

The Oscillator

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430
Volume 60 Number 5 November 2014 Club Call W9VT

Upcoming Meetings

November Meeting - Friday, November 21, 2014, 8 PM, at the Bunker.

It will be a busy meeting. The main item of business will be developing a slate of candidates for Officers and Board member for 2015. Candidates are needed for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Board member. The Board position is for a non-past officer. Other activities will include a "Show and Tell" and "White Elephant Sale". So get out your projects and those dust gathers and bring them in. Refreshments will be available as well as raffle tickets for our two raffles.

December Meeting - Friday, Dec 19, 2014, 7 PM, at Aurelio's Pizzeria, 18162 Harwood Ave, Homewood, IL.

This will be our annual Business Meeting Christmas Party. The item of business will be elect Officers and a Board member for 2015. Following the business meeting we will have our Christmas party. Cost will be \$7.00 per person and the price will include one raffle ticket for door prizes. If you plan to attend, you must RSVP to Trish Jaggard, N9WDG, by Wednesday December 17 at 708-828-8592 or the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net with your name and number of people attending. Raffle tickets will also be available for the Baofeng dual band HT. The drawing for the radio will be held at the end of the party.

Raffle to be Held for Dual Band Radio

A raffle is being held this fall by Tri-Town for a Baofeng UV-5RA dual band hand held radio. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or three for \$5. Raffle Ticket sales started at the picnic and will be available at all club meetings until the drawing for the radio which will take place at the Christmas Party in December. The radio comes complete with antenna, charging base, ear phone/mike attachment, programming cable and best instructions, found to date, for programming. Thank you for your support of this year's raffle and good luck to all. Proceeds from the raffle will go to support the club's activities.

Election of Officers for 2015

Election of Tri-Town RAC 2015 Officers and Board member will take place at the December 19, 2014 meeting. Before this can happen, a slate of officers must be developed to vote on. Candidates are needed for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Board member. The Board position is for a non-past officer. Nominations are needed and this will be done at the November meeting. Many of our current Officers and Board members have served the Club for several years and new nominees are welcomed. If you would like to run for an office or place someone else in nomination, please do so. Leadership is key for the club to continue to succeed. New faces and ideas are always welcome. Please give it some thought.

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

Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2014:

Ed Stroh, K9EGS	President	708.877-5204	K9EGS@hotmail.com
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	mattschumann@yahoo.com
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None @ No I' don't have one
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	Director	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Bruce Haffner, WD9GHK	W9VT Trustee, Dir	708.614.6134	WD9GHK@comcast.net
Tom Gunderson, W9SRV	Webmaster, W9VT	815.466-0245	webmaster@w9vt.org
Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Repeater Trustee, Oscillator Editor, Director	815.370.1383	Bbedoe@aol.com

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

Club Meetings & Nets

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

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 15-16	ACARTS	Fort Wayne	http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm
Jan 18, 2015	Wheaton	HAMFEST	Kane Co Fairgrounds St. Charles, Illinois

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Club Dues are Due!

Club dues expire the first of the year so 2015 dues are due by then so your membership will not lapse. The Board voted to increase the dues from \$20 to \$25 for 2015. The increase is due to continued expenses for insurance, repeater operation and the gradual reduction in membership. Your continued support of the raffles and the refreshment jar also helps. Dues can be paid at any meeting or sent to the clubs mailing address. Please include a membership form so we can keep our roster up to date.

Club Station Antenna Problems Resolved!

It was Field Day 2014 when it was discovered there were problems with the 160M dipole and the tri-band beam. Sometime prior to Field Day, one of the ropes on the lifting system for the center insulator of the 160M had frayed and broke. The 160M did not come down since the frayed rope was not under tension. Wind had taken the frayed rope end and wrapped it around an element and the boom of the beam. This restricted beam rotation to a few degrees. Simple fixes were tried and failed. To try and solve the problem, Ron Bellinger, WB9JYZ, contacted Chief Hunter of the Hazel Crest Fire Department. After hearing the problem, Chief thought his department could help. A few days later Hazel Crest's aerial tower manned by a Lieutenant and a Fire Fighter came to the Bunker. They raised the ladder up underneath the beam and the Fire Fighter was able to untie the rope from the beam. The frayed end of the rope was then secured to the tower supporting the 160M dipole. Thank you Ron and the Hazel Crest Fire Department for getting the problems resolved.

