

Hamfest Calendar

Feb 10-12 Orlando FL
Feb 25 Brownsburg IN
Mar 4 Sterling IL
Mar 10 Terre Haute IN



VE Exam Schedule

Feb 11 2012 Wabash Valley ARC
9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
D Steven. Shorter (812) 232-4788
Glas-Col Annex-Rear of Building
1715 S 8th St Terre Haute IN

Mar 10 2012 Wabash Valley ARA
8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Terry L. Hackett (217) 465-4884
Burkybile Law Office
15175 US Highway 150 Paris IL

Apr 15 2012 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Debra J. Fligor (217) 244-4446 n9dn@n9dn.net
Univ of IL Fire Service Inst
11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

February 2012

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting February 14 ♥

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 14 at 7 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Our program is a presentation on propagation. Plan to attend to learn about this important part of our hobby and have the mysteries solved. N9AJV will present.

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.

Dues

Thanks to all who paid their dues on time, which is most of our members! Please check either your address label or the note with your email copy to be sure your payment was received and posted. Please report any errors to Milt K9QZI.

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

Auction April 14

We have the date for our annual auction set on Saturday, April 14 this year. After looking at several possible dates, this appears to be the best. The Windsor Road Christian Church will again host the event, as in the past few years. It's time to start digging out those unneeded items to take to the auction. The procedures are the same as in the past and will be published in the next newsletters. Items donated to the club for sale where the club retains the whole selling price are greatly appreciated!

MARK Hamfest Date Change

The Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub (MARK) Hamfest is a week earlier than previously advertised. Due to a combination of events, the date moved to April 22, one week earlier. The location will be the fairgrounds behind the high school, where it was a few years ago. A new building was built there, with heat!

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

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE	937-572-2081

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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TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

2 Meter FM Challenge

Once again those participating in our 2 Meter FM Challenge had a great time on January 15. Several members participated by operating at home, on the road as a rover, or at other locations where there might be a tall tower with an antenna. The weather was excellent for the Sunday afternoon excitement. 3 rovers roamed the area, one was a little difficult to hear as he was running an HT inside the vehicle. The deadline for log submission is past, so we should hear the results soon. Another challenge will be sometime during March.

KC8RFE D-Star Hot Spot

Kevin, KC8RFE, set up a D-Star Hot Spot at Parkland College. The Hot Spot is basically a simplex D-Star node. Users can listen and transmit on the same frequency. He keeps it on Reflector 001C most of the time. This is the busiest reflector with many foreign (DX) stations operating as well as US and local. The frequency is 441.025 MHz, simplex. Just set your radio to that frequency, simplex. and use it just as you would a repeater. You may unlink and link it just as on a repeater. Kevin hopes to have a higher antenna and more power soon, but at present it covers Champaign quite well. This is an alternate way to listen to the reflector and not tie up the repeater, but everyone is still welcome to make contacts through reflectors via our W9YR repeater.

Newsletter by Email

You can receive your TCARC newsletter by email if you wish. You will receive it sooner and you may print it from you computer, giving you a paper copy. Please let Milt K9QZI know if you wish to change to email. You can add a note with your dues payment requesting email also.

New D-Star HT

Icom introduced the ID-31A 70cm D-Star and analog portable HT radio. Apparently Icom listened to users as many features have been added - most were requested by users of other models. It is more user friendly, contains a very sensitive GPS receiver, contains a listing of all D-Star repeaters in the memory, and even has tone control on transmit as well as receive. The D-Star system is capable of passing APRS information on to the APRS system, so this radio can serve both functions. There is a recording function to record both sides of a QSO. The length is limited only by the micro SD card used in the radio. 2 GB will hold around 36 hours. It is 70cm (440MHz) only, so it won't transmit directly into the APRS network. It's a bit smaller than the other models and works quite well. The GPS receives an adequate signal inside homes and some commercial buildings. The price is around \$400 complete from most dealers. So far, everyone who owns one is very happy.

QEX Anyone?

QEX is the publication by the ARRL which centers on radio build it yourself projects. While many do not build, some enjoy it very much. Recently, W9CGZ, Earl, received a home built noise blanker from an Illini Net member in California. After he received it, QEX wanted to put the story in the magazine. Since Earl had the item, there was a request for photos of it for the magazine. K9QZI shot some photos and sent them off to the ARRL. They requested permission to give photo credits to K9QZi, and the article was published. What we didn't know was that one of the photos was to be the front cover of the magazine for January 2012. Inside is a 3 page article with more photos. Credit was given on all photos, including on the front cover. Check it out if you are a QEX subscriber.

Give 100 % in everything you do.

Except when you donate blood!

TWIT TV - Ham Nation

A recent addition to the entertainment and information portions of our hobby has emerged on the Internet. Gordon West, Bob Heil, Leo Laporte, and others provide an hour video show weekly all related to Amateur Radio, called Ham Nation. It runs from 8 to 9 p.m. Tuesday evenings. To view it, go to <http://twit.tv/hn> anytime. All episodes are available to watch, and you can watch live on Tuesday evenings. TWIT TV is a product of Leo Laporte, consisting of a variety of informative and enjoyable programming. Leo was fascinated with our hobby and has recently become W6TWT, holding a General Class License. If you like to watch the show get organized, they are usually live around 7:30 each week. Many and varied topics related to our hobby are well covered by the programs.

Hamfests

A few good hamfests appeared during January. Waukesha Wisconsin, St Charles Illinois, and Collinsville Illinois were some of the locations. All were indoors, and all well attended. The Collinsville fest found several TCARC members roaming the bargain tables. It was very crowded and vendor space was full. The word is that next year there will be an addition of half of the size this year to permit more vendors and attendees. This is great news! The hamfest community appears to be alive and well in the St Lous area!

The Orlando Hamcation is February 10-12, only a week away. This is always an enjoyable event and is a good excuse to visit sunny and warm Florida this time of year. Look for a few TCARC members around the grounds and inside if you go. KB9LCJ, Zane, will be outside just West of the main building, while K9QZI will be inside the main building next to the West entrance door. You still have time to make the trip to Orlando for an excellent hamfest!

VE Exams

Our last VE Exam was Sunday, January 22 at the UI Fire Institute. 4 tested and 4 passed, 2 Technician, and 2 General. Future exam dates are confirmed for April, July, and October.

Anyone wishing to become a Volunteer Examiner, please contact Debbie, N9DN, for details. We can always use more examiners as many have conflicts on various dates. Full information about VEs is available on the ARRL website.

Dayton!

The Dayton Hamvention is fast approaching. The committee has been working since the last one and they now have applications online for outdoor flea market spaces. At present, there is no cutoff date to hold your previous spaces, but there might be in the near future. The Hamvention website at <http://www.hamvention.org/> has applications and can take orders online. The flea market space price has not changed, it is \$70 per regular space and \$100 for end spaces. It's 5 months away, but it will arrive sooner than you think!

Animal Sounds

A group of young children were sitting in a circle with their teacher. She was going around in turn asking them all questions.

*"Davey, what sound does a cow make?"
Davey replied, "It goes 'moo'."*

*"Alice, what sound does a cat make?"
Alice said, "It goes 'meow'."*

*"Jamie, what sound does a lamb make?"
Jamie said, "It goes 'baaa'."*

*"Jennifer, what sound does a mouse make?"
Jennifer paused, and said, "Uhh... it goes... 'click!'"*