

2013 Hamfest Calendar

Jan 5 Waukesha WI
 Jan 15-25 Quartzsite AZ
 Jan 20 WCRA St Charles IL
 Jan 25 Collinsville IL
 Feb 1 Miami FL
 Feb 8-10 Orlando FL
 Feb 16 Brownsburg IN
 Apr 21 Arthur IL



VE Exam Schedule

Dec 08 2012 Wabash Valley ARA
 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 D Steven. Shorter (812) 243-4060
 Glas-Col Annex 1730 S 7th St
 Terre Haute IN

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

December 2012
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



December Meeting Tuesday December 11

Our next meeting at the UI Fire Institute is at 7 p.m. Tuesday December 11, at the UI Fire Institute. Jim Coleman, KA6A, He will present a program, "Nanoscale Electronic Integrated Circuits - How Your Microprocessor Chip is Built.". This is his area of expertise at the University of Illinois. We are pleased he will join us and he will provide a most interesting presentation, one that we have not seen in our club meetings. Don't miss it!

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.

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.

Our Next VE Session

January 27 2013
 UI Fire Institute
 Tentative awaiting room approval

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

You are Invited to a Christmas Party

Bring your family, friends, or just bring yourself.

When: Saturday December 15th At 5:00 P.M.

Where: Pat (N9GOC) & Donna's (N9KVE)
 2507 Berniece Drive, Champaign
 Rolling Acres Subdivision

POTLUCK dinner please bring side dish to share. Ham, dressing, BBQ meat-balls, and some soft drinks will be provided. And, don't forget your **WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT** for the exchange! It's the only time you can get by with stealing your friend's gift, over and over and over! *The gift may be elegantly wrapped, placed in a decorative gift bag, taped up in a brown paper bag, or shoved into a cheap WalMart plastic bag, your choice! Pat prefers elegantly wrapped!*

Questions? Call us (217) 398-4914 home or (217) 979-7381 Cell or e-mail us at n9goc73@gmail.com Please RSVP... But if you forget, come anyway

TCARC Officers and Board Members

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

Board Members

Brad Luhrsen K9BSL 2013	649-9742
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE 2014	937-572-2081
Paul Toth N9XDN 2015	840-3522

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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Website	www .w9seh.org
Analog Repeater K9CU	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

HAL Communications Sold!

Just announced, HAL is sold to Barrett Communications in Australia. Bill Henry, K9GWT, is ready to enjoy his well-deserved retirement. We wish him the best! Below is an announcement by Barrett Communications.

Perth, Western Australia, December 3, 2012 - Barrett Communications Pty Ltd is pleased to announce that it has reached agreement to acquire all of the shares in US-based company, HAL Communications, Corp (HAL). The acquisition is scheduled for completion on 7 December, 2012.

HAL is a world leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of high quality hardware and software data communication products used in high frequency (HF) radio networks covering large geographic areas.

Barrett Managing Director, Mr Greg O'Neill, said "Barrett has been looking closely at suitable acquisitions for some time and we believe that HAL will complement our existing business and provide opportunities for expansion in a wide range of markets."

Barrett will operate HAL as a stand-alone business unit and will use it as the foundation for further growth.

Lunch Bunch

We meet for Lunch almost daily. We have a reservation for Mondays at the Atlanta Bread Co. Other days we announce the location on 145.76

Dues

Thanks to everyone who paid their 2013 dues! The response has been excellent. If you have not yet paid, please pay as soon as you can. You can pay at the meeting or mail a check to our PO Box shown as the return address for the newsletter. Your dues status will be indicated either on the address label or with your newsletter emailing.