BOD votes to increase Club Dues

Brian WD9HSY

Hard to imagine that it's been more than 22 years, since Tri-Town put the Repeater on the air! That was back in the day when Cell Phones were the size of BRICKS and Heathkit still sold a few kits. Yes, it has been that long since Tri-Town had a dues increase. It is kind of remarkable that it has been that long. The Club has done a great job over the years keeping things tight and within budgets. For an example, a few years back we started to send the Oscillator out by email rather than regular 1st Class Mail. The cost savings of printing and postage saved the Club hundreds of dollars a year.

Over the past decade our membership has been slowly declining. It is an unfortunate common occurrence with most radio clubs around the country today as the membership ages, moves on, or slips away. Just the of numbers in our membership is making it tough to stay ahead of the game. It was a tough decision to make, but your Board of Directors voted unanimously that this had to be done. Over the next meeting or two, your Board will be available to answer any questions or concerns you may have about this decision. Feel free to talk to any of your Board members. Any thoughts and ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Fundraising for AMSAT-NA, with a difference

From QRZ.com

Clint Bradford K6LCS is making donating to AMSAT-NA's **Fox** satellite projects interesting. He is cleaning out his closet of some space-related memorabilia, and offering it as incentives to donate.

"I am digging up some cool space-related items and am offering them for sale, with 100 percent of the sale price being forwarded directly to AMSAT-NA's Fox fund," Clint reports. "Satellite supporters will acquire a piece of history, **and** support future satellite projects."

The first items available are USPS commemorative first-day covers, celebrating the Soyuz/Apollo missions. Also posted is a 24-stamp plate block, and an Apollo 11 Tenth Year first-day cover.

Details and contact information at ... <http://tinyurl.com/FOX-FUNDRAISING>

Clint Bradford K6LCS 909-241-7666 - cell

Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Christmas Party



Friday, December, 19, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Aurelio's Pizzeria
18162 Harwood Ave
Homewood, IL 60430

Pizza, Salad, and Pop
All for \$7.00 per person

Price also includes One Raffle Ticket for Prizes

RSVP to Trish Jaggard, N9WDG by Wednesday, 12/17
Number of people to attend

Phone- 708-828-8592- leave detailed message or email
the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

Wisconsin Ham Dies in Fall from Tower

John Bigley, N7UR / [Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire](#)

A Wisconsin radio amateur lost his life on September 16 as he was performing maintenance on the 100 foot tower of a fellow ham. Killed in the fall was 59-year-old James G. Linstedt, W9ZUC, of Eau Claire, who succumbed to injuries sustained after he fell 95 feet from a tower owned by Ronald Anderson, W9RMA, in Eagle Point, just outside of Chippewa Falls, on the shores of Lake Wissota. Linstedt was said to have been an experienced climber. Although he had been wearing an over-the-shoulder safety harness, he apparently had failed to secure himself to the tower before the mishap occurred. Anderson, a former Chippewa County Sheriff, called authorities promptly.

Chippewa County Sheriff James Kowalczyk [told](#) the *Leader-Telegram* newspaper that Linstedt was wearing safety equipment, but did not use it. "When we use it for years, we get a little lax...", the newspaper quoted Kowalczyk as saying. "If he had used it, we wouldn't be investigating an accidental death."

Kowalczyk said Linstedt had been strapped in before moving 10 feet up the tower, apparently without securing himself. An active radio amateur, Linstedt was a member of the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club and once served as the club's president.

ARRL 2014/2015 Winter Operating Schedule

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 42 in the January 2014 issue of QST or on the web at: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

Ham Radio Testing Session in Kankakee – November 19th

Wednesday November 19th 7pm at the Kankakee EOC (Sheriff's Complex)

http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/kankakee-il-60901-8449-1 Info: <http://www.w9az.com/vetests.html>

Google Map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Kankakee+Emergency+Services/@41.075688,-87.858119,17z/data=!3m1!1e3!3m2!1s0x0:0xd522f7cd504cd34d>

N4BNM (SK) Unfavorable Federal PRB-1 Decision.

From Trent N2WKL and QRZ.com

Attached is the US District Court filings regarding the unfavorable Federal PRB-1 decision on Ritner Nesbitt, N4BNM tower fight. For those of you who were following this case: [Case 1-13-cv-00881-ODE.pdf](#)

This decision advances a lesson not to be ignored by Ham operators.

