

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

March 2010

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Next Meeting is March 9

The next TCARC meeting is Tuesday, March 9 at the UI Fire Institute, starting at 7:00 p.m. Our program this month is provided by Debbie, N9DN. She will demonstrate and explain D-RATS, which is one of the texting programs used on the D-Star system. The ARES group has been testing this program for several months and it appears to be well received. Last month, our meeting was cancelled due to snow.

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.

Resident Curmudgeon

Our Resident Curmudgeon is with us, writing a few articles for the newsletter. Be sure to see page 3 for the first of the series, "Losing That CB Accent" Watch for more to come in future issues!

TCARC Auction April 17, 2010

Windsor Road Christian Church

Doors open at 11 for the public

Auction starts at 1

Equipment donations are welcome

Auction April 17

Plans are being finalized for our April auction. We still need volunteers to help set up, tear down, and handle equipment during the auction. Equipment donations to the club are most welcome and encouraged. Just a little over a month away, our auction is always a fun time, and a time to sell your old equipment and purchase more equipment from others at the auction. Please help spread the word about the auction to others. To volunteer or for questions, please contact Mike, K9MLT

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	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

Hamfest Calendar

Mar 6	Dugger, IN
Mar 7	Sterling, IL
Mar 13	Terre Haute, IN
Apr 10	AES Superfest Milwaukee, WI
Apr 17	TCARC Auction Champaign, IL
Apr 17	Stoughton, WI
Apr 24	Godfrey, IL
Apr 25	Arthur, IL
May 2	Sandwich, IL
May 14-16	Dayton, OH



VE Exams

13-Mar-2010 W5YI W5YI VEC
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Keith R Hanson (309)378-4416
American Red Cross-Conf. Rm
1 Westport Ct-Rt. 9e Bloomington, IL

10-Apr-2010 Piatt County ARC ARRL/VEC
1:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Gregory Crawford (217)369-2182
County Emergency Opps Center
302 S Charter St Monticello, IL

18-Apr-2010 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

08-May-2010 W5YI W5YI VEC
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Keith R Hanson (309)378-4416
American Red Cross-Conf. Rm
1 Westport Ct-Rt. 9E Bloomington, IL



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The Past Month Our Members Traveling

The past month of February was interesting for many of us related to our hobby. A few of our members have been away vacationing in warmer climates, mainly Florida. N9GOC and N9KVE were in Naples, Florida while Bill, W9XH and his wife were in Port Charlotte, Florida. Pat managed to check into the Illini Net almost every day from his motor home. Bill checked in using Echolink frequently. Pat also contacted us via Echolink as well. Milt, K9QZI, kept in touch using Echolink while in Florida for the hamfest. After Milt returned, he made a trip to Minneapolis. As he drove near the Wisconsin Dells, he connected home via Echolink and found Pat, N9GOC, also connected from Florida. Who says we need HF capabilities to make long distance contacts?

During Pat's stay in Naples, he made several friends on the local repeaters, and he visited Joe Goggin, K9KNW, who lives in Naples. Our hobby provided many benefits as well as entertainment. It is always great to keep in touch with friends.

If you plan to travel, consider keeping in touch with Echolink, IRLP, and D-star. All have linking capability and are working well.

Celebrate Champaign's 150th

We are ready to organize our special event operation for the 150th anniversary of Champaign. Milt, K9QZI, will meet soon with those interested in setting up the activity. We will arrange the policies, determine awards such as QSL cards, certificates, or any other ideas. We can begin operating as soon as we wish and hope to carry it through at least the Summer. This can give many of our operators an opportunity to make contacts as we hope everyone wishing to participate can do so from wherever they are comfortable, such as home or temporary locations. If you are willing to help plan the special event, please contact Milt.

