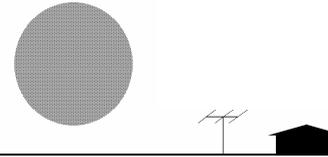


Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

June 2007

Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Editor



Hamfest Calendar

Jun 8-9 Hamcom Plano TX
Jun 10 Wheaton, IL
Jul 7 Indianapolis, IN
Jul 8 Aurora, IL
Jul 15 Peotone, IL KARS
Aug 4 Carlinville, IL
Aug 5 Bolingbrook, IL
Aug 12 Peotone, IL Hamfesters
Aug 18-19 Huntsville, AL
Aug 19 Lafayette, IN
Aug 26 Oakwood, IL VCRA

Amateur Accessories

"Our name says it all"
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www.amateuraccessories.com

TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

VE Exams

15-Jul-2007 KANKAKEE ARS HAMFEST
8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
CARL F SCHROEDER (815) 473-4263
WILL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS PEOTONE, IL

15-Jul-2007 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 61820

04-Aug-2007 SANGAMON VALLEY RADIO CLUB
9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
JAMES STEVE UPCHURCH (217) 529-3218
AMERICAN RED CROSS 1045 OUTER PARK DR
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

26-Aug-2007 VCARA ARRL/VEC
1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
JOSH D KITTLE (217) 431-9472
VCARA CLUBHOUSE
WOODBURY HILL ROAD DANVILLE, IL 61832

Meeting June 12

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, June 12, at the UI Fire Institute at 7:00 p.m.

The June meeting includes our annual election of officers and a final discussion of Field Day plans. This is an important meeting for all members to attend. Following the election, Mark Joseph, KC9DUU, will provide a brief presentation on Radio-Related and Other Electronic Payloads in Sport Rocketry. Mark is very active in the local model rocket club. Come to the meeting to learn that there is more to rocketry than just shooting a rocket into 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.

The Board meets the Thursday prior to the club meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Everyone is welcome to attend.

No Meetings in July and August

Keeping with our tradition, we will not meet during July and August. Our next formal meeting is September. Watch for the announcement as we normally hold a hamburger fry for our September meeting.

Officer Nominations

Ben, K9BF, and his committee of Drew White, K9CW, and Al Wolfe, K9SI, have selected an almost full slate of officer nominations for the coming year. They are President, Ralph Cox, W9PGE; Secretary, Chris Anderson, W9CMA; and Treasurer, Milt Forsberg, K9QZI. Board Members are Al Wolfe, K9SI; Wayne Hamilton, AB9FJ; and Bob Minton, WA9KGU. There is no nomination for the position of Vice President at this time. Anyone who is willing to serve as Vice President, please contact Ben. Nominations may be placed from the floor during the election. These names are only recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President Bob Minton WA9KGU 352-4859
Vice President Ralph Cox W9PGE 396-5111
Secretary Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ 384-4310
Treasurer Milt Forsberg K9QZI 352-5075

Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI 688-2790
Drew White K9CW 643-7327
Ben Fisher K9BF 351-7655

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN 244-4446

Website

www.w9seh.org

Field Day

Plans are being finalized for Field Day June 23 and 24. We will operate at the Ford-Harris Park on Ford-Harris Road just West of US 45 and South of the Leverett Road. Please contact Wayne, AB9FJ, or Ralph, W9PGE, to operate a station or for more information.

Hamfests

Dayton 2007 is now history. Held on May 18-20, it was again this year an outstanding event. The weather cooperated well with 3 days of beautiful temperatures and lots of sun. A few drops of rain fell Sunday, but there was not enough to dampen anyone's spirits. The crowd was close to that of last year. Official numbers are not available yet, but from those attending, the appearance is that it was about the same as 2006. Many vendors in the outdoor area were moved this year from spots they had held over the past 10 to 14 years. Part was due to new aisles running crossways to the normal aisles, and part was due to an arrangement to offer spaces to clubs. The club spaces were along the fence at the North end of the outdoor area.

Sales appeared to be excellent, according to many vendors, both inside and outside. The Hamvention included the normal outstanding list of forums all three days.

Our club was well represented at the Dayton Hamvention by too many members to list here.

On June 2-3, the Starved Rock Radio Club held their annual hamfest in Princeton, Illinois. The weather forecast was for rain off and on all weekend. Apparently, many had concerns about the forecast, as attendance was very light compared to other years. The flea market was 1/3 the usual size, and about half of the tables inside were unoccupied. The weather turned out to be very good. There was one very light shower Saturday and another about the time everyone was packed up on Sunday. The crowd was largest on Sunday, and those attending were in

the buying mood. However, the light attendance made the hamfest a small one this year. The club chose to hold the hamfest next year only on Sunday.