Finally, as some of you may already know, Ritner Nesbitt, N4BNM is no longer with us. His demise occurred on January 31st 2014 while at home. His wife Patricia Nesbitt had continued his antenna fight. It is unknown, at this time, whether or not an Appeal will be taken on the most recent Court decision.

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

AMSAT Celebrates 40 Years in Space for AO-7

11/10/2014 Thanks to AMSAT-NA, AMSAT News Service

Saturday, November 15, will mark 40 years since the AMSAT-OSCAR 7 ([AO-7](#)) ham radio satellite went into space from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Special Event W7O will be on the air November 15-24 to commemorate the launch of AO-7, the oldest working Amateur Radio satellite. Satellite aficionado Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK/VA7EWK, who secured W7O for the occasion, plans to work satellite passes during the special event from Arizona, including AO-7 passes. He also hopes to recruit other operators to participate in the celebration from other locations and on other bands, including HF.

"I am thinking of incorporating the original QSL card design AMSAT used to confirm AO-7 reception reports from the 1970s in the W7O card," Stoddard said. He's still seeking a good scan of both sides of the 1970s card. "The QSL cards will be printed after the W7O activity wraps up," he added, noting that he plans to upload W7O contacts to ARRL's Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)).

AO-7 was the second so-called "Phase 2" Amateur Radio satellite that AMSAT-NA constructed and launched into low-Earth orbit. It remained in operation until a short circuit occurred in a battery in 1981. More than 20 years later, however, AO-7 unexpectedly returned to life, its 2 meter beacon showing up on 145.9775 MHz. AMSAT describes the Mode A/B bird as "semi-operational" and dependent upon its solar panels for a reliable power source; AO-7 works only as long as its solar panels are illuminated by sunlight. Satellite experts speculate that AO-7's resurrection occurred when the short circuit in the battery opened up for some reason, allowing the solar cells to power the spacecraft. When the satellite goes into eclipse, it powers down. Since the satellite became undead, terrestrial users have enjoyed numerous contacts via AO-7.

The eclipse period, during which AO-7 falls silent, lasts from mid-spring to mid-summer. According to its [operating plan](#), AO-7 switches to Mode B (70 centimeters up/2 meters down) at 0000 UTC. AO-7 has beacons on 29.502 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode A) and, nominally, on 145.972 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode B and Mode C — low power Mode B). The 435.100 MHz beacon has an intermittent problem, switching between 400 mW and 10 mW

Stoddard said he has had heard from a lot of hams interested in taking part in the W7O operation, but he pointed out that W7O can only be used in areas where Amateur Radio is regulated by the FCC. He said that he's seeking satellite operators in different parts of the US, especially in the Eastern US capable of working Europe, North Africa, and South America, as well as other North American station.

In addition to satellite bands, Stoddard said, he'll take signups for 1-hour increments on HF (excluding 60 meters) plus 6 meters, for CW, SSB, and digital modes, but he'd like to avoid having two stations operating at W7O on the same band/mode combination at the same time. [Contact](#) Stoddard for more information.

"Once I get some operating commitments from operators, I will publish the schedule through a link on my WD9EWK [QRZ.com](#) entry and my web page," Stoddard said. "This way, others will know where and when to look for W7O during this 10-day period."

AMSAT has [posted](#) a series of photos documenting the early OSCAR years, including AO-7. —

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

Radio Amateurs in India Were Prepared, But Expected Cyclone Fizzled

11/06/2014 Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU & Jim Linton, VK3PC

A team of nearly 2 dozen Amateur Radio volunteers established an emergency communication net as Cyclone (hurricane) Nilofar approached the west coast of India from the Arabian Sea last week. The late October activation came right on the heels of the Amateur Radio response to powerful Cyclone Hudhud, which caused widespread flooding and property damage and claimed several lives. Especially hard hit was the capital city of Visakhapatnam.

As things turned out, however, Nilofar weakened, generating only moderate rain and wind along some coastal areas of Gujarat, which had been bracing for more severe weather. Winds approaching 40 MPH were reported in the coastal area of Kacchha, and some areas reported light rain, but there was no damage. Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) National Coordinator for Disaster Communication Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU, said some important coastal areas had been evacuated as a precautionary measure.

"It was wonderful teamwork and well supported by the various hams from Gujarat as well as other part of India," Bhide said. "This type of emergency proves the capacity and readiness for helping mankind and government by the way of ham radio."

