

## Hamfest Calendar

Dec 12 Carthage, IL  
 Jan 9 Waukesha, WI  
 Jan 24 St Charles, IL WCRA  
 Jan 30 Collinsville, IL  
 Feb 12-14 Orlando Hamcation, FL



## VE Exams

06-Dec-2009 Wabash Valley ARC  
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 D Steven Shorter (812)232-4788  
 Glas-Col Annex-Rear Of Building  
 1715 S 8th St Terre Haute, IN

08-Dec-2009 Iroquois County ARC  
 7:00pm (Walk-Ins Allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 Carl F Schroeder (815)473-4263  
 Glen Raymond School  
 101 E Mulberry St Watseka, IL

10-Dec-2009 Illiana Radio Club  
 7:00pm (Walk-Ins Allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 James P Osburn (812)238-0584  
 Ryves Youth Center At Etling Hall  
 1356 Locust St Terre Haute, IN

12-Dec-2009 Sangamon Valley Radio Club  
 9:00am (Walk-Ins Allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 James Steven Upchurch (217)529-3218  
 American Red Cross 1045 Outer Park Dr  
 Springfield, IL

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

December 2009

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Next Meeting is December 8

The next TCARC meeting is Tuesday, December 8 at the UI Fire Institute, starting at 7:00 p.m. Al, K9SI, will present the program by demonstrating his latest piece of test equipment, a communications test set including a spectrum analyzer and tracking generator. This is a fancy piece of equipment with a scope to analyze RF signals. If you want to check the performance of your HT, bring it along. Transmit audio deviation and CTCSS deviation can be analyzed. No adjustments will be made to radios, however. He also plans a short talk on taking tests, along with a sample demonstration where we all can try his method.

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.

## Christmas Party

In the tradition of the past few years, we look forward to a Christmas party for the Amateur Radio community. Pat and Donna Curtin, N9GOC and N9KVE, will host the party at their home on Saturday, December 19 starting around 5:00 p.m. The address is 2507 Berniece Dr, in Champaign's Rolling Acres Subdivision. This will be a potluck, with everyone requested to bring a dish to share. The Curtins will provide some meat, punch, and table service. As always, the party is for everyone in the local Amateur Radio community. All family members are invited to attend. There will be fun and fellowship with the best part being the opportunity for amateurs to do what they do well, visiting with each other. Mark your calendar now for the party. Bring a "White Elephant" gift only if you wish to participate in the exchange. Tasteful gifts please!

## Time to Renew!

Thanks to all who sent their membership renewal to the club already. If you have not done so, please send a check for your 2010 dues. The dues remain the same as in past years, \$20 for single memberships and \$21 for family memberships in the same household. Please make a check payable to TCARC and drop it in the mail to our PO Box as listed on the return address on this newsletter. Please note on the check if you are a member of the ARRL. Our membership year is January 1 to December 30.

## Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
ARES 444.100	Tuesday 9 p.m.
TCARC 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>	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
<b>Vice President</b>	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

## Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI	688-2790
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302

## 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 W9SEH</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

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## ARRL Election

Thanks to all who voted in the ARRL Central Division Vice Director Election. We are pleased to announce the winner, Kermit Carlson, W9XA. Here is a report from the ARRL Newsletter:

ARRL staff members opened ballots November 20, 2009 for the Vice Director races in the Central and Roanoke Divisions. Sou ARRL staff members opened ballots November 20, 2009 for the Vice Director races in the Central and Roanoke Divisions. Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK; Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ served as Tellers. A representative from an independent auditor was on hand, as well. Sarratt and Milesosky are members of the League's Ethics and Elections Committee; Sarratt is Chairman of the committee. After all the ballots were counted, both the Central and Roanoke Divisions gained new Vice Directors, with their three-year terms beginning at noon on January 1, 2010.

In the Central Division, challenger Kermit Carlson, W9XA, of Batavia, Illinois, edged out incumbent Howard S. Huntington, K9KM, of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois; Huntington has served as the Central Division's second-in-command since 1983. Carlson received 1808 votes, while Huntington received 1466 votes.

Carlson, an engineering physicist with Fermi National Accelerator Lab (FNAL), currently serves as Chairman of the League's VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC); he was appointed to that committee in 2005 and served as Chairman since January. First licensed in 1969 as WB9FBX, he holds an Amateur Extra class license, as well as a Second Class Radiotelegraph and General Radiotelephone Commercial license. Carlson's interests include DX, VHF/UHF weak signal and EME, 30 and 40 meter CW and the digital modes. He is an active member of ARES, the Society of Midwest Contesters, AMSAT, TAPR and MARS.

