

Hamfest Calendar

Feb 13-15 Orlando FL
Feb 21 Fox Lake IL
Mar 8 Sterling IL
Mar 14 Terre Haute IN
Apr 3-4 AES Superfest, Milwaukee, WI
Apr 18 Stoughton, WI
Apr 25 Godfrey, IL
Apr 26 Arthur, IL
May 15-17 Dayton OH



VE Exams

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

14-Feb-2009 Piatt County Arc
1:00 PM (Walk-Ins Allowed) ARRL/VEC
Michael S Mullins (217)377-1523
Emergency Ops Center - Piatt County
301 S Charter St Monticello, IL

22-Feb-2009 VCARA ARRL/VEC
1:00 pm (Walk-Ins Allowed)
Josh D Kittle (217)442-0578
Vermilion County EMA Building
2507 Georgetown Rd Danville, IL

14-Mar-2009 W5YI
1:00 PM (Walk-Ins Allowed)
Keith R Hanson (309)378-4416
American Red Cross-Conf. Rm
1 Westport Ct-Rt 9e Bloomington, IL

14-Mar-2009 WVARA Hamfest
11:00AM (Walk-Ins Allowed) ARRL/VEC
D Steven Shorter
Wabash Valley Fairgrounds
3901 S US Highway 41 Terre Haute, IN

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

February 2009

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting February 10

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Our program is the second video presentation on "Digital Voice for Amateur Radio". This covers HF digital voice, such as AOR, WINDRM, DRMDV, and others. It is just as informative as last month's program on VHF digital voice. This is the other portion of last month's DVD, provided by Debbie, N9DN. Come to the meeting and learn about these new and different modes!

Note - we originally planned to have a chilli cook off for the February program. However, the location we wish to use is unavailable on February 10. We will reschedule at a later date. The Fire Institute prohibits food in the classrooms, so we must use a different location.

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 April 11

The date is set and plans are underway! Saturday, April 11 is the date and Dave, W9DML, is the Auction Chairman. If you can help with any part of the auction, please contact Dave. Also, if you have any items that you can donate to the club, please bring them to the auction. This is the source of most of our profit from the event. Please talk up the auction on the air with anyone in the area. It is always a fun time and it is an opportunity to sell your own junk uhh.. valuable items and purchase someone else's valuable items. The food service will be similar to last year - with even better food!

Dues Are Now Due

Thanks to everyone who paid their 2009 dues. Only a few remain unpaid. We appreciate the promptness of the payments. Just a reminder, please check your address label for the correct expiration date. Those receiving the newsletter electronically, your dues status will appear in the body of the email, with the newsletter attached. Please notify K9QZI of any errors or necessary corrections.

Newsletter

The response has been good for receiving the newsletter by mail. This cuts down the cost of postage and copying. If you receive the newsletter by email, your dues status will appear in the email body. If you have not yet requested the email distribution, and wish to receive it this way, you may do so by sending a note to newsletter@w9seh.org

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VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater W9SEH	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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A Hero Among Us!

On Wednesday evening, January 22, fire destroyed a building north of Urbana. It was in the process of remodeling, but there was one person living in an upstairs apartment. A tow truck driver passing by on the way to a call noticed the smoke and flames. Knowing that the person lived in the second level, the driver ran up the stairs, beat on the door, and told the occupant that something is on fire. The occupant is a diabetic and had recently broken his foot. The driver helped him out of the building and down the stairs to safety. This probably saved his life! The tow truck driver is Paul Grindley, better known to us as **KC9MJE**. If you are on our local repeaters, you will hear Paul frequently as he is on the air from his truck when he is enroute to pick up a vehicle. He was even on the repeater from the fire scene after the rescue. We are fortunate to have Paul on the repeaters much of the time. We congratulate Paul on being so observant and caring. Please send a big Thank You to Paul when you talk with him.

Kermit Carlson, W9XA New Chair Of ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee

From Amateur Radio Newsline

The ARRL announced that Kermit Carlson, W9XA, is the new Chairman of the League's VHF/UHF Advisory Committee. In addition to his being the Central Division's representative on the committee, he is also a long time member of the Illinois Fox River Radio League and has held many of the leadership positions in that organization. He presented a talk on D-Star at our meeting in March. Kermit replaces Lauren Libby, W0LD, of Colorado Springs, Colorado as the committee chair. The League's Central Division Director, Dick Isely, W9GIG, made the announcement during a break in the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Newington, CT. The VHF/UHF Advisory Committee is not a traditional advisory committee. It is mandated to consider only contest issues, and its term is limited to five years duration.

