

The Oscillator

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Upcoming Events

November Meeting - Friday, November 15 at the Bunker at 8 PM. Scheduled is a business meeting that will include the nomination of officers for 2014 with a combined program of Show and Tell and White Elephant Sale. Refreshments and raffles will be available.

December Meeting - Friday, December 20 at the Bunker at 8 PM. Scheduled is a business meeting that include election of officers for 2014. Following will be the annual Christmas Party and raffle for the Dual Band HT. Please watch you email and check the nets for updates on the activities for the meeting.

Club board meetings - held the second Monday of each month, 7:30 PM at the Bunker. All members are invited to attend.

Special Raffle

The Club is holding a special raffle for a Baofeng ultra-compact dual band transceiver with wide band coverage Model UV-5RA. The unit comes complete with charging stand, computer programming cable and antenna adapter. Tickets for the raffle will be sold at all Tri-Town meetings with the winning ticket being pulled at the December meeting - Christmas party December 20 at the Bunker starting at 8 PM. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

Election of Officers for 2014

Nominations of officers for 2014 are now being made. The club is required to elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one board member each December for the following year. The board member elected this year must be a past officer. A person considering placing their name in nomination may have two questions, what are the duties and how much time will it take. When attending a meeting, it can be seen what our officers do and what they are responsible for. The general duties of our officers are no different than for other organizations. How much time does it take? There is one board meeting a month, which are about one hour long and the monthly club meetings that run about two hours. There are no club meetings in July and August. Officers are expected to help support all club activities such as the Bunker, Driving the Dixie, Bike-a-Thon and the picnic. Please consider serving your club and its membership.

Membership Dues

2013 memberships expire December 31, 2013. So that means that Dues are coming due for 2014 membership. The Board of Directors reviewed the membership fee amount taking into account the anticipated number of members, our annual costs for insurance and the repeater. Fearing that a raise in due might cause a drop in membership, it was decided not to increase due for 2014. The dues are on par with other local clubs. This of course is based on the hopes that the existing membership will renew and that the membership will continue to support the raffles and refreshment donations. Buying tickets for the current raffle of the HT is one of the ways to help support the club. Membership applications are in each Oscillator. Please fill yours out soon and it would be great to get a friend to become a new member.

**Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG
It is Fall, Last Chance to get Your Antenna Projects Done!!**

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2013:

Scott Heath, KC9TGG	President	708.481-4882	whammybar1@wowway.com
Matt Schumann N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	mattschumann@yahoo.com
Jim Everand WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None @ No I' dont have one
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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.COM, Eham, and Other Amateur Radio Publications.

Club Meetings & Nets

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

Official Club 2 Mtr hangouts:

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

Unofficial Club Hang Outs:

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

Club Nets

2 Mtr FM 49'ers Net	Wed, 8:00 PM Local, on The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
10 Mtr SSB Net	Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local, 28.490.
2 Mtr FM Weather Net	Sundays, 8:00 PM local, on The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL
Tri-Town Alumni Net	Monday through Friday, 2200 UTC on 7.285 MHz SSB

Hamfests in the Area

NOV 16-17 ACARTS

Fort Wayne

<http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

We need your Membership!

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

Another "Last Man Standing" Ham Episode

ANS thanks the CQ Newsroom

"Last Man Standing" producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, reports that lead character Mike Baxter (Tim Allen) finally gets on the ham bands during the program's Thanksgiving episode, which was shot in mid-October and scheduled to air on November 22 on ABC. According to John, Mike heads to his basement ham shack to escape a house full of guests waiting for Thanksgiving dinner to be served.

This is the second "Last Man Standing" episode to include ham radio as a story element, and the first in which Allen's character is seen operating his ham station.

