

**Hamfest Calendar
2015**

Jan 18 St Charles IL
 Jan 24 Collinsville, IL
 Feb 13-15 Orlando FL Hamcation
 Mar 8 Sterling IL
 Mar 14 Brazil IN (Terre Haute Hamfest)



VE Exam Schedule

Jan 25 2015 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232 n9dn@n9dn.net
 Univ of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

Feb 12 2015 & Mar 12 2015 Terre Haute Radio Club
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) VEC: LAUREL MD
 Virginia L. Monastyrski (812) 243-9052
 Ryves Youth Center 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

January 2015
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting January 13

Our January 13 meeting is at 7:00 pm at the UI Fire Institute. For our program, everyone can be part of the show! We will entertain Internet URLs, (websites) that are your favorites. You can demonstrate them using the computer in the classroom. We plan to make a list and provide it to all members, probably both on our website and on paper. Email can be an option. Please bring your Ham Radio favorite website list to the 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.

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

January 25 2015 1:00 p.m.

UI Fire Institute

Please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, for information.

Local Nets

◆ Week of Second Tuesday - No Net TCARC Meet
 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

VE Schedule

Our VE Exam Schedule is set for 2015. We have the Fire Institute reserved for the dates of January 25, April 19, July 19, and October 18. All dates are on a Sunday. Starting time is 1:00 pm. The exam fee for 2015 remains at \$15, as set by the ARRL VEC. Please note that the General Question Pool changes July 1, 2015. The other pools do not change this year. Our January and April exam sessions will use the current General Question Pool. July and October will use the new General questions. Anyone taking an exam must provide a photo ID or other suitable means of identification. Upgrades to a higher license class require the original current license and a photo copy of it. The photo copy is submitted with the exam.

Debbie Fligor, N9DN, is the head of our VE Team. Please contact her if you have any questions. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in helping with the exams, please contact Debbie.

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	KC8KGJ	2016	621-8036
Al Wolfe	K9SI	2017	722-8803
Jim Crisman	N9AJV	2015	202-7402

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

Dues

We thank everyone who is paid through 2015. A few still need to pay to remain active in the club. Our recent policy is to have a 6 month grace period before dropping unpaid members. Please don't let this happen to you if your 2015 dues are still unpaid! You can pay at the meeting or send a check to our PO Box shown on the return address of this newsletter. Those receiving the newsletter by email will see a note attached telling you when your dues expire. US Mail recipients will see it on the mailing label. If there is an error, please notify Milt K9QZI for corrections.

Hamfests

A few hamfests are on the near horizon. We don't see many nearby this time of year. However, there was one in Waukesha, Wisconsin on January 10. It was ok, but a bit limited. They held it in a different and smaller building as a gun show booked the usual building for 3 days and the hamfest was only one day. Vendor setup was from Noon to 4 pm only on Friday. Only a very few set up on Friday. All the others had to set up from around 5 am until 8 when the doors opened to the public. Several tables were in a balcony above the main floor. Stairs were the only access to that location. The final drawing was at 11.

Coming on January 24 is the hamfest at Collinsville, Illinois. This is a large one, all indoors. There is plenty of parking and usually is quite busy. It is well worth the trip. The location is near the I70 - I255 interchange. Access from the Interstate is easy.

February 13-15 is the Orlando Hamcation. This hamfest is always worth the trip - you get away from the cold weather and it is a very large event. Most of the prominent Ham Radio manufacturers are there along with a large crowd of flea market vendors. The hamfest is both indoors and outdoors. Many excellent forums are included, with an expansion this year as more forum locations are available on the grounds. It is an excellent event!

Please Request Newsletter by email

We are attempting to provide this newsletter entirely by email. It will permit us to create a different format, any number of pages, with photos and graphics. Only a very few members still receive this newsletter by US Mail. If you are in this group, please let Milt K9QZI know that you wish to receive it by email. Also, please be sure to submit your email address. We look forward to a total conversion to email.

