

Hamfest Calendar

Jun 17 Wheaton IL
 July 14 Indianapolis IN
 July 22 Peotone IL (KARS)
 Aug 5 Peotone IL (Hamfesters)
 Aug 18 Danville IL
 Aug 18-19 Huntsville AL
 Sep 1 Dallas NC (Shelby Hamfest)
 Sep 22-23 Peoria IL



VE Exam Schedule

July 15 2012 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
 Jul 15 2012 ARRL/VEC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Debra J. Fligor (217) 244-4446
 Email: n9dn@n9dn.net
 Univ of IL Fire Service Inst
 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

Aug 11 2012 Wabash Valley ARC
 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 D Steven. Shorter (812) 232-4788
 Glas-Col Annex-Rear of Building
 1715 S 8th St Terre Haute IN

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

June 2012

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting June 12

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the University of Illinois Fire Institute. This is our annual election of officers for the coming year which begins July 1. The current officers have agreed to remain in their positions, if reelected. For anyone wishing to run for an office, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. In addition, we will discuss the details of Field Day and finalize this year's plan. We will talk about operators, radios, generators, antennas, and food. We intend to have a potluck dinner on Saturday evening.

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.

2012-2013 Officers

It's almost time for our annual election of club officers. Our next meeting, June, is the election. Anyone interested in holding an office can contact Wayne, AB9FJ, our President. The current officers are all willing to remain in position if no others wish to run.

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.

Bands are Open!

Be sure to tune across all of the HF bands frequently. 10 meters and 6 meters have been opening recently due to Sporadic E propagation. You can recognize this by the stations heard from distances around 500 miles away. Often, if 10 is open this way, 6 will also be open. 6 can come and go rapidly, so don't wait around if you hear signals! At night, 20 meters has been open as far as Australia and New Zealand. This is mostly late night hours. 15 opens to Hawaii some in the early to late evening.

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

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

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TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Dayton !

The 2012 Dayton Hamvention was a huge success! The weather could not have been better with no clouds and warm temperatures all weekend. The attendance was reported at 24,000, which is a large increase over recent years. It was not a record, as several years ago, we saw 33,000 attend. As usual, the weekend was well managed by the 500 volunteers keeping everything running.

Several new products were introduced by manufacturers. The new Kenwood TS-990 was a big hit, but was enclosed in a plastic box, preventing anyone from operating it. No price was mentioned, but estimates are from \$6,000 to \$10,00 and should be available around the end of the year. Yaesu introduced a new HT utilizing the P25 digital mode. Again, no price or exact date provided. Yaesu also unveiled a new HF and 6 meter transceiver. The FTDX-3000 brings together a single high performance, down converting receiver based on that of the top ranked FTDX-5000 including a built-in spectrum scope, all at a competitive mid-range price. Flex Radio introduced their "Game Changer" software defined radio, the Hilberling PT-8000 HF radio from Germany appeared with a \$20,000 price tag. Flex introduced the Flex-6500, labeled as a "Game Changer". There were many more introductions too numerous to mention.

Forums were offered all 3 days - there was something for everyone from contesting to safety to youth in Ham Radio, balloon launching, and many many more. A balloon was launched from the flea market as a demonstration. It carried a repeater and video camera. Mark, KA9SZX, and Jeremy, KC9KBJ, assisted with the launch and the balloon recovery.

Many off-site activities were held. Some topics included contesting, D-Star, QRP, and many others. Lodging was available at some locations up to the Hamvention weekend.

Local Flavor at Dayton

Among all the international visitors at Dayton were many of our TCARC members. A large group camped at the KOA Campground and enjoyed the evening fellowship with everyone camping. One person, not TCARC, provided a huge evening meal for the hams in the campground. Bus service provided fast and efficient service to and from the campground. Others stayed at locations all around Dayton. Most commuted to the former Salem Mall parking lot and used the bus shuttle from the lot to the Hamvention.

Our most outstanding highlight at Hamvention was Earl Finder, W9CGZ, attending Friday and Saturday. He drove to his daughter's place near Indianapolis on Thursday, then Earl and his Son-in-Law drove to Hamvention on Friday morning. They stayed in the area and also spent Saturday there. They returned to Indianapolis Saturday evening. Earl rented a mobility scooter and traveled around most of the grounds, outside and inside. He did spend time at our flea market location and was able to meet and visit with some of the Illini Net members who he talks to but had never met face to face. We are most pleased that Earl returned to Dayton after 30 years since his last visit.

Nicholas, KC9OAC, attended on Friday. He wanted very much to meet Gordon West, the author of the license study guides he used for his exam preparation. Not only did they meet, Nicholas visited with Gordon and attended his presentations. Ham Nation, the Internet Ham Radio TV show had video from Dayton on the 2 weeks following Hamvention. Nicholas appeared in the audience both times. See the screen shot in the next column.

Our base was the flea market location of Milt, K9QZI. We had the trailer there and provided shade and refreshments for our visitors. We had a small Illini flag flying 30 feet above the location to assist everyone locating us.

Meeting Reminder

This meeting is our last formal meeting until September. We do not meet during the Summer as many members are away on vacation. Please join us at our September meeting. The date and location will be announced. Usually we have a picnic for our September meeting.

Hamfests

The Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest was June 3. The weather was good as was the crowd. Upcoming are several over the Summer. As always, many hamfests are scheduled throughout the Summer. Some include Indianapolis on July 14, Peotone KARS July 22, Peotone Hamfests August 5, Danville IL Aug 18, Huntsville AL August 18-19, Dallas NC Shelby Hamfest September 1-2, and Peoria September 22-23. See our Hamfest listing for more, or go to the ARRL Hamfest listing at www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

Gordon WB6NOA Nicholas KC9OAC



VE Exams

Our next VE Exam is Sunday, July 15 at the UI Fire Institute at 1:00 p.m. The fee remains at \$15. This is our first session using the new Extra questions.

Fred Kovell K0OJR - SK

We are saddened to report the death of Fred Kovell, K0OJR. Fred was a Champaign resident for many years and retired from the University of Illinois, where he was a well-respected electronic technician. He was on the air locally from time to time, mostly talking with his son, Brandon, KC9KPL, who is a US Air Force Pilot. We extend our deepest sympathy to Fred's wife and sons.

Field Day June 23-24 2012

Our Field Day plans are close to completion. We hope to finalize most of the event at our June meeting. We still need main operators, radios, antennas, and generators. Please be sure to attend the June meeting to indicate what you wish to offer. Operators and loggers are always needed as well as setup and tear down help. Setup starts at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and tear down starts at 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Visiting operators are most welcome. Because we will have control operators present, anyone can operate a radio under control op supervision.

We will have a potluck dinner around 5:00 p.m. at the park. The club will provide meat, plates, utensils and soft drinks. Please bring a covered dish to share and you may bring your own plates, utensils, and soft drinks if you wish. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park. We look forward to another exciting weekend at the Ford-Harris Park.

The park is located 2.5 miles North of I74 and a half mile West of US45, North of Urbana. Exit I74 at US45 North. The Ford-Harris Road is marked and is 2.5 miles North of the exit.

Please join us to operate or just to visit. Bring the family and any friends who might have an interest in our hobby. Guest operators are always welcome. This provides an excellent introduction to Amateur Radio.