# The Oscillator

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# **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

**September** - The Annual Club Picnic will be held Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Monee Reservoir starting at noon with food at 1 PM. As in the past, the cost will be \$5 per person which will include a raffle ticket. You are asked to bring a chair, something to drink and a dish to pass. No alcoholic beverages are allowed at the Monee Reservoir. The picnic is in lieu of a September meeting. Is anyone up for some "portable" operating?

Directions: Go south on 50 from Monee, You will want to go right or West on Pauling Road but in order to do that you have to turn left, drive up a short ramp and then turn right. Proceed West to Ridgeland and turn left on Ridgeland and go south to the park entrance. Once in the park turn right and go to the far end of the parking lot. We are at the pavilion on the right.

**October** - A general meeting will be held on Friday, October 16, 2015 at the Hazel Crest Village Hall beginning at 8 PM. There will be a business meeting followed by a program by **Brian, WD9HSY, on Software Defined Radios**. This will be a follow up program to the one we had in the spring. Operating and hands on will be featured. As usual, refreshments and raffle will be available. Plan on attending and bring a friend.

#### From The President's Shack

Todd, KA9IUC

Summer is almost over and fall is on its way. Time to get the last of those outdoor projects done. There is a lot going on in the Club between now and the New Year. We have the picnic in September, a SDR program in October, Show and Tell, White Elephant sale and nomination of officers in November and, December brings elections and the Christmas party.

The Club Station operated just fine for Field Day and the Special Event W9D Station. However there are projects that need attention. It would be nice to replace all the ropes supporting the 160 dipole. One broke last year and was replaced but the others have been in service a very long time. All antennas need to be checked for SWR and adjusted as needed. The last item that needs attention are the two storage rooms in the basement. They are hard to walk through and need to be organized and trash done away with. Please let me know if you would like to help with these projects.

We had a busy summer and again I want to thank all Club members for their continued support of the Club and its activities. We need your continuing help with financial support and presence at activities and meetings to keep our Club great.

#### **New 75 Meter SSB Net for Tri-Town**

What are you doing Saturday mornings? Why not get on the air and check into Tri-Town's newest net. Jim, KB9VR, has started a new 75 Meter SSB net on 3860 at 9 AM local time. Why not check in and hear what's happening?

#### Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2015:

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
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Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	None @ No I' don't have one
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# **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.

# Club Hangouts:

The Club's Repeater 146.805 WD9HSY/R & 146.49 Simplex 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	Wednesday, 8:00 PM Local,	The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL	
2	Mtr FM Preparedness Net	Sundays, 8:00 PM local,	The Club's Repeater 146.805 -600kc 107.2 PL	
10	) Mtr SSB Net	Thursdays, 8:00 PM Local,	28.490 SSB USB.	
40	) Mtr Tri-Town Alumni Net	Weekdays, 2200 UTC	7.285 SSB LSB	
80	) Mtr SSB Net	Saturdays, 9am local	3.860 SSB LSB	

# Hamfests in the Area

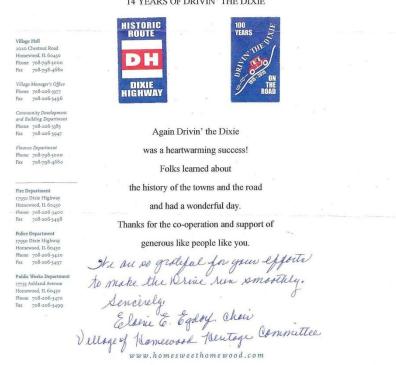
09/11/2015 W9DXCC Convention	Schaumburg, IL	http://www.w9dxcc.com
09/12/2015 CFMC Radio Expo:	Belvidere, IL	http://chicagofmclub.org
09/19/2015 Peoria Superfest	Peoria, IL	http://www.w9uvi.org/?page_id=2715
01/17/2016 Wheaton HAMFEST	St. Charles, IL	http://www.wheatonhamfest.org

