

Hamfest Calendar

Jun 7 Princeton, IL
 Jun 21 Wheaton, IL
 Jul 11 Indianapolis, IN
 Jul 12 Aurora, IL
 Jul 19 Peotone, IL
 Aug 9 Peotone, IL
 Aug 15-16 Huntsville, AL



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VE Exams

07-Jun-2009 Wabash Valley ARC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 D Steven Shorter (812)232-4788
 Glas-Col Annex-Rear Of Building
 1715 S 8th St Terre Haute, IN 47803

11-Jul-2009 K9DUR ARRL/VEC
 8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Terry L Hackett (217)465-4884
 Burkybile Law Office 15175 US Highway 150
 Paris, IL 61944

19-Jul-2009 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

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

June 2009

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting June 9

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The June meeting is our annual election of officers of the club. Also at this meeting, we will discuss the details and final arrangements for the 2009 version of Amateur Radio Field Day. We need your input and cooperation, so please attend this important 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.

Next Meeting is September

Our normal policy is to vacate our formal meetings during July and August, due to many members on trips or enjoying the outdoors elsewhere. So, don't look for us at the Fire Institute until September or October. Traditionally, our September meeting is a cook out in place of the regular Tuesday evening meeting. We will announce the plans for September a week or two prior to the event. Possibly there will be informal gatherings during the Summer. Since they are informal, we will announce them on the repeaters and post them on the website if there is sufficient time. Everyone have a great Summer!

ARRL Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your ARRL membership through TCARC as we receive a commission. New member applications are most welcome. Send the form along with a check payable to TCARC to our PO Box.

Fox Hunt June 6

We are at it again! Our next Fox Hunt is Saturday, June 6. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Centennial High School parking lot North of the building. The hunt is open to all and those wishing to go along to watch are most welcome. Al, K9SI, is the fox this time since he won the last hunt. His comments are that it will be an interesting hunt, and may involve 2 meters and 70 centimeters, and several foxes. The rules are that there are no rules. Bring your equipment or just show up for a lot of fun!

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
ARES 444.100	Tuesday 9 p.m.
TCARC 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

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302
Vice President	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
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
Analog Repeater W9SEH	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

Field Day

The annual ARRL Field Day is almost here! The dates are June 27 and 28. This is a nationwide event to test and exercise our skills in portable operation. Stations all over the USA (and a few outside) will set up with portable power, temporary antennas, and at remote locations. All stations contact as many other stations as they can in a 24-hour period. Points are earned for each contact and for other options in the operation. It is not a contest, but scores are kept and the results are published in QST Magazine. TCARC has participated in Field Day as long as anyone can remember. We always have an enthusiastic group of operators. We will set up at the Ford-Harris park North of Urbana. The actual radio operation is from 1 p.m. (1800 GMT) Saturday to the same time on Sunday. All bands except the WARC bands are used. Anyone wishing to participate may do so. We need radios, antennas, and loggers. Visitors are always welcome. We plan to have a potluck Supper on Saturday, welcoming all families. Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, are coordinating Field Day for our club. If you wish to participate, please contact them so they can add you to the list. Final plans will be detailed and discussed at our upcoming June 9 meeting. Please attend and help us work out the details.

METCAD Rebanding

The METCAD rebanding went well on May 13, as advertised. Around 8 a.m., the change began and most scanners went quiet. Since none of us had been through rebanding, we were not exactly sure what to expect. We discovered that the change was very easy to follow by simply reprogramming the frequencies used at 15 MHz below the original frequencies. No other changes were necessary. All scanners that received prior to rebanding should receive after rebanding with the frequency change. A couple of the Motorola engineers from Chicago who assisted with the rebanding are hams and visited with a few of our local members during the time they were here.

VE Exams July 19

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, July 19, at the UI Fire Institute, at 1:00 p.m. All license class exams are available at this session. Candidates must bring a photo ID, original and one copy of their current license, if any, and Social Security Number. The fee, as set by the ARRL/VEC, is \$15 to take any or all exams one time. Those not passing must pay an additional \$15 to retake the exam. This is required by the ARRL/VEC. Please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, if you have questions. Reservations are not necessary.