<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2013/10/another-last-man-standing-ham-episode.html>

FCC Wireless Bureau Gets New Acting Chief

Sworn into office November 4, Tom Wheeler, the new FCC chairman, has named current Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Ruth Milkman as his chief of staff. Replacing Milkman as acting Wireless Bureau chief will be Roger Sherman, a communications attorney with strong links to the Democratic Party. The WTB oversees Amateur Radio within the FCC. Sherman previously served as the Democratic Chief Counsel to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and as Democratic Staff Director to its Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. During the 111th Congress (2009-2011), Sherman was chief counsel for communications, technology, and the Internet. He previously served on the staffs of US Representative Henry Waxman and US Senator Alan Cranston. Earlier he was an attorney at Sprint Corporation and at the firm of Wiley, Rein.

Third 2013 Myanmar (Burma) Operation Set

The Daily DX; Jay Oka, JA1TRC

Zorro, JH1AJT, and others will be on air from Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) from November 15 until November 26. The proposed call sign is XZ1J. According to The Daily DX, this will be the third and final run for 2013 from Myanmar. Plans call for setting up and running up to four stations 24/7 on 160 through 10 meters, CW, SSB and RTTY. —

K9W Wake Atoll DXpedition Team Gets Entry Okay And is on the Air!!

The K9W Wake Atoll DXpedition, which was put on ice as a result of the partial government shutdown, now has US Air Force permission to visit Wake. "Our equipment is already on Wake and in safe storage awaiting our arrival," the team said in a media release. The 12 operators plan to assemble in Hawaii October 30, leave November 1, arrive November 2 and "immediately erect antennas and set up the stations." The team expects to have two CW and two SSB stations on the air, and current plans call for K9W to be active from November 3 through November 15 (Wake Island time). The team has posted its operating plan on its website. The Wake Atoll Commemorative DXpedition is the recipient of an ARRL Colvin Award grant.

New E-Pub to Take Up Where Monitoring Times Leaves Off

When Monitoring Times publishes its final issue in December, a new electronic publication, The Spectrum Monitor, will follow in its footsteps. Monitoring Times announced earlier this year that it was ceasing publication after a 33 year run and the retirement of its publisher, Bob Grove, W8JHD.

Monitoring Times Managing Editor Ken Reitz, KS4ZR, will helm The Spectrum Monitor, which will debut in January and, as he explained in announcing the new publication, "will carry virtually all of the current Monitoring Times columnists and feature writers." Reitz said The Spectrum Monitor will be available only in Adobe PDF format, which may be read on any desktop, laptop, iPad™, Kindle Fire™ or any other device capable of opening a PDF file.

The Spectrum Monitor promises to cover the radio listening and monitoring waterfront, from Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio satellites to scanning; aeronautical, utility, and government monitoring; Amateur Radio astronomy; long-wave monitoring; short wave broadcasting; antennas, and radio restoration.

The K7RA Solar Update

It's been a lively couple of weeks, with plenty of sunspots and great HF propagation. Average daily sunspot number for the week was 161.6, unchanged from last week's average of 162. Solar flux values were up quite a bit though, rising from 139.6 to 158.3, quite a healthy jump.

On October 26 the Penticton solar flux reading was 171.8, but NOAA downgraded it to 165, probably because the higher value was an outlier caused by solar events overloading the receivers at Penticton.

Just before ARRL CW Sweepstakes this weekend, predicted daily solar flux for the near term is 140 on November 1, 135 on November 2, 130 on November 3-4, 135 on November 5, 140 on November 6-8, then 105, 110, 120, 125, 130 and 135 on November 9-14, 140 on November 15-18, 145 on November 19, 150 on November 20-21, with flux values peaking at 155 on November 22-25, then dropping to a minimum of 105 on December 6.

Stable geomagnetic conditions are predicted for Sweepstakes weekend, with predicted planetary A index at 5 on November 1-6, 8 on November 7-8, 5 on November 9, then 12, 15, 10 and 8 on November 10-13, 5 on November 14-25, 8 on November 26-27, 5 on November 28 through December 6, and 12, 15, 10 and 8 on December 7-10.

As October ended yesterday, we can now calculate our 3-month moving average of daily sunspot numbers. The average daily sunspot number for the three-month period centered on September, 2013 (including all daily numbers from August 1 through October 31, 2013) was 91.2, reflecting the recent uptick in solar activity.

So far in 2013 the averages are 73.6, 80.7, 85.2, 106.4, 106.4, 97.5, 85.6, 77.4 and 91.2.