Coming up is the Indianapolis Hamfest on July 7 and the KARS Hamfest at Peotone on July 15. August 5 is Bolingbrook and August 12 is the Hamfesters Radio Club Hamfest at Peotone. August 18 and 19 is Huntsville, AL. The VCRA (Danville, IL) hamfest is now on August 26, apparently moved from Saturday to Sunday. That will be at the Vermilion County Fairgrounds at Oakwood.

Slow Down?

At the FCC Forum in Dayton, Riley Hollingsworth asked us to lighten up. Locally, we may also want to slow down a little when we use the repeaters. We have not heard a courtesy tone on our repeaters for a long time. Courtesy tones are normally used to be sure those talking leave some dead air between transmissions so others can join the conversation. Recently, it seems that there is a race to see who can press the mic button quickest when whoever is on a repeater releases their button. This makes for many doubles, or transmissions at the same time. The result is that neither is understood and they start over. It is very difficult for someone to join the conversation with this rapid-fire way of operating. If everyone could slow down, wait a couple of seconds before making a transmission, we will have more pleasant conversations. Also, if there are several in the conversation, please remember to turn it over to someone. Just making a comment and letting it drop helps create the doubling confusion, as no one really knows who should be next. Please don't just turn it over by saying, "someone take it" as this again creates a good chance of doubling. And, please, when you enter the conversation, the best way is to give your call and nothing else. When you are acknowledged, you can then say whatever you wish. Frequently we hear someone enter with a long transmission, which doubles with another station. Giving your callsign only keeps the transmission, and possible double, short. It is not

necessary to announce why you want to enter, such as "information" or "question" or anything similar. (Does this sound like CB?) You can make your statement or question when your call sign is acknowledged.

Riley says "Lighten Up" at Dayton

From ARRL News

FCC Special Counsel in the Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth's main message at the Dayton Hamvention@ 2007 FCC Forum may not have been a new one. But it's certainly one he believes bears repeating -- at least until it starts cutting through the QRM and QRN that pervade more communication channels than our Amateur Radio bands.

"Well, you could have gone to the flea market, but you came to church instead," Hollingsworth quipped to his Dayton forum audience. "I've got you now."

Hollingsworth repeated what for many Riley Watchers has become a familiar refrain: That the Amateur Radio community needs to "lighten up" on the air. Acknowledging that he was repeating himself, Hollingsworth urged his audience to take his message more to heart. "All of you can learn from each other," he said, "and you need to work together more and show a little more respect for your diverse interests and for the Amateur Service as a whole. It isn't about you. It isn't about enforcement. It's about Amateur Radio."

As radio amateurs take to the airwaves, he continued, they need to decide what's most important -- the best interests of ham radio or their ego, pride or perceived "rights."

"I realize I may be preaching to the choir here, but on the air you need to be more cooperative and less argumentative -- and I need you to take this message with you when you go home," he continued.

As a "homework assignment," Hollingsworth encouraged his listeners to read the "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial, "Most Effective Use" by ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, in May 2007 QST. In his commentary, Sumner stressed that interference occurring as a side effect of legitimate Amateur Radio activities in crowded bands "is simply a fact of life" and that it's "unfair to your fellow amateurs to assume that every instance of interference you may encounter is a hostile act."

Hollingsworth offered good news and bad news. "The good news: Nothing is wrong with Amateur Radio," he allowed. "It is a good service that is showing its value to the public on a daily basis."

The bad news, he asserted, making a comparison to "road rage," is "that there is an element of Amateur Radio that too often reflects present society generally."

Hollingsworth urged all radio amateurs to cooperate more and depend less on the FCC to solve their operating issues.

"We live in a rude, discourteous, profane, hotheaded society that loves its rights, prefers not to hear about its responsibilities, and that spills over into the ham bands," he said.

Hollingsworth's bottom line: Be flexible in your frequency selection and make regular use of the "big knob" on the front of your transceiver to shift to any of the "thousands of frequencies and hundreds usable at any given time of day or year" as necessary to avoid problems. "The world is ugly enough -- don't add to it," Hollingsworth advised.

"We can enforce our rules, but we can't enforce kindness and courtesy or common sense," Hollingsworth concluded. "And a very wise person, who happens to be standing to my left [FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer Bill Cross, W3TN - Ed] once told me: 'You can't regulate stupid.' If we could, we'd be working for the United Nations instead of the FCC."

In his comments, Cross singled out the controversy that erupted recently over fears that automatically controlled digital stations would overwhelm the amateur bands, eclipsing most other modes. Cross cited §97.7 of the rules, which requires each amateur station to have a control operator and, in essence, to employ a "listen-before-transmit" protocol."

When a station is under automatic control, regardless of the transmission mode, Cross explained, the control operator need not be at the control point, but must employ station control devices and procedures while transmitting that ensure compliance with the FCC rules and does not cause harmful interference to ongoing communications of other stations.

The operational rule, Cross said, is: "Your call sign, your responsibility."