

## 2014 Hamfest Calendar

Jan 19 St Charles IL - Wheaton Club  
 Jan 25 Collinsville IL  
 Feb 7-9 Orlando FL  
 Mar 2 Sterling IL



## VE Exam Schedule

Jan 18 2014 W5YI VEC  
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
 (309) 378-4416  
 Bloomington Public Library  
 205 E Olive St Bloomington IL

Jan 25 2014 ARRL/VEC  
 Iroquois Cty Amt Radio Club  
 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
 (815) 473-4363  
 Kankakee Comm. College So. Ext Ctr  
 1488 E Walnut St Watseka IL

Jan 26 2014 Twin City Amateur Radio Club  
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 Debra J. Fligor (217) 244-4446 n9dn@n9dn.net  
 Univ of I Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr  
 Champaign IL

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

January 2014  
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Meeting January 14

Our January 14 meeting is a presentation by Stuart Winland, KC9USH, from Danville. Stu owns a communication service in the Danville area and has provided many improvements to Amateur Radio in that area. He is a tower climber and has many photos of that activity. He will tell us about the Ham improvements, tower climbing, and his business. This will be a fascinating talk.

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 26 2014  
 UI Fire Institute

## 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

## Dues!

Thanks to the many who paid their 2014 dues already! Check your email or address label to be sure you received credit. If you have not paid, please do so soon. \$20 individual \$21 family.

## Local Pirates Found!

During the past couple of months we have noticed use of our local repeaters by people not holding an Amateur Radio License. They challenged us to find them, thinking that we could not. With some careful listening and note taking, many clues were found. After a little searching around local information, we located the names of all. Only 2 radios were used, but 4 names were involved. They have been notified quietly that we know who and where they are. Our feeling is that this is sufficient to curtail the unlicensed use of repeaters by this group. They are in their early 20s, mostly full employed, with one possibly a Parkland student.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Vice President</b>	Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

## Board Members

Jeremy Lamb 2016	621-8036
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE 2014	937-572-2081
Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402

## VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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<b>Website</b>	www.w9seh.org
<b>Analog Repeater K9CU</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

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TCARC  
 PO Box 2061  
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

## Hamfests

Even with our Winter weather, hamfests still appear around the area. January 4 was the Waukesha Wisconsin hamfest. A one day event, it was fairly well attended and sales appeared to be moving well. Numbers were down from the past couple of years, but everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves. Coming up soon is the Wheaton Radio Club Hamfest in St Charles, IL on January 19. It is all indoors, as are most at this time of year in the Midwest. The following weekend on January 25 is the hamfest in Collinsville, IL. It is one day and is a very easy trip from CU. The hamfest is located very close to the I55-I255 interchange in Collinsville. This is always a popular event for TCARC members. Several usually car pool to this one, leaving early Saturday morning to arrive in time for the opening. Many restaurants are in the area for your Lunchtime enjoyment after the hamfest. February 7-9 is the Orlando Hamcation in Florida. It is a little longer drive from CU, but well worth the trip. It is a large, well-attended event with both indoor and outdoor exhibits and sales. The timing is great for a warm get away from our cold Winter. Of course, Dayton is creeping up on us, scheduled for May 16-18. It is not too soon to make lodging reservations. Ticket and flea market spaces are now available on the Dayton Hamvention website.

## 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.

**Baofeng owners** - Curt, KC9UNL is willing to program your radio! [curtstamp@aol.com](mailto:curtstamp@aol.com)

## 2014 TCARC Auction

We are working on the details for our upcoming auction in the Spring. We don't have a date yet as we need to coordinate with the church, hamfests, and holidays. We plan to have it in March or early April. Start gathering your old equipment that you no longer need so you can take it to the auction. We encourage all donations of equipment to the club to be auctioned. If you wish to sell your items, the club charges 10% of the selling price. No charge is made if the item is not sold. It is always a fun time. We will have more information as details are finalized.

### VE Exams

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday January 26, 2014. It will be at the UI Fire Institute, as with all of our exam sessions. 1:00 p.m. is the start time. Those taking the exams need a photo ID or some positive proof of their identity. The fee remains at \$15, as set by the ARRL. All exam elements are offered at each of our sessions. No reservations are necessary, but those with special needs should contact Debbie, N9DN, our VE Exam Coordinator. Any or all elements may be taken under the \$15 fee, but only one time for each element. When studying for the test, be sure to use the correct study guide containing the current exam pool questions. Below is a list of exam pool expiration dates:

Technician	July 1 2014
General	July 1 2015
Extra	July 1 2016

Here is the 2014 TCARC Exam Schedule:

January 26  
April 27  
July 20  
October 19

### Get Your Newsletter by Email

Many club members receive this newsletter by email each month. If you are not one who does and would like to have it sent, please let Milt K9QZI know and you will be on the list. Email copies are sent at the same time the paper copies go to the post office. Thus, email recipients get the news a day or two earlier than those receiving US Mail.

## Local Nets

This is a reminder of our locally operated nets on various Amateur Radio Bands. Everyone is welcome to participate in all nets, limited only by your license class. One of the longest running nets is the Illini Net, heading into the 38th year of continuous operation. Earl Finder, W9CGZ, started this net the day after he retired from the University of Illinois and he still holds the net daily on the 20 meter frequency of 14.320 MHz at 11:30 a.m. each day except Thursday. This net provides an easy way for Amateurs who moved away from CU to keep in touch with our community. Many new friends have joined the festivities on the Illini Net over the years.

The Champaign County Two Meter Net has operated for around 30 years on the K9CU 146.76 repeater. Several Amateurs have provided Net Control service during this time, with K9QZI currently serving as Net Control. This net meets every Thursday at 9:00 p.m. on the K9CU Repeater. All are welcome to participate. Items may be sold via the net as long as it is not for a business. Newline, the weekly Amateur Radio news report is provided each week on this net.

ARES holds a net each Tuesday evening at 9:00 p.m. on the K9SI repeater, 444.100. Primarily for ARES members, all are welcome to check in at the appropriate time. The Net Control rotates through several ARES members. Following this net is the ARES simplex net on 146.550. It is used to determine simplex signal quality between members.

The Illinois D-Star Net is Wednesday evenings at 9:00 p.m. on the W9YR D-Star Repeater. K9QZI started this net a little over 6 years ago. D-Star users from around Illinois check in along with a few from other states.

ARES holds a D-Rats net Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the W9YR D-Star Repeater. This is a texting and file sharing only net, no voice used.

## ARRL Centennial QSO Party

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world.

The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. To have a score listed online in the Points Challenge competition, logs must be submitted through the Logbook of the World (LoTW) system.

W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only W1AW portable operations. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.

(0000Z, 1 January, 2014 - 2359Z, 31 December, 2014) W1AW will operate portable from each state and many territories throughout the year. Each state will be activated twice so that if you miss one operation, you can pick-up the next.

Everyone may participate. Only ARRL members and appointees/elected officials/staff/W1AW are worth points. To count for points, all QSOs must be two-way (no cross-band or cross-mode), using any of the modes CW, Phone (FM, SSB, AM, digital voice), or Digital (any digital mode, i.e. PSK31, RTTY). You are encouraged to work stations on each mode, but you may not work someone on three modes on the same frequency. QSOs must be made within the legal band limits.

**Full details at:**

<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party#Top>