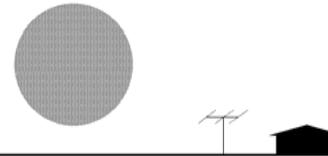


Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

February 2005

Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Editor



Hamfest Calendar

Feb 5-6 Miami, FL
11-13 Orlando, FL
25 La Porte, IN
Mar 12 Terre Haute, IN
13 Sterling, IL
20 Jefferson, WI
Apr 1-2 AES Superfest
2-3 Timonium, MD
16 Grayslake, IL
23 Godfrey, IL
24 Arthur, IL
May 1 Decatur, IL
1 Sandwich, IL
20-22 Dayton, OH

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www.amateuraccessories.com

TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

VE Exams

05-Feb-2005 SANGAMON VALLEY RADIO CLUB
9:00 AM (No walk-ins) ARRL/VEC
JAMES STEVE UPCHURCH (217)529-3218
AMERICAN RED CROSS 1025 S 6TH ST
CALL AHEAD! PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703

06-Feb-2005 WABASH VALLEY ARA
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
D STEVEN SHORTER (812) 232-4788
RED CROSS BLDG (BASEMENT)
700 S 3RD ST US HWY 41
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47807

05-Mar-2005 CLINTON COUNTY ARC
9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
SAMUEL F PAUL (765) 659-1720
FRANKFORT COMM PUBLIC LIBRARY
208 W CLINTON ST FRANKFORT, IN 46041

12-Mar-2005 WABASH VALLEY ARA
9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
D STEVEN SHORTER (812) 232-4788
NORTHSIDE BINGO HALL
7339 N CLINTON ST TERRE HAUTE, IN 47805

Meeting February 8

The next TCARC meeting is on Tuesday, February 8, at the UI Fire Institute. Our program is a presentation on programmable radios by Milt Forsberg, K9QZI. He has been programming his radios almost weekly for different locations for the past several years. He will cover both Amateur radios and scanners. Come to the meeting and find out where to get the programs and how they work.

Next month, March 8, we will hear all about Amelia Earhart, her flights, and her disappearance. Jim Coleman, KA6A, will give his famous talk on the subject. This is a don't miss meeting!

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.

Auction

We now have the date for our Spring Auction. It is Saturday, April 16. It will be at the same location as last year, the Windsor Road Christian Church. Equipment can be brought in on Saturday morning with the auction starting at 1:00 p.m. We are working on providing food service and parking is free. More details will be provided here in upcoming issues. Please help spread the word about the auction! Start checking your old stuff for items to sell.

VE Exams

Our last VE Exam Session was Sunday, January 23 at the UI Fire Institute. Seven of our VE team assisted with the exams. The session resulted in 5 new licenses including a new General and two upgrades to Extra. Congratulations to all, and thanks to our team. Our next session is April 17. Also, we thank Fred Siebold, W9FWS, for heading up the session in Debbie's absence.

It is the New Year for Dues

Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2005 dues. Please check your address label to be sure your dues are recorded correctly. The date at the top is the expiration of your dues payment. If you see a date of 2004 or earlier, please mail a check to our Post Office Box. Dues are still \$20 per person and \$21 for families. If you haven't paid, please do so noww

. We need your support!

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President Al Wolfe K9SI 688-2790
Vice President Ben Fisher K9BF 351-7655
Secretary Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ 384-4310
Treasurer Milt Forsberg K9QZI 352-5075

Board Members

Bob Minton WA9KGU
Drew White K9CW 643-7327
Mark Garrett KA9SZX 351-1572

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN 244-4446

Website

www.qsl.net/w9seh

EchoLink on 146.76

The EchoLink Internet connection is now on the 146.76 repeater. It has been on the 147.195 repeater until recent problems required that repeater to be taken down for repairs. The use is the same as before, with the same node number. Please feel free to use EchoLink on 76.

January Meeting – Chili Feed

Our January meeting at the Windsor Road Christian Church found many of us enjoying chili provided by Darren Taylor, KF9Z. We met around 6 and had a filling supper. After eating, Ben Fisher, K9BF, entertained us with a demonstration on the use of liquid nitrogen. It is amazing what can happen when something is frozen to a super cold temperature! Everyone attending enjoyed the evening and if you missed it, you missed a good one!

