

# Looks like Great Weather!

## September - The Annual Club Picnic - Saturday, September 28, 2019

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**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](mailto: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.



# The Oscillator

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## October - Business Meeting

Friday, October 25, 2019, 7:30 PM, the Club will hold its monthly business meeting at the Hazel Crest Village Hall. There will be refreshments and raffle. Program to be announced.

## From the Presidents Shack

Brian WD9HSY

Remember, No meeting this month, its Picnic time down at the Monee Reservoir on 9/28. Noon Start with food at 1 pm. Please bring out a desert/side plate to share!

So what did you do on your Summer Vacation? Hope it was fun! I did the Grandpa Babysitting thing! Any antennas, new radios, maybe some Parks On the Air? Field Day? Time went by fast and Fall is in the air! Time to start working on antennas before it gets to COLD! I have a 40 meter rotatable dipole to put up!

Have you been to the Bunker? We had that Major GI Clean-Up Party back in May and tossed or gave away (mostly to Good Will) all that Shixxx, stuff. That helped a little with that wet sock smell. Many thanks to all the guys for coming out and helping out ... For the most part we had 3 options: Good Will, trash can, or your car! As of now the old Comm Room and the storage room off the kitchen are 95% empty. There are plans a foot for the Village to rebuild the floor in that storage room and dump the old fridge. The Basement is another story, as it was packed with Village stuff and movement was very restricted.

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

## **Officers, Board Members, & Committee Heads for 2019**

Brian J. Bedoe, WD9HSY	Club President Oscillator Editor, Repeater Trustee	815.370.1383	Bbedoe@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 KA9IIT	Board Member	708.957.7944	d.gunderson@sbcglobal.net
John Krueger, N9DWE	Board Member	708.534.2686	johnk17856@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

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 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month 7:30 pm 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  
40 Mtr Tri-Town Alumni Net Weekdays, 2200 UTC 7.285 SSB LSB  
80 Mtr SSB Net Saturdays, 9am local 3.860 SSB LSB

## **Tri-Town Meeting Day has Changed for 2019**

If you have not noticed, our meeting night will change from the 3rd Friday to the 4th Friday of the month, 730 pm start.

**General meeting 4 th Friday of the Month 7:30 PM**  
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## W9VT Field Day 2019 - The Raw Numbers

There will a full report on the Club's Field Day results including who participated, bonus points earned and the point total for our 4F IL operation. These are just the raw number of contacts by call sign, band and mode. Thanks to all who participated.

Tri-Town RAC 2019 Field Day Contacts				
Band	Phone	CW	Digital	Total
W9VT				
80	5	29		34
40	39	144	94	277
20	58	4	59	121
15	8	3	21	32
10	17			17
2	6			6
N9WDG GOTA				
20	108			108
Total	133	180	174	487

The ARRL web page had some issues too. We were one of over 200 clubs that seems that our submission was lost in the, "Black Hole of the Internet" The 487 number was the raw QSO's made and when you add in the Bonus points, and power and mode multipliers, we ended up with a final score of 3598. The score may or may not pop up in QST, but we knew what we did, that's all that matters! A good time was had by all. A couple of "Die Hards", over-nighted the event and were zombies on Sunday morning! We pumped them up with donuts and coffee and sent them home for doing the "over the top" job .... Well Done!

## Tri-Town's Tentative 2019 Event Calendar

September 28, 2019,	Picnic at Monee Reservoir in lieu of monthly meeting.
October 25, 2019, 7:30 PM,	Meeting at Hazel Crest Village Hall.
November 22, 2019, 7:30 PM,	Meeting at the Bunker.
December 13, 2019,	Christmas Party. Details to follow.

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

## Trading Post

Kenwood TS450 ...w/mic... and Automatic Antenna Tuner  
with Matching Speaker

Looking for \$525

73, Ron WB9JY call - 708.957.3625  
wb9jyz@comcast.net

## Washington (State) ARC Volunteers Track Interfering Signals

Volunteers from the Skagit Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Club (SARECC) in Anacortes, Washington, recently assisted the US Coast Guard in tracking the source of interference on VHF Marine Channel 5A (156.250 MHz). This channel serves the commercial Vessel Traffic Service north of Bush Point on Whidbey Island, as well as in some Canadian waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The service offers monitoring and navigational assistance for ships in the region.

