

Hamfest Calendar

May 20 Dayton, OH
 Jun 5 Princeton, IL
 Jun 19 Wheaton, IL
 Jul 9 Indianapolis, IN
 Jul 10 Aurora, IL
 Jul 17 Peotone, IL



VE Exam Schedule

05/14/2011 Wabash Valley ARA
 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Terry L. Hackett (217) 465-4884
 Location: Burkybile Law Office
 15175 US Highway 150 Paris IL

05/14/2011 Central Illinois Radio Club
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) W5YI VEC
 Keith R. Hanson (309) 378-4416
 Fire Station-Lower Level
 1300 E College Ave Normal IL

06/04/2011 WB9QPM, AB9GR & KC9DAA
 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 James B. Hudson (217) 774-5978
 Shelby County EMA Office
 315 East Main St Shelbyville IL

07/17/2011 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

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

May 2011

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Next Meeting is May 10

Our next meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, at the UI Fire Institute. We will be treated to a double program this month - Mark, KC9DUU, will give a short presentation on his recent trip to Huntsville, Alabama. No, not for a hamfest, but a rocket symposium held for students world-wide. Mark was the advisor and Safety Officer for the UI student group. The second meeting item is a demonstration on constructing a "potato gun", which is a great item for stringing wire antennas in trees. Details and actual construction are part of the program, by AB9FJ, K9MLT, and N9AJV.

Some of us gather at Culver's on South Neil prior to the meeting, around 6 pm. All are welcome June is our election meeting. If you are interested in an office or board position, please contact AB9FJ

VE Exam

Our most recent exam session was Sunday, April 17, at the UI Fire Institute. Four VEs provided exams for 5 candidates. All passed the elements they planned, and everyone left happy. Our next session is July 17 at the Fire Institute. Please note that the new question pool for the General exam is effective July 1, so our next session will use the new questions. Please contact Debbie, N9DN if you have questions.

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

Field Day 2011 June 25-26, 2011

The date is fast approaching! Be sure to contact AB9FJ or W9PGE to sign up to provide a station for the weekend at the Ford-Harris Park. Some stations are booked, but we need more. If you can't provide a station, you are welcome to come out and operate one or more of those on the air. We need antennas, masts, generators, and people. Setup and tear down are most critical times of need. Setup is Saturday morning, while tear down is Sunday afternoon, June 25-26. We will make final plans and coordination at our June TCARC meeting, but please indicate your desire prior to that meeting.

Illinois Repeater Association

At the April 2011 meeting of the IRA, Al Wolfe, K9SI, was reelected along with Bill Kraus, KA9FER, as President. Milt, K9QZI, continues on the Board.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036
Vice President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302

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

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TCARC
 PO Box 2061
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Dayton! May 20-22, 2011

It's almost here! In just a little over a week, thousands will converge on Dayton Ohio for the 60th year of the annual Dayton Hamvention. Started in 1952, the event attracted 600. The first prize was a Collins 75A2. It has grown and shrunk over the years, topping 33,000 at one point, with an average of 17,000 to 18,000 attending now. It is the World's largest Amateur Radio event and continues to excite the whole Amateur Radio community.

If you plan to go, here are some tips and helps for your trip.

Hotels - there are many rooms still available at the writing of this newsletter. The number is limited, and many locations are full, but space is available in and around Dayton. Don't wait to book - most have free cancellation if needed.

Flea Market spaces are still available and will continue to be during the Hamvention weekend. Walk-in registrations are accepted, but it is best to go online and book your space ahead so you can pick from the remaining spaces. This is much different from a few years ago when spaces were allocated on a lottery basis and not all applicants got a space!

Our new trailer will be in the Flea Market for rest and relaxation of all TCARC members. It has a couple of bunks, comfortable seats, tables, and radios. We will have food and cold drinks available in the trailer. Stop by the K9QZI usual spaces and take advantage of the trailer. Spaces are 1513-1516 on the West side of the arena, just beyond the West food tent. Items you purchase may be left in the trailer while you shop for more. You are most welcome to just stop by and say hi, or relax outside the trailer as well. Cooking and toilet facilities will not be available in the trailer as they are prohibited by local ordinance.

D-Star REF038C will be linked to Dayton, so we will try to have our W9YR connected to 38C during Hamvention.

