

**Hamfest Calendar
2016**

- Mar 12** Brazil, IN (Terre Haute Hamfest)
- Apr 2** AES Superfest, Milwaukee WI
- Apr 9** TCARC Auction, Champaign IL
- May 5** Sandwich, IL
- May 20-22** Dayton, OH



VE Exam Schedule

Mar 10 2016 Terre Haute Radio Club
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Virginia L. Monastyrski (812) 243-9052
5475 S State Road 63 Terre Haute IN

Apr 17 2016 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232 n9dn@n9dn.net
Univ of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr Champaign

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

March 2016

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting March 8 Tour WICD TV 15

Our March 8 meeting is a tour of WICD studios by Rick Hurd, KC9NRI. Also, he will demonstrate HF digital communications. WICD is on Country Fair Dr, just North of Springfield. Go West on Springfield to Country Fair Dr. Der Wienerschnitzel is on that corner. Go North on Country Fair to WICD, the large building on your right (East side of road), Park in the lot in front of the building (West side) and enter the main front door.

We will not be at the Fire Institute this month!

Our informal gathering at 5:30 is at Za's, just South of WICD, not at Culver's this month!

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. No meetings are planned for July and August.

Our Next VE Session

April 17, 2016

UI Fire Institute

Please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, for information.

Local Nets

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

Extra Class Question Pool Fixed

Last month the new Extra Class questions were pulled due to many errors. All have been corrected and the question pool is back up for study. All VE Exams July 1 and after will use this new pool. Until then, the current pool is used. You may download the new questions here:

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=365>

Website Changes

Our TCARC website is undergoing a few changes to make it easier to use. We have a new URL that points to the website. We added k9cu.club to access the site. The original w9seh.org remains, but k9cu will take you there. Changing w9seh would create many problems with links to it already on the Internet. Accessing pages within the site should be easier. Change is in progress and not complete yet. K9QZI is working on the changes. Check the site for progress.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Rick Hurd KC9NRI	419-2359
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Kevin Coogan	KC8RFE	2016	937-985-2081
Al Wolfe	K9SI	2017	722-8803
Tom Lea	K5LEA	2018	586-5377

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor

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TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Auction!

Plans are about complete for our annual TCARC Auction on April 9. It will be at the Windsor Road Christian Church, between Duncan and Mattis on Windsor, the same location as recent years. Set up starts at 8:30 am. Bidder numbers are \$3, required if you buy or sell, and no charge to those just watching. Assistance by club members is needed to arrange chairs, tables, and help Steve, KR4S, move in his mobile store, Amateur Accessories. We should be ready for equipment for sale to be brought in at 11 am. Help with equipment is always appreciated. Items will be checked in, numbered, and placed on viewing tables. During the auction, we need a few runners to move equipment for auctioning. At the close, help is needed to locate items and assist purchasers carrying items out. Tables and chairs must be returned to their proper location and Steve will appreciate assistance carrying his goods back out to his truck. We will use the auction computer program provided by Jon Crisman, Jim's father. It worked well last year. If you can help, please contact Wayne, AB9FJ, to be added to the list. Also, please consider donating items to the club for the auction where the club retains the total selling price. You are also encouraged to bring items to sell, with the club retaining 10% of the sales price. You can buy your own items back if you are not seeing the price you want. No charge for buy backs. Please talk up the auction on the air and to your friends. We usually are finished with everything around 4 pm. If you have any items to donate as door prizes, please bring them to our March 8 meeting

Auction Flyer

Attached to your newsletter is a flyer for our auction. Please print it and share it anywhere you can. Businesses, restaurants, and any other locations with public traffic are best. Please be sure to ask permission to post these. You may print them on colored paper - this attracts more attention, but white is ok if you don't have any other. Your help is greatly appreciated.

40 Years of the Illini Net

March 1 2016, Earl Finder, W9CGZ, celebrated 40 years managing the Illini Net. He began the net the day he retired in 1976, March 1. The plan was to keep in touch with Amateur Radio friends who moved away from CU. As time passed, many joined the net, most with ties to CU or the UI, but many just joined because they enjoyed the fellowship of the net. It has run continuously since, on 14.320 MHz at 11:30 am Central time. That is, every day except Thursdays as Earl has a standing invitation to have Lunch with his family. Often others hold an unofficial Illini Net on Thursdays anyway. Early years, Earl attended a service club Lunch on Thursdays, but it is the family Lunch now. Several hundred Amateurs have participated in the net. Currently, around 35 are active on the net. It is interesting to hear from those who live far away with ties to CU. Anyone wishing to check into the net is most welcome. We congratulate Earl for this outstanding accomplishment!