The club reports that the channel was unusable for 30 hours, forcing all traffic to other channels. SARECC volunteers promptly tracked down the source of the offending signal — a fishing vessel at the Squalicum Harbor fuel dock — and traffic on channel 5A was able to resume. Last fall, club volunteers were also able to pin down an interference problem for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. — *Thanks to Richard Rodriguez, WB6NAH*

## US Jamboree on the Air Registration System Now Available

A new **registration system** has been established for US stations planning to participate in the 2019 Scouting's Jamboree on the Air (**JOTA**) in October. JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, said the new system will enable JOTA organizers to directly publish station information to facilitate contacts and more readily provide information to those who have registered.

"It will also help us collect information after the event," Wilson added. "We've implemented this US sign up system to make sure we capture all station information and so that we can publish it in a timely manner to support the event."

JOTA is Scouting's largest event in the world, and the 2019 event takes place October 18 – 20.

## Mount Diablo ARC Assisting in Restoring Damaged Repeaters

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (**MDARC**) Disaster Recovery Program for the 2018 Carr and Camp Fires has made a \$1,000 grant to the California Amateur Radio Linking Association (**CARLA**) toward the cost of rebuilding one of its destroyed sites. The CARLA network of repeaters provides coverage across California and Western Nevada to provide reliable communication during significant local, regional, and wide-area incidents.

The MDARC Board of Directors has established a fund to assist organizations that have suffered ham system losses as a result of the Carr and Camp Fires, and it continues to seek additional clubs with fire-damaged systems that may require financial aid to rebuild. MDARC recognizes that many of these repeater systems are in critical areas that otherwise have very little Amateur Radio or cellular coverage, and are vital in providing important disaster traffic. **Contact** the club for more information. — *Thanks to ARRL East Bay Section Manager Jim Siemons, W6LK*

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# FlexRadio & Raytheon Team to Develop Airborne HF Radio

In a strategic partnership with Raytheon, US Amateur Radio equipment manufacturer **FlexRadio®** has been selected by the US Air Force to adapt its off-the-shelf *SmartSDR/FLEX-6000* architecture for HF modernization of airborne communications platforms. The new radio will provide beyond line-of-sight, long distance communications for air crews.

“We are excited to convey that our proven modular direct sampling hardware, Open Waveform API, and IP-based architecture provide a ready platform for agile development to meet 21st century communication needs,” FlexRadio CEO Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR, commented. “Throughout FlexRadio’s history, commercial amateur products have been leveraged into defense products, which in turn, have been leveraged back into commercial products. We are certain that these efforts will cycle back again.”

Youngblood said the deal could boost its Amateur Radio and commercial products and services. “While I can’t go into all the details, the positive impact to our business processes, infrastructure, intellectual property, and human resources will enhance our amateur/commercial products and services,” he said. “So, stay tuned for more amateur product announcements coming soon.”

Raytheon received a \$36 million Project Agreement through an Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) with Consortium Management Group (CMG) on behalf of Consortium for Command, Control and Communications in Cyberspace, in support of requirements from the US Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, to develop and qualify an HF radio. CMG’s mission “is to speed development of technologies to improve US government capabilities required to sustain US military supremacy in weapon systems information technologies.”

Barbara Borgonovi, vice president of Integrated Communication Systems, said, “Raytheon’s partnership with FlexRadio combines commercial innovation with advanced military hardening techniques to rapidly deliver a next generation operational capability that supports strategic and tactical missions.”

“Worldwide high-frequency communications is what our commercial customers do every day, using virtually every mode of operation and type of propagation,” Youngblood said. “Our partnership brings together the vast resources and experience of Raytheon in airborne tactical communications systems with FlexRadio’s commercial, off-the-shelf high-frequency software-defined radios to deliver a modular, extensible, and flexible communications platform for the warfighter.”

## September is National Preparedness Month

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsors **National Preparedness Month** each September to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning throughout the year. The 2019 theme is “Prepared, Not Scared.” FEMA is a long-time ARRL **partner agency**. This year, FEMA wants participants — which include Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers — to **share** their activities and success stories, as well as brief descriptions of their National Preparedness Month plans (include “NPM” in the email subject line).

