

## Hamfest Calendar

Jan 7 Waukesha WI  
 Jan 22 St Charles IL  
 Jan 28 Collinsville IL  
 Feb 10-12 Orlando FL



## VE Exam Schedule

Dec 08 2011 Eastside Outdoor Ham Club  
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584  
 Location: Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall  
 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN 47807

Dec 14 2011 Iroquois County ARC  
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 Carl F. Schroeder (815) 473-4263  
 Glenn Raymond School  
 101 W Mulberry Street Watseka IL 60970

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

December 2011

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Meeting December 13

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. This month we will hear all about lightning protection. This is a concern that we all have, Al, K9SI, will share his secrets in protecting towers and homes from lightning. He is highly experienced in this subject.

## You Are Invited To A Christmas Party!

**When:** Saturday December 17th around 5:00 P.M.  
**Where:** 2507 Berniece Dr, home of Pat (N9GOC) and Donna (N9KVE) Curtin.

All are welcome; bring a friend or/and family, or come by yourself.

As usual, this is a pot luck dinner, so bring a dish to share if you wish. We will provide a meat entree, side dish, plastic ware (of the finest quality) and soft drinks.

Don't forget your White Elephant gift for an outstanding gift exchange! Please wrap the gift.

RSVP or if you have any questions the phone number is 217 398 4914 and the e-mail is N9GOC73@gmail.com Hope to see all of you there!

## 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.

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.

## Dues

Thanks to everyone who paid their 2012 dues. If you have not yet paid, please send a check to our PO Box - \$20 for single, \$21 for whole family. Please check your address label or the comment in the email delivering your copy of the newsletter.

## 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

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

## Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE	937-572-2081

## 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 K9CU</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

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

## VE Exams

Our next VE Exam is tentative at present, until we clear it with the University Fire Institute. We plan to hold it on Sunday, January 22, providing there is no conflict with the Fire Institute. Normally, Sundays are available, so we hope to announce soon that it is a firm date. Future exam dates are April, July, and October. Details and exact dates will be announced and published when everything is confirmed.

Anyone wishing to become a Volunteer Examiner, please contact Debbie, N9DN, for details. We can always use more examiners as many have conflicts on various dates. Full information about VEs is available on the ARRL website.

### Newsletter by Email

You can receive your TCARC newsletter by email if you wish. You will receive it sooner and you may print it from your computer, giving you a paper copy. Please let Milt K9QZI know if you wish to change to email. You can add a note with your dues payment requesting email also.

I have a spelling checker,  
It came with my pea see.  
It plainly marks four my revue  
Mistakes I dew knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word  
And weight four it two say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me strait aweigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the era rite  
Its rarely ever wrong.

I've scent this massage threw it,  
And I'm shore your pleased too no  
Its letter prefect in every weigh;  
My checker tolled me sew.

## 2 Meter FM Challenge

Sunday, December 4, was our most recent 2 Meter FM Challenge. As always, everyone participating had a great time during the one hour period Sunday afternoon. Around 15 participants joined the festivities contacting each other for a point. A few operated as a Rover, moving from town to town, making contacts from each town. Those contacting rovers got a multiplier for each different town. If 4 towns were contacted, the total points are multiplied by 4. With 3 full time rovers and a couple part time, the scores this time should be much higher than past contests. Some used unique fixed locations to rack up points. Ben, K9BF, took his 5 watt HT to the top of the T3 Tower at Third building on the campus where he has his repeater, and operated from the roof. Other than his fingers getting cold, this proved to be an outstanding location! Logs are due to Jeremy, KB9KCJ, by Midnight December 19, 2011. Forms are available on the TCARC website. Congratulations to all participants.

We learned a few things about contesting from this and maybe we need to look at more operating ideas. Everyone seemed to gather on 2 or 3 frequencies instead of spreading out. Rovers shared the same frequencies much of the time. If Rovers will operate on different frequencies, more contacts can be made as everyone doesn't have to compete for one frequency. Calls should be short - CQ contest, your callsign, and wait for a reply. Allow enough time for a reply, but if no one answers, make another short call. Also, tune up and down the band to find those who have spread out. Also, it is a good idea to know what frequency you are actually using. Overall, it was great fun and we are looking forward to the next 2 Meter FM Challenge on January 15, 2012.

Thanks to everyone participating this year! The more we have, the more fun it is for everyone. With several categories, all types of radios are welcome and you only compete with those who run the same amount of power.

## Repeaters

All is well with our local repeaters at this time. They are functioning well and are seeing use regularly. One interesting item related to our D-Star repeater is that when K9QZI attended the Fort Wayne Hamfest, he was in touch with our D-Star repeater the whole time. Several repeaters in Indiana link to the same reflector, and with our repeater linked to that reflector, all he needed to do was change repeaters along the way. There are now systems in Lafayette, Indianapolis, Muncie, Marion, and Fort Wayne. It was excellent to have continuous coverage.

### Dayton!

Even as we get ready for the holidays, the Dayton Hamvention is fast approaching. The committee has been working since the last one and they now have applications online for outdoor flea market spaces. At present, there is no cutoff date to hold your previous spaces, but there might be in the near future. The Hamvention website at <http://www.hamvention.org/> has applications and can take orders online. The flea market space price has not changed, it is \$70 per regular space and \$100 for end spaces. It's 5 months away, but it will arrive sooner than you think!

### Ham Radio Numbers Are Up!

Recently, a report on the number of Amateur Radio Licensees was issued by the ARRL, showing over 700,000 currently licensed. It is an all time high and is a reflection of increased interest in our hobby. We hope the trend continues, as larger numbers mean the hobby is healthy and likely to remain around for some time to come. There doesn't seem to be anything specific causing this, but we will take it for any reason. Join the bandwagon and encourage others to look into Amateur Radio as a hobby.

## Hamfests

November brought a couple of nice hamfests nearby. The Fort Wayne Hamfest went well with good attendance on Saturday. Sunday was the usual quiet second day. Most vendors reported lower sales than in the past, but a few seemed to fair quite well. The weather cooperated for everyone travelling to the event. After Thanksgiving, the Evansville club held their annual hamfest at the 4H grounds. As in the past, all tables were sold out with a waiting list. One person set up in the parking lot as the weather was great for that time of year.

Coming in the next couple of months are some very good indoor hamfests. Waukesha Wisconsin is the first weekend of January while Collinsville, Illinois is the last weekend. Both are all indoors and usually well attended. The second weekend of February finds many Amateurs attending the Orlando Hamcation in Orlando, Florida. This is always a popular event with both inside and outside vendors. Many manufacturers are represented there and we usually find sever TCARC members attending. Camping space is available on the grounds. Last year over 300 motorhomes were in place for the weekend. This is a great getaway for those of us who like to escape Winter for a few days.

### We Can't Do That!

A student was heading home for the holidays. When she got to the airline counter, she presented her ticket to New York. As she gave the agent her luggage, she made the remark, "I'd like you to send my green suitcase to Hawaii, and my red suitcase to London."

The confused agent said, "I'm sorry, we can't do that."

"Really? I am so relieved to hear you say that because that's exactly what you did to my luggage last year!"