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac">https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac</a>
Check out the Club Website: <a href="https://www.super.com/tritownrac">WWW.W9VT.ORG</a>

# Thank You Note from Village of Homewood / Drivin the Dixie:



#### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS ON THE ROAD 14 YEARS OF DRIVIN' THE DIXIE



QSL Card from Spike O'Dell from WGN Radio Spike was worked during the W9D Operation by Todd KA9IUC



#### Mokena Markers Faire, Pipefitters Union Training Center

Peter KE9YX

On Saturday August 22, I went to a makers faire held at the Pipefitters Union Training Center off of I-80. For those of you who are new to makers fairs, there is a do-it-yourself (DIY) trend that has taken hold in our society. This trend is emphasizing creativity and a grassroots attitude. DIY is finding place in television commercials too (Sherwin-Williams comes to mind.)

The age range of people participating ranged from about 5 - 60. Many were families. The median age was mid 30's. Of the 40 - 50 tables, some had 9 and 10 year olds doing demos. There was a homebrew holographic dancing video, a sand pile that had a projector which altered real-time with a topographical overlay, multiple 3-d printer demos, someone doing training sessions for soldering and desoldering, and a demonstration of 4 prop hover models (over the top of our heads). A young man (who I put at under thirty) gave me a detailed description of how 3-D printing works and answered my questions on how casting from such models could be done.

At another table, a rep from Southworks in Park Forest was promoting upcoming classes. (A three hour "heavily subsidized" class on the morning of September 12 will assemble an Arduino board for \$10. Price includes the board.)

Also there was a group called Spacelab. These folks meet regularly on Thursday evenings on Front street in downtown Mokena. They welcome our attendance and want to share info with us including learning the benefits of ham radio. Hope you view, as I do, this trend as a way to breathe some youth into our hobby. SouthWorks can be reached at 708 283 5020. For further in on the faire find me at a meeting or my number in the Oscillator.

#### The ARRL September VHF Contest Beckons!

The <u>ARRL September VHF Contest</u> gets underway on September 12 at 1800 UTC and wraps up on September 14 at 0259 UTC. This operating event provides a chance for radio amateurs at all levels to experience contesting on the most popular VHF and UHF bands, as well as on those less-frequented frequencies above 450 MHz. Newcomers and veterans alike will attempt to work as many 2 × 1 grid squares as possible on frequencies above 50 MHz from home stations, from the field, or from "rovers" that travel from grid square to grid square. With a heightened potential for tropospheric conditions, the September VHF Contest offers something that VHF contests at other times of the year often cannot.

In January 2015, the ARRL Board approved rule modifications for <u>General Rules For ARRL Contests Above</u> <u>50 MHz</u>. Assistance is now allowed for *all* entry categories. This includes the use of assistance to announce your availability for contacts (ie, self-spotting.)

Six meters is the most popular band for this event, since many HF transceivers include that band. Most SSB activity on 6 meters will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250MHz, and CW activity between 50.080 MHz and 50.100 MHz. The frequencies between 50.100 MHz and 50.125 MHz are considered a "DX window" for contacts between US/Canada and DX stations, so avoid US-to-US contacts in that part of the band.

Activity centers for SSB are 50.125, 144.200, 222.100, and 432.100 MHz. These are calling frequencies, however, and contest participants should avoid monopolizing them. Those operating FM on 2 meters are reminded that the <u>ARRL General VHF Contest Rules</u> prohibit contest operators from using the national simplex frequency of 146.52 MHz to make or solicit contacts. Check the <u>band plans</u> for details on all bands.

Rules and entry forms are on the ARRL website. All logs must be <u>e-mailed</u> or postmarked no later than 0300 UTC on October 15, 2015. Electronic logs are preferred. Send paper logs to September VHF Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. For more information about the ARRL September VHF Contest, <u>e-mail</u> the ARRL Contest Branch.