An appropriate submission would be your ARES team’s planned or conducted ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) activity. The SET is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of ARES and other organizations involved with emergency/disaster response, and the 2019 SET is scheduled for the October 5 – 6 weekend. **Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms** for Field Organization leaders are on the ARRL website. Download and send completed forms to **Steve Ewald, WV1X**, at ARRL Headquarters. See page 71 in the September 2019 issue of *QST* for more information on the 2019 SET.

## 144 – 146 MHz Removed from French Proposal for Additional Aeronautical Applications

The 144 – 146 MHz Amateur Radio segment has been removed from a French proposal to study spectrum additional for Aeronautical Mobile Service (AMS) applications. France had included the band, which comprises the entire 2 meter band in ITU Region 1, for consideration as a European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations (CEPT) position for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19). Heading into a just-ended CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) meeting in Turkey this past week, France was holding firm on the proposal to have AMS share 144 – 146 MHz with Amateur Radio. The CPG meeting considered CEPT ECC positions on this and other issues for WRC-19.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) had called the French proposal for 144 – 146 MHz “unsound” and contended that sharing of the current amateur allocation with AMS radio systems would not be possible “without a significant likelihood of mutual interference.”

Also at the CEPT meeting, at the insistence of the European Commission, a WRC-23 agenda item was considered necessary to address world-wide protection of Regional Navigational Satellite Systems (RNSS) from amateur emissions in the 23 centimeter band, 1240 – 1300 MHz. Delegates agreed to a draft WRC Resolution that stresses the importance of the band to the Amateur Service and explicitly excludes the removal of existing allocations as part of the proposed agenda item. The issue stems from reported incidents of interference to the Galileo GPS E6 signal on 1278.750 MHz.

Other Amateur Radio-related issues addressed at the CEPT CPG included:

Agreement to a European Common Proposal (ECP) on allocating 50 – 52 MHz to the Amateur Service in Region 1 (Europe, Africa, and the Middle East) on a secondary basis, with a footnote listing those countries where the Amateur Service will have a primary allocation in the band 50 – 50.5 MHz (WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.1).

Agreement to an ECP on spectrum to be considered for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), which does not now include the primary Amateur Radio band at 47 – 47.2 GHz (WRC Agenda Item 1.13).

Agreement to an ECP that retains the current regulatory position in the 5725 – 5850 MHz band that includes secondary Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite allocations (WRC Agenda Item 1.16).

No change to an already agreed upon CEPT position on wireless power transmission (WRC Agenda item 9.1.6). This calls for no change in the *Radio Regulations* to address the question of operating frequency for wireless power transmission for electric vehicle charging (WPT-EV), but leaves open the question of spurious emissions from WPT-EV.

IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie, G3BJ, said that the IARU team at Ankara — the only representatives of the Amateur Service at the meeting — had presented clear and convincing arguments for Amateur Radio positions and that he was pleased that regulators had recognized the strength of the amateur case. He expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to the outcome at CPG.

CEPT is one of the six regional telecommunications organizations but viewed as the most influential. The issues now move to WRC-19 in Egypt this fall for final resolution. IARU will be represented at the international gathering, which gets under way in late October. — *Thanks to IARU*

# UN HQ 4U1UN Making Steady Progress in Returning to Air

Responding to inquiries noting the lack of 4U1UN activity, the United Nations Amateur Radio Club (UNARC) **indicated** on its Facebook page this week that it's making slow but steady progress in its efforts to get the station back on the air from UN Headquarters. The main difficulties in getting 4U1UN up and running again following its displacement by renovations at UN Headquarters have been administrative and organizational, the UNARC team said. The club explained that as a result of UN Headquarters renovation, the room on the 41st floor housing the 4U1UN radio equipment was reallocated to the UN Broadcast and Conference Support Section (BCSS) and is now off limits.