Interactive D-Star Presentation on the Internet

All day Saturday, December 29, W5KUB will present an all day seminar, providing information on all aspects of D-Star. W5KUB, Tom Medlin of Cordova, TN, streams video of many Amateur Radio activities. Mostly hamfests, the list includes Dayton and Huntsville. He streams as he drives to the hamfest locations and all during the open hours of the hamfest. He is producing the D-Star presentation to inform everyone about this digital aspect of our hobby. The program is planned to be interactive, open to questions and comments by the audience. Participants include the co-founder of Dstarinfo.com and Ray Novak from Icom. Others may be added prior to the show. Join the presentation at <http://w5kub.com>

Hamfests

In November, many enjoyed the Fort Wayne Hamfest and the Evansville Hamfest.. At Fort Wayne, the numbers were again down a little from last year, but it still drew a good crowd. The weather was outstanding. The Evansville Hamfest also enjoyed great weather, even good enough for a few outside vendors. The crowd was about the same as in past years and tables were sold out, with one or two vendors not showing up to occupy theirs.

January finds Waukesha Wisconsin and St Charles Illinois hamfests along with Collinsville Illinois at the end of the month. In February, the Orlando Hamcation is an outstanding hamfest. It is both indoors and outdoors. Florida weather usually permits outdoor activities most of the Winter. It is 3 days over the second weekend in February. For those in the area, or wanting to travel to Florida early, the Miami Hamfest is a week earlier. The word is that it is at a new venue, which is a very nice location. Contrasted to a few years ago, the new place is a welcome change. Quartzfest in Arizona in January is a large and interesting gathering of Amateurs.

Don't Carry Your Radio in Mexico!

from AR Newslite

If you are an Information Technology or two-way radio technician and planning a trip to Mexico, you might not carry an H-T on a belt clip where it can be seen. This is because at least one drug gang seems to be kidnapping and enslaving those who know two-way radio to build and keep their private system going.

According to a report from Mexican news site Animal Politico, at least three dozen engineers and technicians have been kidnapped in the past four years. And Felipe Gonzalez who is the head of Mexico's Senate Security Committee told Animal Politico that none of the engineers who disappeared have ever been found.

Mexican authorities blame the notorious drug running gang the Zeta's for the kidnappings. The Mexican military is trying to dismantle an extensive radio network built and operated by the drug cartel but to date authorities have not had much luck shutting it down. Not only is much of the equipment super-easy to replace, but the drug runners have apparently found some unwilling assistance by kidnapping and enslaving technicians to help build it. Among them is at least one IBM employee and several communications technicians from a firm owned by Mexico's largest construction company.

Last year the Mexican military found and dismantled one such drug runners radio network spread across northeastern Mexico that included 167 radio antennas sites. As recently as this past September, Mexican marines found a 295-foot-high transmission tower in VeracruzState.

The bottom line: It seems the drug gangs have discovered that two-way radio is a tool that they will not be without but the Mexican government is doing all it can to take these clandestine operations off the air.

Repeater News

Our repeaters are performing well. We do have a minor problem with the Internet connection as it appears to be slower than it should be. At times, this creates difficulty for those using either Echolink or D-Star connected through the Internet. Incoming from the outside is good, but the outgoing signal may be a little choppy when the DSL speed is too slow. We are working on this and hope to have it repaired soon. We will make some tests to determine if the problem is in our cabling or with the actual DSL. Once determined, we will arrange for repair.

We continue to receive compliments on the friendliness on our repeaters. The word seems to be spreading over the Echolink users, particularly international, that we answer most calls. Also, many Amateurs travelling through our area are pleased to get a response when they make a call. Please continue to keep our systems friendly. Answer calls when you can!



MID-WINTER HAMFEST

Ham Radio, Computers and Electronics Flea Market

Plenty of FREE Parking • Reserved Flea Market Tables • Hourly Prizes
VE Testing for all License Classes • Forums



Talk-In on WCRA's 2M Repeater 145.31/- (107.2 Hz)
and National Simplex Frequency 146.52 Mhz

Tickets: Advance, 4 raffle stubs \$8
Flea Market: \$25/table (\$30 day, if avail.)
At the door, 1 raffle stub \$10 Electricity available for \$10



(630) 604-0157 info@w9ccu.org www.w9ccu.org

Advance Ticket and Flea Market Table Order Form

Name _____ Call _____ Tickets @ \$8.00 = \$ _____
Address _____ Tables @ \$25.00 = \$ _____
_____ Electricity (\$10.00) \$ _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please include an e-mail address so that we can confirm your order along with an SASE for delivery of tickets.

Mail to: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60187-1055