The monthly averages for June through October 2013 were 80.2, 86.2, 90.2, 55 and 127.2. You can see that the month just ended was a very strong period.

You may recall in our last bulletin ARLP043 that Ganesh, VU2TS, joked (I think he was joking?) about the possibility that testers might charge the ionosphere with some of the big antennas and power beamed skyward.

Apparently K9LA took this seriously enough to do the math, and his comments are quite interesting, and show us just how far-fetched this idea is.

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA wrote, "Recently a QST reader asked the same question. My response to him was that the power density needed to modify the E region is around 1 milliwatt per square meter (from Radio Techniques for Probing the Terrestrial Ionosphere, Hunsucker, 1991). That translates to a huge ERP (effective radiated power). For example, the HF ionospheric modification facility (commonly called an ionospheric heater) at Tromso, Norway has an ERP of about 360 megawatts. Their transmitter puts out 1.4 megawatts and the gain of their antenna is 24 dBi, which results in about 3 milliwatts per square meter at 100 km.

"Now let's assume there are 1,000 testers on the same band, each running 1 kilowatt into a 10 dBi antenna. Let's further assume they are all beaming to the same spot in the E region that's about 400 km down the road (in other words, they're all within an 800km diameter). And let's even further assume that all of these signals are on at the same instant of time and arrive at that spot in-phase. That works out to 0.08 milliwatts per square meter - which is still an order of magnitude less than needed. The F region is even worse, as the transmitted power density decreases due to the increased height.

"Thus I have a problem with the theory that many, many transmitted signals can enhance the ionosphere. I believe the bands are simply open more than we think, and a massive amount of activity (as in a contest) shows this. Note that 10 meters was really good for several days before the contest - when the amount of people on was considerably less."

Thank you, Carl. Nice to see the numbers applied to this concept.

Sunspot numbers for October 24 through 30 mean of 161.6. 10.7 cm flux was mean of 158.3. Estimated planetary A mean of 4.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices a mean of 3.6.

We need your Membership!

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WaldoFar North will be down for the next 30-45 days!

Tom W9SRV

There is maintenance going on at the site which requires removal of our antennas and mounts. I just found out this morning. The system was immediately shut down to prevent damage to the equipment as well as the workers exposure to RF.

During this time I will be bringing all the equipment home including the antenna to do an overhaul and tune up. The equipment has not been touched since installation more than 2 years ago. The antenna has not been since it was put up.

During this time the South box will remain on. I will work on making it talk a little and add a courtesy tone.

Thanks you for your consideration and sorry for the inconvenience. If you're in need of UHF communication in the North box area, please use the **443.325+ 114.8 WD9HSY repeater**.

FCC Fines CBer for Operating Illegal Transmitter With Linear

Helping to alleviate concerns that it rarely polices the Citizens Radio Service (CB), the FCC has fined an Alaska CBer \$500 for “willfully and repeatedly” operating a non-certificated CB transmitter with an RF linear amplifier which, the Commission said, violated federal law and its rules and “voided his authority to operate his CB station.”

In a Forfeiture Order released October 30, the FCC noted that the CBer, Glenn S. Yamada, of Kenai, Alaska, did not deny the violations but stated that he “did not intend to violate” the Communications Act of 1934 or FCC rules. Yamada also told the FCC that he was unable to pay the initial forfeiture of \$12,500, imposed in a July 18, 2012, Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL).

The Commission said its agents had identified Yamada as the source of a signal that the Commission’s High Frequency Direction Finding Center “observed interfering with safety of life operations on the frequency of 21.965 MHz [sic]” in January and February 2012. The FCC said that based on financial documents Yamada provided, it found “sufficient basis” to reduce the fine to \$500, and it gave Yamada 30 days to pay.

As required by the NAL, Yamada informed the FCC in writing in August 2012 that he was still engaged in CB operations, using a certified transmitter that was not attached to a linear amplifier.