# FO-29 Satellite Contact Claims Distance Record

— Thanks to AMSAT News Service

Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Christophe Lucas, F4CQA, in Trouy, France, appear to have set a new contact distance record on the FO-29 satellite. The contact occurred on August 27 at 1732 UTC.

"This was not a scheduled contact," Swanson explained. "I simply answered Christophe's CQ. I knew it was a good contact at the time, but as I was portable up on Arkansas' Shinall Mountain, I did not have the resources available to calculate distances."

Later he realized that the estimated distance between his location in EM34 and Lucas's in JN17 exceeded 7500 km (4650 miles). "About the same time, my e-mail chirped with a message from Christophe, who had come to the same conclusion," Swanson said. After some quick exchanges, and verifying 10-digit locators, the two operators settled on an "official" distance of 7599.959 km (4712 miles).

"To the best of our knowledge, referencing <u>data</u> found on AMSAT-UK's website, this breaks the previous distance records of 7537.799 km between W5CBF and G4DOL, and 7538.685 km between K4FEG and DK1TB," he said. Swanson recorded the contact and <u>posted</u> it to YouTube.

## \$50 SAT Amateur Radio "PocketQube" Goes Silent

Thanks to Michael Kirkhart, KD8QBA

It appears that the \$50SAT Amateur Radio "PocketQube" microsatellite — also known as Eagle 2 (MO-76) — has finally gone silent, a couple of days short of 20 months in orbit. The satellite, which did not carry an Amateur Radio transponder, transmitted on 437.505 MHz at a power of 100 mW. In a Yahoo Groups posting, one of its developers Michael Kirkhart, KD8QBA, said the last time he was able to hear the satellite was on July 19.

"It was fun while it lasted," he told ARRL this week.

Launched in late 2013 from Russia, \$50SAT was a collaborative education project of Prof Bob Twiggs, KE6QMD, of Kentucky's Morehead State University, and three other radio amateurs — Howie DeFelice, AB2S; Stuart Robinson, GW7HPW, and Kirkhart.

"Our best guess as to what happened is the solar cells have been slowly damaged due to sputtering," Kirkhart said in his Yahoo post. "All the high-energy particles from the solar wind can effectively 'sandblast' the satellite, and since our cells had no protective cover glass, this will cause the surface to slowly become diffused, and thus cause the output of the cells to drop. We knew this would happen. What we did not know is that \$50SAT would operate long enough where this would become a problem; our bets were on the battery failing first."

Kirkhart said the mission now has transitioned into the how-long-will-it-stay-in-orbit? Phase. He cited one deorbit prediction of May 2017. The "\$50" was a bit of an exaggeration; the tiny satellite actually was constructed from about \$250 worth of parts. —

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac">https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac</a>
Check out the Club Website: <a href="https://www.wyvt.org">WWW.W9VT.ORG</a>

#### Trio Launched to ISS Includes Two Radio Amateurs

Two radio amateurs — European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Andreas Mogensen, KG5GCZ, and Soyuz commander and cosmonaut Sergey Volkov, RU3DIS — plus cosmonaut Aidyn Aimbetov have headed into space bound for the International Space Station. They launched on September 2 from Baikonur cosmodrome in Aimbetov's homeland of Kazakhstan. For Mogensen and Aimbetov — who replaced "space tourist" and British singer Sarah Brightman on the Soyuz flight — the launch marks the beginning of a 10-day ESA "iriss" technology experiment mission. The space travelers now must orbit Earth 36 times before they catch up with the ISS. The Soyuz will dock on September 4. Mogensen is the first Danish astronaut to go into space. Volkov is a space veteran. This is also the first spaceflight for Aimbetov, the only Kazakstani cosmonaut.

Among other projects, Mogensen is scheduled to be involved with the deployment from the ISS of two ESA CubeSats, both carrying Amateur Radio payloads, which originated in Denmark. A Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) H-II transport vehicle delivered **GOMX-3** and **AAUSAT-5** to the ISS on August 19.

