

Hamfest Calendar

2016

Jan 9 [Waukesha, WI](#)
 Jan 17 [St. Charles, IL](#)
 Jan 23 [Collinsville, IL](#)
 Feb 12 [Orlando, FL](#)



VE Exam Schedule

Dec 10 2015
 Terre Haute Radio Club
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) VEC: LAUREL MD
 Virginia L. Monastyrski (812) 243-9052
 wb9zhc@ma.rr.com
 Ryves Youth Center 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

TCARC Will hold an exam session in January.
 The exact date is not yet confirmed with the Fire Institute

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

December 2015
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting December 8

Our next monthly meeting is 7 pm Tuesday December 8 at the UI Fire Institute. The program is a just released video on the 2015 DXpedition to Navassa Island. Using the call of K1N, the crew of 14 made 140,000 contacts last February. Very little special equipment was used in the operation. Be sure to attend the meeting and see this new video depicting the whole operation.

There is an informal gathering at Culver's on South Neil around 6, prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

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. No meetings are planned for July and August.

Our Next VE Session

January 2016

UI Fire Institute

Please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, for information.

Local Nets

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 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 |

VE Coordinator
 Debbie Fligor N9DN 244-4446

Website www.w9seh.org

Analog Repeater K9CU 146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR 443.48125

2016 Dues

Thanks to everyone who deluged the Treasurer with 2016 dues as he arrived at our last meeting. Also, thanks to those mailing their dues. Please check the note you receive with your newsletter to be sure you are properly credited. If you find an error, please contact Milt K9QZI for a correction. Our dues run from January 1 to December 31 each year. If you have not yet paid, you may pay at the December meeting or mail to our PO Box 2061.

TCARC Officers and Board Update

We have yet another change in our management. Jeremy Lamb finds that his work and travel takes him away too much to effectively continue to serve as a board member. We are pleased that Kevin Coogan, KC8RFE, has returned to Champaign-Urbana and is willing to replace Jeremy. Kevin served on our board before he moved away. The change was approved by the board December 2.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| President | Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ | 384-4310 |
| Vice President | | |
| Secretary | Chris Anderson W9CMA | 403-1599 |
| Treasurer | Milt Forsberg K9QZI | 352-5075 |

Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|------|----------|
| Kevin Coogan | KC8RFE | 2016 | |
| Al Wolfe | K9SI | 2017 | 722-8803 |
| Tom Lea | K5LEA | 2018 | 586-5377 |

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W1Q Special Event Station

From ARRL Newsletter

Special Event station W1Q is now on the air until December 15, to celebrate QST's 100th anniversary. The first QST was published in December 1915. W1Q will be active in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest, December 4-6, with Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, as the operator.

ARRL COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, and volunteer operators will be on the air on various bands and modes throughout the month. This is not an official ARRL operation, and Kramer will handle all details, QSL cards, and LoTW entries. He will post additional information on his QRZ.com page under WJ1B. — Thanks to Harold Kramer, WJ1B

WRC-15 Concludes in Geneva

From ARRL Newsletter

The conference reached consensus on a new worldwide secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, with a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP). Some Region 2 countries, but not the US, will be permitted up to 25 W EIRP. With this action -- and despite conditions that are more restrictive than had been hoped at the start of the Conference -- the Amateur Service has obtained its first new global HF allocation since 1979.

The 15 kHz band at 60 meters "will maintain stable communications over various distances, especially for use when providing communications in disaster situations and for relief operations," an ITU news release said. The new band will not become available for use until the FCC addresses the WRC-15 Final Acts in a rule making proceeding and establishes operating parameters.

Update on Steve

Steve, KC9SIO, is recovering from his bike accident. He has a new bike and he seems to be mostly back to normal. We are pleased that he is doing well.

Beware of Some Lithium Ion Batteries!

Many of us use Lithium Ion batteries in our portable radios. Those battery packs are required to be made with safety circuits built in. There are many newer Li Ion cells out that are used in the high intensity flashlights. One of the most common is designated as 18650. This is the model number of the battery and it represents measurements of 18 mm diameter and 650 mm long. Properly manufactured, these batteries are excellent for many applications. Also, proper charging must be used, with shutdown to prevent overcharge or high temperature. Without protection, a Li Ion cell can explode with tremendous force and fire!