W1AW Maxim’s HPM’s “Old Betsy” is Made New to Wow the Crowds

Back in the day — prior to 1989, to be more specific — ARRL tours were treated to a demonstration of League Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim’s rotary spark-gap transmitter, “Old Betsy.” The vintage transmitter, on display in the lobby of the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, sustained some damage, however, and she has remained silent for nearly 24 years. Until now.

“It’s always been my intention to get Old Betsy working again,” explained W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, although we won’t be able to demonstrate it during routine ARRL/W1AW tours. Seeing that next year is our Centennial, I made her functionality one of my priorities.”

For Amateur Radio newcomers, a spark-gap transmitter is pretty much as it sounds. A very high voltage is applied to two electrodes sufficient to cause the electrons to bridge — or spark across — the gap between them. Various circuits, and the antenna, are used to tune this broad-spectrum energy — essentially a radio signal (think power line noise or interference from the vacuum cleaner) — to a particular radio wavelength. An improvement on this basic concept was the rotary spark-gap transmitter, where a motor rapidly turns a number of electrodes (Old Betsy has four) past stationary electrodes. This helps to generate a semblance of a “note” on the Morse transmissions in that era before receivers had circuitry to make CW sound as it does today. Old Betsy is considered a non-synchronous rotary spark gap, Carcia points out, and the belt-driven rotor spins at approximately 2500 RPM. The rotating and stationary electrodes are housed within a handcrafted wooden box with an open top.

Now it’s possible to fire up Old Betsy and use the key on HPM’s roll-top desk to send code. An old fashioned knife switch turns on the transmitter. The unit may be available for demonstration on special occasions.

IARU Region 2 Publishes New Band Plan (N & S America)

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 (the Americas) has published a revised IARU Region 2 Band Plan for all allocations from 137 kHz to 250 GHz, effective September 27, 2013. The member-societies of IARU Region 2 adopted the new plan during their triennial General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico, in late September. Delegates from 18 national Amateur Radio associations attended. Representing the ARRL were President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as the voting delegate; First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR; Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and Technical Relations Specialist Jonathan Siverling, WB3ERA.

“For the first time in Region 2, band plans for the VHF, UHF, and microwave bands were adopted to guide development of these bands,” Sumner said. “HF band plans were reviewed with the objective of improving terminology and aligning them more closely with those of the other regions, particularly Region 1 (Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union).” The revised document designates a new segment for the Amateur-Satellite Service from 144.000 to 144.025 MHz.

As it states in its introduction, “The IARU Region 2 has established this band plan as the way to better organize the use of our bands efficiently. To the extent possible, this band plan is harmonized with those of the other regions. It is suggested that member-societies, in coordination with the authorities, incorporate it in their regulations and promote it widely with their radio amateur communities.”

For the first time the band plan includes definitions “to organize the concepts used in the band plan, as well as the proposed use of spectrum for the bands between 6 meters and 1 millimeter,” says IARU R2 News Editor Joaquín Solana, XE1R.

The new band plan references near space stations (NSS) in its definitions section. According to the band plan, “Equipment located in temporary Near Space Stations (such as those carried by high-altitude balloons) can transmit carefully on any frequency; exceptions are the segments with ‘exclusive’ usage where ‘NSS’ are not applied. NSS must follow the BW [bandwidth] and mode restrictions of the segment and observe carefully the usual occupation of the band on the related region to avoid harmful interference. For longer missions and NSS crossing international and regional boundaries, extra care must be observed in harmonization of different allocations.”

FCC Fines Former Ham for Unlicensed Operation on 20 Meters

The FCC has fined Jared A. Bruegman, ex-KCØIQN, of Bolivar, Missouri, \$500 for transmitting on 14.312 MHz without a license. Last February, the FCC told Bruegman in a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) that it intended to impose a \$10,000 fine, but in a Forfeiture Order released October 23, the FCC reduced the fine.

“Based on the financial documents provided by Mr. Bruegman,” the FCC said in its Forfeiture Order, “we find that there is a sufficient basis to reduce (but not cancel) the forfeiture to \$500.” Responding to the earlier NAL, Bruegman had claimed the \$10,000 forfeiture would “bankrupt” him, and he requested the FCC cancel the sanction altogether.

