

Hamfest Calendar

Feb 12-14 Orlando Hamcation, FL
 Mar 7 Sterling, IL
 Mar 13 Terre Haute, IN
 Apr 10 AES Superfest Milwaukee, WI
 Apr 17 TCARC Auction Champaign, IL



VE Exams

13-Mar-2010 W5YI W5YI VEC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Keith R Hanson (309)378-4416
 American Red Cross-Conf. Rm
 1 Westport Ct-Rt. 9e Bloomington, IL

18-Apr-2010 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Debra J Fligor (217)244-4446
 Univ Of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr
 Champaign, IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

February 2010

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Next Meeting is February 9

The next TCARC meeting is Tuesday, February 9 at the UI Fire Institute, starting at 7:00 p.m. Last month we were treated to a video on APRS provided by Wayne, AB9FJ. He has agreed to provide something similar for the meeting next week.

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 Newsletter Online

We offer the TCARC newsletter by email to any member wishing to receive it in this manner. The newsletter is sent in PDF form by email to each person's mailbox. Normally, the email version arrives earlier than the printed version. The email copy is in color, which means any photos or ads will be in color. URL links mentioned are set so the viewer can click on them - no typing the letters required! A message is attached indicating membership dues status. If you wish to receive the newsletter by mail, please send a note to newsletter@w9seh.org.

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
Second Tuesday - meets Wednesday	
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

President	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Vice President	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA
Treasurer	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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Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater W9SEH	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

TCARC Auction

April 17, 2010

Windsor Road Christian Church

Doors open at 11 for the public

Auction starts at 1

Equipment donations are welcome

Auction

Please be sure to mark your calendar for April 17, which is the confirmed date of our annual auction. The Windsor Road Christian Church at 2501 Windsor Road is again the location. The church is located between Mattis and Duncan on Windsor. As always, we need lots of help with the auction. Set up and tear down are the less exciting jobs, but they are critical to the operation. Please help by arriving early and/or staying late to help. We need a crew to help check in equipment and mark it. This happens just prior to the start of the auction, as soon as the doors open at 11. Very important is donating items to the club for sale. We have received many donations in the past, which brought good income to the club. Please check your stashes and try to find some items to donate. They are to be brought to the auction and identified as donations. We plan another excellent menu of food available around Lunch time.

Everyone can help by passing the word to everyone you talk with on the air. Advertise whenever you can!

The auction is always a fun time for everyone. Even if you don't have anything to sell, you can attend anyway and join the fun.

The doors open to the public at 11 a.m. with the auction starting at 1:00 p.m. Set up will start around 9 a.m. Lunch is available from 11 to around 2, or whenever the food runs out.

If you can help, please contact Mike, K9MLT, to let him know. He is the chairman of the event this year.

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 last VE Exam was January 24, and it was a good one! Seven participated in the session, with all of them leaving with what they intended to pass. We have 6 new Technicians and 1 new upgraded General. Thanks to our volunteer examiners for providing the service. The next TCARC VE Exam is April 18 at the Fire Institute. Congratulations to all!

For those studying to take the Technician exam, the question pool changes July 1 of this year. The current pool will be used up until that date. Anyone wanting to take the exam under the current pool must attend an exam session before July 1. TCARC offers one more exam session before the change, on April 18, the day after our auction.

Echolink

We made some adjustments to the Echolink box at the repeater site. After the move from Urbana, it was difficult to enter node numbers with over 4 digits. It could be done, but the operator had to have very fast fingers. With a timing adjustment, we think everyone can now enter 6 digits with ease.

Illini Net

Most of us are aware of the Illini Net which meets daily except Thursday on 14.320 MHz. Started by Earl Finder, W9CGZ on the day after he retired, the net has been running continuously for over 32 years! Anyone can check into the net, but it is run for those having roots in CU and wanting to visit with our members here. Members also check in when on vacation. Mike, K9MLT, often checks in from his sailboat in Sarasota, Florida, when he is there. Pat Curtin, N9GOC, is a regular from home, but you can talk with him now as he checks in from Naples, Florida while vacationing. Join the fun on 14.320 from 11:30 a.m. to Noon every day except Thursday.

Hamfests

The Winter hamfest season is underway! There was a hamfest in the Madison, Wisconsin area January 23. We don't have a lot of information on it, but we understand it went well. January 30 was the hamfest in Collinsville, Illinois. As in the past, it was excellent. All tables were sold out and the crowd was good, with most attendees in the buying mood. Everyone enjoyed the hamfest.

A last minute reminder, the Orlando Hamcation is only a week away. February 12-14 will see the crowds attending that one in Florida. This is one of the few hamfests growing in attendance. Opening at Noon Friday, it runs until Sunday afternoon. At last count, we may see up to a dozen or more people attending who are either from here, or have been here and moved. It is really nice to visit with our local people that far from home. Some already in the area have been visiting with us on Echolink and D-Star. Be sure to listen for our members this week and next week.

The Dayton Hamvention, May 14-16, is now accepting orders for flea market spaces and tickets online. You can go the website, www.hamvention.org, and click on the flea market and then on order online. Previous occupants of spaces should have received a user name and password to place the order. If you have not received it, you can contact the flea market administration by email. So it appears that they are very prompt with their email response. It is good to see the improved service.

If you have not attended the Hamvention, you should! It is the largest hamfest in the USA, and maybe the world. (A hamfest in Germany is fast approaching the attendance numbers of Dayton).

Plan to attend, if you possibly can. One day is not enough time to see everything, two days is much better. The 3rd day is bargain hunting.

Repeater Status

We have a few changes related to our local repeaters. The D-Star repeater will continue using the W9YR callsign. The callsign is issued to an informal club at the University of Illinois, but it is not an official University club. Debbie, N9DN, is the trustee of the callsign. As she is a TCARC member, we have a connection. The callsign belonged to Jay Gooch, a long time TCARC member, who is now a silent key. We discussed making a change, but the TCARC Board felt that making a change at this time would be difficult as it would affect every user and many others. Also, using a callsign on a D-Star repeater precludes the use of that callsign anywhere else on the D-Star system. This means that we could not use the callsign for D-Star contesting. The club accepted ownership of the repeater by vote at the December meeting, with the understanding that there are some recurring charges to operate it. Those are \$20 per month for the DSL line necessary to connect to the internet, and continuation of insurance protection should anything happen to the repeater, such as a lightning strike.

We wish to thank those who contributed to the fund which permitted the original purchase. No club funds were used for the purchase. Those contributing are Tim Barrett K6BIV, Ralph Cox W9PGE, Ben Fisher K9BF, Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ, Larry Mohr K9LMM, and Mike Trautman K9MLT. Tim is the only non-member of TCARC. He made an offer at the AES Superfest to support the purchase. He lives in California and has a D-Star repeater. Thanks to everyone helping to make this possible.

The club voted at the January meeting to change the callsign on the 146.760 repeater from W9SEH to K9CU, which is also a TCARC club callsign. The W9SEH callsign was originally issued to Millard McVey, another long-time TCARC member, now a silent key. The repeater will remain operating as it has, with only the callsign change.