

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

June 2011

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Next Meeting is June 14

Our next meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 14, at the UI Fire Institute. At this meeting, we will elect officers for the year starting July 1. The Board will present a slate of nominations for the vote, but anyone may nominate from the floor prior to the vote. The program is centered around Field Day, making final arrangements for the event, and we will view a video on Field Day.

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.

The TCARC Board meets on the Thursday prior to our regular monthly meeting. It is at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Club members are welcome to attend.

## Next Club Meeting is September!

Following our club policy of taking the Summer off, we will not meet in July or August. We will notify everyone prior to our September meeting. Have a good Summer!

## 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

## Field Day 2011 June 25-26

Come on out to Ford-Harris Park on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26 for our annual Field Day operation. Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, have everything under control for the weekend. Final plans will be the meeting topic. Field Day is always lots of fun, and it provides an opportunity for everyone to see our hobby in action. There is plenty of opportunity for everyone to try their hand at operating as licensed operators supervise. The evening pot luck dinner is always a highlight of the weekend. Families are welcome, everyone please bring a dish to share. BBQ meat is provided.

## VE Exam

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, July 17, at 1:00 pm at the UI Fire Institute. The General Exam Question Pool changes July 1, so we will test using the new questions.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036
<b>Vice President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

## Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302

## VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN 244-4446

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.w9seh.org">www.w9seh.org</a>
<b>Analog Repeater K9CU</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

## Hamfest Calendar

Jul 9	Indianapolis, IN
Jul 10	Aurora, IL
Jul 17	Peotone, IL (KARS)
Aug 7	Peotone, IL (Hamfesters)
Aug 20	Oakwood, IL (Danville)
Aug 20	Huntsville, AL
Aug 21	Lafayette, IN
Sep 3	Dallas, NC (Shelby)
Sep 10	Belvidere, IL (Radio Expo)
Sep 17	Peoria, IL



## VE Exam Schedule

**07/17/2011 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

07/09/2011 Piatt County ARC ARRL/VEC  
Jul 09 2011 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Michael S. Mullins (217) 377-1523  
Piatt County Emergency Operations Centers  
302 S Charter St Monticello IL

08/07/2011 Wabash Valley ARC ARRL/VEC  
Aug 07 2011 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
D Steven. Shorter (812) 232-4788  
Glas-Col Annex-Rear of Building 1715 S 8th St  
Terre Haute IN

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**TCARC**  
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Champaign, IL 61825-2061

## Hams Camping At Kickapoo State Park! You Are Invited June 10-12.

from Donna N9KVE

This weekend, JUNE 10-12 you and your family are invited to go camping at Kickapoo State Park. As of this writing, we have six campers registered. Reserved sites so far are site 66,68,86,84, 70 and 73. NO RESERVATION? No problem, camping sites should be open to choose from without a reservation. There are also great tent sites. Kickapoo has 184 camp sites.

HOW TO GET THERE. Take I-74 East to Exit 206 Oakwood (this is 20 miles from University Ave. ) Take ramp, then turn left. Go about 1 mile, look for sharp right turn to park. Stay on this road for 2.3 miles to campground. If you are not camping, you will need to sign in at brown building in the campground. Tell them you are visiting friends at site 73 (me and Pat's site). Then proceed to parking in the campground. There is a parking lot directly across from site 73. There is no cost to visit, you just need to sign in.

WHAT TO DO. The Landing at Kickapoo offers food, rental for canoe, kayak and tube trips, and paddle boats. Live music on Friday night from 5:30-7:30 is Bluegrass and Gospel. Bring your fishing poles, or bring out your bikes, plenty of places to ride and/or hike. Pat and I will have our quadricycle.

On Saturday June 11 at 5:00 P.M., there will be a pot-luck for EVERYONE, camping or not! Come out and join us. Please bring a dish to share and lawn chairs, or come out ANY TIME and kick back for some relaxing fun around the camp fire. Some of us will be camping Thursday afternoon thru Monday.

June 11-13 is the VHF QSO party, Object: To work as many amateur stations in as many different grid squares as possible using frequencies above 50 MHz. Pat's TS480 can operate 6 meters and is ready to go!