ARRL Introduces Kindle Edition of Ham Radio License Manual

11/05/2014 from ARRL News

The ARRL has introduced a digital edition of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, its most popular introduction to Amateur Radio. The e-book includes everything a newcomer needs to prepare for the Amateur Radio license exam. The [digital edition](#) is available in the Kindle format from [Amazon](#), which has long identified the print edition as a best seller.

"As the leading publisher of Amateur Radio licensing and training materials, ARRL is expanding beyond traditionally printed books to meet the increasing demand from readers who prefer digital publications and online content," ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. "Finding the next generation of radio amateurs requires meeting prospective hams where they are reading and consuming content."

ARRL offers Kindle editions of its question-and-answer study guides, [ARRL's Tech Q&A](#), [ARRL's General Q&A](#), and [ARRL's Extra Q&A](#). ARRL license manuals are also available directly from [ARRL](#) and many other [ARRL publication dealers](#).

AM Phone -- The Slight Return

From Chip W1YW & QRZ.com

On 12 October I witnessed something I had not heard since 1966: a huge DX pileup on AM. Now AM has and always will have its stalwarts. To some it never went away. Like most hams, I use it rarely, if ever. My purpose is to report an interesting recent revival of AM, shown here by example, and to suggest why it is justified.

The DX pileup was for well known US op K1KW. Chuck normally uses a FLEX 5000 transceiver, and he certainly does get on AM on more than one occasion. But today he brought up a classic AM system--I will not be a spoiler--you can listen in to see what he uses.

Chuck is as modest as he is an excellent engineer, and his 4 antenna directional array may provide one of the strongest AM signals on shortwave, given the demise of most BCB SW AM stations. People noticed on ten meters and within minutes he had a huge pileup of AM stations from Europe calling him. I listened in awe. Pileup. DX. AM. Wow!

What makes this newsworthy is the rarity of the pileup--you never hear (literally) anything like that on sideband--and Chuck's AM quality.

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

ARRL Asks FCC to Continue Issuing Hard Copy Licenses to Those Who Want Them

11/06/2014

In [comments](#) filed November 5, the ARRL has recommended that the FCC continue to provide paper license documents to Amateur Radio licensees who want them. The League's remarks were in response to an FCC [Public Notice](#) (in WT Docket 14-161) that proposed to cease the routine issuance of hard-copy license documents to all Wireless Service licensees, including radio amateurs. While having a paper license document from the FCC to post on the wall of the ham shack has been a tradition, the Commission for several years has considered the "official" Amateur Radio license to be the virtual document residing in its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

"The FCC is willing to continue to mail paper licenses to those who request them," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KDK, has explained. "However, they are making available to licensees — starting right now — the actual license to print via the FCC ULS, and it is allowing hams now to opt out of receiving paper licenses from the FCC directly." (See ULS menu image.)

Under the FCC-proposed process, once a license application is granted, the ULS will generate an official electronic license but will no longer mail a hard copy license unless notified that the licensee wishes to receive an official paper license document. Until new procedures are final, however, the Commission will continue to print and mail official paper licenses, unless notified to stop.

"Should the Commission proceed with the *Notice* proposals," the League said in its comments, "it is ARRL's strong recommendation that the Commission give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The ARRL pointed out that not everyone has easy access to, or is comfortable using, the ULS and that Amateur Radio licensees may occasionally need an official license document — for example, when applying for a license upgrade at a VEC exam session or for vehicle call sign license plates.

"If there is not a license printed on distinctive license stock by the Commission, authentication issues arise and the possibility of electronic alteration of a license document is created," the League.

The ARRL also suggested that requiring individuals to go online in order to obtain a license document may prove to be a roadblock to some applicants.

"It is not acceptable to erect barriers to entry for anyone to obtain an Amateur Radio license or to modify a license," the League commented. "ARRL is concerned that there should be, especially for newcomers, an easy, intuitive path to make the election for license delivery method that does not involve ULS access at the outset."

The *Notice* also proposes, alternatively, that the FCC send the official electronic license via e-mail upon grant of an application, if the applicant has provided a valid e-mail address on the application form. Licensees not wanting to provide an e-mail address could obtain an official electronic license document directly from the ULS. The *Notice* further proposes that licensees could notify the Commission that they wish to receive or continue receiving official authorizations on paper.