ISS RS0ISS Packet System Remains Problematic

From ARRL Letter

ISS Ham Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, at Johnson Space Center reports that the packet BBS portion (RS0ISS-11) aboard the International Space Station remains non-operational, and efforts to restore the BBS capability have been unsuccessful. "At this point it is unknown if this is a temporary or permanent state," Ransom said, adding that Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) hopes the feature can be restored in the future, "once a computer becomes available." Meanwhile, the ARISS digipeater is working but exhibits difficulties in relaying data. "The digipeater appears to be listening for long periods of time and then transmitting all of the buffered information at once," Ransom explained. "This duration of this issue seems to vary depending on your location." A computer is tentatively scheduled to be delivered to the ISS later this year, but Ransom says the schedule could be pushed back to accommodate higher priority

items. "Once a computer is available, troubleshooting of both packet systems can be performed and hopefully both restored to full functionality." The ARISS Phase 2 station handles RS0ISS packet system operation.

Special Event Station to Commemorate Yalta Conference

From ARRL Letter

Special event station EM60J will be on the air February 4-11 from Ukraine to mark the 60th anniversary of the Yalta Conference. The historic 1945 talks brought together the "Big Three" Allied leaders. Great Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Russia's Joseph Stalin--to discuss post-World War II reorganization of Europe. The conference's primary purpose was to re-establish the nations that had been conquered by Nazi Germany, and one result was the partitioning of Germany into US, Russian, British and French zones. QSL via UU5JYA or direct to PO Box 378, Yalta 98600, Ukraine.--The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com>

Beware when Driving in Indianapolis!

If you drive in or through Indianapolis, beware of the Police. The Indy cops may pick on amateur Radio Operators. For the past couple of years, police in Indianapolis have reportedly been using radios for communications between officers separate from the official police radio system. This would normally be ok, but several people monitoring them have reported the use of many unauthorized frequencies. It seems that officers just pick a frequency and put a radio on it. Some of the frequency lists were published on the Internet. Apparently, reports to the FCC have resulted in no action. Recently, when officers were heard within the 2 meter band, one Amateur challenged them and requested call letters for identification. He was told to shut up and that he had no legal means of stopping them from using the frequency. He then reported them to the FCC and MECA, the dispatch

communications agency for Indianapolis. Since then, many have noticed that the police appear to pick on hams. The big concern is that Indiana has a law on the books that prohibits radio equipment capable of receiving police frequencies in operation in a motor vehicle. This includes scanners and amateur equipment. However, anyone holding a valid Amateur Radio License is exempt and may carry the radio equipment. The police do not always understand this exemption and supposedly have been confiscating equipment. They also appear to be watching our driving closely. Call letters on your license plate and/or antennas can indicate you are an Amateur. To protect yourself, you should carry a copy of your license and a copy of Indiana law IC 35-44-3-12. Here is the law for your convenience:

IC 35-44-3-12

Unlawful use of a police radio; exemptions; "police radio" defined

Sec. 12. (a) A person who knowingly or intentionally:

- (1) possesses a police radio;
- (2) transmits over a frequency assigned for police emergency purposes; or
- (3) possesses or uses a police radio:
 - (A) while committing a crime;
 - (B) to further the commission of a crime;

or

(C) to avoid detection by a law enforcement agency; commits unlawful use of a police radio, a Class B misdemeanor.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2) do not apply to:

- (1) a governmental entity;
- (2) a regularly employed law enforcement officer;
- (3) a common carrier of persons for hire whose vehicles are used in emergency service;
- (4) a public service or utility company whose vehicles are used in emergency service;
- (5) a person who has written permission from the chief executive officer of a law enforcement agency to possess a police radio;

(6) a person who holds an amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission if the person is not transmitting over a frequency assigned for police emergency purposes;

(7) a person who uses a police radio only in the person's dwelling or place of business;

(8) a person:

(A) who is regularly engaged in newsgathering activities;

(B) who is employed by a newspaper qualified to receive legal advertisements under IC 5-3-1, a wire service, or a licensed commercial or public radio or television station; and

(C) whose name is furnished by his employer to the chief executive officer of a law enforcement agency in the county in which the employer's principal office is located;

(9) a person engaged in the business of manufacturing or selling police radios; or

(10) a person who possesses or uses a police radio during the normal course of the person's lawful business.

(c) As used in this section, "police radio" means a radio that is capable of sending or receiving signals transmitted on frequencies assigned by the Federal Communications Commission for police emergency purposes and that:

(1) can be installed, maintained, or operated in a vehicle; or

(2) can be operated while it is being carried by an individual.

The term does not include a radio designed for use only in a dwelling.

As added by Acts 1977, P.L.342, SEC.1.

Amended by P.L.162-1994, SEC.1.

•••

Several states prohibit radio equipment capable of receiving police frequencies in a vehicle. All but one appear to exempt anyone holding a valid Amateur Radio License. Nebraska is the one that does not exempt us. It is a good idea to carry a copy of your license with you in your vehicle at all times. You can check out the various laws on the following URL:

www.afn.org/~afn09444/scanlaws/scanner5.html