Here is what I have as far as food for the pot luck. This is only to give everyone an idea as to what will be there. I will bring some plates and plastic flatware. I don't really have a count of people for the pot luck. There will be 12 -14 people camping. Earl cannot make it, Jerry and Joanne from Decatur are going to try to come, Milt will try to come, Ben and Sherry are coming. This is all I know at this point. Thank you all for everything! Best of all, I hope everyone has fun!

### Food

Ham and some drinks  
pasta salad  
bake beans and Key Lime Pie  
green beans and scalloped potatoes  
pies and ice cream

Any questions, call Pat (N9GOC) or Donna (N9KVE) at 217 398 4914. Or e-mail at Pat-Donna@hotmail.com Hope to see you there!

## Springfield D-Star Update

As reported last month, the Springfield radio club applied for the Icom grant to reimburse the purchase price of a D-Star system of one controller and one RF box. They received notification about a week prior to Dayton that they were selected as one of 70 clubs to receive the award. Preparations are underway to get the system on the air. The probable frequency is 443.78125 MHz. The Illinois Frequency Coordinator determined this might be the best one, but a 30 day period is needed for monitoring to be sure it is clear as well as notification to coordinators in nearby states. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, The repeater should be on this frequency. Icom officials were impressed with the application, along with the location being in an area needed as well as the state capitol location. We look forward to the Springfield club soon joining the D-Star aspect of the Amateur Radio hobby!

## Dayton! May 20-22, 2011

The 2011 Dayton Hamvention is now history, but it is a good history. This is one of the few years that there was no rain during the 3 days of Hamvention! Temperatures were warm, but bearable, and the sky was mostly sunny. The crowd attending appeared larger than in the past. The estimate was around 21,000, compared to last year's 18,000. The flea market appeared to have more residents than in the past, while inside areas had very little empty spaces. Everyone appeared to be in a good mood all weekend and sales were reasonably good. The Hamvention management and security personnel were most pleasant and cooperative.

Our trailer was a welcome addition to the flea market in the space of K9QZI. Jim, N9AJV, pulled it to Dayton and negotiated with 2 other flea market vendors to arrange space for the trailer. Everyone was most cooperative. We now have the spaces needed for the trailer for future years. Soft drinks and sandwich materials were provided - thanks to those who contributed to the food fund. We even managed to run the air conditioning on Saturday with almost no concern for generator noise. Jim even set up a cross band repeater in the trailer for us to use around the grounds.

Only one glitch appeared during the weekend. Early Saturday afternoon liquid began bubbling up from the cracks in the pavement in one spot and drained through a few vendor spaces. It was quickly determined that it was not a water main that broke, but it was a sewer pipe. The Hamvention management quickly moved those vendors affected, closed the area, and brought in trucks to pump out the pipe and repair it. The restrooms in the West part of the building complex were closed for the rest of the day. However, but Sunday morning, everything was back to normal. Overall, it was an excellent weekend, some even said it was one of the best Hamventions.

## Repeater Update The K9CU Repeater

Our new controller is functioning well since the installation a month ago. The Echolink node appears to be cooperating with the controller very well. A couple of times the Echolink did not pass incoming audio, but they were quickly corrected. We don't know the cause, but we are looking. You may hear some familiar voices making the identification. It is easy to record the messages, so the voices might change from time to time. There are 2 messages, one is for regular ID every 10 minutes and the other is at key up and about 10 minutes after the last transmission.

The Echolink node now has some tones associated with it. When the link is active, about every 5 minutes the courtesy tone will change to a beep unlike any of the other tones. It only occurs once each 5 minutes. This lets everyone know there is a connection. When the Echolink transmission completes, there is a tone associated with it so we know when the person on the link has stopped transmitting.

The controller generates two courtesy tones. The old star trek ray gun tone is back at a little different pitch. This indicates the person talking has finished and that the signal into the repeater is good. Weaker signals produce a more musical tone, similar to a short telephone dial tone. If you hear this after you release your PTT button, you are weak into the repeater. You still can be heard, but the signal strength is weak.

The time and date are available as well as the outside temperature at the repeater site. Press 66 for the temperature and 77 for the time and date. Other features may be added in the future and we will produce a guide to using the extras associated with the new controller. Everything is still in the tweaking stage, so please bear with us if something is not quite right. Again, we thank Ben, K9BF, for his work on the controller, and Mark, KC9DUU, for Echolink work.