"Please do not think that UNARC members gave up and are doing nothing," the club said in its post. "After the successful activity of 4U70UN back in 2015, with the support of the UN Administration, we were able to secure a tiny 20-square-foot room for the club's needs on the ground floor of the building." With no opportunity to run a feed line from the ground floor to the top of the building and the tenuous hold even on the tiny, bottom-floor shack space, the club is in the process of installing a remotely controlled station on the 41st floor. The BCSS is responsible for security of all UN communication systems, and only authorized personnel may be there, meaning club members must be accompanied by representatives when they are permitted access.

Over the past weekend, several UNARC members, representatives of UN services, and guests had an opportunity to continue equipment configuration. An assembled 19-inch rack and part of the equipment were disconnected during delivery to the 41st floor so that BCSS personnel could hand-carry the equipment up several flights of stairs to the top floor. "After 4 hours of work, the connections of the SteppIR BigIR vertical antennas were restored, a new SDA-100 controller was installed, and a RemoteRig 1216H was connected for easy remote access," the club post said. "The antenna was tested and configured."

UNARC says remote access from the 1st floor now works, thanks to a separate Ethernet cable run up the entire height of the building for UNARC's use. Operation of the ACOM-2000A amplifier also was tested with an antenna. The station's Elecraft K3 transceiver had to be pulled from service and sent out for repair, however, after it was discovered to have suffered earlier static discharge damage.

"We really hope that in the very near future, after debugging and setting up all the equipment, we will finally be able to proudly look at the work done and begin to appear steadily on the bands," the club said.

## Amateur Radio CubeSats among 15 Set to Launch 10/21 from Wallops Island

AMSAT reports that an Antares II launch vehicle will carry 15 CubeSats into orbit on October 21 as part of NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (**ELaNa**) Mission 25. Some will carry Amateur Radio payloads.

**TJ REVERB**, developed by students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, Virginia, will carry a 145.825 MHz APRS digipeater.

**HuskySat**, a University of Washington – Seattle project, will be boosted into a 500-kilometer (approximately 310-mile) orbit via the Cygnus external deployment device. HuskySat will carry a V/U linear transponder provided in cooperation with AMSAT.

Other satellites announced for the ELaNa 25 launch include Argus (St. Louis University), 437 MHz telemetry; AzTechSat-1 (NASA Ames Research Center) 437 MHz telemetry; CySat (Iowa State University) 436 MHz telemetry; Phoenix (Arizona State University) 437 and 2400 MHz telemetry; RadSat-U (Montana State University) 437 MHz telemetry; SPOC (University of Georgia) 437 and 2400 MHz telemetry, and SwampSat II (University of Florida) 437 and 2400 MHz telemetry. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*



# ARRL HF Band Planning Committee Reactivated to Address Spectrum Issues

In an effort to more effectively address HF digital technology issues, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has reactivated the ARRL Board of Directors' HF Band Planning Committee. The six-member panel, chaired by First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, will primarily focus on spectrum allocation issues that have gained increased visibility with discussions on accommodating automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) — many employing **Winlink** email. The committee will also discuss operating frequencies for FT4, FT8, and other digital modes. Widin says the committee will meet next week to chart its course. Reactivation of the HF Band Planning Committee came out of discussions during the July 2019 ARRL Board meeting.

“ARRL is not trying to shut down digital communication or shut down Winlink in particular,” Widin said, adding that ARRL recognizes Winlink’s proven track record in emergency communication. His committee also will consider Winlink supporters’ calls for the expansion of the ACDS segments spelled out in §97.221(b) of the amateur rules.

“This is not an easy task by any means,” Widin allowed. “They’re not making more bandwidth.” He said this is especially a problem on 40 meters.

“We’re well aware that Winlink is the *de facto* standard supporting emergency communications in many parts of the country, but we have to figure out how it can operate with other modes, so that everybody can communicate,” Widin said, “without having one mode overrun any other mode.” The committee will not address data encryption questions at this point, however.

In response to ARRL’s 2013 petition to delete the so-called “symbol rate” limit and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz below 29.7 MHz, the FCC **proposed** to eliminate symbol rate (baud rate) limitations for data transmissions but declined to propose a bandwidth limitation.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors called for ARRL’s Washington Counsel to obtain FCC approval for several Part 97 rule changes. The Board asked for a rulemaking petition to remove the current 300 baud rate limitation; authorize all ACDS below 30 MHz, regardless of bandwidth, to operate only within the ACDS bands designated in §97.221(b); require digital stations operating with a bandwidth greater than 500 Hz to operate within the ACDS bands, whether or not automatically controlled, and limit the maximum bandwidth of digital signals below 29 MHz to 2.8 kHz.

