

Hamfest Calendar

Mar 10 Terre Haute IN
 Mar 30-31 AES Superfest Milwaukee WI
 Apr 14 TCARC Auction
 Apr 22 Arthur IL
 May 6 Sandwich IL
May 18-20 DAYTON OH



VE Exam Schedule

Mar 10 2012 Wabash Valley ARA
 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Terry L. Hackett (217) 465-4884
 Burkybile Law Office
 15175 US Highway 150 Paris IL

Apr 15 2012 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Debra J. Fligor (217) 244-4446 n9dn@n9dn.net
 Univ of IL Fire Service Inst
 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

March 2012

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting March 13

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The program is an explanation of storms, tornados, and clouds. This is a recent production by Jon Crisman. It includes powerpoint and video. This is an introduction to storm spotting for those not familiar with storms.

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.

TCARC Board Meeting

The TCARC Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Culver's on South Neil Street. This arrangement allows Board Members who are also ARES members to go directly to the ARES meeting at 7, and lets them spend one evening for 2 meetings instead of taking 2 evenings. All club members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings.

Field Day

June 23-24 are the dates for the 2012 ARRL Field Day festivities. This is when we set up our equipment portable in a remote location and run using generator power. We will again be at the Somer Township Park, the same as last year. It is time to start thinking about the weekend and how you can participate. We need radios, antennas, and operators, along with a few generators. The event begins at 1:00 p.m. Saturday and runs to 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Setup will be Saturday morning starting around 9 am. Everyone is welcome to participate and we will have our potluck dinner Saturday evening. More to come in next months.

Auction April 14

The date for our annual auction set on Saturday, April 14 this year. After looking at several possible dates, this appears to be the best. The Windsor Road Christian Church will again host the event, as in the past few years. It's time to start digging out those unneeded items to take to the auction. The procedures are the same as in the past and will be published in the next newsletters. Items donated to the club for sale where the club retains the whole selling price are greatly appreciated!

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE	937-572-2081

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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Website	www .w9seh.org
Analog Repeater K9CU	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
◆Week of Second Tuesday - Meets Wednesday	
ARES 444.100	Tuesday 9 p.m.
Illinois 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

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TCARC
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Champaign, IL 61825-2061

ARRL Publishes New Guidelines For 60 Meters

ARRL Letter

Thanks to the FCC's Report and Order issued November 18, 2011, radio amateurs will enjoy a number of new privileges on the 60 meter band, beginning at midnight (EST) March 5. These new privileges include a boost in effective radiated power from 50 to 100 W, as well as the ability to use CW and certain digital modes.

Late last year, the ARRL HF Band Planning Committee surveyed 60 meter operators to gather opinions about how to best use the new privileges. On the subject of creating a specific band plan, the survey results indicated little consensus beyond the fact that 5403.5 kHz should retain its status as a de facto "DX channel." On the other hand, survey respondents made a number of suggestions for general operating practices.

Based on the survey results and subsequent research, the committee declined to propose a specific band plan for 60 meters at this time. Instead, the committee created a "Recommended Practices" document (click here for the document). The 60 meter pages on the ARRL website have been updated to reflect the changes brought about by the Report and Order.

The April issue of QST will also include an article by ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, offering a detailed discussion of the new 60 meter privileges and recommended operating practices.

Newsletter by Email

You can receive your TCARC newsletter by email if you wish. You will receive it sooner and you may print it from your computer, giving you a paper copy. Please let Milt K9QZI know if you wish to change to email. You can add a note with your dues payment requesting email also.

Orlando!

The 2012 Orlando Hamcation was a huge success! The weather was outstanding with rain overnight Friday, but cleared well before the Saturday opening. The attendance increased again this year. Unofficial reports place it around 12,000. If this is correct, Orlando is second only to Dayton. As usual, the grounds were covered with RVs and campers. Estimates put the count somewhere between 300 and 400. It appeared that attendees were in a more favorable buying mood this year, but still not up to a few years back. Several forums appeared and were well attended. Many from CU were there including KB9LCJ, WA9KGU, W9XH, WB9BSX, K9KNW, N9PFC, and K9QZI. A few members of the Peoria club were seen as well. Ham Nation on TWIT TV has excellent coverage of the event on Episode 37. Gary Pearce toured the grounds and buildings, recording as he went. Mark from HRO Atlanta brought his portable D-Star gateway and operated it in the HRO booth for use by everyone. It was nice to sit at our table with an HT and visit with others back in CU. It was a most enjoyable trip this year!

