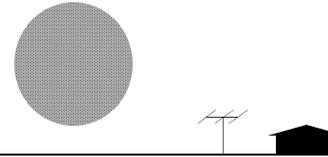


# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

## Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

March 2007

Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Editor



### Hamfest Calendar

Mar 10 Terre Haute IN  
Mar 11 Sterling IL  
Apr 14 TCARC Auction  
Apr 15 Peru IN  
Apr 21 Madison WI  
Apr 22 Galva IL  
Apr 29 Arthur IL Firehouse [new location](#)  
Apr 29 Sandwich IL  
May 18-20 Dayton OH  
Jun 2-3 Princeton IL  
Jun 8-9 Hamcom Plano TX

### Amateur Accessories

"Our name says it all"

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Hamfests Internet Mail Order  
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[www.amateuraccessories.com](http://www.amateuraccessories.com)

**TCARC**  
**PO Box 2061**  
**Champaign, IL 61825-2061**

### VE Exams

10-Mar-2007 WVARA HAMFEST  
11:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
D STEVEN SHORTER (812) 232-4788  
WABASH VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS  
3901 S US HIGHWAY 41 TERRE HAUTE, IN

01-Apr-2007 WABASH VALLEY ARA  
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
D STEVEN SHORTER (812) 232-4788  
RED CROSS BLDG (BASEMENT)  
700 S 3RD ST US HWY 41 TERRE HAUTE, IN 47807

07-Apr-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

**15-Apr-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

### Meeting March 13

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, March 13, at the UI Fire Institute at 7:00 p.m.

We have an outstanding program arranged for this meeting. Ethan Miller, K8GU, a Graduate Student at the UI, will make a presentation on his studies of the Ionosphere. This should be a fascinating evening and we look forward to an introduction to the Ionosphere. If this sounds familiar, it is the same as advertised for February. The blizzard forced us to cancel the meeting and Ethan was kind enough to agree to make the presentation 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.

The Board meets the Thursday prior to the club meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Please note that this is a change from our past board meeting locations. All members are welcome to attend.

**TCARC Auction is April 14** – Mark your calendars now! It is the same place as last year, the Windsor Road Christian Church. Doors open at 11, the auction starts at 1 pm.

### The Code is Gone!

At least it is gone from Amateur Radio Testing. February 23 was the expiration date. There has been a rush of upgrades and there are many new voices on the HF bands now. All Technician Class Licensees have the same privileges now, which means the no code Techs may operate on the Technician portion of the HF bands. The ARRL held an exam session starting prior to midnight on Feb 22 and ran after midnight so anyone wanting to take the code exam could in the early portion and those wanting to test without code could do so after midnight. The W1AW station was open for new upgrades to General who wanted to get on the air immediately.

### 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.qsl.net/w9seh](http://www.qsl.net/w9seh)

## 2 Meter FM Challenge

The results of the 2 Meter FM Challenge on January 28 are posted on our website. It was a fun time for everyone. Here are the statistics from the contest:

31 total Cities (according to logs received) were activated for this FM Challenge: Bloomington, Champaign, Clinton, Danville, Dillsburg, Flatville, Gifford, Homer, Hoopston, Mahomet, Mattoon, Mayview, "mobile," Monticello, Muncie, Normal, Ogden, Penfield, Philo, Rantoul, Savoy, Seeleyville IN, Seymour, Sidney, St. Joseph, Sullivan, Terre Haute IN, Thomasboro, Tilton, Tolono, Urbana.

32 different callsigns were found in the total logs submitted: AB9FJ, K9BF, K9CFH, K9KUZ, K9LJR, K9LMM, K9MLT, K9QZI, KA9IBS, KB1USA, KB9AZA, KB9YZI, KC9HND, KC9IHU, KC9JVR, KC9JVT, KC9JVY/R, KC9KGJ, KC9S, KF8ZN/R, KF9Z, N0PRN, N9GOC, N9NVY, N9ZIV, N9ZKS, W9CMA, W9DML, W9DSP, W9SZ/R, WA9LXT, WB9KMD.

Category winners are:

Fixed Location 5 watts or less	W9CMA
Fixed Location 5-20 watts	KC9KGJ
Fixed Location 20-50 watts	K9QZI
Fixed Location Greater than 50 watts	AB9FJ
Mobile Rover	W9SZ

And, here are some comments from the organizer, Zack, W9SZ:

The contest was great fun! It was one of the coldest nights of the season but my car was plenty warm, assisted by the 100 watt amp I used this time. I heard many positive comments about the contest. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

Once again, we saw a few newcomers to the event. More is always better, so let's all think of ways to better promote this event.

We will be having more of these during the year. I am thinking one in each season (about every three months). We will probably do them during

daylight hours, too, for the benefit of the Rovers so they won't have to drive in the dark.

Also, a couple of the rules might need clarification so I will be looking into that also.

If anyone has any suggestions for future contests (possible improvements, etc.) please let me know.