ARRL-initiated mediation efforts for rival parties to reach consensus on all or some of the issues raised in the “symbol rate” proceeding ended a few days prior to the July Board meeting. While those discussions were useful, no consensus among parties was reached for FCC consideration. Widin said some positions may have been too divergent to find viable middle ground.

“We still want to change the symbol rate limitation into a bandwidth limitation, which makes a lot more sense in terms of current and future modes,” Widin said. The panel also hopes to work with the WSJT-X Development Group to establish FT4 frequencies compatible with existing band plans.

Widin further suggested that his committee will have to look beyond the current landscape of HF digital modes into what might lie ahead.

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## Hurricane Watch Net Announces Tentative Activation Plans

The Hurricane Watch Net (**HWN**) has announced tentative plans to activate on 14.325 MHz on Wednesday, September 18, at 1800 UTC. The net will switch to 7.268 MHz at 2100 UTC on Wednesday.

“Today has been a busy day in the tropics,” Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, said. “Since 1500 UTC, four new systems have been identified — two already named. At present, the storm we are most interested in is Hurricane Humberto.” The Category 2 Atlantic storm is forecast to affect Bermuda late Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning, with the eye forecast to remain north of Bermuda. Graves said any deviation to the right of the forecast track *could* bring the eye closer or even onshore.

The Hurricane Watch Net will remain active on 14.325 MHz for as long as propagation allows, switching to 7.268.00 MHz at 2100 UTC and remaining in operation until Humberto is no longer a threat.

“This activation plan is subject to change,” Graves advised. “As with any net activation, we request observed ground-truth data from those in the affected area (wind speed, wind gust, wind direction, barometric pressure — if available, rainfall, damage, and storm surge). Measured weather data is always appreciated but we do accept estimates.”

Graves said other Atlantic storms include Tropical Depression (TD) 10 and Tropical Storm (TS) Imelda, while on the Eastern Pacific side are TD 14-E, TS Lorena, and the Category 1 Hurricane Kiko.

## North Korea Testing Digital Broadcasting on 80 Meters

*Radio World* reports that the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) has resumed testing digital radio broadcasting on the 80-meter amateur band after a 2-year absence. North Korea is transmitting with the Digital Radio Mondiale (**DRM**) protocol. The latest transmissions on 3.560 MHz began in mid-August.

“It appears unclear at this time, however, whether the current series of transmissions will soon end or be the start of a regular service,” *Radio World* said. “According to radio enthusiasts in the region, the signal has been clear and very audible.”

*Radio World* says Voice of Korea, the North Korean international broadcasting service, has conducted DRM trials off and on since 2012.

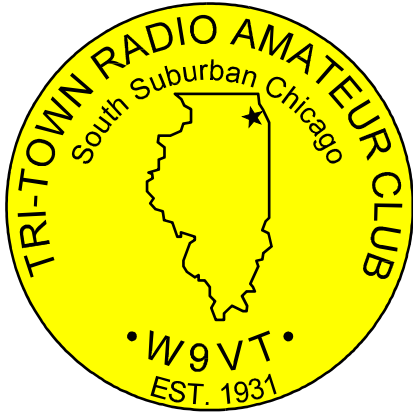
## WWV and WWVH to Broadcast Defense Department WWV Centennial Greeting, Special Event Reminder

Starting on Monday, September 16, WWV and WWVH will broadcast a US Department of Defense message to mark the centennial of WWV and to announce the **WW0WWV special event** from September 28 until October 2 at the WWV transmitter site near Fort Collins, Colorado. The DoD message transmissions will air until October 1.

Kevin Utter, N7GES, a member of the WW0WWV Centennial Committee, recorded the audio track for the announcement. Utter has been an integral part of the Committee and is a highly respected member of the Northern Colorado Amateur Radio community. — *Thanks to Paul English, WD8DBY*

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

**September 2019**



## **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

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