Just 8 days after they arrive onboard the ISS, Mogensen and Aimbetov return to Earth in another *Soyuz* vehicle under the command of cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, who is returning to Earth after 6 months aboard the ISS. Padalka hold the record for the most time in space.

# ARRL Supports Maximum Flexibility for Amateur Use of New 2200 & 630 Bands The new 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200 mtrs) and 472-479 kHz (630 mtrs) Bands

The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio operation in the new 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200 meters) and 472-479 kHz (630 meters) bands should be as unfettered as possible from a regulatory standpoint. The League spelled out its case August 31 in detailed **comments** (also attached below) that argue in favor of flexible FCC Part 97 regulations in light of the exceptionally low interference potential to unlicensed power line carrier (PLC) systems that utilities use to manage the power grid. In its April *Report and Order, Order, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (*R&O/NPRM*) in ET Docket 15-99, the FCC had raised several questions regarding how Amateur Radio and PLC systems might coexist. The ARRL said, in its view, there is little to no evidence that Amateur Radio operation would be incompatible on the LF spectrum, where the great majority of PLC systems are deployed, and that few, if any, PLCs operate in the MF band.

The League requested that the FCC finalize service rules for 2200 meters that the ARRL outlined, and that it create the proposed 630 meter allocation. Operation on 2200 meters would be limited to 1 W EIRP, and operation on 630 meters held to 5 W EIRP, in both cases with an absolute EIRP transmitter output limit of 1500 W PEP and a 200 foot maximum antenna height.

The League agreed with the FCC's proposal to make both 2200 and 630 meters available to Amateur Extra, Advanced, and General Licensees. The ARRL also said the FCC should provide "maximum flexibility with emission types" emissions throughout the 630 and 2200 meters, including CW, RTTY, data, and even phone and image, the last "especially at 630 meters."

The League has conducted a lengthy and ongoing <u>experimental operation</u> (WD2XSH) on 630 meters. It pointed out that it was "unaware of any reports of interference to PLC systems arising from that operation conducted pursuant to numerous Part 5 experimental licenses.

### Ham-Cyclist Completes US Leg of His Trip Around the Globe

Cyclist Thomas Andersen, OZ1AA/K9DXX, completed his 6 week ride up the US East Coast on August 29 and now is in the Canadian Maritimes, the 38th country he has visited beginning his "Cycling the Globe" adventure in Copenhagen 5 years ago. Andersen already has put more than 26,000 miles on his bicycle — more than the distance around the equator. Along the way, he has been availing himself of ham radio hospitality. On the US leg, which he began in Key West, Florida, he often stayed with fellow radio amateurs and made many new US friends on his trip.

"From the southernmost point in Key West, Florida to the easternmost point in Lubec, Maine — what an incredible ride through the US!" Andersen <u>posted</u> on his Facebook page. "A heartfelt thank you to all who helped along the way. The hospitality has been unlike anything else I experienced on this trip."

In Florida, and later in Connecticut, he was a guest of another top-tier contester, Dan Street, K1TO. He also visited with other well-known contesters, including Doug Grant, K1DG, and Randy Thompson, K5ZD. Earlier in August, Andersen visited the New England Division Convention in Boxboro, Massachusetts, over the August 21-23 weekend, stopping to say hello at the ARRL booth. As for his favorite stops, he said he enjoyed Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, the best.

Andersen told ARRL that he typically can cover 60 miles in a day, but he's done as much as 100 miles. The last leg of his US trip — from Hancock to Lubec, Maine — covered some 80 miles.

While he does carry a VHF/UHF FM handheld, Andersen said he really has not used it that much. He said he "definitely" wants to have some sort of HF radio with him as he travels through Africa.