Repeater Update The K9CU Repeater

Over this past weekend, many changes took place in our 146.76 repeater. The callsign is now K9CU, reflecting the Champaign-Urbana location. A new controller is in place, providing more control and several new options. The original receiver was repaired and reinstalled. A temporary receiver has been in place for a few months. The Echolink node is now K9CU, keeping the node number of 8231. To connect to it, look up K9CU in the program on your computer, or touch tone in 8231 on your radio if you are at another repeater location.

As the installation was just made, many adjustments are needed as we use the system. Please be patient as we check for problems and for ways to improve the operation, and be tolerant of some of the strange voices that identify the system. Ben, K9BF, set up the controller, while Mark, KC9DUU, worked on the Echolink node. As you probably know, the Echolink node is at the repeater site, sharing the Internet connection with our W8YR D-Star repeater. Please let Ben or Mark know of any irregularities in the repeater operation. Watch for new features with the identifier, announcements, and automatic functions. Thanks to Ben and Mark for their efforts!

Hamfests

May 1 found many TCARC members in Arthur, Illinois, attending the MARK Hamfest 50th anniversary. As always, it was a very nice hamfest, located in and around the Arthur Fire Station. The weather cooperated well and the crowd was good. Everyone enjoyed the event.

Coming up, June 5 is the Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest in Princeton, Illinois. This is now a one-day hamfest, Sunday only. It is at the fairgrounds on the West side of Princeton. Mostly outside, it is always an enjoyable hamfest.

Springfield D-Star

Icom has an offer out to provide D-Star repeaters to clubs not having a D-Star system nearby. The Sangamon Valley Radio Club in Springfield, Illinois decided to investigate the offer. An application to Icom is the first step. Icom will pick 70 clubs nationwide and will reimburse the purchase price of a controller and one RF module, provided certain conditions are met. The system must be on the air, have at least 10 registered to use it, and remain operational for at least one year. N9UWI, Oliver, a SVRC club member who grew up in Champaign, picked up on the offer and presented it to the club. He requested K9QZI to make a presentation on D-Star to the club members last week. Overall, they were most interested and wish to pursue the grant. They have a location at the top of St John's Hospital, complete with Internet access. Feedline will be very short. Hopefully, Icom will select the SVRC as a recipient and we will see another D-Star system in the area. We wish them the best!

Trailer

Several members purchased the trailer to be used for some of our activities. Jim, N9AJV, is heading up the trailer functions. Thanks to Jim and Al, K9SI, along with several others, the trailer is now usable for activities. The bed was removed and replaced with an operating table. Wiring is in for AC power as well as hefty 12 volt power. A feed through box is installed in the front of the trailer, providing access to the outside for cables, power, rotors, or whatever else needed. We have some equipment, but we would like to have much more in the way of radios and antennas. Donations are most welcome. Also, we probably will pass the hat for more \$\$ contributions from anyone wishing to help. If you have not participated, now is your opportunity. Please contact Jim for details and to contribute. The trailer is not an official item of the club, but several members purchased it for the use of the club. We can use any assistance you can give.

Happy Camper Hams

YOU ARE INVITED! On the weekend of June 10-12 you and your family are invited to go camping at Kickapoo State Park. So far we have five campers registered. There is plenty of room to camp in whatever style you prefer. Reservations can be made by going on line to Reserve America Kickapoo. Reserved sites so far are site 66, 68, 86, 84, 70 and 72.

On Saturday night June 11, we will have a pot-luck for everyone. Please bring a dish and join us on Saturday evening or come out any time and kick back for some relaxing fun around the camp fire. Any questions, call Pat (N9GOC) and Donna (N9KVE) at 217 398 4914. Or e-mail at:

Pat-Donna@hotmail.com

ARRL Insurance

Effective May 1st, the ARRL has changed program administrators and insurance companies for its ARRL-sponsored Equipment Insurance and Club Liability insurance plans. The League has signed an agreement with Hays Affinity Group to serve as the program administrator to provide equipment insurance to its members who choose to elect coverage. Hays will be replacing Marsh Affinity Group Services as the program's administrator and will be introducing new policies, underwritten by the Hanover Insurance Company.

Members who are currently insured under the old plans are likely to receive a notice from Marsh, announcing the change. Be assured, if you currently have equipment or club liability insurance provided through Marsh Affinity Group, your coverage will continue through the end of the current policy term. But keep in mind that when your policy expires, your coverage will not automatically be switched over to Hays. In addition, beginning May 1, the ARRL will no longer be able to help you resolve any issues you may have with Marsh, the insurance company or their claims paying agent. Our contractual agreement with them has been terminated. Details at ARRL