Unfortunately, Milt, K9QZI, recently experienced this explosion excitement. The small yellow box he has containing a Raspberry Pi and DV Mega uses 4 of these batteries. As he was using it one evening, one battery exploded! It blew out the ends of the box, went up in the air, and came down to the floor in flames. Using a jacket, he quickly extinguished it with no damage and no injury. The battery completely vaporized. All that could be found was some plastic that was the label on the battery. Being curious, he wanted to see if any of the electronics survived, so he powered it externally, and it still worked! With a little cleaning, the mega and Pi are still running fine.

The battery brand is Ultra-Fire. Maybe the name really does have a hidden meaning! Searching the Internet will produce many comments and videos of this brand. It appears it is the most counterfeited battery of that type. Some claim China, some Japan, and others have no location of manufacture. This brand is priced very low, usually around \$5 or less. A Google search on Ultra-Fire or Ultra-Fire explosion will produce much information.

The main point of this article is to warn about these batteries. Please be very careful with all Li Ion batteries and avoid the Ultra Fire.

W9IPA is Back!

We will soon have another local D-Star repeater again. Until about a year ago, Kevin KC8RFE had his W9IPA repeater on the air at Parkland College. At that time, he was running 2 Motorola radios connected by a Raspberry Pi and GMSK modem. He moved to Dayton, OH, and the repeater moved along with him. In Dayton, he obtained a Yaesu System Fusion repeater and converted it to D-Star using the interface from his old repeater. It was up and running during Hamvention. Recently, Kevin moved back to our area and brought the repeater here. It will be located at Parkland and is coordinated to operate on 443.7685 MHz D-Star. It will be linked to one of the reflectors most of the time, but may be unlinked and re linked by users. This gives us an alternate D-Star channel locally. We are pleased to have Kevin back with us and also pleased that he is willing to again serve on the TCARC Board. Welcome back, Kevin!

D-Star Nets

There are many nets on the D-Star network. Several TCARC members regularly participate in a few. We link our W9YR repeater to the reflector that carries each net. Everyone is most welcome to participate in the nets. Just operate through the W9YR repeater to talk on the nets. If the repeater is not linked, any user may link it to the proper reflector. Here are the nets and reflectors:

International D-Star Net 7pm Sunday REF001C
Raspberry Pi Net 9pm Monday REF038C
Illinois D-Star Net 9pm Wednesday REF001B
Saturday Night D-Star Net 9pm Sat REF035C

Times are local Illinois time. Most run about an hour or less, except the International net which runs up to 3 hours. There is no need to stay on any net the whole time.

Yaesu Fusion Repeater

It is still temporary as the K9SI repeater 444.100. It runs Fusion digital as well as analog. All are welcome to use it.

Auction

We searched the options and found that April 9 looks the best for our 2016 auction. The church is available on that date and it doesn't conflict with the scheduled AES Superfest. We will have more details in the future, but for now, it looks like it is good enough to mark your calendar.

Sean Kutzko KX9X

A comment from Sean's Facebook page:

From the "You Gotta Be Kidding Me" Department: Dave NN1N just informed me that I have the highest 1-hour QSO rate of any US QRP entrant in the history of CQ WW CW. I worked 94 stations in one hour on November 25, 2012. The CQWW site says so. This was with my 817ND hooked up to NN1N's 10m stack. Woah!

Echolink

The Echolink status remains the same on the K9CU repeater. It is working, but the welcome message is yet to be installed. The new computer runs Windows 10. It appears that there are a few issues with 10 to resolve. One program was found running and possibly interfering with Echolink. We are working on improving the service. In the meantime, please feel free to use it and report any problems encountered. A noisy signal will not decode properly - this is an issue we cannot control. Please be sure your signal is solid into the repeater.

Merry Christmas to All

The TCARC Board wishes everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Hanukkah, and the best for whatever holidays you celebrate during the next few weeks!