73, Zack Widup, W9SZ w9sz@yahoo.com

## VE Upgrade Sessions

Two VE sessions were held on the weekend following the dropping of the code testing. One was in Decatur on Saturday and the other in Danville on Sunday. Both were well attended with 12 at Decatur and 16 at Danville. Of those attending, only 3 upgraded by paper only with previous CSCE forms. The General exam was the most popular at both sessions. This was typical around the country, and now has created a backlog at the VEC locations. For each person testing, there are several papers submitted to the VEC. The VEC must examine the papers, (exam, license copy, CSCE copy, FCC Form 605, and any other related papers), then submit the results to the FCC. The FCC then processes the submission for a license or upgrade. Normally, the processing takes only a day at the VEC, but the backlog is slowing the operation. Results are now being posted from those sessions.

## AES Superfest

Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31, are the dates for the AES Superfest at Amateur Electronics in Milwaukee. The Superfest opens at 2 p.m. Friday and 8:30 on Saturday. There will be many exhibits by manufacturers and clubs, and several outstanding seminars are planned. The seminars include general information on digital modes, software control of radios over the Internet, how to improve your sound by Bob Heil and Chip Margelli, an introduction to Icom digital radios, and a presentation by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordon always provides a very entertaining and informative presentation.

The Superfest is free and many prizes will be drawn throughout the weekend. Some of them are Alinco DR-635T, DJ-V17T, Kenwood TS-480T, Icom ID-800H, IC-U82, IC-R20, (8) IC-V8 Sports, US Tower MA-40 (winner must pay shipping), Yaesu FT-897D or FT-857D (choice), VX-7R, FT-1802, VX-150, and more!

For the DXers, DXCC card checking is offered on Saturday. Manufacturers and club exhibits are open both days. The seminars are Saturday only. It is well worth the trip to attend the AES Superfest in Milwaukee. For more information:

[www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml](http://www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml)

## Orlando Hamcation

February 9-11 found several TCARC members and former members attending the Orlando Hamcation in Florida. The weather was excellent all 3 days and the crowd was larger than ever! The event opened at Noon on Friday, with a moderate crowd attending. Saturday almost felt like Dayton with the large number of people streaming in as the gates opened at 9. Sales were excellent, according to most vendors and fleas in the flea market. The commercial building preregistration filled early, so another building was opened for those who still needed to register. That building was filled also. The Hamcation committee did an outstanding job managing everything. Vendors were well cared for and the flea market set up was no hassle. Our own TCARC President, WA9KGU, was seen working the prize table most of the weekend. He was assisting Jack Clark, W9HJM, who retired from our area and moved to Orlando. Zane, KB9LCJ, and his family occupied their usual spot in the flea market. Milt, K9QZI, was set up in the commercial building and almost ran out of items to sell. Don Allen, W9CW, the Sales Manager for CQ Magazine, was at his booth all weekend. Lee Crocker, W9OY, a former TCARC member, attended and visited with some of his old friends from here. Now an Anesthesiologist, he lives about 10 miles from the Kennedy Space Center. K9QZI kept the EchoLink busy during the week, visiting with many at home in Champaign-Urbana.

## TCARC Auction April 14

Start spreading the word about our annual auction on Saturday, April 14. It will be at the Windsor Road Christian Church, as in the past few years. It is a fun time to buy, sell, or just be entertained. It is one of our fundraisers for the club. You can clean out your closet and bring to the auction those items you no longer use. Maybe you will find something that you can use. The club retains 10% of the selling price. You may buy your own item if the price is not high enough. There is no charge for that. Most electronic items are welcome except telephones, TV sets, and stereos. If your item does not sell, you must take it home with you. Food service will be available at the auction. Doors open at 11 with the auction starting at 1. We welcome donations to the club. If you have items you wish to donate, we auction them and keep all of the funds from the sale. Please talk up the auction and mark your calendar now.

## Upcoming Hamfests

Spring is around the corner, and so are the many hamfests nearby. For those ready to go on short notice, there is one in Terre Haute this Saturday and one in Sterling, IL on Sunday. There is one in the Madison, WI area on April 21. On April 28, the MARK Hamfest in Arthur moves to a new location, the Arthur Fire Station. This should provide more comfortable surroundings for the indoor portion of the hamfest. Unfortunately, the hamfest at Sandwich, IL, moved to the same date as the MARK hamfest. Of course, the big one at Dayton, Ohio, the Dayton Hamvention, is May 18-20 at the Hara Arena. This is the largest hamfest anywhere and is well worth the trip. All the major manufacturers of ham radio products are there, along with everything else you need. If you can't find it at Dayton, it doesn't exist. June 2-3 is the Princeton, IL hamfest. June 8-9 is Hamcom in Plano, TX. This is also an outstanding hamfest and is worth a trip to the Dallas, TX area.

**Our next VE Exam session** is Sunday, April 15, at 1 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute.