

# The Oscillator

---

Published BI-Monthly by the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club, Inc. PO Box 1296, Homewood, IL 60430  
Volume 64 Number 5 September 2018 Club Call W9VT

---

## Up-Coming Events

### September - The Annual Club Picnic - Saturday, September 22, 2018

**September - The Annual Club Picnic** - Saturday, September 22, 2018. The Annual Club Picnic will be held 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 something to drink and a dish to pass, a salad or desert. There are picnic tables and benches there in the pavilion but you may want to bring a chair. The picnic is in lieu of a meeting. Please plan on attending and bringing the family! It would be great if a few people could get there between 10:30 and 11 to help our great chef, John N9DWE, set up.

**Reservations:** So that a head count can be made for buying food, please call Trish at 708 828 8592 or email her at "the\_jaggards@sbcglobal.net" and give her your name and number attending. Thank you.

Directions to Monee Reservoir: Proceed South from Monee on Highway 50. Turn right on Pauling Road. However, to turn right on Pauling Road you will have to make a left turn up a short ramp and then turn right onto Pauling Road. Proceed West on Pauling Road to Ridgeland Avenue. Turn left and go South on Ridgeland Avenue to the entrance for the Monee Reservoir. Once in the park make the first right and drive to the South end of the parking lot. We are in the shelter on the right. Rest rooms are located nearby.

**October - Business Meeting and Program** - Friday, October 19, 2018. Business meeting and program will be at the Hazel Crest Village Hall at 7:30 PM. The business meeting will include a review of the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws and vote. The program is a video on Marconi. Refreshments and raffle will be available. Please plan to attend and bring a friend

## From The President's Shack

Todd, KA9IUC.

As we approach fall there is still a lot going on with the Club. Activities include, picnic, special event station, Christmas Party, elections, proposed changes to the our Constitution and By-Laws, and regular meetings. Please review the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws published in this issue of The Oscillator. They will be reviewed and voted on at the October and November meetings. Elections are also very important to the future of Tri-Town. I am completing my fourth year as President so a new candidate for President will have to be found. Also, if the proposed changes pass, the board member up for election this year will not have to be a past officer of the club. We are a small club and for us to succeed it must be a team effort. Please be an active member of that team. There is something for everyone to do. Over the years many positions have been combined or eliminated due to lack of involvement.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>  
**Check out the Club Website:** [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)

## **Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2018**

Todd Schumann, KA9IUC	President	708.423.7066	tschum3063@aol.com
Matt Schumann, N9OTL	VP, Chair. of Board	708.423.7066	mattschumann@yahoo.com
Trish Jaggard, N9WDG	Treasurer	708.957.1973	the_jaggards@sbcglobal.net
Jim Everand, WD9GXU	Secretary	708.748.6798	jimgxu15@outlook.com
Mac Kirkpatrick, WA9CYL	Board Member	708 341.8900	wa9cyl@comcast.net
Sharon Gunderson	Board Member	708.957.7944	d.gunderson@sbcglobal.net
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, Dir.	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.

### **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

## **Top 10 Most Wanted DXCC Entities List Updated (Club Log)**

Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted entities list has been updated as of August 28. The list includes 340 entities, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), or North Korea, is the #1 most-wanted DXCC entity, as it has been for quite a few years. The other top ten most-wanted entities, listed in descending order, are: 3Y/B Bouvet Island; FT5/W Crozet Island; BS7H Scarborough Reef; CE0X San Felix Islands; BV9P Pratas Island; KH7K Kure Island; KH3 Johnston Island; VK0M Macquarie Island, and FT5/X Kerguelen Island.

## **Tri-Town Meeting Day to Change in 2019**

Beginning with the January 2019 meeting, our meeting night will change from the 3rd Friday to the 4th Friday of the month.

## Special Event Station- Celebrating 200th Anniversary of Illinois

Tri-Town will run a Special Event Station on Saturday, December 1, 2018 in honor of Illinois' 200th Anniversary of Statehood which takes place on December 3rd. The Club Station will be utilized. Talkers and loggers needed.