The FCC cautioned Bruegman that inability to pay is only one factor in its forfeiture calculations. “In this regard, we have previously rejected inability to pay claims in cases of repeated or otherwise egregious violations,” the Commission said. “Therefore, future violations of this kind may result in significantly higher forfeitures that may not be reduced due to Mr. Bruegman’s financial circumstances.”

The FCC said it affirmed the finding outlined in the earlier NAL that Bruegman had violated Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934. FCC agents in December 2012 observed an unlicensed radio transmitter operating on 14.312 MHz from a residence in Bolivar. Bruegman, the only person at home at the time, admitted to owning the radio transmitting equipment. “Based on the record evidence, which Mr. Bruegman does not dispute, we conclude that Mr. Bruegman willfully violated Section 301 of the Act by operating radio transmission equipment without the required Commission authorization,” the FCC concluded.

He has 30 days to pay or make arrangements to pay the fine or have his case referred to the US Department of Justice for enforcement.

It is Fall, Last Chance to get Your Antenna Projects Done!!

ARRL Supports FCC WRC-15 Advisory Comm Affecting Amateur Radio

The ARRL has expressed its support for three recommendations affecting Amateur Radio frequency allocations which the FCC's World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 FCC Advisory Committee (WAC) has already approved. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, filed comments on behalf of the League October 17 in IB Docket 04-286. The League has concluded that the WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.1 recommendation for 420-450 MHz "maintains a status quo that accommodates many users and works well." The Amateur Service is secondary on the 70 centimeter band in the United States. At least one administration has proposed to introduce international mobile telecommunications (IMT) — cellular telephone and wireless broadband — to the bottom 10 MHz of the band, but the League said it agrees with the WAC and the NTIA that things are just fine as they stand.

"The status quo is successful and represents a success story for spectrum management," the League said. "Introduction of IMT in the 420-430 segment of this band, as proposed by one administration, will most assuredly upset this status quo." The ARRL pointed out that although ham radio is secondary on the band, "radio amateurs have a vested interest in maintaining their ability to use the band," and Amateur Radio has been "a responsive and responsible sharing partner" to the band's primary users.

For its part the WAC said, "The results indicate that for most cases, sharing between IMT-2000 base/mobile stations and the various types of radars when placed in adjacent spectrum is not feasible in the absence of mitigation." Based on information at hand, the committee said, "it is logical to conclude that co-frequency sharing between IMT and the radiolocation service in the 420-450 MHz bands is not feasible."

The League also said the WAC recommendation for WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.10 regarding 22 to 26 GHz "protects the only worldwide, primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Service allocation between 146 MHz and 47.2 GHz."

"Sharing with incumbent services, including the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services at 24.-24.25 GHz will require technical and operation constraints that will result in spectrum being impractical for use by the MSS [Mobile Satellite Service]," the ARRL said. The Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services are primary at 24-24.25 GHz. "Radio amateurs have been responsible stewards of a band that is difficult to use, and the WAC proposal of no change to the entire 22-26 GHz range is particularly applicable to the 24-24.25 GHz segment."

WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.18 considers a primary allocation to the radiolocation service for automotive applications in the 77.5-78.0 GHz frequency band in accordance with a resolution adopted at WRC-12. The League suggested that the FCC support the WAC recommendations "as a base for eventual reconciliation with an NTIA position," or that the FCC not support any position on the agenda item, "as conducted studies to not support a position more expansive than that contained in the recommendation." The Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services are now primary in the 77.5-78 GHz band, with Radio Astronomy Service users secondary.

QRP Small Wonder Labs Closes

Small Wonder Labs, a stalwart in the QRP arena since the mid-1990s, is closing its doors.

"There comes a time in everyone's career when they've 'had enough!' I've reached that point," SWL founder Dave Benson, K1SWL, announced October 10 on his website. "Effective immediately, I am closing Small Wonder Labs. I have discontinued sales of the RockMite and will ship out the last several dozen orders shortly."