K6DUE Callsign to ARISS

From Amateur Radio Newsline

The K6DUE callsign of the late NBC Newsman Roy Neal is now the call of the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the call letters will initially be used for ground station operations but may be used for other activities in the future.

For those not aware, Roy Neal, K6DUE, spent more than five decades as a broadcaster specializing in science and aerospace reporting for the National Broadcasting Company. He is generally credited with convincing then NASA chief Jess Moore to permit ham gear to be flown on board the early space shuttle missions. The first of these was STS-9 that carried Space lab One and Mission Specialist Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who made the first-ever ham radio contacts from a spacecraft on-orbit.

After Garriott's successful flight, Neal and several others formed the group known as SAREX -- the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. Later called the Space Amateur Radio Experiment, it was a program that promoted and supported the use of amateur radio by astronauts in low earth orbit aboard the United States Space Shuttle. This, to communicate with other amateur radio stations around the world especially those in classrooms as a scientific demonstration. It was superseded by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS program that we hear so much about today.

Roy Neal, K6DUE, passed away at age 82 on August 15, 2003, following open heart surgery. On November 11th 2003 the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station organization announced an on-the-air event to commemorate Roy Neal's lifetime of achievements in ham radio. Now, with the acquisition of his K6DUE call letters by the International Space Station Amateur Radio Clubber Neal's contributions to manned ham radio operations from space will live on in perpetuity.

D-Star Update

We are moving along with the Gateway connection for our D-Star repeater. After much discussion and a little confusion, the DSL line was installed on Monday, February 2. The install was first scheduled two weeks earlier, but when the telephone company installer arrived, he was not aware that there is no telephone line in our building. He was not equipped to run a new line, so he left. The phone company had to redesign the installation and finally said they could do the work by February 2. We had hoped that the line could be run from one of the terminal boxes across the field, but we learned that there is no DSL in those boxes. The line was run into the station junction box, with consent of the station management. We are pleased that permission was given for this. As of February 2, the DSL line terminates about 300 feet from our building. We are now working on getting the line into the building. As we have said before, we hope to be on the air with a Gateway (Internet) connection soon. How soon? We hope well before the end of the month. When we have the Gateway running at the repeater site, we will offer some workshops to explain programming of the radios to use the Gateway. We will also have computer programming available for those who wish to have their radios programmed. Stay tuned! It will be worth the wait.

Orlando Hamcation

It is almost time to head south and enjoy the warm climate and a great hamfest. The Orlando Hamcation is February 13-15. This hamfest has been growing in size while others are shrinking. It is an ideal time to get away from our snowy Winter and take in a hamfest. Several TCARC members will attend this year, including KR4S with Amateur Accessories. Jack Clark, W9HJM, formerly of our area, is the prize chairman. As it was last year, NASA scheduled a Space Shuttle launch, STS-119, for February 12. This makes the trip even more exciting. See more details at the website, www.hamcation.org Also, the Daytona 500 is the same weekend.

VE Exams

Our last VE Exam Session was January 25. We had a small turnout with 3 testing, and all went well for most of them. Our next session is April 19, at the UI Fire Institute. As always, thanks to the VEs who assisted with the exam. We appreciate your service.

Dayton Update

The Dayton Hamvention is only 3 months away. The Hamvention committee is working on the registration and ticket details, with some already available on the Internet. Applications for Fleamarket Vendors are now available on the Hamvention website at www.hamvention.org It is not clear if there will be a mailing to previous vendors or not, but the website application requires a March 17 deadline for applications and payment to reserve the same spaces use last year. Space prices are the same as last year as are the entrance tickets. The application for the Fleamarket can be for up to 8 spaces. (My, how things have changed!) The Hamvention is May 15-17, 2009. This is a "Don't Miss" event. If you can only go to one ham radio event, this is the one. Hotels still have space, but it is going fast. Rates are higher in the Dayton area for this weekend, and many require a 3-night minimum.

AES Superfest

April 3-4, Friday and Saturday, are the dates for the Amateur Electronics Supply Superfest at the Milwaukee store. This annual event is a mix of manufacturer booths, forums/seminars, and club booths, all in the warehouse in the rear of the AES store. Friday hours are 2-6 and Saturday hours are 8:30 to 3. Two of the forum speakers are Gordon West and Steve Ford, the editor of QST magazine. A fox hunt (hidden transmitter) is planned for Saturday morning. There is no tailgating as this is not a hamfest, but it is a good time to visit with many manufacturers who supply our hobby needs.