

Hamfest Calendar  
2017

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



VE Exam Schedule

There are no exams scheduled in the near future within 50 miles. More will be added later.

TCARC will hold one in January, hopefully on January 22. This date has not yet been approved by the UI Fire Institute. We will announce the confirmation when it is approved.



# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

December 2016  
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## December Meeting Christmas Dinner!

Our December 13 meeting is a Christmas Dinner at the Rib Eye restaurant, 7:00 pm, 1701 S Neil St in Champaign. It is for everyone, family and friends. Everyone pays their own way. It will be a dinner only with no gifts but lots of fun! **We must notify the restaurant on the number attending. Please email Rick Hurd KC9NRI, by December 8 with the number in your family planning to attend.**

[rhurd1969@gmail.com](mailto:rhurd1969@gmail.com)

Please see page 2 for more details

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.

## Our Next VE Session

Exam sessions are planned for January, April, July, and October 2017. Exact dates will be announced when we receive confirmation from the 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

## K9BF is a Published Author!

In your December 2016 issue of QST magazine, you will find an article by Ben Fisher, K9BF. On page 57 in Hints and Kinks, Ben explains how to keep tuning slugs from sticking in IF transformers. We are pleased to see his name in QST magazine. Be sure to check out his article!

## Dues

Thank you all who have paid your 2017 TCARC dues! Our fiscal year begins January 1. Dues remain at \$20 for single membership, or add a dollar to include licensed family members living at home. You may pay at the meeting, or send a check to TCARC, PO Box 2061 Champaign, IL 61825-2061. Please be sure we have your correct email address as all newsletters are now sent by email. If you do not receive a newsletter a few days prior to each meeting, please contact Milt K9QZI.

## TCARC Office0.rs and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Vice President</b>	Rick Hurd KC9NRI	419-2359
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

### Board Members

Kevin Coogan	KC8RFE	2016	937-985-2081
Al Wolfe	K9SI	2017	722-8803
Tom Lea	K5LEA	2018	586-5377

### VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor	N9DN	244-4446
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<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.k9cu.club">www.k9cu.club</a>
<b>Analog Repeater K9CU</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

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## Our Christmas Dinner

The TCARC Board discussed holding some kind of a party or get together for the holiday season. Holding a party at the home of one of our members puts a heavy load on that family preparing for it. We wanted to have a family gathering, so a dinner at a local restaurant seemed to be the answer. Cost was a possible concern, so we brought up the idea at our October meeting to gather input from members. Several locations were discussed, so a vote was taken and the large majority preferred [The Rib Eye Restaurant](#) on South Neil Street in Champaign. Rick Hurd called the restaurant from the meeting and made a tentative reservation. The restaurant wants an accurate count several days prior. We agreed to this and we ask everyone planning to attend to please notify Rick by December 8, so we can comply. The restaurant will be busy with many groups, so an accurate number of people is necessary. It appears that it will be difficult to add anyone at the last minute, so please notify Rick right away! This will be a dinner and lots of fun. There is no gift exchange. Just attend and expect to have a great time.

For those not familiar with the Ribeye, it is mostly known for steaks, but they have many other items. Their familiar bar is one of the best in town. It is included with normal meals. The recommended dinner is their Ribeye, which is just over \$20 with side dishes and salad bar. We hope everyone will join us for the festivities on Tuesday, December 13 at our usual meeting time of 7 pm. Needless to say, we won't gather at Culver's before this meeting.

### Santa Net

Every year on 3916, we give good little boys and girls a chance to talk to Santa Claus at the North Pole! It is indeed a magical experience to experience kids talking with Santa through the magic of Amateur Radio! The Santa Net is on the air every night, November 25th through December 24th at 7:30 PM Central. To participate in The Santa Net, just have your kids prepared to tell Santa their top 2-3 gift wishes. Please see the [link](#) for details.

## New Hamfest!

The Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub decided to revive their hamfest in 2017. It operated for years in and around Sullivan and Arthur Illinois. It was discontinued a few years ago, much to the disappointment of many Central Illinois Amateurs as it was a great time to meet others in our area. The club set the date of Saturday, March 25. It will be at the original location of the MARK Hamfest at the American Legion in Sullivan, IL. From there, it moved to the 4H grounds near Sullivan, then to the fairgrounds in Arthur, and the Arthur Fire Station, then back to the fairgrounds. This is good news to all as everyone enjoyed this hamfest over the years. We wish them the best!