"I will be an active and accessible Vice Director," said in position statement, "one who will represent the consensus of the Central Division and will provide local club support by representing the ARRL at local hamfests and conferences. I will work to expand the amateur spectrum, facilitate youth outreach and expand education. I will be a tireless advocate for all aspects of this diverse, established yet evolving hobby."

### IPod Users

ARRL announced the availability of a new suite of Amateur Radio mobile software, designed specifically for use with the Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch. The applications or "apps" are named ARRL Technician, ARRL General and ARRL Extra and function as an electronic version of practice exam flash cards. Amateur Radio exam candidates can use the applications as a study companion. The apps include all possible questions and answers on each test. Users can flag questions needing review, segment questions for study by sub-element, or study questions in random order. ARRL apps are available for \$1.99 on Apple's iTunes "App Store."

### EchoLink

The EchoLink node moved from Urbana to the repeater site in November. The link was down for about a week while K9BF arranged the interface needed to operate the link at the repeater site. By connecting directly to the repeater, we have eliminated a lot of noise and distortion. The link now sounds very pleasant and is not as obnoxious as in the past. The node number remains the same and the callsign is the same in the EchoLink listing on the Internet. We will change the callsign, but Andy, W9ADS, agreed to let us keep the node number 8231. When the link connects, the announcement sometimes is mixed with the conversation in progress. It is not overbearing and more useful this way. More adjustments will be made in the future to make everything run even better, but it is doing well as it is. The link no longer needs to identify, so that function has been removed. We thank Andy for providing the service over the past years and for contributing the link box and computer.

## Hamfests

There were a couple of hamfests in November. The Fort Wayne hamfest November 14-15 was fairly well attended. As with most recently, the numbers were down a little. The weather was very nice and the location in the Memorial Coliseum is excellent. On Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Electronics Applications Radio Service (EARS) and The Ham Station held the annual Evansville Hamfest. It moved back into the old quarters in the park, which was welcomed by all attending. Last year, it was held in a barn in the park as the heated building had been rented in error to another group. This year set an attendance record of those entering the doors. Although sales were not record proportions, this was a good sign of the future for hamfests. The weather was outstanding and the location was quite comfortable. TCARC was well represented by 7 from here. Coming up on Saturday, December 12 is the hamfest in Carthage, Illinois. It is a small indoor hamfest not far from the home of Mark, KA9SZX. He is willing to make overnight accommodations for any of our members wanting to attend the hamfest. January starts with one at Waukesha, Wisconsin on the 9th. One of the larger hamfests is coming February 12-14 in Orlando, Florida. The Orlando Hamcation is worth the trip - and you can get away from our Winter weather for a short time. More to come in future newsletters.

### ARRL Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your ARRL membership through TCARC as we receive a commission. New member applications are most welcome. Send the form along with a check payable to TCARC to our PO Box.

### VE Exams

Our next exam is Tentatively January 24. Please contact our VE Coordinator, Debbie, N9DN, if you have questions. The Tech Question Pool changes July 1, so there are two more opportunities to test locally under the present pool.

## D-Star Repeater

The W9YR D-Star repeater has been on the air a little over a year and connected to the Internet for the past several months. It is working well and many users enjoy operating through it.

The original intent was to solicit enough donations to purchase the equipment, get it on the air, then turn it over to the Twin City Amateur Radio Club, if the club wishes to accept it. We are at that point now. Milt, K9QZI, collected the contributions and purchased the equipment. The total cost was around \$3,000. A few others contributed equipment needed instead of cash. The Board of Directors of the club has agreed to accept the system, but we will have a vote at the December 8 meeting to be certain that the majority of our membership is in agreement.

There are a few operating costs associated with the repeater. To connect to the Internet, we have a DSL line from AT&T costing \$20 per month. K9QZI insured the repeater under his ARRL insurance to cover any mishap that might occur such as a lightning strike. This cost is around \$50 per year. This brings the total annual operating cost to around \$300 per year. The board feels it is a worthwhile expense and the club can afford it. Given that we have space on the WLRW tower at no cost and feedline and the antenna are shared at no cost places the repeater system in the bargain category! Another feature of having Internet access at the repeater site is that we are now able to operate the EchoLink node at the site without a radio link as we have done in the past. We will hold an open discussion prior to the vote on Tuesday. Plan now to attend, make comments, and vote. The program will be interesting as well.

### Happy and Merry

The Board of TCARC wishes everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings, Happy Hanukkah, or just plain enjoy the upcoming season.