### The K7RA Solar Update!

— Thanks to Tad Cook, K7RA

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology's Space Forecast Centre issued a **geomagnetic warning** at 0009 UTC on September 4: "The **IMF Bz** [Interplanetary Magnetic Field] has been strongly southward over the last 3 hours (2100 UTC on September 3 to present). However, the current solar wind speeds are at moderate levels, which are unfavourable to cause any major geomagnetic disturbance. If the solar wind speeds elevate in the coming 24 hours, active to minor storm conditions are possible. If this happens, there is chance that aurora would be visible during the local night hours of the 4 Sep from Tasmania and other southern most regions of Australia. "Increased geomagnetic activity expected due to coronal hole high speed wind stream for September 4, 2015."

Now that we are in early September, we can look at recent monthly averages for sunspot numbers. For May through August the monthly daily sunspot numbers averaged 83, 77.4, 68.5, and 61.7, respectively. As you can see, there has been a steady decline in activity.

The latest predicted solar flux values for the near term from NOAA/USAF forecasters are 85 on September 4; 90 on September 5-8; 85 on September 9-10; then 95 and 105 on September 11-12; 115 on September 13-22; then 110, 105, and 100 on September 23-25; 90 on September 26-28, and then bottoming out at 85 on September 29 through October 7. Although this is a long way out, flux values are predicted to rise to 115 for October 10-18.

<u>Spaceweather.com</u> reports that 156 years ago this week, on September 2, 1859 the huge Carrington Event occurred — the monster geomagnetic storm in which a 1 billion ton coronal mass ejection (CME) smashed into Earth, setting fire to telegraph stations around the world. Check Spaceweather.com, using the archive feature in the upper right corner of the site, to select September 2, 2015.

# Jamboree On The Air 2015 Station Registration is Open

Worldwide station <u>registration</u> is open for the 2015 Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air/Jamboree On The Internet (<u>JOTA/JOTI</u>), which will take place over the October 16-18 weekend. Registration requires a scout.org user name, which gives full access to the registration system as well as to many of the JOTA/JOTI activities that will be under way during the weekend. JOTA is aimed at fostering Scout-to-Scout communication across borders and is the largest Scouting event in the world, with upward of 750,000 Scouts participating from some 6000 stations in 150 countries. In the US 13,326 Scouts and visitors took part in JOTA 2014.

Registration will also provide everything needed to take part in <u>JamPuz</u> (short for "Jamboree Puzzle), an identity code that JOTA/JOTI participants exchange with one another. Required JID codes will not be issued until later in September, and participation in JamPuz is optional.

The Boy Scouts encourage participating stations to submit JOTA reports and photos following this fall's event.

"We would also like to see your best photos and hear some stories about your event," Wilson said. He urged local JOTA team organizers to add these tasks to their "to-do" lists.

The K2BSA call sign will be in use for JOTA in nearly every US call district as well as from KH6 and KL7. As of September 1, only K2BSA/1 remained available. Wilson suggested that JOTA groups may want to consider obtaining a 1 x 1 special event call sign for their operations.

The 2015 JOTA patch is expected to be available for ordering from **BSA Supply** starting on or about September 17. The order number is 622541. (The JOTI patch will be available at the same time. Its order number is 622542.) The 2015 event will mark the 58th JOTA, which is held each year on the third weekend in October.

#### ARRL "Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity" Separates Fact from Fiction

The ARRL has taken steps to address objections and concerns recently raised by representatives of community associations about the <u>Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015</u> — H.R. 1301 and S. 1685. A statement released today, "<u>Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity</u>," makes it clear that the bill would *not* create new federal policy with respect to outdoor amateur antennas. As it points out, the FCC already recognizes a strong federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communication from residences and has adopted a limited preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would extend the limited preemption to private land-use restrictions.

"Congress and the FCC already have acted to prohibit restrictions that prevent the installation of direct-to-home satellite dishes, TV antennas, and customer-end wireless broadband antennas," the statement said.