The ULS License Manager online system now includes a setting that allows licensees to notify the FCC that they want to receive official licenses on paper. Licensees could change the default setting online, so that once an application has been granted, the FCC would mail an official paper license.

Check out the Club Website: WWW.W9VT.ORG

The K7RA Solar Update

11/07/2014

Solar activity softened a bit this week. From October 30 through November 5 the average daily sunspot number was 95.7, down 24.2 points from the previous seven days. Average daily solar flux declined from 198 to 127.9.

On November 5 Penticton reported the noon solar flux reading at 145.2, but it must have been flare-enhanced because NOAA scaled it back to 135 in their data.

The latest forecast has solar flux at 135 on November 7, then 140 on November 8-10, 145 on November 11-12, then 150, 160 and 170 on November 13-15, 180 on November 16-17, 190 on November 18, and peaking at 200 on November 19-20, then dropping down below 100 after November 30 and reaching a low of 80 on December 5. Flux values then rise to 180 on December 16-17.

Predicted planetary A index is 8, on November 7-13, 12 on November 14-15, then 22, 15 and 10 on November 16-18, 8 on November 19-21, 12 on November 22-24, 8 on November 25 and 5 on November 26-30.

The official peak will be determined much later using a year-long moving average. During Cycle 24 I decided to try a much shorter period for averages to see if trends could be spotted sooner with a more agile arithmetic average. I think it worked out well. Next year NOAA will release some official charts based on the 1-year smoothed sunspot numbers, and I suspect the results should be about the same, although the NOAA graph will appear much smoother.

The yearly averages of daily sunspot numbers from 2008-2013 were 4.7, 5.1, 25.5, 80.1, 82.3 and 97.1. So far in 2014 the average is 122.7, for the 309 days from January 1 through November 5.

Conditions on 10 have been so good, I'm not currently bothering with the other bands. While I am not making 'real' QSO's, it's still fun to watch the DX roll in.

Readers who have not been getting the same results on 10 meters with CW or SSB should keep in mind that the WSPR mode is used for extremely weak signal communications. The band may sound dead, but WSPR seizes the tiniest shred of a signal, verifies it, and that counts as communication. It turns out that communication of some sort is possible via some very marginal paths. But this is for verifying marginal propagation modes that we did not know existed until the powerful WSPR protocol was able to detect it.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>. For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>. More good information and tutorials on propagation are at <http://k9la.us/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

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

Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads Among Those Lost in Launch Explosion

10/29/2014

The [RACE](#) and [GOMX-2](#) CubeSats were among more than 2 dozen satellites lost after an unmanned Orbital Space Sciences (OSC) Antares 130 vehicle exploded spectacularly shortly after launch at 2222 UTC on Tuesday, October 28, from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Wallops Island on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Both satellite packages carried Amateur Radio payloads. The Antares is a new medium-class launch vehicle developed by OSC. The rocket exploded about 6 seconds after launch, sending a huge ball of fire hurtling toward the ground, which set a massive fire at the NASA launch site.

The RACE (Radiometer Atmospheric Cubesat Experiment) CubeSat was a joint project between The Texas Spacecraft Laboratory ([TSL](#)) at the University of Texas-Austin and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Built by a 30-student team, it carried a 183 GHz radiometer, a new science instrument designed by JPL. The spacecraft was equipped to transmit using GMSK at 38.4 k and CW telemetry on a downlink frequency of 437.525MHz.

TSL's Glenn Lightsey, KE5DDG, a UT engineering professor, oversaw the student project that worked hand-in-hand with NASA staff in creating a satellite that aimed to measure water vapor in Earth's atmosphere.

"It's unfortunate, but it is also part of the aerospace industry," Lightsey [told](#) the *Texas Statesman* newspaper. "The nature of building space vehicles is that it is not a 100 percent reliable process. Getting into space is really the hardest part."

The 2U GOMX-2 CubeSat was intended to test a de-orbit system designed by Aalborg University in Denmark. Karl Klaus Laursen, OZ2KK, is listed as the "responsible operator" on International Amateur Radio Union frequency coordination documents. The Amateur Radio payload proposed using a 9.6 k MSK data downlink on 437.250 MHz. Also on board was an optical communications experiment from the National University of Singapore. The mission also aimed to flight qualify a new high-speed UHF transceiver and SDR receiver built by an Aalborg University team.