Dayton Hamvention

Are you ready? Dayton is sneaking up on us. It is time to think about your plans for the largest hamfest in the world. May 20-22 is the magic weekend. Hotels are filling, so if you don't yet have your reservation, you should book your room right away! The best way is to search online using the hotel brand of your choice. Several hotels South of Dayton still have space. Closest ones are already filled. As in past years, K9QZI and TCARC will share flea market spaces. TCARC members are invited to use tables in our spaces at no charge. Also, we will have chairs and shade for those wishing to relax anytime the flea market is open. Cold soft drinks should be available for our members. We are happy to store purchases you don't want to carry around. Our spaces will be FW2731-2734. Look for our orange Illini flag flying above our spaces. The general location is near the center of the West fleamarket. If you wish to have your own fleamarket space, they are available online. Just click on the link below and go to the fleamarket information.

<http://hamvention.org/>

Illinois Repeater Association

We will host the Illinois Repeater Association meeting on April 16. The IRA is the organization that coordinates repeater frequencies for the state of Illinois. It is a group of volunteers who give their time arranging frequencies so repeaters do not interfere with each other. Should there be a conflict and one repeater is coordinated while the other is not, the FCC will require the non-coordinated repeater to change frequency. The IRA also works with surrounding states to be sure those close to borders do not conflict.

The IRA has a Board of Directors and officers, elected by the membership. The board and officers meet the evening prior to the general meeting. On Saturday, April 16, members of IRA will meet in Champaign at the Windsor Road Christian Church. The meeting usually is from around 9 to Noon. Policies are discussed, officers elected. And sometimes technical presentations are made.

This annual meeting is held near the center of the state to make it easier for everyone to attend. Recently, there was a concern about the cost of holding this meeting in a conference center in Bloomington. Al, K9SI, offered to arrange for the use of his church as he does for our auction. The TCARC Board agreed to host the group and provide coffee and donuts for the meeting, so the IRA will not have the high costs as in the past.

We need help from our TCARC members setting up chairs and tables for the event as well as putting them away afterward. Milt, K9QZI, will coordinate the help. Please contact him if you can assist us. The meeting is open to all if any TCARC members wish to attend.

This is our opportunity to host Amateur Radio Operators from all over Illinois. Each repeater is represented by someone attending this meeting. We hope to provide a friendly and welcome atmosphere for our guests.

AES Superfest April 2

Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee is again holding the annual Superfest in their store. Several vendors and manufacturers will set up to demonstrate their products. Many seminars are scheduled to provide good Amateur Radio information. AES usually has special prices for the event.

Hamfests

With warm weather approaching, many hamfests are popping up on the calendar. Last month, the Orlando Hamcation went very well with good weather and a large crowd. The ARRL held a convention along with Hamcation. Reports are that Hamcation is second only to Dayton. This coming weekend, Saturday March 12, is the Terry Haute hamfest. There was some confusion last year as some nearby hamfests were thought to be the Terre Haute hamfest as we know it. However, the one this Saturday is the real one. Located at the Clay County Fairgrounds just South of Brazil, IN, it is an all indoor event. April 2 is April Fools Fest in Noble, IL, which is South of Effingham. June 5 is the Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest in Princeton, IL.

You may check out all hamfests on the ARRL web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

VE Exams

Just a little unusual, but we want to congratulate Matt Bretz, KD9CYR, on becoming an Extra Class Licensee. He had the material down well in late February, so he chose to test while it was fresh. He tested at Norway, IL on February 20 and the result posted on the FCC site March 1. Congratulations!

Just a reminder that the Extra Class Question Pool changes July 1 2016. Our next and last exam session before the change is April 17. The new pool has more current questions on digital, Internet, etc.

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Annual Auction

is

April 9, 2016

**Windsor Road Christian Church
2501 W Windsor Road
Champaign, Illinois**

Doors open 11 a.m. Auction begins 1:00 p.m.

Bidder Numbers \$3.00

Grand Door Prize 2m/70cm HT Radio

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