

2014 Hamfest Calendar

Apr 12 Madison WI
 Apr 26 Godfrey IL
 Apr 27 Arthur IL
 May 4 Sandwich IL
 May 16-18 Dayton, OH Hamvention!



VE Exam Schedule

Apr 27 2014 ARRL/VEC
 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232
 n9dn@n9dn.net
 Univ of IL Fire Service Inst
 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

April 2014

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting April 8

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 8 at the UI Fire Institute at 7 pm. We have an informal gathering at Culver's on S Neil around 6 for anyone wanting to eat before the meeting. This month's meeting is a presentation on ladder line, created by Jon, W0JEC. Join us to learn all about this common feedline you can use. Also, we will further discuss Field Day plans.

To get to the Fire Institute, go south on First Street from the Assembly Hall to the UI Credit Union - That is Gerty. Go West on Gerty to the end of the street. You will be in the Fire Institute parking lot. We are in one of the classrooms inside.

Operating Guidelines

The TCARC Board plans to issue some operating guidelines for our repeaters, to avoid misunderstandings and confusion. A set of proposed guidelines will be available at our April meeting. Please take a copy and offer any comments by email to info@w9seh.org prior to May 1. At our next board meeting, we hope to adopt the guidelines, considering any changes or additions suggested. The bulk of the document was borrowed from the Fox River Radio League in Northern Illinois. While we don't want to restrict overall repeater use, we do want to make it available and welcome to everyone. Please let us know what you think!

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TCARC
 PO Box 2061
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

TCARC Board Meeting

The TCARC Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Culver's on South Neil Street. This arrangement allows Board Members who are also ARES members to go directly to the ARES meeting at 7, and lets them spend one evening for 2 meetings instead of taking 2 evenings. All club members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings.

Dues!

Almost everyone is current with their dues. If you are one of the few who is not, please send your check or pay at the meeting. \$20 individual \$21 family.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Jeremy Lamb KC8KGJ	2016	621-8036
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE	2014	937-572-2081
Jim Crisman N9AJV	2015	202-7402

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN 244-4446

Our Next VE Session

April 27 2014
 UI Fire Institute

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
◆ Week of Second Tuesday - No Net	TCARC Meet
ARES 444.100	Tuesday 9 p.m.
Illinois D-Star 443.48125	Wednesday 9 p.m.
Champaign Co 146.760	Thursday 9 p.m.
Illini Net 14.320	11:30 a.m. Daily
	◆ Except Thursday

Website www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater K9CU 146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR 443.48125

Hamfests

Arthur IL is April 27. Dayton is May 16-18. This is always a don't miss event. Many from TCARC attend this largest hamfest anywhere. Online reservations are open. K9QZI will again manage Flea Market spaces for relaxation by TCARC members. The spaces are partly funded by TCARC and K9QZI. You can find us in spaces 2731-2734 in the West flea market. Hotels are filling, so if you plan to go, best you get a reservation soon!

Technician Questions Change July 1 2014

The Technician Question Pool changes July 1. The last TCARC VE Exam session using the current question pool is April 27. Please be sure to inform anyone studying for the exam.

IRA Meeting

The annual Illinois Repeater Association, IRA, is Saturday April 19 in Bloomington. Al, K9SI, and Milt, K9QZI, will attend as board members. All repeater owners are invited. Ben, K9BF, will attend in that capacity. This is the organization that coordinates amateur repeaters over the state of Illinois.

Synton Net

Please remember to check into the Synton Net on Monday evenings at 7 pm on the W9YH repeater, 444.650 with 103.5 PL.

Get Your Newsletter by Email

Many club members receive this newsletter by email each month. If you are not one who does and would like to have it sent, please let Milt K9QZI know and you will be on the list. Email copies are sent at the same time the paper copies go to the post office. Thus, email recipients get the news a day or two earlier than those receiving US Mail.

