

Hamfest Calendar
2017

- Jan 22 St Charles, IL
- Jan 22-28 Quartzfest, AZ
- Jan 28 Collinsville, IL
- Feb 10-12 Orlando, FL
- Mar 25 Sullivan, IL
- May 19-21 Xenia, OH (Dayton Hamvention)



VE Exam Schedule

Jan 22 2017 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232 Email: n9dn@n9dn.net
Univ of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

04/23/2017 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232 Email: n9dn@n9dn.net
Univ of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

07/16/2017 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232 Email: n9dn@n9dn.net
Univ of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

10/15/2017 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232 Email: n9dn@n9dn.net
Univ of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

No other exam sessions within 50 miles of CU are listed yet on the ARRL Exam Schedule.



Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

January 2017
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting January 10 2017

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 pm in the UI Fire Institute. Mile Trautman, K9MLT, will demonstrate WinLink, a computer program that permits interconnections between HF radios using the Internet. See page 2 for more details. Mike has used WinLink extensively in preparation for emergency communications. Also, we will discuss a plan for holding regular sessions to assist newer licensees in understanding Amateur Radio and getting on the air.

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 7:00 p.m. at Culver's on South Neil Street. This arrangement allows Board Members who are also ARES members to go directly from the ARES meeting at 5, and lets them spend one evening for 2 meetings instead of taking 2 evenings.

Our Next VE Session

January 22 is our next session at 1:00 pm at the UI Fire Institute. All 2017 dates are confirmed. They are listed in the VE Exam Schedule. For further information, please contact Debbie Fligor N9DN.

Local Nets

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

Christmas Dinner was Excellent!

Our December meeting was a Holiday dinner at The Ribeye Steak House in Champaign. Over 40 members and family members enjoyed a good meal, excellent salad bar, and lots of good fellowship. We are pleased that it was a big success and we are talking about it already for next year. Thanks to Rick Hurd KC9NRI for organizing the dinner and thanks to everyone attending!

Dues

Once again, we thank everyone who has paid 2017 dues. Those who have not yet paid, please send your check to TCARC, PO Box 2061, Champaign, IL 61825-2061. Payments are always welcome at our regular meetings. Individual membership is \$20 per year, and \$21 will include all licensed family members living in the same household. Please check the message sent with your newsletter to verify your dues status. If there is an error, please contact Milt K9QZI to make a correction,

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Rick Hurd KC9NRI	419-2359
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Kevin Coogan	KC8RFE	2016	937-985-2081
Al Wolfe	K9SI	2017	722-8803
Tom Lea	K5LEA	2018	586-5377

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor	N9DN	244-4446
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Website	www.k9cu.club
Analog Repeater K9CU	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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Lunch Bunch

We continue to gather for Lunch on Mondays at Steak n Shake on South Neil, starting around Noon. Everyone is welcome and can arrive and leave as schedules permit. This is an informal group. We often meet for Lunch on other weekdays, coordinating the location on the K9CU 146.76 repeater. All are welcome and input on possible locations is appreciated. Tune to the repeater shortly after 12 to listen for plans or to suggest a location. We are flexible.

Howard Eskridge K9GYI

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Howard Eskridge, K9GYI, December 9, 2016. A longtime member of TCARC, he was responsible for the creation of our VE Exam Sessions when the VE concept was introduced. He was also responsible for our access to the UI Fire Institute for meetings and exams. He retired as an Instructor at the UI Fire Institute after 30 years of teaching. At age 21, he was the youngest paid Fire Chief in Illinois, serving Hammond Illinois. His home was near Tuscola, actually in Chicken Bristle, IL. He will be greatly missed by the Amateur Radio Community.

Xenia or Dayton Hamvention

The website is almost ready to take reservations for the 2017 Hamvention. It appears that you can order tickets now, and Flea Market space reservations will be available soon. As most of us are aware, the location will be the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. The location is East of Dayton with a 20 minute drive. To see the progress, please visit the Hamvention Web. Everything is moving along well and we look forward to another outstanding Hamvention at the new location.

TCARC Board Meeting Time Change

We have made a temporary time change for our monthly Board Meeting. Due to a time conflict by the head of ARES, Their meeting must start at 6:00 pm. We are assured that TCARC Board Members will be able to attend our meeting starting at 7:00 pm, on the first Wednesday of each month. We will continue to meet at Culver's on South Neil. Those who are not attending ARES may gather around 530 or after at Culver's for eating and informal visiting. Our Board Meetings are open to everyone, and we welcome all members and visitors.

VE Sessions

On December 10, the TCARC VE Team provided a special exam session for the Champaign County Search and Rescue Team. Seven members earned new licenses, Technicians and a few Generals. Several have been on the air recently with call signs starting with KD9HO.. Congratulations to all!

WinLink 2000

From ARRL

There is an HF BBS service that allows you to pick up your mail anywhere in the world. The system is called WinLink 2000 and it has a backbone network on the Internet, which allows all participating WinLink mailbox operation (MBO) stations to share their message databases. Therefore, a user can connect to any participating WinLink MBO in the world to send or retrieve mail. WinLink 2000 is a Windows application that permits messages to be transferred automatically between remote Amateur Radio stations and the Internet. "Remote" is defined here as not having land line access. Therefore, WinLink 2000 provides Internet e-mail access for maritime, recreational vehicle and other remotely located Amateur Radio operators, enabling those traveling to maintain contact with family and friends, regardless of their location.