## Tri-Town Meeting Day to Change in 2019

Beginning with the January 2019 meeting, our meeting night will change from the 3rd Friday to the 4th Friday of the month. This is being done to avoid meeting night conflicts with another ham club in the area. Hopefully this will increase attendance at Tri-Town meetings and allow for better programs.

## Field Day - 2018

Todd, KA9IUC

Our Field Day Logs have been submitted and acknowledged by the ARRL. Final results of Field Day 2018 will be published in the December 2018 issue of QST. Again, thanks to all who participated in Field Day as it was a team effort and a great Club activity.

## August Social Night a Big Hit

The social night was well attended and a good time was had by all. There was talk about all sorts of subjects and even played a little radio. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments



## **Equipment from the Estate of John Fixari, NM9X, SK.**

The Club has benefited from the donation, by his family, of John's ham gear. Items include an ICO2AT HT, IC2000 2M mobile, IC735 HF rig with power supply, Dentron tuner, HP flat screen computer monitor, Hustler mobile antenna with coils, 2M mobile antenna, Keys and various wires and cables. Preliminary testing of the HT and HF rig indicates repairs are needed.

## **CQ Contests de W9VT**

As previously reported, Jerry, K9PMV and Todd, KA9IUC activated W9VT for two recent contests. They were the CQWW 160M SSB and the ARRL SSB DX Contests. The approach to these contests was not "Hardcore" but let's spend a few hours having fun and see what happens. Plus it was a chance to see how the equipment at the Club station performed. In the short operating time, 82 contacts were made during the 160M contest and 50 were made during the SSB DX contest. Logs were submitted CQ, ARRL and LoTW. The contest results have been published. W9VT was #14 in single operator, high power, Central Division in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. In the CQWW 160M SSB, W9VT was #3 in single operator, low power, Illinois.

## **Tri-Town's Tentative 2018 Event Calendar**

September Club Picnic, Saturday September 22nd, Noon at the Monee Reservoir.

October General meeting Friday October 19th, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.  
Video on Guglielmo Marconi and review of Constitution and By-Law changes..

November General meeting, Friday November 16th 7:30 PM at the Club Station. Program will be nomination of officers for 2018, Show and Tell, White Elephant Sale and review of Constitution and By-Law changes..

December Special Event Station, Saturday December 1, 2018, 9 AM at the Club Station.  
200th Anniversary of Illinois Statehood.

December Christmas Party, Friday December 21st at Aurelio's in Frankfort. Short program for the election of officers for 2019.

Jan 2019 General meeting Friday January 25th, 7:30 PM at the Hazel Crest Village Hall.  
Note new meeting day, the 4th Friday.

Board of Directors Meetings - Second Monday of the Month, 7:30 PM at the Club Station. Members are welcome.

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>**

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

# The K7RA Solar Update

Sunspots disappeared again, since August 28. Average daily sunspot number dropped from 17.7 (during the prior week) to 0, (naturally).

Average daily solar flux declined from 70.6 to 67.8. Geomagnetic indicators quieted, with average daily planetary A index changing from 19.9 to 6.3, and mid-latitude A index going from 13.4 to 5.9.

When might sunspots return? In recent periods such as this when the sun has been blank for days or weeks, I've referenced predicted solar flux values and assumed that relatively higher flux values may indicate when we may see the return of sunspots. But this has often led to disappointment.

## **OK1HH Geomagnetic activity forecast for the period Sept 07 until October 03, 2018**

**Geomagnetic field will be:**

**Quiet on September 9, 17**

**Quiet to unsettled on September 10, 18-20, 25-28**

**Quiet to active on September 8, 13-15, 24, October 2**

**Unsettled to active on September 7, 12, 16, 21, 29-30, October 1**

**Active to disturbed on September 11, 22-23**

# Three Towers of San Marino Special Activity

The Amateur Radio Association of the Republic of San Marino ([ARRSM](#)) has announced a special activity from the Three Towers of San Marino, September 15 – 16 (UTC, 24 hours). A group of towers located on the three peaks of Monte Titano, they are depicted on both the national flag and coat of arms.

