

Hamfest Calendar

Jun 8 Granite City, IL
Jun 8 Wheaton, IL
Jul 12 Indianapolis, IN
Jul 13 Aurora, IL
Jul 20 Peotone, IL
Jul 20 Washington, MO
Aug 10 Peotone, IL
Aug 16-17 Huntsville, AL
Aug 24 Danville, IL



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VE Exams

20-Jul-2008 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

20-Jul-2008 KANKAKEE ARS
HAMFEST(KARSFEST)
8:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
CARL F SCHROEDER (815)473-4263
WILL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS PEOTONE, IL

02-Aug-2008 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

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

June 2008

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting June 10

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. We will make the final arrangements for Field Day and we will hold our annual election of officers at this meeting.

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.

Field Day

Plans are almost complete for our annual Field Day event on June 28-29. As we have mentioned, the location is the Ford-Harris Park a little north of Urbana. You can reach the park by going north on US 45 from Urbana. Watch for the park sign on your left. The park is about one-half mile west of US 45. The ARES group will operate the 80 meter station again this year. Other stations are being arranged and will be finalized at our June meeting. There is still room for anyone else who wants to set up a station. The time period is from 1 pm Saturday to 1 pm Sunday. Setup will be Saturday morning. Dipoles, beams, and verticals can be used for antennas. Power will be by portable generators. Some operators will have their own, and we will probably have a community generator available as well. We plan to hold a potluck supper again at the park in the evening. Ralph, W9PGE, is coordinating the Field Day effort. If you want to participate, please contact him. This is always a fun event and it is open to the public. Please invite any friends to visit anytime during the weekend if they are interested in seeing Ham Radio in operation. Anyone can operate under the supervision of one of our licensed operators. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Officer Nominations

Our officer nominating committee is working on a slate of officers for the coming year. Ben K9BF, Al K9SI, and Mark KC9DUU, make up the committee. Some of our officers have agreed to continue, but we do need some to complete the slate. If you are willing to serve, or know someone who does, please contact one of the committee. They will have a slate to present at our next meeting on June 10.

VE Exam Session

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, July 20, at the UI Fire Institute. We start at 1:00 p.m. and run until all are finished. All 3 exam elements are offered and prior reservations are not needed. The exam fee is \$14.00, as set by the ARRL/VEC and the FCC. This covers all elements that are passed that day. If an element is failed and taken again, another \$14.00 fee is charged. For information, please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, our VE Coordinator.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Ralph Cox W9PGE	396-5111
Vice President	Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI	688-2790
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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Website

www.w9seh.org

Dayton 2008

The Dayton Hamvention is now history. Overall, it was an excellent event, with good weather during the open hours of the Hamvention. It appeared that total attendance was down some from last year, but not by a huge amount. In 2007, the attendance was around 19,000 and this year, we estimate it to be around or just under 18,000. No official numbers are available yet. It appeared that those attending were in the buying mood. Vendors reported sales greater than expected, with some surpassing last year. The flea market was about 2/3 full, leaving space for anyone arriving and wanting to obtain a selling space. The inside exhibits were as good as past years, as well as the forums.

The big news from our area is that we had a winner in the prize drawing this year! Milt, K9QZI, held tickets for those who left early or were not staying for the final drawing. Over the past years, no held tickets have won any prizes. This year, during the rapid drawing to distribute unclaimed prizes, the ticket of Donna Curtin, N9KVE, was drawn. She won a Kenwood TMD710A dual band radio. This radio includes GPS and APRS functions, and is quite a prize! Donna and Pat were camping at the KOA nearby, so with the help of Jeremy, KC9KGJ delivering the radio, she received it shortly after the final drawing. There were no other winners from our area, but this was a thrill for all of us. Congratulations, Donna!

The Hamvention was not without problems along the way. The flea market reservations were managed again this year by the club, and they could not keep up with the demand. Many orders were not mailed. There was no communication with the vendors, and phone messages went unanswered. Finally, word was put out via a Yahoo group that everyone would get in, and those without packets should pick them up at the office. There was a line at the office all day Thursday, requiring some to wait for their turn. It appeared that everyone did get in, and most had the spaces they ordered. At the final drawing, the President announced that the club is addressing this issue right after the weekend and will have it fixed for next year.

