

Hamfest Calendar

Jun 6 Princeton, IL
 Jun 20 Wheaton, IL 6M Club
 Jul 10 Indianapolis, IN
 Jul 11 Aurora, IL FRRL
 Jul 18 Peotone, IL KARS
 Aug 8 Peotone, IL Hamfesters RC
 Aug 21 Huntsville, AL



VE Exams

06/06/2010 | Terre Haute IN
 Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARC
 Contact: D Steven. Shorter (812) 232-4788
 Location: Glas-Col Annex-Rear of Building
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

06/10/2010 | Terre Haute IN
 Sponsor: Illiana Radio Club
 Contact: James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584
 Location: Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall
 Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

New Technician Question Pool Effective July 1

07/18/2010 Champaign IL
 Sponsor: Twin City Amateur Radio Club
 Contact: Debra J. Fligor (217) 244-4446
 Location: Univ of IL Fire Service Inst
 Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

June 2010

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Next Meeting is June 8

The next TCARC meeting is Tuesday, June 8, at the UI Fire Institute, starting at 7:00 p.m. This is an important meeting as it is our annual election of officers. Also, we will finalize details on our Field Day operation.

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.

Officer Elections

June is the month of our annual officer elections. We elect all officers and one director. We have 3 directors, each serving a 3-year period. Our slate for this election is Jeremy Lamb, KC9KGJ, President; Wayne Hamilton, AB9FJ, Vice President; Chris Anderson, W9CMA, Secretary; and Milt Forsberg, K9QZI, Treasurer. Al Wolfe, K9SI, is retiring from the board and will be our technical coordinator. If Wayne is elected as VP, then his spot on the board will open. We recommend Larry Mohr, K9LMM, for the 3-year board term vacated by Al, and Jim Crisman, N9AJV, for the 2-year term vacated by Wayne. Mike Trautman, K9MLT, remains for one more year, with his term expiring in 2011. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Please attend and vote.

W9SEH ▶ K9CU

We will make the callsign change on the 146.76 repeater soon. The club voted to use K9CU as it better reflects our location. The Echolink will also change to K9CU, but the node, 8231, remains.

No Meetings Until September

As has been out policy over the past several years, the club will not hold any formal meetings during July and August. Because many take vacations in these months, our experience shows that attendance shrinks, so we agreed to skip these two months. Our next meeting will be in September. Traditionally, the September meeting has been a picnic/potluck. We will notify everyone of our plans. Some informal gatherings might occur. Have a good Summer!

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
Second Tuesday - Meets Wednesday	
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	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Vice President	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI	688-2790
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302

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

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TCARC
 PO Box 2061
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

New Constitution

Our TCARC Board of Directors and officers have completed a revision of the TCARC Club Constitution. It was last revised in 1982. Although most changes are minor, we feel that it is now up to date with current times. The proposed revision is posted on the W9SEH website and has been there for about a month. At our May meeting, we will vote on acceptance of this constitution, as is required for changes to the document. If you have not viewed it, please visit the website.

Field Day

The 2010 ARRL Field Day is June 26 and 27. We will operate from the Ford-Harris Park, North of Urbana. This is the same location as the past few years. We will set up on Saturday morning and begin operating at 1 pm Central Daylight Time, continuing to 1 pm Sunday. We take everything down after 1 on Sunday. Saturday evening we plan to have a potluck supper in the park, where all family members are welcome. Members and friends are invited to any or all of the weekend. Unlicensed guests may operate under the supervision of the licensed operator controlling each station. Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, are chairing the event. Please contact them if you wish to operate and/or provide equipment. Voice operation on 80 meters will be by the ARES group, 40 is W9PGE, 20 is KC9KGJ, 10-15 by K9QZI, with room for CW operation on all bands. We would like to have VHF stations, 6, 2, and 70cm as the band conditions have been quite good recently. The evening meal will be a potluck, with everyone bringing a side dish or desert to share. Meat, condiments, drinks, and table service will be provided by the club. We are looking at barbecue from a local restaurant, or something similar. All families are welcome.

Nets Run Through the Summer

Although we won't have meetings during the Summer, our nets listed on page 1 will continue at their regular times.