The event will take place in conjunction with a civil protection exercise. The standard Three Towers Award is issued to a station submitting proof of contact with all the three towers on at least two bands; the honor roll award requires confirmation of contacts with all three towers on three bands.

Stations will be active on 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters (modes not available). Call signs will be T71A (Guaita), T71B (Cesta), and T71C (Montale). All three towers have historic and architectural significance and are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Request QSLs via T70A or via the bureau. Submit award requests directly, including \$15, to PO Box 77, 47890 Republic of San Marino (via Italy).

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>**

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

## Reverse-Polarity Sunspot Group Does Not Belong to Cycle 25, Observatory Says

The Royal Observatory of Belgium's Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE) has asserted that the reverse polarity sunspot group 2720 observed in late August belongs to the current solar cycle — Cycle 24 — and does not represent the start of Cycle 25.

“Because of its reversed polarity, some websites claimed sunspot group 2720 was possibly one of the first groups of new solar Cycle 25,” the Centre said. “This is simply not true, in view of its very low 8° latitude. The next solar Cycle 25 sunspot group should have *both* reversed magnetic polarity *and* much higher heliographic latitude, typically 20° to 40° from the equator. Only two tiny, short-lived numbered sunspot groups are currently assigned to new solar Cycle 25, sunspot group 2620 in December 2016 and 2694 in January 2018.”

As ARRL Propagation Reporter Tad Cook, K7RA, noted in his August 31 edition of *The K7RA Solar Update*, “For HF operations, we want to see high solar flux and sunspot numbers and low A index, a measure of geomagnetic instability. On Sunday, August 26, we saw high A index numbers from an unexpected crack, opening in Earth's magnetic field. Solar wind spewed forth, and the planetary A index rose to 76. During this period the planetary K index — a component of the A index — rose to 7 over a 6-hour period. Seven is a big K index number.” Cook went on to note that Alaska felt the full force of the geomagnetic storm, with an A index in Fairbanks of 90 — a very high number.

## DMR Hotspots May Be Interfering with Satellite Uplinks -- AMSAT Reports

This week, AMSAT News Service (ANS) cited an August 27 report from AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, saying that a digital mobile radio (DMR) signal has been interfering with the AO-92 (Fox-1D) satellite's 435.35 MHz uplink frequency. Glasbrenner said hotspots, repeaters, terrestrial simplex, and “anything not satellite” should never transmit in the segments 145.8 – 146.0 MHz or 435 – 438 MHz by international band plan. Well-known satellite enthusiast Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK/VA7EWK, told ARRL that one DMR hotspot operating on the AO-92 uplink frequency in the St. Louis area has shifted to another frequency. But, he added, “I think there are still issues, since not all hotspots will report their frequencies and positions to websites such as BrandMeister or via APRS, where they appear on other sites such as <http://aprs.fi>.”

“There are others surely operating near satellite uplinks,” Stoddard added. “For many, the 435 – 438 MHz satellite subband is a big piece of quiet real estate in a busy part of the 70-centimeter band for weak-signal work, repeater links, amateur TV, and other possible uses.”

## Tri-Town Meeting Day to Change in 2019

Beginning with the January 2019 meeting, our meeting night will change from the 3rd Friday to the 4th Friday of the month. This is being done to avoid meeting night conflicts with another ham club in the area. Hopefully this will increase attendance at Tri-Town meetings and allow for better programs.

## September's US Rt. 66 Special Event Marks 19th Year

The 19th annual Route 66 On the Air special event, celebrating the storied highway between the west coast and the US heartland, gets under way on September 8 and continues until September 16. The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (**CBARC**) of San Bernardino, California, sponsors the event, which will feature 21 stations — including two rovers — operating from sites along or near the path of US Route 66. Sporting W6-prefix 2 × 1 call signs, the stations will be active on CW, SSB, and digital modes, as well as some VHF and UHF repeater operation.