Benson says he'll continue to support existing customers' requests for replacement or missing RockMite parts "over the short term." Benson said he is coordinating with another QRP vendor to assume production and sales of the RockMite. "I'll keep the Small Wonder Labs website active for a year, and it'll maintain documentation for my earlier products," he added, noting that he does not keep parts inventory for long-discontinued products and that he does not have "just one more board" for any of his discontinued kits. "Please don't ask!" he stressed, directing customers to the Kits and Parts dot com site.

SWL is also known for Benson's SW and DSW-II series of transceivers and his PSK Warblers, among others. Now ensconced in the woods of New Hampshire, Benson said his home is finished and "it's time for me to move on to other interests." An electrical engineer from Connecticut, Benson started SWL in 1996, although he's stepped back from his Amateur Radio activities in recent years. "I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who's purchased my kits over the years," he said. "You've been great, and it was fun!"

RAC, Canadian Amateurs Favor New MW Amateur Band

Radio Amateurs of Canada has commented in support of a proposal that would create a new secondary Amateur Radio medium-wave allocation at 472 to 479 kHz. The new 630 meter band was proposed in a Consultation released in June by Industry Canada, the nation's radiocommunication regulator. It proposed numerous revisions to Canada's table of allocations warranted in the wake of World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12). Last year the ARRL asked the FCC in 2012 to carve out the same MW band for US hams.

"RAC is pleased to see the department has included this allocation to the amateur service on a secondary basis in Canada, consistent with outcome of Agenda Item 1.23 at the World Radio Conference 2012," said RAC President Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW, on behalf of RAC. "It is acknowledged that amateur service use of this new...band will be limited to 5 W effective radiated power relative to an isotropic radiator," Bawden continued. In line with WRC-12, Industry Canada proposed that stations in the Amateur Service "shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, stations of the Aeronautical Radionavigation Service."

Bawden said the addition of the MW band to the Amateur Service "will give Amateur Radio operators in Canada an opportunity to participate with other amateur operators in conducting short and long-range propagation studies using very narrowband digital techniques. Such communications will provide another path for emergency and disaster relief communications, when necessary."

Several Canadian radio amateurs and other organizations also filed comments favoring the new MW allocation.

Bawden also offered the RAC's support to create a 60 meter band for Canada's radio amateurs. The allocation 5250 to 5450 kHz is not yet available to hams north of the border, and while Industry Canada did not specifically propose creating an amateur allocation there, the RAC remains optimistic.

"Based on the posted comments, we expect a favourable decision to this consultation very soon and expect an appropriate footnote will be added to this portion of spectrum [in the Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations] indicating the six spot frequency allocations authorized to the Canadian Amateur Service and any restrictions on use that may apply," Bawden told IC.

Low-frequency experimenter Joe Craig, VO1NA, writing on behalf of the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (MRCN), added that group's voice to those supporting the creation of the 472-479 kHz band in Canada. "From 2009-2012, we and other Canadian amateurs conducted experiments between 504 and 509 kHz in support of a domestic allocation to the Amateur Service in this portion of the radio spectrum," Craig noted. "We have used Morse and digital transmissions on 504.1, 507.77 and 508.5 MHz and were authorised to use up to 20 W ERP. There were no reports of interference from these operations."

Utilities in Canada and the US have opposed the addition of a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 472-479 kHz as well as at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. In its comments, the Utilities Telecom Council of Canada (UTCC) urged IC not to establish an Amateur Radio allocation at 472-479 kHz, saying that interference to power line communication (PLC) systems operating in that part of the spectrum is highly likely and would be difficult to mitigate, since the PLC systems would have to avoid interfering with amateur operations.

"If there was an amateur allocation at 472-479 kHz, amateurs could freely operate in close proximity to transmission lines without the utility knowing that they were there," the UTCC said in its comments. "Utilities would probably only become aware of these operations when it was too late, because they would experience unexplained outages or mis-operation of PLC systems. Interference to PLC systems has the potential to cause widespread electrical outages."

Craig asserts that the utilities are using drama, conjecture and "outright inaccuracies" to support their position, even citing what he called "the unfortunate FCC decision to deny 137 kHz" to US hams. "We can hope that reason will prevail, and that the new band will soon become available to Canadian amateurs," he told ARRL.