In addition to the ticket problems, some of the hotels had problems as well. One large hotel closed about 2 weeks prior to the Hamvention. Some with reservations were notified, but many were not. We did not hear from anyone who was not notified, but we have to assume there were some difficulties at the last minute. One other hotel overbooked, causing some with reservations to be denied a room. That hotel did assist in locating space for those who could not get in. It appears that there are rooms at the last minute in the Dayton area as there are more hotels than in the past, while attendance is lower. However, if you plan to go next year, be sure to get your hotel reservation in early.

Even with all of the problems, the 2008 Dayton Hamvention was a big success and it appears that everyone who attended enjoyed it very much. We are already looking at next year.

Hamfests

Dayton was the big one with Princeton two weeks later, this past weekend. Princeton was Sunday only this year, but the crowd was down from past years, both in vendor numbers as well as attendees. It appeared that everything was about half of last year, including sales. The fairgrounds also hosted a high school rodeo on the north half of the grounds. This did not have much affect on the hamfest as the flea market did not fill. The host club will discuss the future of this hamfest and make a decision on next year, based on the numbers from this year. The weather cooperated well for this year's event, with sunny and warm weather. There was a short shower on Saturday late in the afternoon, but only for about 30 minutes.

Coming up is the usual lineup of summer hamfests. The Six Meter Club of Chicago holds theirs on Sunday, June 8 in Wheaton. July 12 is the Indianapolis Hamfest and the next day, July 13 is Aurora, Illinois. July 20 is the Kankakee Radio Club Hamfest at Peotone. The second Peotone hamfest is the Hamfesters Radio Club on August 10. August 16-17 is Huntsville, Alabama. Danville, Illinois is August 24.

D-Star Repeater

Our D-Star Repeater is running well at the temporary location on a temporary frequency. The range is short, covering most of Champaign and Urbana, but it does not go much further. We now have at least 14 Amateurs with D-Star radios. Most have been heard on the repeater during our testing and experimenting time. We are waiting for the coordination by the Illinois Repeater Association. This will provide a permanent frequency for our operation. The current frequency is assigned to the W9YH, Synton Amateur Radio Club, and is due to return to their analog repeater around June 20. At present, we have not connected to the gateway into the Internet. We may make some tests with the gateway in the near future, but will probably wait until we are fully coordinated on the proper frequency. The gateway will provide access to connect with repeaters around the world via the Internet. We plan to hold some meetings to help everyone understand how to use the system and how to program their radios. Wayne, AB9FJ is coordinating an informal programming session for new radios at both the ARES meeting as well as the TCARC meeting. He plans to have a computer, software, and cables available at those meetings. Again, we are still in the learning process with D-Star. You can link to several websites related to D-Star from the TCARC website.

There is an interesting sideline available to the D-Star operation. That is the DV Dongle. It is a small box that contains circuitry to connect a computer through the Internet to D-Star repeaters that permit dongle use. Most of the D-Star repeaters that are on line do permit the dongle. You can click on a repeater and connect to it. There is no announcement that you are connected, and the users hear nothing until you click on the transmit button. When you do that, you can talk to the repeater as if you were local. Communication is very clear. This is similar to EchoLink and IRLP, but it sounds better and doesn't interrupt ongoing communications when you connect or disconnect. The dongle cost is around \$200, available only from HRO. The dongle will not connect to our repeater until we install the gateway.

FCC's Hollingsworth to Retire in July

From ARRL News

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth has announced plans to retire from the FCC later this year. "My intention," Hollingsworth told the ARRL, "is to head out in July, assuming the results of the second round of the PAVE PAWS/440 repeater monitoring in California present no complications. It has been a privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators. I am extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators." Hollingsworth had planned to retire earlier this year, but changed his mind, saying, "There [were] several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community."

While his successor has not been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said he considered it an honor to have given something back to "the incredible enjoyment and benefits that Amateur Radio has given me since age 13. And to every one of the thousands of you that thanked us for our work, many of whom waited for long periods after a forum or radio meeting just to come up and express appreciation for what the FCC was doing in enforcement, you have no idea how much that was appreciated every single time. It sure wasn't a 9 to 5 job, but it was a gift and a daily joy to work for the best group of people on earth. The only bad day in nearly 10 years was September 21, 2001, when we lost Steve Linn, N4CAK. We still miss him." Linn, deputy chief of the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch for private wireless within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and his wife Lesley were killed in a car accident on their way to the Virginia each hamfest. Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I met at Dayton, who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed." "The Amateur Radio Service is part of the American heritage, and I am going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can," Hollingsworth explained. "Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio!"