The Antares 130 launcher was on a resupply mission, carrying some 5000 pounds of cargo to the International Space Station. RACE, GOMX-2 and the other satellites onboard the rocket were to be launched into orbit from the International Space Station.

The Antares 130 also was carrying the Flock-1d array of 26 satellites as well as Arkyd-3 and Cygnus CRS-3.

Indonesia's New President, Vice President are Radio Amateurs

10/21/2014

Indonesia's new national leaders are both Amateur Radio licensees.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, YD2JKW, holds a General class license. Vice President Jusuf Kalla, YC8HYK, is an Advanced class licensee.

Elected in July, Jokowi, 53, a former furniture exporter, and Kalla, 72, were inaugurated on October 20 in Jakarta. Indonesia is the world's third-largest democracy, with a population of approximately 250 million.

Secretary of State John Kerry represented the US at the inauguration and met with the new president afterward. Jokowi previously served as governor of Jakarta and as mayor of Surakarta.

Mirage, KLM Co-Founder Kenneth E. Holladay, K6HCP, SK

10/28/2014

The Co-Founder of Mirage Communications and KLM (Ken, Leeland, & Mike), Ken Holladay, K6HCP, of Gilroy, California, died October 14 after an extended illness. He was 75. Holladay and Everett Gracey, WA6CBA (SK) co-founded Mirage Communications, now a part of MFJ.

He also was the “K” in KLM Electronics, Inc, which he co-founded with Leeland Farrer, K6KBE, and Mike Staal, K6MYC.

A radio amateur from his high school days and an ARRL Life Member, Holladay was a California native and attended San Jose Junior College. He wrote several articles in the 1960s and 1970 for *Ham Radio* magazine and for *QST*. He and his wife Jacqui published *Electro Buyers Guide*. He was an active builder and experimenter on the VHF and UHF bands and was an early participant in EME activity on 50 MHz and 1296 MHz.

Holladay also had a strong interest in restoring and racing Porsches, and he and his wife belonged to several orchid societies. In the 1990s Holladay co-founded the “Orchids in the Park” orchid sale held in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco each year.

KP1-5 Project Gets Permission to Activate Navassa Island KP1 (#1 ranked DXCC Entity!) in January 2015

10/22/2014

[The KP1-5 Project](#) has received word from the US Fish & Wildlife Service that it may activate Navassa Island (KP1) in January 2015. The DXpedition will be a maximum of 14 days, and exact dates will be determined by USFWS mission requirements and weather windows.

“Our experienced team of 15 is complete and is ready for the challenge,” said an October 22 KP1-5 Project news release from President Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Vice President Glenn Johnson, W0GJ. “The weeks ahead will be extremely busy as the team has less than 90 days before the DXpedition comes on the air.”

The announcement explained that January is the month of minimum bird nesting activity and this is the primary reason USFWS is asking that the operation be completed during that month. Weather is unpredictable in January, however, and because Navassa is surrounded by cliffs, this may preclude a safe landing by boat.

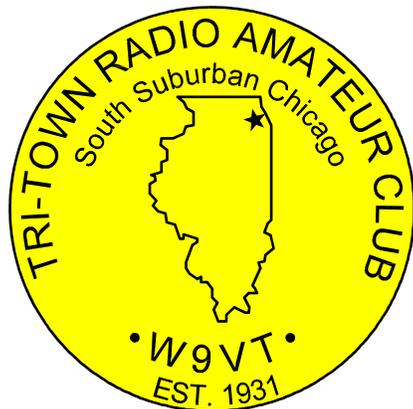
“For safety reasons and in order to maximize our time on the island and on the air, a helicopter operation is planned,” the team’s news release said. “Navassa is over 100 miles (160 km) from the nearest helicopter staging point, and as many as 10 round trips will be required at the beginning and end of the operation. Obviously, this means that there will be a significant cost for activating this No 1 ranked DXCC entity.”

The KP1-5 Project said it will be working with USFWS over the next few weeks, and, as details firm up, it will release additional details. The KP1-5 Project team has committed to fund 50 percent of the DXpedition’s tab. “We are hopeful the DX community at large will fund the remainder,” The announcement concluded

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

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

November 2014



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	\$ 25.00
_____ SWL Membership	\$ 25.00
_____ Extra Family Membership	\$ 6.00

\$ _____ Total Paid by Club Member

We need your Membership!

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