

**Hamfest Calendar  
2015**

Jan 10 Waukesha, W  
Jan 24 Collinsville, IL  
Feb 13-15 Orlando FL Hamcation



**VE Exam Schedule**

Nothing nearby is scheduled at this time. Our TCARC Exam session will be in January, but the date is not set yet. Normally we pick the 3rd Sunday, but that is the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend. The exam date will probably be either January 11 or 25. We will announce the date when it is firm.

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

**December 2014**  
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



**Meeting December 9**

Our next TCARC Meeting is Tuesday December 9 at the UI Fire Institute. The presentation will be "A Discussion of Receiver Performance and Specifications" by Ben Fisher, K9BF. Have you wondered what all those terms are when you read results of a receiver test? Ben will explain what they all mean so you might understand them next time you see test reports. Also, we hope to gather input from members on future meeting topics. Please come prepared with a few ideas!

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 2015**  
**UI Fire Institute**

Please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, for information.  
Exact date to be determined

**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

**Dues!**

Yes, it is that time again. Our fiscal year goes with the calendar year. January 1 is the start of our next year for membership. Several members paid at the October meeting - this is greatly appreciated. The annual dues remain at \$20 per person and \$21 for everyone in the family living at home and licensed. Payments for future years are happily accepted and will remain paid even if there is a dues increase. (No, there is no plan for any dues increase!) You may check the status of your membership by reading the message included with your online newsletter, or on your address label of paper newsletters. Payments are accepted at our meetings, or you may send a check payable to TCARC to the return address on this newsletter.

**Newsletter by Email**

We encourage paper email recipients to consider receiving this newsletter by email. It will arrive sooner than from the Post Office and contains color graphics. Please contact Milt K9QZI to change.

**TCARC Officers and Board Members**

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

**Board Members**

Jeremy Lamb KC8KGJ	2016	621-8036
Al Wolfe K9SI	2017	722-8803
Jim Crisman N9AJV	2015	202-7402

**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**

## Happy and Merry

The TCARC Board wishes everyone the best for the upcoming holidays! Take your pick:

**Merry Christmas!**

**Happy Hanukkah!**

**Happy Holidays!**

**Happy or Merry whatever you celebrate!**

**and**

**Happy New Year to All**

## Hamfests

Although only a few hamfests are held the last couple of months of the year, one excellent one is the Fort Wayne Hamfest. It was mid-November and was it's usual excellence. All indoors, both flea market vendors and commercial vendors were in one huge room. The floor space was reduced this year as there have been declining numbers of vendors over the past few years. This time, a movable wall was in place making the room about 2/3 of the previous space. Last year, there was a considerable amount of empty floor space, but the shrinking down this time gave the hamfest a much more full appearance and all vendors were closer to everyone. Several excellent forums were presented on Saturday in various small meeting rooms. The crowd was good and sales appeared to be going well.

Coming up are 2 good ones in January. On January 10 is the Waukesha Wisconsin hamfest, just West of Milwaukee. It is one day and all inside. January 24 is the Collinsville IL hamfest. Again, it is all indoors and is a popular event with our TCARC members. February 13-15 is the Orlando Hamcation in Florida. It is both indoors and outdoors. This is a great time to get away from our Winter weather and enjoy warm Florida. The hamfest runs 3 days and has a huge attendance. Manly outstanding forums are in the planning and most commercial vendors/manufacturers of Ham Radio equipment always attend. It is well worth the trip!

## Antenna Time Is Here

With the return of cold weather, it is time to put up some new antennas or work on your existing ones.. We all know that antennas installed in the coldest weather work so much better than those put up in warm weather. Don't let the Winter slip away without any antenna work or you may not have the best signal in your neighborhood!

### Dayton

It is time to start thinking about the Dayton Hamvention in 2015. It is May 15-17. In past years, we have made space available to TCARC members in the flea market. K9QZI has a claim on several spaces and has shared with the club, so members can bring a few items to sell and have a place to meet and relax. Storage of purchases is available in the locked trailer in the spaces, so members don't have to carry everything around all day. The club has supported half of the cost of the spaces - we are considering it again this year, provided that our members want it and will use it. We will discuss this at our December meeting. It is a benefit to all members who attend Hamvention. For those who have flea market spaces, the online ordering has not yet opened, but we expect it sometime in January. Check the Hamvention website to place your reservation.

### AES Superfest

In past years, many of us have attended the AES Superfest. This is a one day open house at Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee, a large Ham Radio equipment mail order and retail store. Many manufacturers attend to present their products, which can be purchased at the AES counter. Also, several excellent forums are scheduled during the day. It is an opportunity to see the equipment and learn more about Ham Radio, all in a day and at no charge. There were rumors about the Superfest being terminated, but that has not been the case. It is alive and well and is March 21, 2015. We are pleased to learn that it will continue and we recommend it to everyone for an interesting day.

## What Would You Like To See At Meetings?

We want your input! We are looking at meeting topics for the next several months. Please bring ideas to the December meeting. We want to hear what topics you would like to see presented, questions answered, and possibly tours of locations outside our meeting room. Because we provide the presentations for you, please tell us what you would like to see. Nothing formal, just bring ideas and we can take it from there. Also, any ideas for workshops are welcome. We recently had one building antennas with ARES. Suggestions along these lines are welcome.

### Auction

The TCARC Board is discussing our Spring Auction. We would like to have a chairman for the event to coordinate the planning and activities. If you are willing to take this job, please let Wayne, AB9FJ, know right away. If you have any suggestions for the auction, please let us know what they are, and if you are willing to assist with planning and/or help on the day of the auction. We always have a good time at this event and we want to make it even better if we can!

### 501c3

We understand that we are now certified under 501c3 rules, but we have yet to receive official paperwork cancelling the termination notice we received. However, we are in the online IRS list of active organizations.

### 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.

## QST Centennial Photo Contest Now Under Way!

On December 1 the QST Centennial Photo Contest kicked off, to celebrate the 100th year of the ARRL's membership journal. The first issue of QST was published in December 1915.

Between December 1, 2014, and August 1, 2015, ARRL members are invited to submit photos for consideration as possible 2015 QST covers. In addition to having their photos grace the cover of QST, each winner will receive \$250.

### Contest Rules

Images must be submitted by e-mail to [upfront@arrl.org](mailto:upfront@arrl.org). Only one image can be submitted per e-mail message. You may submit multiple images during the contest period, but you can win only once.

Images must be in JPG or TIF format at high resolution. Image file sizes must not exceed 5 Mbytes.

Do not send ZIP files. These will be rejected by the Headquarters e-mail system. Links to file download sites will also be rejected.

Include a few sentences with each e-mail describing the scene(s) shown, including names and call signs of individuals shown (if any).

Images must not include text overlays of any kind, such as date or time stamps.

Each submission e-mail must include the name and call sign of the photographer. Photographers must be ARRL members.

If a photo includes anyone under the age of 18, you must submit proof (in writing, such as an e-mail) that the minor's parents have granted permission for the image to be published.

Photographers will retain all copyrights, but by submitting the image to the ARRL, the photographer grants the ARRL non-exclusive rights to the use of the image for any lawful purpose in any media now existing or yet to be invented. This applies to both winning and non-winning images. The QST Editorial Staff will select the winning images. *From ARRL Newsletter*