

## Hamfest Calendar

Apr 30 Godfrey, IL  
 May 1 Arthur, IL  
 May 1 Sandwich, IL  
 May 20 Dayton, OH  
 Jun 5 Princeton, IL



## VE Exam Schedule

**04/17/2011 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 61820**

04/20/2011 Iroquois County ARC  
 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 Carl F. Schroeder (815) 473-4263  
 Glenn Raymond School  
 101 W Mulberry St Watseka IL

05/12/2011 Eastside Outdoor Ham Club  
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584  
 Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall  
 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

April 2011

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Next Meeting is April 12

Our next meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, at the UI Fire Institute.

Some of us gather at Culver's on South Neil prior to the meeting, around 6 pm. All are welcome

## HR 607

This is a bill currently in Congress to permit the FCC to auction off a large portion of our 70 cm band, 420 to 440 MHz. This would devastate Amateur use of the band, as well as military use that we share in some locations. There is a strong push from the ARRL and others to kill the bill. All Amateur Radio Operators are asked to write their Representative in Congress, opposing this bill. A website was created by KD4PYR to make it very easy to send a letter to the proper address. [www.kd4pyr.net/HamLetter.htm](http://www.kd4pyr.net/HamLetter.htm) is the URL. If you go there, you enter your callsign, click on the box, and the program looks up your address, creates a very nice letter addressed to the proper Representative for you, ending with your name and address, ready for your signature. You can mail it directly, but the recommendation is to send it to the ARRL for hand delivery. Mail to Congress goes through many examinations and sterilizations, due to possible contamination, which may take weeks to arrive. The ARRL has individuals in Washington to handle delivery.

## Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR Tuesday 8 p.m.  
 ♦ Week of Second Tuesday - Meets Wednesday  
 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

## Field Day 2011

This year's Field Day is fast approaching! June 25 and 26 are the dates. We will set up and operate at the Ford-Harris Park, the same location we used the past few years for Field Day. Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, are putting together plans for the weekend. We need operators and equipment. If you can help, please contact either of them to let them know what you can provide. It is always a fun time, setting everything up temporarily and running on emergency power. We try to make as many contacts with other doing the same for a 24 hour period starting at 1:00 pm on Saturday, ending at 1:00 p.m. Sunday. All are welcome to operate during the weekend as we will have licensed operators at each station. We plan to have the usual potluck dinner in the evening. All families and friends are welcome. Not only does the weekend provide a lot of fun, but we are getting experience in disaster type settings.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Jeremy Lamb KC9KJG	621-8036
<b>Vice President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

## Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302

## VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.w9seh.org">www.w9seh.org</a>
<b>Analog Repeater W9SEH</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

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**TCARC**  
**PO Box 2061**  
**Champaign, IL 61825-2061**

## Auction 2011

Our annual auction went very well again this year. We held it Saturday, April 9, at the same location as in recent past years, the Windsor Road Christian Church. 51 bidders and sellers registered, while several others attended as spectators. This is about the same number attending in past years. 35 donations to the club sold, bringing \$144.00 to the club. Our 10% commission netted \$84.35. With the income of \$104.00 from bidder number sales, our total income was \$332.35. This is lower than the last few years, but the number of donations was down, and the food service was provided by the church.

Prior to the auction start, Earl, W9CGZ, and Jim, N9AJV, set up a computer to remotely operate Jim's home SSB station from the auction site. Earl ran the Illini Net on 14.320 at the usual time of 11:30, right from the auction. This provided an excellent demonstration of remote operation for those arriving early.

One unexpected event was a visit from a couple who listens to our repeaters on their scanner from Elliot, IL. The do not have a ham license, but they enjoy hearing our conversation and they said they feel like they know all of us well. Hearing about the auction, they stopped by to visit with us. We invited them to join us at any of our activities and lunches.

We thank everyone who helped in any way to make the auction successful. Dan Hughes, N9XDK, and Steve Brown, W9HC, shared the auctioneering. The Windsor Road Christian Church provided an excellent location thanks to Al Wolfe, K9SI, who arranged the church. Steve Zahos, KR4S, with his Amateur Accessories business set up in the lobby to provide new items for those wishing to purchase. Steve provided some door prizes and also covered the rental of the church for the day. Many TCARC members helped with the set up and tear down of the rooms. Without their help, we would not have had an auction. We send a big THANKS to everyone!

