

Hamfest Calendar

Jan 22 St Charles IL
 Jan 28 Collinsville IL
 Feb 10-12 Orlando FL
 Feb 25 Brownsburg IN
 Mar 4 Sterling IL
 Mar 10 Terre Haute IN



VE Exam Schedule

Jan 14 2012 Piatt County ARC ARRL/VEC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Michael S. Mullins (217) 377-1523
 Piatt County Emergency Operations Centers
 302 S Charter St Monticello IL

Jan 22 2012 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 61820

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

January 2012
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting January 10

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Our program is a presentation on the Logbook of the World, an ARRL product. K9QZI will discuss it. Come and see if it is useful to you.

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.

Dues

Your response to 2012 dues payment is outstanding! We are pleased that so many paid prior to the end of 2011. Thank you! If you have not yet paid, you still have the opportunity. Please send a check to our PO Box or drop it off at the meeting.

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

Curtins' Ham Radio Christmas Party

At the Curtins' Christmas party, there was a white elephant exchange where those attending brought a wrapped "white elephant" gift, which was some item around the house not needed or useful. Numbers were drawn and gifts were accepted and/or taken from others, until all were gone. This year we had a real white elephant and it ended up going home with AI, K9SI.



TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE	937-572-2081

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

VE Exams

Our next VE Exam is now confirmed on Sunday, January 22 at the UI Fire Institute. Future exam dates are confirmed for April, July, and October.

Anyone wishing to become a Volunteer Examiner, please contact Debbie, N9DN, for details. We can always use more examiners as many have conflicts on various dates. Full information about VEs is available on the ARRL website.

Newsletter by Email

You can receive your TCARC newsletter by email if you wish. You will receive it sooner and you may print it from your computer, giving you a paper copy. Please let Milt K9QZI know if you wish to change to email. You can add a note with your dues payment requesting email also.

W9CGZ No Longer Cranky!

Many of us have assisted Earl, W9CGZ, with his antenna from time to time. We have shared the job of cranking the tower up and down. In late December, Brad, K9BSL, spotted an electric winch that ran both directions and had a brake on it. This looked ideal, so Jim, N9AJV, and Brad picked it up from the store and installed it on Earl's tower. Only a few new holes were required to mount the winch. Now the tower goes up and down at the press of a button. This means that Earl is no longer cranky!

Hungry? Please join us at the 2012 Edition of the Springfield No Host Ham Radio Breakfast!
WHEN: 9:00 AM Saturday, January 21, 2012
WHERE: Ryan's Steakhouse Springfield, IL

The No Host Breakfast is an informal get together for all area Ham Radio Operators and their friends and family. The main purpose is just to socialize, renew old friendships, meet new friends, and generally have a good time swapping stories and information.

Tim N9PUZ (Unofficial Organizer)

2 Meter FM Challenge

Our next 2 Meter FM Challenge is Sunday, January 15, with the same rules applying to this contest as the last one in December. Please see the rules on our website, www.tcarc.org if you need to review. We hope that operators will spread out a little when making contacts. In the last one, only a few frequencies were used, creating lots of interference for those calling. Also, please submit your log! In December, around a dozen participated in the contest, but only 5 logs were submitted. This is always a fun time, taking an hour during a Sunday afternoon. We urge everyone to participate.

Yaesu Goes Digital

Just recently, Yaesu announced they had discovered digital communications. Or, at least it sounds that way. The announcement introduces Yaesu into the digital Amateur Radio market. The choice is P25 and/or Mototurbo. This is totally non-compatible with the D-Star systems already in operation. Yaesu produced a brochure belittling D-Star, claiming the C4FM is far superior. Yaesu plans to introduce several digital Amateur Radio products using C4FM. Their literature makes the statement that a new era in digital Amateur Radio is about to begin.

Maybe, and maybe not! Yaesu makes good products and is well respected by most, but it is questionable how this new line will take over. They tried several years ago to create the WIRES system, similar to Echolink. We have WIRES buttons on all of our Yaesu radios, but has anyone ever heard a WIRES contact? They were a little late with that one and it never caught on in the USA. Is this the same pattern with the late introduction of digital? Most clubs wanting digital have purchased repeaters already - do they still have funds for another? It all remains to be seen. Hopefully, cross connections will be made for both D-Star and Yaesu's systems.

Yaesu Split from Motorola

from ARRL

Several years ago, Motorola purchased Yaesu. Yaesu now separated from Motorola, returning to Yaesu Musen as a corporation. Motorola continues commercial products while Yaesu continues Amateur products. Here is a note from ARRL:

12/28/2011

After four years under the Motorola umbrella, Yaesu has split from that company. According to Vertex Standard President and Chief Executive Officer Jun Hasegawa, effective January 1, 2012, Motorola will keep the Vertex Standard Land-Mobile Division, while the amateur, marine and air-band will be under the Yaesu Musen banner. The new company will be known as Yaesu USA here in the US.

"This reorganization will allow us to concentrate in amateur, marine and air-band business, which will better leverage and align the strengths of our entire business operation," Hasegawa said in a press release dated December 27. "We believe that there is an exciting opportunity to evolve our organization to meet the needs of the Amateur Radio, Marine equipment and air band telecommunication industries by continuing to provide specialized services and the highest quality products."

Hasegawa explained that the new company's name will be Yaesu Musen, "a name our business partners have been familiar with for over 50 years. We are delighted to bring you the legacy of trust, quality and solid customer service that has always been associated with the Yaesu Musen company name."

While Yaesu Musen will have a new Japanese address, the address and phone numbers -- as well as the US operations and sales organization -- for Yaesu USA will not change. Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, will remain in charge of Yaesu USA's sales division.

Hamfests

Coming in the next couple of months are some very good indoor hamfests. Waukesha Wisconsin is the first weekend of January while Collinsville, Illinois is the last weekend. Both are all indoors and usually well attended. The second weekend of February finds many Amateurs attending the Orlando Hamcation in Orlando, Florida. This is always a popular event with both inside and outside vendors. Many manufacturers are represented there and we usually find several TCARC members attending. Camping space is available on the grounds. Last year over 300 motorhomes were in place for the weekend. This is a great getaway for those of us who like to escape Winter for a few days. Several TCARC members will attend this year. In fact, a few of them are already down in Florida, waiting for the hamfest! Well, really, they are Wintering in Florida and will attend the hamfest.

February 25 is the date of a hamfest in Brownsburg, Indiana. This is located just West of Indianapolis, on I74. March 4 finds a hamfest at Sterling, Illinois and Terre Haute, Indiana has one on March 10.

Dayton!

The Dayton Hamvention is fast approaching. The committee has been working since the last one and they now have applications online for outdoor flea market spaces. At present, there is no cutoff date to hold your previous spaces, but there might be in the near future. The Hamvention website at <http://www.hamvention.org/> has applications and can take orders online. The flea market space price has not changed, it is \$70 per regular space and \$100 for end spaces. It's 5 months away, but it will arrive sooner than you think!



Dear Optimist, Pessimist and Realist:

While you were arguing over the glass of water, I drank it.

Sincerely, Opportunist