Hamfests

The Orlando Hamcation was an excellent hamfest, for the most part, in February. Florida's weather has not cooperated most of the Winter. Temperatures were better than around here, but the upper 70s and 80s were never seen. Friday, the hamfest opened at Noon, with steady rain to greet everyone. Outside vendors were not able to open on Friday due to the rain. The buildings were busy inside until closing. Saturday, the weather cleared, but was cool with wind in the morning. By afternoon, the sun was out and temperatures were almost comfortable. Attendance appeared to be as large as ever. Sales went well, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Our area was well represented by around 15 of us who were from here, or had been from here. The usuals attended, Joe Goggin K9KNW, Al Saldeen WB9BSX, Jack Clark W9HJM, all Florida residents now. From here, Milt K9QZI, Pat N9GOC, Donna N9KVE, Zane KB9LCJ, Don Allen W9CW, Bill Kirkland W9XH. Also, Milt got to visit with 2 of his former Scouts who now live in the Orlando area. Both attended hamfests with Milt, one in the 70s and one in the 60s. Wives and others made up the total of 15.

We didn't see any new products introduced as that usually happens at Dayton. However, the new D-Star Dongle with RF was shown.

Other hamfests and activities are fast approaching. Check the Hamfest Schedule on page 4 for a list of some of them. Terre Haute is March 13. It is usually a smaller event. April 17 is our auction, and the Arthur Hamfest (MARK) is April 25. Don't forget Dayton on May 14-16.

AES Superfest

The Amateur Electronics Service (AES) Superfest is April 9 and 10 in Milwaukee. Manufacturers will demonstrate equipment, several informative seminars are scheduled, and there is a fox hunt (hidden transmitter) on Saturday morning.

Loosing that CB accent

By Al Wolfe K9SI

Back in the 1950's there was an article in QST magazine titled "Loosing that Novice Accent." Basically, it discussed mannerisms, euphemisms, operating habits, etc, that were clues to other hams that a novice had recently upgraded their license to General and they were still a bit wet behind their ears.

We don't have the Novice license any more as a stepping stone in Amateur Radio. (It could be argued that dropping the Novice license was a big mistake.) But many of us were CB operators before becoming hams. I spent several years into CB before getting a Novice license. Let's face it; many aspects of CB were fun and meaningful but there was something missing, namely legitimacy and room to progress to something more challenging. I found that in Amateur Radio.

Operating an amateur radio is different from CB. To get along and not stand out as an eternal "Newby" it is wise to learn some of the differences. Most of us pick up very quickly that when calling another station you give the other stations call first as: 'W9XXX, KC9XYZ' is all that needs to be said for KC9XYZ to call W9XXX. If XXX is listening he will respond. Any other words are superfluous. (That means 'unnecessary' for those of you from Rio Linda.)

If XXX does not answer but XYZ wants to talk with anyone then all he has to say is 'KC9XYZ'. 'Negative contact,' 'No contact,' 'Clear,' 'Monitoring,' 'Listening' or any other words are not required and a waste of time. If XYZ doesn't want to talk to anyone else then he doesn't need to say anything further, period. I repeat, there is absolutely no reason or requirement to 'clear the frequency.'

In like manner if KC9XYZ want to let his presents be known and that he is listening for a call then all he needs to say is 'KC9XYZ' or maybe 'KC9XYZ, 76' if he is using the 76 repeater.

There are words and phrases that say to others "Hey, I just got off 11 meters." The most obvious is '10-4'. But there are many others. 'Personal' for one's name is especially egregious. 'Personal' is not usually a noun but an adjective. Hams have names or 'handles" if you must, but never 'personals'. If someone asks me for my 'personal' I will tell them it's none of their business or ask them personal what.

'Mobile' does not have a long 'l'. 'Anywho' is not a word.

"I heard that" as an agreement sounds rather hayseed.

I don't find 'destinate' in the dictionary.

73 is already pleural. 73's means "Best wishes's". Sounds dumb.

The 'Q' signals were developed for CW and normally have very little usefulness on phone. Use plain language.

"QSL on that" or "Roger on that" at the beginning of every exchange gets old in a hurry. I actually listened to a conversation recently on a repeater where every exchange began with "QSL on that" for about half an hour. I finally gave up but was hoping that one of the participants would forget to say it. They never did.

The term "Break" is never used unless there is an emergency. Just say your call quickly when the present talker releases his mike button.

The grammar you learned in grade school will serve you well here. This is not the place to practice your Oklahoma accent or Country & Western lyrics.

Engage brain before mashing the PTT button.

73, K9SI, Resident Curmudgeon