## 2 Meter FM Challenge February 20 Results

Here are results created from logs submitted:

Fixed location, 25 watts or less:	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
Call W9CMA	17	10	170

Fixed location, 25 or more watts:	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
Call KC9TOK	31	13	403

Rover:	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
Call KC9DUU	45	14	630

Many participated who did not submit their log. We hope to see more response in the future from our operators. The more results submitted, the more of a contest we have. Even if you don't make many contacts, please submit your log - you never know, you might be high in your category. The categories were reduced in this report to match logs submitted.

Another FM Challenge is on the calendar for May 8 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Hamfests

Coming up is one in Madison, WI, on April 16, in Stoughton, WI. This one is all indoors. Sunday, May 1 is the MARK Hamfest in Arthur, IL., at the Arthur Fire Station. It is mostly indoors, but outside space is available if weather permits. It is a great little hamfest where you can meet many local ham radio operators.

The big one, the **Dayton Hamvention**, is May 20, 21, and 22. This is a don't miss event! Many already plan to attend. Flea market space is still available, and is expected to be even as the hamfest opens. Dayton is an easy 4 hour drive from CU. Hotels are filling, but with a little searching, rooms can be found for the weekend. Many will gather at the KOA Campground for lots of fun and fellowship during the weekend.

## AES Superfest

April 2 and 3 the Amateur Electronics Supply store in Milwaukee presented the 2011 AES Superfest. As always, it was a most enjoyable event. AES opened the warehouse at the rear of the store to provide space for many manufacturers, clubs, and seminars. Most of the majors attended, as well as some smaller companies. It was a good time to visit with the reps about their products. Sales were made only at the AES counter, so there was no high pressure to purchase while visiting. Several clubs around the Milwaukee area set up tables to talk about their activities. 3 emergency vehicles were on display, inviting everyone to tour the inside. A hidden transmitter hunt, or known as a fox hunt, was mid-morning on Saturday. Several excellent seminars were presented during the day on Saturday. We heard about moon bounce, Alpha amplifiers, traffic handling, and antennas.

In addition, our new ARRL President, Kay, Craigie, N3KN, spoke about our hobby, and "Do Something New With Amateur Radio in 2011" with lots of ideas and suggestions. She also covered the latest status of HR 607, the bill in Congress to let the FCC auction a portion of our 440 band. She feels that it will be stopped, but cautioned everyone to keep pressing until it is finally stopped. Otherwise, it may get through. Her whole talk was interesting and informative.

The final presentation of the day was by Bob Heil (Heil Microphones), and Gordon West (ham radio license instruction). The combination was outstanding. Bob was the straight man while Gordon was the comedian. Mainly a presentation on audio and microphones, it was most entertaining and informative.

Videos of all presentations are available at the URL of [www.ustream.tv/channel/superfest](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/superfest). Be sure to look at the front row of spectators for some familiar faces...er..back of heads. You might see K9QZI, KC9SBG, KC9KTB, and KC9TOK!

## TDMA

from ARRL

Earlier this month, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rulemaking and a Request for Temporary Waiver with the FCC, seeking authorization of the use of single-time-slot Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the amateur bands at and above 50 MHz, wherever multiple-time-slot TDMA is authorized. The FCC has designated the Petition as RM-11625 and is soliciting comments on it. Comments may be filed electronically and will be accepted until April 22.

Through this rule making, the ARRL seeks to facilitate the use of and experimentation by radio amateurs with existing narrowband spectrum-efficient digital voice and data technology. "Such technology is now in regular and increasing use in the private land mobile radio services, but its use in the Amateur Radio Service is now apparently unintentionally precluded by two specific Commission rules," the ARRL's Petition stated. The Petition asks the FCC to allow those amateurs who are presently using a Motorola narrowband (12.5 kHz) digital land mobile system -- commercially marketed as MotoTRBO -- to be used legally. Because of some restrictions in the Part 97 rules, the TDMA repeaters (which are multiple-time-slot devices) are legal, but the mobiles and portables are not because the emissions used (single-time-slot TDMA) are not authorized anywhere, due to the emission designator.

## VE Exam April 17

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, April 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. As always, all exam elements are offered, and prior registration is not required. If there are special needs, Debbie, N9DN, should be contacted prior to be sure we are set up to accommodate them. This is the last TCARC session for the current General License questions. As of July 1, 2011, a new question pool takes effect. The current Technician and Extra exams remain in place this year.