TCARC 2014 Auction

It's over, and it was a success! March 22 found us once again at the Windsor Road Christian Church for our annual auction. The weather cooperated and sales were good. There was a little less equipment available for sale this year, but we still cleared about \$437 after all expenses. The number of buyers and sellers remained about the same as in the past. The big feature of the day was the use of our new software to track sales and check everyone out as they left. The program was outstanding. It operated without any problems. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Jim Crisman's father, Jon, W0JEC, who created the custom program for us. This program handled registration, item registration, item tracking, sale information, and bidder checkout just as we had hoped. A few tweaks are in process, but none critical. We send a huge thanks to W0JEC. The top door prize was a Baofeng dial band HT. Ed, KA9EES, won it. However, he presented it to Waylena McCully who had just passed her Technician exam earlier that day. She is now KD9ASP. We hope to hear her on the air soon with the new license and new callsign. Thanks to everyone attending the auction and to Steve, KR4S, for his donation to the club to cover the church use.

501c3 Report

We still have not received anything further on our 501c3 application, as of April 3. The IRS appears to remain delayed in processing of applications.

Lunch Bunch

We meet for Lunch almost daily. We have a reservation for Mondays in the meeting room at the Atlanta Bread Co. With the exception of the first Monday of each month. Because another group already booked the room, we will be in the main dining area. Other days we announce the location on 146.76, usually anywhere from shortly after Noon to 12:30.. All are welcome to attend and may come late, leave early, or both.

Uniden's New BCD536 Scanner

They are out and running. This one is the mobile/base unit. Programming it is much different than previous models. Memories are arranged differently, but with flexibility in mind. Many systems can be entered with all using one set of talk groups. This is particularly good for systems like the Illinois State Police Starcom21. 3 levels of hold are offered, system, department, and channel. The best feature is self location. The scanner will locate itself with a GPS plugged in. The scanner then selects services within a programmable radius. Service types may be set to receive or avoid. These include Police, Fire, EMS, Air, Ham, and many more. Once these are set and the GPS connected, the scanner will follow activity on those services all along a trip route. The scanner will turn on and off systems as the GPS indicates location. No preprogramming is needed for this feature. It is all self contained with a built in database located on a micro SD card. The database can be updated weekly with little effort. Analog and digital signals are monitored very well. In digital, APCO25 Phase 1 and Phase 2 are included. Analog FM and AM are also provided. The average user does not need to program anything. For the advanced user, programming can be accomplished using the front keypad or by computer. A WiFi dongle comes with the radio to connect to local computer networks. In process, not yet released, is an app for smart phones to fully control the scanner. Current pricing is around \$600.

Icom ID-5100

Icom's newest D-Star radio will soon be released. Predictions are around the first of May. It is a totally redesigned mobile radio with many user friendly features, including a touch screen front panel. It is a dual band, 2m/70cm, mobile. The price lists around \$850, with a \$100 off coupon available on pre orders prior to May 1.

Baofeng owners - Curt, KC9UNL is willing to program your radio! curtstamp@aol.com

AES Superfest

Saturday, April 5, was the Amateur Electronics Service Superfest in Milwaukee. After several rumors last Fall that it would not be, it was held. The crowd attending was good, as large as in the past, maybe a little larger. However, the manufacturers showing their products were scarce. Only a handful attended. The room where clubs were in the past was not used. Club tables were in the same room as the manufacturers, with empty space remaining. Door prizes were drawn with good prize items as in the past. The seminars were very good, covering many subjects including fox hunting, propagation, and an excellent history of the 97 year old Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club. Overall, it was a nice day and probably worth the trip.

ARRL Membership Renewal

We offer renewal of your ARRL membership through the club. Each renewal nets us \$2, regardless of the length of renewal. However, ARRL has an excellent gifts for renewing at functions such as Dayton. One year gets you a repeater directory, CD, or other small books. A 3 year renewal provides a free ARRL Amateur Radio Handbook! This is a real bargain. One year membership is \$39. A 3 year membership is \$111. This amounts to \$37 per year, but wait, there is more! The handbook sells for \$49.95. Subtracting that from \$111 results in about \$20 per year if you were to buy the handbook anyway. And, this is the 100th anniversary issue of the handbook. Please do not feel that you should renew through TCARC. We only get \$2, even on 3 year renewal.

Another ARRL savings is on the Travel Plus CD that contains the repeater database nationwide. If you have a previous version, the UPC code inside the back cover will get you a current version at half price, or \$20. This is a Dayton special. K9QZI will be happy to take your code (just cut it out) to Dayton with your \$20 and bring you a new CD.