ARRL Membership

In checking ARRL membership records, we find several TCARC members are not ARRL members. Some never have been, and some have dropped their ARRL membership. Please remember that the ARRL is what keeps our hobby alive. They campaign to Congress and the FCC on our behalf. Membership is \$39 per year which includes the magazine QST. The \$39 is a membership fee, not just a magazine subscription. Many benefits are included with your membership, such as favorable equipment insurance rates, legal assistance when dealing with local and state governments, VE License Exam Sessions, many books and publications, and much more. Please consider joining if you are not now a member. You can join or renew through TCARC by sending your application and a check payable to TCARC to our PO Box. We do receive a small commission on renewals and a \$15 commission on new memberships.

Lunch Bunch

We meet for Lunch almost daily. We have a reservation for Mondays in the meeting room at the Atlanta Bread Co. With the exception of the first Monday of each month. Because another group already booked the room, we will be in the main dining area. Other days we announce the location on 146.76, usually anywhere from shortly after Noon to 12:30.. All are welcome to attend and may come late, leave early, or both.

Ham Nation

This is just a reminder that Ham Nation, an Internet TV show continues each week on Twit TV. Gordon West, Bob Heil, and George Thomas provide an informative and entertaining hour for your enjoyment. You can see it at 8:00 pm on:

<http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation>

Many other fascinating shows appear on Twit.TV if you are looking for something different, mostly technical topics. Just go to <http://twit.tv/>

Auction

It is time to start planning our annual Spring Auction. The exact date is not yet set, but we will have it soon. We are planning on late March or early April. The Windsor Road Christian Church is undergoing some remodeling, but we expect it to be available by auction time. We are looking for a chairman for this event. It is always a lot of fun and is a time to get rid of your junk and purchase someone else's junk. Many excellent items usually appear in the auction as well. Donations of equipment to TCARC to be auctioned are always welcome.

Dayton

The Dayton Hamvention is coming soon on May 15-17. We plan to provide space in the flea market for all TCARC members to congregate, enjoy light refreshments, and use tables to sell equipment. We plan to be in the same location as last year. Use of the space is at no charge to TCARC members. More details later.

ARRL 100 Celebration

The ARRL: 100th anniversary celebration is complete. Contacts are to be submitted by January 15 to receive credit for certificates. Many of us enjoyed working the ARRL stations. There were the W1AW/portable stations in every state, W100AW at ARRL HQ, and the Centennial QSOs, providing points for each contact.

New Repeater?

Yaesu released a new repeater recently. It is a combination analog and digital modulation, and is known as System Fusion. It is intended to compete with other digital systems, but is not compatible with any others. It is not D-Star. The repeater is priced around \$2000. However, to get things started, Yaesu decided to provide a few to clubs to try at no charge. That went fairly well, so Yaesu opened the second level of encouraged use by offering the repeater to a few more clubs at a price of \$500. Applications for purchase were offered and we applied. We received confirmation on January 8 that we are selected as one of the clubs authorized to purchase at that price. All are on backorder at present, but delivery is anticipated around the end of February.

How does this affect us? The TCARC Board looked at the offer and though this is a great way to replace our K9CU, 146.760 repeater at a bargain price. Our current repeater is aging and could use some work. Other clubs replacing their repeaters with the Fusion system are happy and they found it very easy to make the swap. Most completed it in under 30 minutes. The repeater is programmable to operate on VHF and UHF, so there is a lot of flexibility. However, our plan is to run it on 146.760 when it is installed. How long we will use it is unknown. We are excited to anticipate the new repeater installation. There is nothing that needs to change other than the repeater itself.

Operation of the repeater can be analog, digital, both or either mode only. It can be set to input both digital and analog, and transmit all analog, which will mean that everyone can use it as they do now with our current repeater, and those wishing to purchase a Fusion radio can use the digital input. Fusion is still being expanded. There is no huge network like D-Star at present. Our feeling is that this is a good replacement for our current repeater, and if the digital portion turns out to be not as robust as D-Star, we still will have an excellent repeater.