

2014 Hamfest Calendar

Feb 7-9 Orlando FL
 Mar 2 Sterling IL
 Mar 8 Terre Haute IN
 Apr 12 Madison WI
 Apr 26 Godfrey IL
 Apr 27 Arthur IL
 May 4 Sandwich IL
 May 16-18 Dayton, OH Hamvention!



VE Exam Schedule

Mar 15 2014 W5YI VEC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 (309) 378-4416
 Bloomington Public Library
 205 E Olive St Bloomington IL

Apr 27 2014 ARRL/VEC
 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232
 n9dn@n9dn.net
 Univ of IL Fire Service Inst
 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

February 2014

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting February 11

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 11 at the UI Fire Institute at 7 pm. We have an informal gathering at Culver's on S Neil around 6 for anyone wanting to eat before the meeting. For our program, we will view the just released video, **ARRL at 100: A Century of Ham Radio** which celebrates the anniversary this year. Please join us and be one of the first to see this video.

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

April 27 2014
 UI Fire Institute

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

Dues!

Thanks to the many who paid their 2014 dues already! Check your email or address label to be sure you received credit. If you have not paid, please do so soon. \$20 individual \$21 family.

Auction Date March 22, 2014

Our annual TCARC Auction is set for March 22 at the Windsor Road Christian Church, the same location as the past few years. We are pleased that everything fit into that Saturday. The church was available, Steve, KR4S, of Amateur Accessories, has no conflict, and no other competing local activities. Our plan is to hold the auction the same as in the past. We hope to have some food, maybe dessert only, and it is always an entertaining event. We expect to use new software to track sales and purchases. Jim, N9AJV, arranged with his father to write a completely new operating program. Club donations are always appreciated. You can still sell your items with at 10% club commission.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Jeremy Lamb 2016	621-8036
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE 2014	937-572-2081
Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
--------------------	----------

Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater K9CU	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

AMATEUR ACCESSORIES, INC.
 TRANSEL TECHNOLOGIES NOW A DIVISION!
 Your Source for ALL Major Brands!
 Steve Zahos KR4S
 P.O. Box 7333
 Champaign, IL 61826
 Orders: (800) 829-8321
 Techline: (217) 352-1725
 E-Mail: hamradiosales@gmail.com
 www.amateuraccessories.com

TCARC
 PO Box 2061
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

January TCARC Meeting

We were treated to a most interesting presentation by Stuart Winland, KC9USH, from Danville. He is in the communication business and does a lot of tower climbing. He had photos of many of his climbs as well as some of the commercial installations he maintains. He is responsible for the greatly improved range of the Danville 145.820 repeater. Recently, he installed a new D-Star repeater in the area on 145.145. He would like for us to test it and use it.

Hamfests

Spring is coming! Yes it really is. With it, hamfests start popping up around the area. The St Charles and the Collinsville hamfests went well. The crowd was good at both and sales were fairly good. The weather could have been better for Collinsville, but everyone made it there and back home successfully. This weekend is the Orlando Hamcation in Florida. If you are not already there, it is too late to go. Upcoming are Sterling IL and Terre Haute IN. The latter is a popular hamfest for our locals as it is a short drive. It is all inside in a very nice Indiana State University building. Parking may require some walking, maybe a block or two. Arthur IL is April 27. Dayton is May 16-18. This is always a don't miss event. Many from TCARC attend this largest hamfest anywhere. Online reservations are open for tickets and flea market space.

Gordon West at Peoria

The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club just announced that Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be a guest speaker at the Peoria Superfest, September 20-21. He will also present a one day seminar on Friday the 19th, "Train the Trainer", provided there are enough participants. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Fritz Bock, WD9FMB, at wd9fmb@gmail.com as soon as you can.

AES Latest Update

A couple of changes are announced at Amateur Electronics Service (AES) in Milwaukee. Earlier, they announced that the annual AES Superfest held each Spring was cancelled. Now they state that it will be a one day only event on April 5. Here is the announcement from AES:

AES Superfest 2014
April 5th, 2014 - 9am to 3pm
Milwaukee Store
Confirmed Exhibitors:

Alinco
Icom
Kenwood
Larsen Antennas
Radiowavz
Timewave
Unified Microsystems
West Mountain Radio
Yaesu
More to be added.....