Digital Radio News

Our W9YR D-Star repeater is working well. We encourage everyone to use it! Below is a recent statement announcing the use of a reflector for D-Rats and other texting programs.

*Reflector 15C multi-media, has been provided to the Dstar community for the use of any digital modes such as, D*Chat, Drats and other terminal programs. Reflector 15C will be used solely for Data communications as a meeting place.*

REF015 is located in a commercial data processing environment and should prove to be reliable for use in the US and Europe.

Please feel free to connect and start D-chatting, D-texting and D-ratsing. Please keep voice calls to a minimum as there will be times we would need to use the voice modes while working with terminal programs.

The Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub (MARK) now has a D-Star repeater in operation at the location of their other repeaters in Cadwell. It is on a 200 foot grain elevator and has good coverage. The Gateway is not yet functioning, but it should be in a week or two. The call is W9BIL and the temporary frequency is 440.6375. Mobiles and fixed stations with outside antennas can hit it from Champaign-Urbana.

Ken Billings W9FKI

It is with sadness we report the death of long time TCARC Life member, Ken Billings, W9FKI. He died May 22 at age 90. He was quiet the past few years, but he had an impact on many of our members over the prior years. Always willing to travel to hamfests, he often rounded up a crew and took them to a hamfest. K9QZI was one of the passengers in his early days of hamfesting, in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Ken helped everyone he knew with their radio projects, and he was very active on our repeater in the early days of the repeater. Ken retired from the Air Force at Chanute Field as a Warrant Officer in 1947 and enjoyed retirement, living in Champaign, from that time until his death. Below are some comments about Ken from Earl, W9CGZ:

I first knew Ken when he was a spit and polished warrant officer at Chanute field in 1947. He and I were active members of the Twin City Radio Club at that time. He was a great friend of Denny Denhart, W9IAW, as well as W9LIR, a blind ham, Franklin Green. Denny, Franklin, Ken and I would often get on 28.600 around 10:00PM and talk awhile and then I might pick them all up in my car and go for hamburgers at the Steak and Shake on Third and Green in Champaign. I remember that Ken purchased his first car (I think it was a new Chevy) and after having had it for only a few days he drove over a river in the area and hit the side of the bridge. I was very sorry for him because I think he had only learned to drive a short time earlier. Some of his other ham friends at that time were W9RRY (Warner Bandy), Jim Lehmer (I think his call was W9YVY), and W9CCB (Bud Robinson who was Denny Denhart's brother-in-law) and W9IJM (Si Bing, who owned Bings Jewelry store on Main Street in Champaign). I think W9ZPJ (Glen Poor) was active at that time. There were many other members of the Twin City Radio Club back then who would have known him, but I can't remember them at this moment.

W9CGZ - Earl Finder

Dayton!

The 2009 Dayton Hamvention is now history. Held on May 15-17, it was an excellent event. The organization this year was much improved over the last 2 years. Flea Market vendors had no problems getting in or with their spaces, and the inside vendor area was about the usual size. The flea market appeared to be a little less in numbers than last year, but not by much. There is a move to try to move the vendors who were isolated by empty spaces. Hopefully, they will agree to move closer to the buildings. The crowd was close to last year. Early reports were that it was larger, but no official statement has been heard yet. The weather cooperated most of the time, with warm temperatures and lots of sun. Rain came early Saturday and late Saturday, but did not appear to affect enthusiasm.

Many TCARC members and other local amateurs appeared at various times around the Hamvention. It was great to see the turnout from home. No local members won any large prizes in the final drawings, but Sherry, N9DOG, won a gift certificate during the hourly drawings.

VE Exam sessions were on Friday and Saturday, giving everyone an excellent opportunity to test. At least 2 of our members took advantage of the exams. Matt Crisman, KC9PTL, is now a General Class, while Brian Crisman became KC9PVQ as a Technician. (Sons of N9AJV) The exam process was interesting in that there was no charge for testing. Also, call signs were issued overnight as the VEs had direct access into the FCC computer. Brian passed the test on Friday and had his call early Saturday morning.

Not many new models were introduced this year, which was expected. The usual vendors inside were present and everyone got to meet them, Some were Bob Heil, Gordon West, some of the astronauts, and many others. The KOA campground housed several members - it was like another hamfest all weekend at the campground, with free shuttle to Hamvention.