Several Amateur Radio clubs will participate in making the event a reality by sponsoring stations set up along the original US Route 66 or in cities nearby. Listen for W6A – W6U during the event period.

CW operation will center on or near 3.533, 7.033, 10.110, 14.033, 18.080, 21.033, 24.900, 28.033, and 50.033 MHz. SSB operation will focus on or around 3.866, 7.266, 14.266, 18.164, 21.366, 24.966, 28.466, and 50.166 MHz. For digital modes, look for Route 66 stations around 3.580, 7.070, 10.140, 14.070, 18.100, 21.070, 24.920, and 28.120 MHz. Commemorative QSL cards and certificates will be available.

## An Amazing Recovery: ARISS Packet System Revives

Similar to the AO-7 satellite resurrection several years ago, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet radio system on the International Space Station (ISS) has begun working again. NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said over the weekend that reports he'd received indicated that the NA1SS packet signal returned in mid-August.

"It appears it indeed has started working as of about 11 days ago," Ransom said. "No idea how long it will last, given the degrading state of the current hardware. The longer it lasts, the better." Ransom said the revived system will fill the gap until a replacement packet module goes up later this year on a *Progress* supply vehicle and is installed by the crew on a time-available basis. Satellite enthusiast Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, in Arizona reported via the ISS Fan Club site that the ISS packet system was operating on August 25 at 1915 UTC during an 8° pass over the continental US. "I got my position packet through once, no QSOs this pass," he said in a post.

The packet signal on 145.825 MHz has been copied in Europe, South America, India, and elsewhere. In another August 25 post, Mark Pisani, KK6OTJ, reported copying the packet system during an 18° pass over southern California and said he worked KB6LTY through the system. "Heard over Patagonia Argentina!" Francisco Rodriguez, LU2WBA, enthused in a post on August 24 at 2323 UTC. "Welcome back!" An August 17 post from Marco Antonio, PU2MUS, in Brazil indicated that the system was not active at that time.

# Proposed Changes to the Tri-Town RAC Constitution and By-Laws dated January 1, 1996

The Board proposes the following changes. They will be reviewed at the October and November business meetings and a vote taken. Please review the changes, prepare any comments and bring them with you to the meetings.

Proposed changes are in *Bold Italic*

## CONSTITUTION CHANGES

### Article III Class of Membership

#### *Eliminate Associate Member*

Life Member: Any person who holds Full Membership in the Club and makes application in writing to the Club, submits the appropriate fee, is approved by the Board of Directors and expresses a willingness to abide by this Constitution and By-Laws and such rules as shall from time to time be promulgated by this Club.

*Life Member: Reserved to members who were granted Life Member status prior to January 1, 2019 or elected to the Tri-Town Hall of Fame.*

### Article IV Membership

New Membership: Each person desiring to be a member of the Club (except Honorary and Student Memberships) shall submit a written application and payment of the appropriate fee. If approved by the majority of the Board of Directors, this person shall become a member of the Club.

New Membership: Each person desiring to be a member of the Club (except Honorary, Student and *Hall of Fame Memberships*) shall submit a written application and payment of the appropriate fee. If approved by the majority of the Board of Directors, this person shall become a member of the Club.

### Article VI Committees

#### *Eliminate Property Committee*

### Article VII Meetings

Regular Meetings: Shall be held on the third Fridays of each month of the year at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall use every appropriate means to notify each member of a change in either the time or place of a regular meeting at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

*Regular Meetings: Shall be held each month of the year at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall use every appropriate means to notify each member of a change in either the time or place of a regular meeting at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. Meeting to be defined as a business meeting or social event with allowance for inactive months.*

Quorum: A quorum of any regular or special meeting shall consist of not less than fifteen (15) voting members of this Club. No meeting will be considered official unless at least either two (2) officers and one (1) non officer Board member or three (3) members of the Board of Directors are present.