The Pause that Refreshes

To steal a quote from an old ad, I would like to comment on our radio operation. We seem to have become trigger happy when using our radios. Many seem to want to key and start talking immediately after the other person releases his key. Both HF and repeater users seem to do this more and more. Please slow down a bit! Often, someone wanting to enter the conversation must try many times before they are heard. If we can pause, a person entering has the opportunity to give his callsign to be acknowledged. We have a courtesy tone on the .76 repeater - please wait for it before keying. If you want to enter a conversation, give your call in the space before the tone, then someone will invite you to join. It almost looks like a race to key up before someone else takes over. That won't happen, and if we are courteous, more can enjoy the hobby. On HF, there is no tone, but just a 1 second pause before keying will do the trick. It's not like someone is going to steal your spot and it is not a race. It is frustrating, however, when someone can't break into the conversation.

New Controller for 146.76 Update

The new controller is still in process. Ben, K9BF, discovered some enhancements available for the controller, so he is installing them. He wants to prepare everything correctly, so he is taking time to be sure all is well. The current estimate for installation is early July, due to the changes and Ben's schedule. We greatly appreciate Ben's efforts in making improvements to the repeater.

Section Manager Election Results

The ballots are counted and the incumbent, Thomas T. Cicora, KA9QPN, was reelected for another term. The vote was 964 to 799. As close as it was, all votes were appreciated. We look forward to another well-managed term from Tom.

Dayton 2010

Dayton 2010 is now history. This year, the Hamvention was excellent in all respects. The weather cooperated very well, providing lots of sunburn for those unprepared, and warm temperatures with no rain during the event! It is unusual that we were blessed with all of these as normally something in the weather is uncooperative. The crowd seemed larger this year, and was reported by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association as around 20,000. The accurate count is not available yet, but if this estimate is accurate, it represents an increase of 3,000 over last year. Most vendors reported good sales, not as good as several years ago, but still worth the trip. Registration and check-in was smooth. Most flea market spaces were occupied, but several remained empty on the edges. TCARC was well represented at the Hamvention, with too many to list. Several camped in the KOA campground and enjoyed great fellowship during the off hours of the Hamvention. Others occupied hotels around the area, and some attended just for the day. Many stopped by K9QZI's space to visit, relax, or meet others. As always, many friends from distant locations met at Hamvention. None of our members won anything in the final drawing, but N9YRX, John, from Marshall, IL, did win the 10th prize which is a Stepplr 2 element beam. You probably saw it mounted in the South end of the flea market. We are counting the days until Hamvention 2011. The dates are May 20-22, 2011.

Repeaters

All is well with our local repeaters at present. The 146.76 is covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Al's repeater, K9SI, 444.100 has improved hearing. He discovered some defective parts in the receiver and repaired them. Coverage is much better now. The D-Star Repeater, W9YR, is running well. Our Wednesday night net at 9 p.m. is active with most Illinois D-Star repeaters linked now. Checkins are around 20-25 stations.

6 and 10 Open!

Over the past several days, 6 and 10 meters have been open with lots of opportunity to make contacts. This is sporadic E propagation, which causes these bands to open around 1000 miles away. This is not the long distance opening we find on 10 later on, but it is "short skip". Daytime is best, but there has been evening activity. Tune around and you might be surprised!

Several pages on the Internet can assist you spotting these openings. One which seems quite helpful is DX-Sherlock. It has tabs for each band and updates automatically. You can see this page at the following URL:

<http://www.vhfdx.net/spots/map.php>

There are more sites, but this is easy to use.

Hamfests

Welcome to Summer and the peak hamfest season! Many are on the calendar for our enjoyment and entertainment. We report most of those in our area, but you can locate all listed by the ARRL by going to this link on the Internet:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

Nearby, the Starved Rock Radio Club hosts their hamfest in Princeton, IL on June 6. It is Sunday only - it had been 2 days in the past. June 20 is the Six Meter Club hamfest in Wheaton, IL. July 10 is Indianapolis, IN. July 18 is KARSFest at Peotone, IL. This is the first of 2 at that location. The second is August 8 with the Hamfesters Radio Club hamfest. August 15 is Lafayette, IN. August 21-22 is the Huntsville, AL hamfest. This is always an excellent one, all inside with good air conditioning. If you are looking for side trips, the Space Museum is in Huntsville and Lookout Mountain is just 2 hours away. Peoria is September 18-19, and Radio Expo at Belvidere, IL is September 25-26.