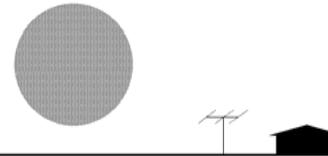


# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

January 2005

Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Editor



## Hamfest Calendar

Jan 8 Waukesha, WI  
22 Collinsville, IL  
23 Wheaton ARC, St Charles, IL  
Feb 5-6 Miami, FL  
11-13 Orlando, FL  
25 La Porte, IN

## VE Exams

22-Jan-2005 CLINTON COUNTY ARC  
9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
SAMUEL F PAUL (765) 659-1720  
FRANKFORT COMM PUBLIC LIBRARY  
208 W CLINTON ST ROOM 212  
FRANKFORT, IN 46041

23-Jan-2005 TCARC ARRL/VEC  
1:00 PM UI Fire Institute (Walk-ins allowed)  
Debbie Fligor N9DN  
Champaign, IL

06-Feb-2005 WABASH VALLEY ARA  
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
D STEVEN SHORTER (812) 232-4788  
RED CROSS BLDG (BASEMENT)  
700 S 3RD ST US HWY 41  
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47807

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**TCARC**  
**PO Box 2061**  
**Champaign, IL 61825-2061**

## Meeting January 11

The December TCARC meeting is on Tuesday, January 11. Here is a note from Ben, K9BF, on the details of this meeting:

This year's January meeting of the TCARC will be a bit different than in years past. Instead of the usual home brew night we will be having a Chili supper. The intent of this format is to allow members a chance to become better acquainted and perhaps find some common interests. The meeting will be held at the Windsor road Church of Christ located at 2501 West Windsor Road in Champaign. This is the same place that we held last year's auction. Talk in will be available on the 146.76 and 444.100 repeaters for those not familiar with the location. In order to accommodate those accustomed to an early dinner hour, the doors will open at 6 PM instead of our normal 7 PM. Chili and coffee will be provided along with some cake for desert. Those so inclined are encouraged to bring a salad or covered dish but this is by no means a necessity. Ben K9BF is intending to bring a container of liquid nitrogen for fun and entertainment. See you on the 11th. ....K9BF

## VE Exams

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, January 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. For questions, please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN. Please remember that the exam fee set by the ARRL/VEC is now \$14.00. Those taking an exam should bring a photo ID and any related materials such as an original license and/or CSCE.

## Auction

The previously announced tentative date for the auction is not available. The Board is searching for another date. Watch here for a new date.

## It is the New Year for Dues

Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2005 dues. Please check your address label to be sure your dues are recorded correctly. The date at the top is the expiration of your dues payment. If you see a date of 2004 or earlier, please mail a check to our Post Office Box. Dues are still \$20 per person and \$21 for families. If you haven't paid, please do so soon. We need your support!

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b> Al Wolfe K9SI	688-2790
<b>Vice President</b> Ben Fisher K9BF	351-7655
<b>Secretary</b> Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Treasurer</b> Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

## Board Members

Bob Minton WA9KGU	
Drew White K9CW	643-7327
Mark Garrett KA9SZX	351-1572

## VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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## Website

www.qsl.net/w9seh

## FCC Approves First Software Defined Radio

From ARRL News

The FCC for the first time has approved use of a software defined radio (SDR) device in the US. This new class of equipment allows users to share limited spectrum, increases flexibility and reduces interference concerns. "This is the first step in what may prove to be a radio technology revolution," FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell said after the November 19 action. "The industry's pioneering work to find more creative and efficient use of our airwaves will continue to bring benefits to consumers." The Laboratory Division of the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology issued a Grant of Certification to Vanu Inc, a software development company, for a cellular base station transmitter. SDRs can change frequency range, mode or output power without resorting to hardware changes or switches. This programmable capacity permits radios to be highly adaptable to changing needs, protocols and environments. An FCC rule making proceeding, ET Docket 03-108, is pending to further streamline SDR requirements. The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio is "a fertile testing ground" for SDRs and that the technology would be especially valuable to facilitate disaster communications.

## CQ 60<sup>th</sup>

From ARRL News

CQ will celebrate the 60th anniversary with a "CQ Gang" on-air event. CQ Amateur Radio magazine invites Amateur Radio operators around the world to join in celebrating its 60th anniversary by taking part in an on-air event during the first 60 days of 2005. CQ's first issue was published in January 1945. During the "CQ Gang" activity--January 1 until March 1, 2005--all hams ever associated with CQ as staff members, contributing editors or authors--as well as current subscribers to CQ, CQ VHF and Popular Communications may sign "/60" after their call signs. Certificates will be issued for contacts with enough /60 stations to garner a

minimum of 60 contact points, based on number of contacts times the number of different position multipliers (e.g., editor, columnist etc) worked. Shortwave listeners also are eligible to earn contact points and certificates. Endorsements will be issued up to 600 points. CQ club station WW2CQ will be active from various parts of the US during the event. Separate certificates will be available for working WW2CQ in all call sign districts from which it is active. Complete rules for the CQ Gang 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activity appear in the December 2004 issue of CQ and on the CQ Web site

[www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQ60AwardDec04.pdf](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQ60AwardDec04.pdf)

## Morse Requirement, License Restructuring Remain on FCC's Radar

From ARRL News

The ARRL does not anticipate the FCC will offer up any proposals on the Morse requirement and further restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2005, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau continues to review thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including one from the ARRL.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

In addition to agreeing on other changes affecting Amateur Radio, World Radio Communication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), left the choice to require Morse proficiency for HF access up to individual countries, and several already have dropped Morse code as an examination requirement. That has not yet happened in the US.

Before the FCC adopts any changes in the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)

reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community based on comments received and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC then will review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. The ARRL does not anticipate any changes in the Morse requirement or in other Amateur Radio licensing requirements before 2006, possibly later.

While this rule making process is under way, no changes have been made in the Amateur Radio Service rules. The 5 WPM Morse code requirement (Element 1) to gain HF privileges in the US remains in place, and no proposed automatic upgrades or other rule changes have been put into effect. The ARRL has posted answers to frequently asked questions on its own restructuring proposals

<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>

## Last Month's Meeting A Tour of WILL Studios

Thanks to Darren Taylor, KF9Z, the club had a tour of the WILL radio and TV studios. It was an excellent tour where we visited all areas of Campbell Hall, which houses both operations. Our attendance was excellent with almost 30 members. This was a meeting not to miss! Below are a few pictures from the evening.



Photo by N9MJZ

Darren, KF9Z, explaining the radio master control



Photo by N9MJZ

Ben, K9BF, demonstrating his operatic ability



Photo by K9QZ1

Darren preparing for the weather show



Photo by K9QZ1

AI, K9SI, inspecting the TV master control