Solar Update ARRL Letter

Tad "The dawn of the great black Sun that shines on me" Cook, K7RA, reports: In tomorrow's K7RA Solar Update, we'll have a review of recent sunspot number averages. The average daily sunspot number for the month of February 2012 was 50.1, the lowest since January 2011, when it was 32.2. The average daily sunspot number for the three months ending on February 29, 2012 was 83.3, the lowest since the three months ending in September 2011, when it was 79.6. This is a three month moving average, so there is a figure for every month that includes data from the two previous months. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, March 2. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by The Alarm's Black Sun.

Hamfests

More hamfests are appearing as the weather warms. March 10 is the Terre Haute Hamfest, and it is at a new location this year. The past couple of years it has been at the National Guard Armory, and this year it will be at the Dede Activity Center of Indiana State University. Please go to <http://w9uuu.org/hamfest.html> for details. And, as a reminder, the MARK Hamfest at Arthur is a week earlier than in the past, now April 22. It is moved back to the fairgrounds in Arthur this year.

Not a hamfest, but the **AES Superfest** is March 30-31 at the Amateur Electronics Service store in Milwaukee. This is a free open house with many manufacturers displaying their products. In addition, several forums are planned during the day on Saturday. The special guest is Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR. Joel is the Technical Editor of QST. In that position, he is responsible for the technical content of the magazine, including selecting and editing all technical articles for each issue. He also is responsible for the monthly "Doctor is IN," "Hamspeak," "Product Review" and a one-page beginner technical article he writes or selects. He has been at the ARRL since 2003. Joel has authored ARRL Publications: Basic Radio, Basic Antennas, The ARRL Guide to Antenna Tuners and Hamspeak. Soon to be published are The Care and Feeding of Transmission Lines and another on Antenna. Bring your technical questions and Joel will do his best to answer them on the spot. Other forums include VHF Operations, Recent Advancements in Digital Sound Card Modes, NOISE, the SCOURGE of ham radio and how to deal with it! Its time for thinking OUTSIDE the shack! And, as always, the highlight of the day is The Heil & West Show: 1:45 PM to 2:45 PM where Bob Heil and Gordon West present an outstanding show. This event is always interesting and entertaining. Parking and admission is free. Saturday is the best day to attend. See details of the Superfest at:

<http://www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml>

VE Exams

Our next VE Exam is Sunday, April 15 at the UI Fire Institute. Since our last exam, several have applied to become a VE. If you are recently certified, please let Debbie, N9DN, know so she can include you in the e-mail she sends announcing exam sessions and requesting volunteers. We greatly appreciate everyone who has become certified. Debbie may be contacted by email at n9dn.arrl.net

Dayton!

The Dayton Hamvention is less than 2 months away! If you need reservations for lodging or flea market space, now is the time to get it done. Hotels and campgrounds are filling and Flea Market space orders are flowing in. About half of the spaces are paid already. If you had a space last year, you can pay and obtain it again for this year if you order soon. Orders can be by mail or online. Use the URL at the bottom to go to the online ordering page.

Many TCARC members attend each year and we plan to set up a hospitality spot in the flea market in the spaces of K9QZI. We will have the trailer there which will provide a place to rest along with some snacks and drinks. We will have an extra tarp or two, with chairs outside as well. In the past we have welcomed everyone to stop by, but this time we want to make a comfortable stop for our members as well as members of some of the nets that have local ties such as the Illini Net. There will be more details in our April newsletter.

The Hamvention website is
<http://www.hamvention.org/>

The bad news is that time flies!

The good news is that you're the pilot!