WinLink 2000 is a BBS that provides for HF-to-HF and HF-to-VHF text message transfer as well as HF/VHF-to-Internet WinLink 2000: A Worldwide HF BBS e-mail transfer. It uses PACTOR I and PACTOR II for semi-automatic HF operation. The WinLink 2000 software scans the HF amateur bands continuously. Scanning takes approximately 1.2 seconds per frequency, with 8 to 21 frequencies to scan depending on propagation and time of day. When the software detects a station trying to connect, it parks on that frequency to send and receive traffic with that station.

From the system operator's point of view, WinLink 2000's modularity permits a Sysop to run any one mailbox on different computers. For example, all control modules may run on a computer in the Sysop's shack, while some or all TNC port controllers operate miles away at any remote location with Internet access. From the user's standpoint, accessing a WinLink 2000 MBO is the same as accessing a WinLink MBO. You need not use special software. Whatever you use for PACTOR or PACTOR II will do the job. There is software available that makes the mailing process easier, however, like AirMail. Just connect to the WinLink station of your choice and you are off and running! Note that not all WinLink stations have implemented the Internet connection.

Support for WinLink 2000 is available at the website winlink.org/k4cjsx/, where you can find a downloadable version of AirMail that is compatible with WinLink 2000, as well as a lot more information regarding the system. A more recent software release, WinLink Express, is available there and improves performance.

FCC Turns Down 2 Petitions

From ARRL

The FCC has turned down two petitions filed in 2016, each seeking similar changes in the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. James Edwin Whedbee, N0ECN, of Gladstone, Missouri, had asked the Commission to amend the rules to reduce the number of Amateur Radio operator classes to Technician, General, and Amateur Extra by merging remaining Novice class licensees into the Technician class and all Advanced class licensees into the Amateur Extra class. In a somewhat related petition, Jeffrey H. Siegell, WB2YRL, of Burke, Virginia, had requested that the FCC grant Advanced class license holders Morse code operating privileges equivalent to those enjoyed by Amateur Extra class licensees.

"Thus, Mr. Siegell's proposed rule change is subsumed within the changes Mr. Whedbee requests, so our analysis is the same for both proposals," the FCC said in dismissing the two petitions on January 5.

The FCC streamlined the Amateur Radio licensing system into three classes - Technician, General, and Amateur Extra - in 1999. While it no longer issues new Novice or Advanced class licenses, existing licenses can be renewed, and Novice and Advanced licensees retained their operating privileges.

"The Commission concluded that the three-class structure would streamline the licensing process, while still providing an incentive for licensees to advance their communication and technical skills, the FCC recounted in its dismissal letter to Whedbee and Siegell. I specifically rejected suggestions that Novice and Advanced class licensees be automatically upgraded to a higher class, concluding that it would be inappropriate for these licensees to "receive additional privileges without passing the required examination elements." The FCC cited the same reason in 2005, when it denied requests to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General class and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra class, as part of a wide-ranging proceeding.

The FCC said the two petitions "do not demonstrate, or even suggest, that any relevant circumstances have changed that would merit reconsideration of those decisions."

Whedbee had argued that automatically upgrading current Novice and Advanced classes would simplify the rules and reduce the Commission's costs and administrative burden, but the FCC said "Whedbee provided no evidence that an administrative problem exists. "Moreover, such benefits would not outweigh the public interest in ensuring that amateur operators have the requisite incentive to advance their skill and technical knowledge in order to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service," .

"The Commission has already concluded that it will not automatically grant additional privileges to the discontinued license classes," the FCC said. "Consequently, we conclude that the above-referenced petitions for rule making do not warrant further consideration at this time."

Click on blue text to go to a website

Gigaparts Opening in Vegas

From Gigaparts

After Amateur Electronic Supply went out of business in July, GigaParts began hiring the AES staff in Las Vegas and working on moving the operation to a new location less than 5 minutes from the famous Las Vegas Strip and just 3 miles from the former AES building. Although the retail showroom won't be ready for visitors for another few months, starting today, the Las Vegas store becomes the primary distribution center for GigaParts shipments to the western half of the US. That means fast, affordable shipping to the huge population of hams in California and other western states, without sales tax!

Former AES customers will see some familiar faces at GigaParts Las Vegas, including AES's former shipping manager, Terry Spaulding, and store manager, Julio Suarez. "I'm excited to be back and I'm looking forward to helping all of my old friends again," said Julio. "AES was iconic in ham radio and it was sad to see it die off, but we have an opportunity with GigaParts to do things better than we ever could before," he continued.

In addition to the new and improved facility, another improvement over the AES business model will be a single toll free number for customers wishing to place orders by telephone: (866) 535-4442. Sue Stephens, Customer Service Manager for GigaParts: "Technology has come a long way in the 70 years since AES first opened. Our state-of-the-art call center in Huntsville handles calls and online chats from all over the world. The guys in Las Vegas are going to be a huge asset to us by helping with employee training, adding new product lines and even backing up our reps on the phones during peak call times."

Jeff Sinclair, the e-Commerce Division Manager at GigaParts, states, "This is a significant move forward for GigaParts as we continue to expand our distribution capabilities in North America. The new facility in Las Vegas doesn't just mean faster shipping to our west coast customers, but the employees there add decades of experience in customer service and ham radio product knowledge."

Initially, the Las Vegas store will carry the complete lines of amateur radio and maker equipment with more product lines being added later. Understanding that hams come to Las Vegas from all over the country and all over the world, GigaParts plans on making the retail showroom more of an interactive showcase of the latest equipment rather than a self-service shopping experience common amongst other amateur radio outlets. Today, GigaParts Las Vegas is stocked with ham radio gear and is ready to fill your order! To welcome AES customers, GigaParts is offering a \$25 gift certificate to every former AES customer. For details, please see:

www.gigaparts.com/AES.