***Quorum: A quorum of any regular or special meeting shall consist of not less than ten (10) voting members of this Club. No meeting will be considered official unless at least either two (2) officers and one (1) non officer Board member or three (3) members of the Board of Directors are present.***

Article IX Board of Directors

Eligibility: For election to the Board of Directors a member shall be limited to past officers of the Club for two (2) Director positions and to any voting member of the Club for the third position.

***Eligibility: For election to the Board of Directors a member shall be limited to a past officer of the Club for one (1) Director position and any two (2) voting member of the Club for the other two (2) positions.***

Article X Trustee

Trustee: There shall be one (1) Trustee to whom the Club station license is assigned. This Trustee is to be appointed by the President and his term is unlimited. The Trustee may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Trustee: There shall be one (1) Trustee to whom the Club station license is assigned. This Trustee is to be appointed by the President and his term is unlimited. The Trustee may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. ***The Trustee is expected to serve the Board in an advisory role while executing this position.***

**BY-LAWS CHANGES**

Item 1.

The annual dues of the various classes of membership are as follows:

Full Membership:	*
<b><i>Associate Membership:</i></b>	<b><i>*-----ELIMIATE</i></b>
Student Membership:	No Cost
<b><i>Life Membership:</i></b>	<b><i>10 times the Full Membership fee-----<u>ELIMIATE</u></i></b>
Honorary Membership:	No Cost
Family Membership:	*
Tri-Town Hall of Fame:	No Cost

\* As established by the Board of Directors

Item 3.

The order of business at Club meetings shall be as follows:

***Add Call to Order***

***Add Pledge of Allegiance***

a. Standing identification.

**Add**            ***Health and Welfare Information***

- b.     Reading of the minutes of the last meeting (unless these have been published in the Oscillator).
- c.     Treasurer's Report (unless posted).
- d.     Reports of the Officers.
- e.     Reports of the Standing Committee Chairman.
- f.     Reports of the Temporary Committee Chairman.

**Add**            ***Net reports***

- g.     Old Business.
- h.     New Business.
- i.     Adjournment.

**Add**            ***Raffle***

- j.     Program.

***All items will be re-lettered.***

***Item 5. (New Item)***

***5.     Disposal Process of Club Property.***

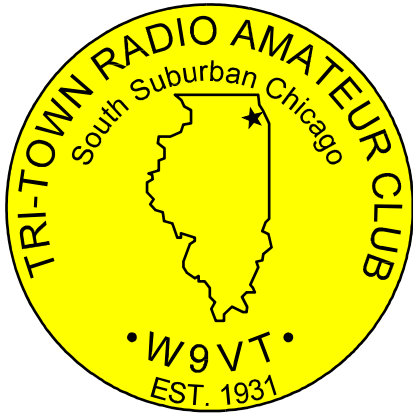
***The Club Board of Directors (The Board) shall dispose of Club property in the following manner:***

- A.     The Board, or its appointed representative, will determine what property is to be sold, the selling price and when it will be available for purchase.***
- B.     Property will be priced at fair market value based on age, operating condition and the results of recent sales of comparable property.***
- C.     Notice of property sales will be made to the Club membership. An announcement must be made at least one Club meeting prior to the property being put up for sale. Examples of this notice may include: listing on the Club website, listing in the Club newsletter, or a special email notice, and direct mailing to members not receiving email communications from the Club.***
- D.     Club membership will be able to buy property at its published price, on a first come basis. The Board may opt to accept/reject any best offered price by a Club member after the item has been listed for thirty days.***
- E.     After thirty days any property not acquired by the membership can be disposed of by any public method approved by the Board. This could include but is not limited to online auctions, hamfests and ham web sales. A full accounting of all property sold will be made to the membership at the next Club meeting and published in the Club newsletter.***

**END OF CHANGES   KA9IUC 8/13/18**

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

**September 2018**



## **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

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

## **Tri-Town Meeting Day to Change in 2019**

**Beginning with the January 2019 meeting, our meeting night will change from  
the 3rd Friday to the 4th Friday of the month.**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tritownrac>**  
**Check out the Club Website: [WWW.W9VT.ORG](http://WWW.W9VT.ORG)**