The legislation also does *not* prohibit community associations from reviewing proposed ham radio antenna installations or from having final approval; it limits restrictions to those necessary to accomplish an association's legitimate purposes — such as safety and aesthetics. The bill does *not* mandate that a particular size of antenna be permitted, as long as size and placement restrictions do not prohibit, but reasonably accommodate, Amateur Radio communication.

"Claims that the bill will do any of these things are simply wrong, and are either misunderstandings of the plain language of the bill or deliberate misrepresentations," the ARRL statement asserted.

As introduced in both the House and Senate, the bill recognizes that the federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communication remains the same, whether a residence is subject to state and local regulations, to private land use restrictions, or both.

# **Amateur Repeaters Fall Victim to Washington Wildfire**

Two Central Washington repeaters, owned and operated by the <u>Lake Chelan Amateur Radio Club</u>, have been destroyed by one of the wildfires raging in that state. The co-located machines, one on 2 meters and one on 6 meters, were sited on Slide Ridge near Manson, Washington, in Chelan County. On August 27, the First Creek Fire completely leveled the building housing the repeaters. Scorched antennas and support structures are still standing but are likely beyond repair. The club's Roger Odorizzi, W7CH, said the repeaters had been offline for several days.

"We knew the fire had wiped out the power going to our site, but we hoped for the best, that our mountaintop building was possibly spared," he said. "Now we have confirmation this was not the outcome." Odorizzi said the area remains closed, and the club likely will not have access to it "for a long time."

The club's Ken Rau, K7YR, said the loss, in addition to the building, included the two repeaters, duplexers and antennas. The repeaters provided coverage in North Central Washington. Rau told ARRL that it's unlikely that the building housing the repeaters would be replaced. It once housed radio and TV broadcast translators, most no longer in use. Topography is also a factor. "This is a mountain site — 4900 feet above mean sea level — with power lines that were installed on a very steep slope."

# FCC Proposes Returning a Arizona Radio Amateur's License Back to Former Call Sign

The FCC has told an Arizona radio amateur who was granted a vanity call sign within the 2 year waiting period on the basis of being a close relative of the previous holder that the relationship cited was not close enough. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) on August 26 proposed to modify the license of Joshua A. Babb, W3JB, of Maricopa, Arizona, to reflect his previous call sign, KD7HLX. The prior holder of W3JB, John K. Birch, had died, and the FCC canceled the license on August 17, 2012. Barring exceptions to the 2 year waiting period, this meant the FCC would not accept applications for W3JB until August 18, 2014. Babb applied for W3JB on June 21, 2014, however, indicating that he was Birch's nephew, and the FCC granted the request on August 8, 2014.

After further investigation, however, the FCC stated: "Mr Babb's response to the Division's inquiry indicates that Mr Birch was his great-great uncle. This does not exempt Mr Babb from the 2 year waiting period for call sign W3JB. The <u>exemption</u> applies only to specified close relatives. The relationship claimed by Mr Babb is too distant to qualify."

The Division concluded that granting Babb the call sign W3JB was improper and proposed that modifying Babb's license to replace W3JB with KD7HLX, his former call sign, would be appropriate. The WTB will not issue a modification order, however, until Babb has been notified of the proposed action and has had an opportunity to file a protest, which he must do in writing within 30 days.

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

# September 2015

# **First Class Mail**



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

Name	Call				
Address		Licens	e Class		ARRL Member Y / N
City, State		_ Zip		Phone	
Email Address:					
Regular Membership SWL Membership Extra Family Membership	\$ \$ \$	25.00 25.00 6.00			
	\$_		Total Paid by Cl	ub Member	

For Example: Regular Member, with Family (25+6) = \$31.00

#### **Dues are Due!**

Club dues expire the first of the year so 2015 dues are now due. 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 the Club's roster up to date.

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac">https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac</a>
Check out the Club Website: <a href="https://www.w9VT.ORG">WWW.W9VT.ORG</a>