

Hamfest Calendar

Apr 18 Stoughton, WI
Apr 25 Godfrey, IL
Apr 26 Arthur, IL
May 15-17 Dayton OH
Jun 7 Princeton, IL



VE Exams

11-Apr-2009 Sangamon Valley Radio Club
9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
James Steven Upchurch (217)529-3218
American Red Cross 1045 Outer Park Dr
Springfield, IL

19-Apr-2009 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Debra J Fligor (217)244-4446
Univ Of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr
Champaign, IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

April 2009

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting April 14

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. Our location is at the METCAD headquarters, 1909 E Main St, Urbana. We will tour the facilities and learn how the emergency dispatch system functions. We are to enter the front doors of the building and everyone is required to have a photo ID - Driver's License is fine. We will not be at the Fire Institute. METCAD requested that we do not announce or discuss the tour on the air. Please comply.

VE Exams April 19

Our next VE Exam session is Sunday, April 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. All elements will be offered and the exam fee is \$15.00 as set by the ARRL/VEC.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302
Vice President	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI	688-2790
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater W9SEH	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

The Auction is Here!

In just a few days, we will gather for our annual auction at the Windsor Road Christian Church. This Saturday, April 11, is the date. We still need help setting up and tearing down. Mostly, it is moving chairs and tables. There is nothing difficult or strenuous. We start setting up at 9:00 a.m. to be ready for equipment arriving at 11:00 a.m. If you attended last year, you remember the great food. Donna Curtin and Lynda Wolfe are again in charge of the food. Similar to last year, the menu consists of Sloppy Joes, Italian Beef, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Apple Pie, Brownies, Soft Drinks and Coffee. Prices are reasonable and all proceeds are donated to the club. The food is donated by several families. If you can help donate food, please contact Donna Curtin at 377-2429.

Here is a summary of the Auction rules:

- All participants must have a bidder number. Bidder numbers are \$2.00. One door prize drawing ticket is included. Additional door prize tickets are \$2.00 each.
- Owners of items may bid up the price and if the owner is the top bidder, there is no charge.
- NSF checks will result in full legal action and/or prosecution. In addition, a \$35 charge will be added. Cash is preferred.
- Door Prizes are drawn at various times. You must be present to win.
- TCARC retains 10% of the sale price as a commission. There is no charge for buy-back by the seller.
- There is no guarantee of serviceability, expressed or implied.
- All sales are final. Items not sold must be removed by the owner.
- All equipment must be removed promptly.

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See us at the Auction!

TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Fox Hunt April 19

Our next 2 meter Fox Hunt is Sunday, April 19. The event starts at 2:00 p.m. The location will be announced on the weekly nets during the week prior to the hunt. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are a hunter, bring your equipment and if you are an observer, plan to ride with one of the hunter vehicles. It is always lots of fun. Ben, K9BF and Mark, KC9DUU are serving as the fox. They have some special surprises in store for the hunters. If you have questions, please contact Mark or Ben.

Hamfests

The outdoor hamfest season kicks off in our area with the **MARK Hamfest** at Arthur on Sunday, April 26. It is at the Arthur Fire Department. The large garage area is available for vendors as well as the outside parking lot, weather providing. Food service is available as well as VE Exams. This hamfest is always a great time to meet our area hams.

Dayton is getting organized. May 15-17 are the dates. Visit <http://www.hamvention.org/> for information and details. Flea Market spaces used last year will be held until April 17 (extended from March) for those wanting the same spaces. The website now includes the "floor plan" of the outside vendor area, including vendor names. Move the cursor over the map and the names appear as the cursor passes over a space. Green spaces are on hold, blue indicates paid and reserved, and white spaces area available now. The Dayton Hamvention is always the largest and best hamfest. If you can only go to one hamfest, Dayton is the one.

Renew Your ARRL Membership

Please remember to renew your ARRL membership through TCARC. Just send your membership renewal form and a check payable to TCARC. Mail to TCARC, PO Box 2061, Champaign, IL 61825-2061. We forward your application and receive a commission.

2 Weeks of Progress In Ham Radio

By K9QZI

It was just a month ago that I received a phone call inquiring about how to get an Amateur Radio License. Neil Bernstein wanted to join our hobby. He was traveling home from Chicago when he called. I asked if he would like to attend our meeting that night, March 10. He said he would and he brought his 7-year old son with him. At the meeting he arranged to obtain a study guide for the Technician license. He called later the next week to say that he was close to being ready for the test, but his work requires him to travel frequently. He was unable to locate an exam session that would coincide with his travel until June. We arranged for a test session the following Tuesday, 2 weeks from his initial call about getting a license. Passing the exam, he purchased a new HT and antenna for his vehicle. His schedule took him to Orlando the Saturday after the test. He was hoping to hear from the FCC before or during his trip. As we had lunch on Friday, he checked the FCC listing and found nothing. We suggested he check frequently as updates might occur at any time. After finishing lunch, he checked again, finding that his callsign is KC9PKD. He was able to use his HT in Orlando the following days. He now reports that his 7-year old son, Daniel, is studying for his license and he should be ready for the test by the end of April. This week, Neil is in Connecticut on business. I suggested that he might check out the ARRL headquarters as it was nearby. Today, Wednesday, he sent photos of his visit to ARRL and he was a guest operator on 6 meters and visited with Sean, KX9X, who we all know. All of this has happened in about one month. Wow! We are waiting to see what he does next.



D-Star Report

Our W9YR D-Star repeater is running well. We have had it linked to a reflector where many other repeaters are linked. We have heard several countries and many different states. There are a few nets on this link at various times. The linking has given users to hear the capabilities of the system, and several took advantage of the connection to make new friends. Now we will cut back on the link time so users can make more local contacts. The link is always available and users are encouraged to use it or link anywhere else to make contacts or just listen. A few of our members have linked from other repeaters such as Indianapolis, Dayton, and Chicago. The possibilities are endless. Any users wishing more information on the use of the system, programming radios, and linking should contact K9QZI for assistance. We are happy to hold short "classroom" sessions or meetings to cover the need. If you are not registered on the D-Star system, you may contact N9DN, AB9FJ, or K9QZI for registration. You need to register only one time.

The Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub (MARK) purchased a complete D-Star system with all 4 RF modules. They intend to place it at the Cadwell site where their 2 meter repeater is located. It just arrived, so it will be a few weeks before it is fully operational. We welcome this addition to the D-Star community.

AES Superfest

The AES Superfest on April 3 and 4 was excellent, as always. The crowd on Saturday appeared to be larger than in past years. Many manufacturers were there to display their wares and the seminars were outstanding. They covered subjects of Blue Tooth, Digital Hf, Digital VHF, Microphones by Bob Heil, Storm Spotting by a Milwaukee TV Weatherman, and the Gordon West Show. Gordon was entertaining as always, covering methods of teaching ham radio classes.

FCC Clarifies

What Constitutes An Amateur Radio Repeater

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a) (39), a repeater in the amateur service is "[an amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels."

Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[an amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[an amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."