### A Ham's Night Before Christmas

Many of us remember the original poem written by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, in 1996. He now explains the history and presentrd it live on his Ham Radio Now show on December 1, 2016. You can view both the original edition and Gary's live presentation by following the links below. It is best to see the original first. This is a classic and worth viewing! Be sure to see both versions. [Original version](#)

[December 1 2016 presentation](#)

### Lunch Bunch

Please join us on Mondays at the Steak n Shake on South Neil. We gather shortly after 12 pm. All are welcome! Other days we coordinate on the K9CU 146.76 repeater just after 12. We encourage input on where to go, or not go, by anyone wishing to join us. Thursdays are not always Lunch days, and weekends vary, depending on those wishing to have Lunch.

## NCVEC Question Pool Committee Seeks Comments on the Technician Question Pool

From the ARRL Letter

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) is reviewing the 2014-2018 Technician question pool for revisions and updates. The QPC will accept comments and suggestions from the Amateur Radio community [via e-mail](#) through March 31, 2017. The NCVEC QPC will take all comments and suggestions into consideration as it updates the Technician question pool for 2018-2022. Input from the Amateur Radio community may include suggestions for new questions, changes to the topic areas, or changes to existing questions in any of the current Amateur Radio examination question pools.

### The K7RA Solar Update

From the ARRL Letter

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Average daily sunspot numbers rose from 28.7 to 32.9 over the November 24-30 reporting week. Average daily solar flux rose from 78.5 to 82.6. Geomagnetic indicators rose only slightly, with average planetary A index changing from 12.7 to 13.6, and average mid-latitude A index rising from 10.1 to 10.3.

Predicted solar flux is 85 on December 1-3; 80 on December 4-8; 78 on December 9-11; 80 on December 12-13; 82 on December 14-15; 80 on December 16-17; 78 on December 18-19; 80 on December 20-22; 82 on December 23-24; 84 on December 25; 83 on December 26-27; 80 on December 28-29; 82 on December 30-31; 80 on January 1-2; 78 on January 3-7, and 80 on January 8-9.

Predicted planetary A index is 6 on December 1-6; 15, 12, 18, 20, and 10 on December 7-11; 5 on December 12-17; 8, 12, 16, and 22 on December 18-21; 30, 12, and 10 on December 22-24; 8 on December 25-27; 5 on December 28-January 2, and 15, 12, 18, 20, and 10 on January 3-7.

Sunspot numbers for November 24 through 30 were 12, 12, 13, 31, 44, 43, and 75, with a mean of 32.9. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 79, 80.9, 81.2, 82.6, 85.2, 85.5, and 83.6, with a mean of 82.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 24, 33, 12, 10, 8, 5, and 3, with a mean of 13.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 17, 24, 9, 9, 7, 4, and 2, with a mean of 10.3.

[Here is an interesting chart from London's Daily Mail.](#) The blue line is an average of Solar Cycles 1 through 23. The red line is the current cycle 24, and the gray line is Solar Cycle 5, which may be similar to the current cycle.

## VE Sessions

TCARC holds VE Exam Sessions quarterly. They are usually January, April, July, and October. We try for the 3rd Sunday of those months, except we will not schedule one on the MLK weekend, so January might be a week early or a week late, depending on the calendar. Because we utilize the UI Fire Institute classroom, we must have approval from them to set dates as there are times when the building is busy with fire training. As soon as we receive the ok from the Fire Institute, we will announce the exact dates and

### National Parks on the Air Update

From the ARRL Letter

ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program is down to its final month. Over 460 of the 489 NPOTA units have been activated, with over 15,500 visits to eligible sites. With 30 days to go, there is a big push to cross the 1 million contact threshold. This past week saw nearly 30,000 contacts uploaded to Logbook of The World, bringing the year-to-date total to more than 915,000 contacts. There will be plenty of NPOTA activity in December; how many stations can you work in the final month?

Seventeen activations are scheduled for the week of December 1-7, including Theodore Roosevelt Island National Memorial in Washington, DC, and Sitka National Historical Park in Alaska. Details about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar.

### Merry Christmas