Forums:

WI ARES / Races - Skip Sharpe, W9REL
ABCs of Building a Better Shack - Emmett Hohensee, W0QH
History of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club - 96 years and counting! - Dave, WB9BWP
More to be announced later...

Prize Donators:

Unified Microsystems Yaesu

Also, AES made the following announcement:

Ray Grenier K9KHW, has just retired this week after working at Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee for the past 50 years! He was the Manager of the Milwaukee store. Ray has accepted an offer to take a marketing position at West Mountain Radio, a company specializing in products for amateur radio, DC power distribution and control, as well as R/C hobbies. West Mountain Radio manufactures RIGrunner DC power strips, voltage monitors and tools, and precision battery analysis hardware and software; in addition to RIGblaster sound card interfaces.

Synton Net

The Synton Amateur Radio Club of the University of Illinois started a weekly net on their W9YH repeater. The net is at 7:00 pm Monday evenings. The repeater frequency is 444.650 with an input of 449.650. The CTCSS tone required to key the repeater is 103.5. Everyone is welcome to check into the net each week. The first net was February 3, with 11 stations checking in. 5 are members of Synton and the rest are local Amateurs. Kevin, AC2MF was net control. We are pleased to see the activity picking up at Synton. Please support the net with your participation. The antenna is located on the roof of the Everett Lab at Wright and Green Streets. It serves the campus and most of the surrounding area of Champaign and Urbana. Those on the fringe might be a little noisy into the repeater.

Flex Releases New Software

Flex Radio Systems, maker of several software defined radios, released the complete software package for the 6000 series of radios. Until now, only a portion of features was available with the 6000 series. As promised, the software came out at the end of January. Owners of the 6500 and 6700 can now operate their equipment fully. This includes 4 radios in one, direct digital operation without any interface, and lots of other neat features. We will have a demonstration of these new radios at a meeting later in the year, after the owners are familiar with all of the features. There are at least 2 TCARC members using these radios.

Get Your Newsletter by Email

Many club members receive this newsletter by email each month. If you are not one who does and would like to have it sent, please let Milt K9QZI know and you will be on the list. Email copies are sent at the same time the paper copies go to the post office. Thus, email recipients get the news a day or two earlier than those receiving US Mail.

Field Day 2014

It might be a little difficult to think about Field Day with the recent weather we are experiencing. However, FD is fast approaching. Paul, N9XDN, agreed to take the responsibility of Field Day Chairman this year. He is starting a list of functions and needs. At our February meeting, Paul will talk a little about the plans and ask for commitment from any members planning to participate. He is most interested in hearing from those who wish to operate a specific band and/or bring their rig and antenna to FD. This is not the final list, but it will help him start planning. Commitments are not firm at this time - it is just an opportunity to see what interest we have as a club for operating. The event will again be at the Ford-Harris Park North of Urbana. The date is June 28-29. We have a lot of fun there and we hope to encourage more visitors from outside the club this year.

New Licenses

Our last VE Exam Session resulted in 4 new Technicians, 1 new General, and 2 upgrades to General. Calls issued are in the KD9A** series. Issuing took a little longer than in the past. We are not sure if was due to the ARRL not using Priority Mail any longer or possibly there was a huge number of exams. It was only a few days delay. Congratulations to all!

Uniden Offers New Scanners

Uniden just released 2 new scanners. They are the BCD436 and BCD536. One is hand held and the other is a table top or mobile. They include many features of the Home Patrol. In addition, they will receive APCO P25 Phase II signals as well as X2-TDMA. The larger unit also includes a WIFI link which permits operation of the scanner using a smart phone. The price is around \$500 for the portable and \$600 for the mobile.

New D-Star Radio Coming

Icom has just announced a new D-Star radio, the ID-5100. Not released yet, it is a mobile version of the ID-51, the latest handheld D-Star radio.