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

New Free QST App Available for Android Devices!

ARRL members using Android tablets and phones now can download a dedicated app to access the digital edition of QST. The app gives ARRL members access to read QST online or choose to download individual issues of the journal for offline reading. The QST app is free in the Google Play Store (search for "QST").

The digital edition of QST includes every article, every column, every ad, everything in the printed magazine and more! After you've tried it, tell us what you think and share your feedback. Members now have three great ways to access the current digital edition of QST and archives:

- 1) Web edition (laptops, desktop computers, and many mobile devices)
- 2) Apple iOS devices (iPhone, iPad and iPod touch), available free from Apple's App Store, and
- 3) Android devices (tablets, phones and more), available free from the Google Play Store.

Members must have a valid ARRL website login to access digital editions of QST. Need help? Visit the digital edition help page for frequently asked questions. Need more help? Contact Member Services by telephone (860) 594-0200 or (888) 277-5289 (US only) or e-mail.

FCC Turns Away Petition to Expand Technician 10 Meter Privileges

The FCC has dismissed a Petition for Rule Making that sought to expand Technician privileges in the 10 meter band. The Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) had asked the Commission last June to expand the spectrum available to Technician licensees on 10 meters to include operating privileges in the FM portion of the band, from 29.520 to 29.700 MHz. Novice and Technician licensees now may operate on 10 meters from 28.000 to 28.500 MHz.

"We conclude that TMRA has not presented grounds for the Commission to revisit the question of operating privileges for Technician class licensees," the FCC said October 17 in denying the petition. The FCC said that Technicians may transmit through repeaters licensed to a General class or higher licensee that have an output channel in the 29.5 to 29.7 MHz segment, as long as the repeater has a 2 meter or 70 centimeter input.

Further, the FCC pointed out that the current licensing structure was developed "with the expressed desire of the amateur community to provide an incentive, ie, additional frequency privileges, to motivate Amateur Radio operators to advance their communication and technical skills." The FCC noted that it increased Technician privileges in 2006 to include Novice and Technician Plus privileges. "A Technician class licensee can upgrade to a General class operator license and receive significantly more frequency privileges (including those at issue here) by answering correctly a minimum of twenty-six questions on a thirty-five question written examination," the FCC said. TMRA, the Commission concluded, had submitted no evidence that the FCC should depart from its "long-standing policy of providing additional frequency privileges as an incentive" for license advancement.

TMRA had asserted that amending §97.301(e) of Part 97 would extend Technician voice privileges on 10 meters to "coincide with today's technical advancement of the Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL Designates Six Regional ARRL Centennial Events

As part of its 2014 centennial celebration, the ARRL has designated six major ham radio gatherings as "Regional ARRL Centennial Events." The action was approved October 5 when the ARRL Executive Committee met in Colorado. ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen developed a proposal for the concept as a way to, in effect, take the ARRL Centennial celebration to more radio amateurs across the US.

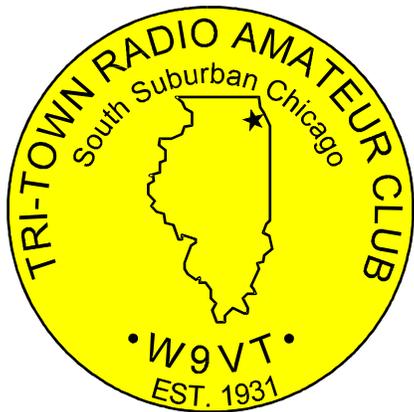
Orlando Hamcation®	— Orlando, Florida,	February 7-9, 2014
Dayton Hamvention®	— Dayton, Ohio,	May 16-18, 2014
SEA-PAC	— Seaside, Oregon,	June 6-8, 2014
Ham-Com	— Plano, Texas,	June 13-14, 2014
Huntsville Hamfest	— Huntsville, Alabama,	August 16-17, 2014
Pacificon	— Santa Clara, Ca,	October 10-12, 2014

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

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

November 2013

First Class Mail



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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

We need your Membership!

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