crank generator to the bunker. 5 QSO's get's us the points.
<i>Visit by an Govt. Official...</i>	We need to invite an official elected big shot, and receive a visit.
<i>Visit by an Em. Agency...</i>	Red Cross, Salvation Army, local Law Enforcement... Or the mayor??
<i>Youth Participation...</i>	This is pretty cool too. Any ham or non-ham, 18 years old or younger, who makes at least one contact, gets us 20 points. 5 youth doing this gets us the maximum of 100 points. Do you know of anyone who might want to make a contact for the club? This is a great way to introduce someone to the hobby, or, give our younger licensed members a shot at the excitement.

Finally, the biggest points activity is QSO's.

So come on out and make some Q's! Let me know if you're planning on operating. We'll have a total of 6 stations set up and able to be on the air at the same time. There's plenty of operating opportunities. Also, we'll need a Refreshments Chairman, a Station Operations Manager, and a Computer Troubleshooter/Coordinator. An event like this requires bodies, so please step up and help in any way you can. Send me an email, catch me on the repeater, or call me on the landline, I'd love to hear from you. It's time to.....**GO !!**

**Will you step up to the Challenge?** See a Board Member or talk to Tom, AB9LA about this 24 hour contest!

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

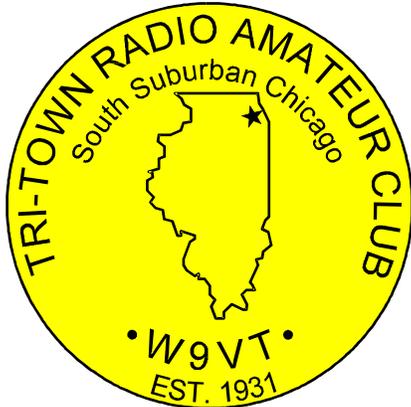
**Please copy 4F IL, 4F IL QSL?**

**73, and Good Luck in the Contest. QRZ?**

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

**May 2012**

**First Class Mail**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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