

**Hamfest Calendar  
2015**

- May 15-17 Dayton OH
- Jun 7 Princeton IL
- Jun 21 Wheaton IL
- Jul 11 Indianapolis IN
- Jul 19 Peotone ILKARS
- Aug 2 Peotone IL Hamfesters
- Aug 15 Huntsville AL
- Aug 15 Danville IL



**VE Exam Schedule**

May 14 2015 Terre Haute Radio Club  
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) VEC: LAUREL MD  
Virginia L. Monastyrski (812) 243-9052  
Ryves Youth Center 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

Jul 19 2015 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 IL

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

**May 2015**

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Meeting May 12

The next TCARC meeting is Tuesday May 12 at the [UI Fire Institute](#) at 7:00 pm. Joe K9KNW will show his Ham Radio setup in his motorhome and trailer. He will bring it to the meeting and show how he sets up antennas for [EME](#) and [Meteor Scatter](#). All contained in the vehicles, he has a unique system to set everything up by himself. It is a fascinating arrangement. In case of rain, we will have a video similar to last month.

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.

## Our Next VE Session

July 19 2015 1:00 p.m.

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 |

## 501c3 Finally!

Last month, we received another letter from the IRS stating that there was an error in their processing of our application. We are now reinstated as a valid 501c3 organization, which means we can receive contributions which are tax deductible by the donor. The reinstatement is a correction and the date reverts back to our original application. We are pleased to have this situation resolved!

## Dayton Starts Friday!

There is still time to plan your trip to Dayton. We invite all TCARC members to use our Flea Market Spaces, FW2731 to 2734, at no charge. We will use 147.400 simplex around the grounds, please use 162.2 tone. Anyone not staying for the Sunday prize drawing may leave tickets with Milt K9QZi. He will attend the drawing and bring back any winnings. See page 3 for more Dayton details.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

|                       |                      |          |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| <b>President</b>      | Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ | 384-4310 |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Paul Toth N9XDN      | 840-3522 |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Chris Anderson W9CMA | 403-1599 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Milt Forsberg K9QZI  | 352-5075 |

### Board Members

|             |        |      |          |
|-------------|--------|------|----------|
| Jeremy Lamb | KC8KGJ | 2016 | 621-8036 |
| Al Wolfe    | K9SI   | 2017 | 722-8803 |
| Jim Crisman | N9AJV  | 2015 | 202-7402 |

### VE Coordinator

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Debbie Fligor N9DN | 244-4446 |
|--------------------|----------|

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Website</b>              | <a href="http://www.w9seh.org">www.w9seh.org</a> |
| <b>Analog Repeater K9CU</b> | 146.760  |
| <b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b> | 443.48125  |

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

## Handihams

Bill Vokac, K9BV, has been a volunteer with the Handiham organization for many years. Handiham serves anyone with a handicap. It is an outstanding organization and they can use help anytime, but mostly at the camp during Summer. We asked Bill to give us a little information, so here it is:

1) Handiham Applications now being accepted for the 2015 Radio Camp...which will be held this year from an August 18th arrival date AND an August 24th departure date. Instruction will cover all ham licenses - with a VE Exam at the end of the week, administered by the local Stillwater ARC Members. For those hams not upgrading, there is an Operating Skills week long session covering all ham modes... Additionally, a Simulated Emergency Test and fox-hunting skills will be done. For more information, go to their website at [www.handiham.org](http://www.handiham.org) this will be my 20th year of volunteering as an instructor...

Volunteers for the camp OR other duties through the year are always needed -- such as recording license manuals and equipment operating manuals -- as well as donations of ham gear no longer needed....to be refurbished and loaned to disabled hams after modifications (if needed) are done.... adding pegs to knobs for hams with MS or other disabilities, voice chips for use by the blind, even computerized voice for SSB if their speech is paired...

2) There is a SLOW speed CW net every Friday morning at 7112 MHz at 8am Central Time.....Listen for W8IRT Calling "CQ HH, CQ HH" all hams are welcome to participate....

3) Handiham has "Voice net practice" every morning at 11am Central Time on Echolink -- check into the Handiham Conference Server OR any station /R or /L that is linked to the Handiham Conference....(Smart phones often have difficulty with checking directly into the Conference server - so, additional links are available....computers work fine...)

Some disabled members of Handiham are learning to be a net control station, so please be patient...

Additional nets using the Handiham Conference occur at 7pm on Wednesday (trivia guess nite), Thursday (tech net - any ham or computer questions are welcome and will be answered...) Friday (world wide technical Q & A)

73, Bill Vokac K9BV

## TCARC Officer and Board Election

June is the month we elect our TCARC leaders. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected each year. One member of the Board of Directors is elected to a 3 year term at each annual election. The present officers are willing to be nominated for another term. The Board Member scheduled for reelection this year is Jim Crisman, N9AJV. He is willing to serve another term. Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the election so that anyone wishing to run for office may do so.

### KC8RFE New Repeater

Kevin, KC8RFE, TCARC member and formerly from CU, has a new repeater in Dayton, OH. He had a D-Star repeater here until he moved to Dayton. The repeater moved with him, but was just replaced by a new one, a Yaesu System Fusion. This is the same model we just acquired. However, Kevin converted the Yaesu to operate as a D-Star repeater! He linked to our D-Star repeater in the last few days, and it sounds good! He is working on plans to have it operate on both D=Star and Yaesu Fusion. It is W9IPA on 443.4625 MHz, and covers the Hamvention grounds well.

### VE Exam

Our most recent VE Exam Session was one of the largest of recent years. 10 candidates tested with 4 VEs supervising. All elements were issued among those testing. We are most pleased that Dave W9IPV now holds the Amateur Extra Class License as a result of the session. The issuing of licenses was delayed from the usual 5 days to 10 days due to a heavy volume of exam sessions and the ARRL VEC was short one person to process them. However, all have been issued.

### Fox Hunt

ARES held a Fox Hunt in April. The planned date was rained out, so the hunt was a week later. Those participating had a good time. The next one is planned for May 31, with a rain date of June 7. It is at 2:00pm at Meadobrook Park.

## Yaesu System Fusion Repeater

The repeater has been running as the K9SI repeater on 444.100 for the past month. It performed well and the audio was clear. The output was at 20 watts. Because work is needed to provide control and Echolink service when the repeater replaces the K9CU 146.760 repeater, the Yaesu is now out of service to make preparations for the move. If all goes well, the new repeater might be on in a month or so. We look forward to the new system on K9CU.

### Field Day

June 27 and 28 is fast approaching! Please let Paul N9XN know if you plan to participate. We need operators, radio equipment, and antennas. More details will appear in the June Newsletter.

### Illinois Repeater Association

The *IRA*, as it is known, held the annual meeting in Bloomington, IL on April 18. This is the body that coordinates repeater frequencies for Illinois. The meeting went well, with no major problems. Frequencies are very difficult to find in the Chicago Metro area as well as near St Louis. The rest of the state appeared to have many open frequency pairs for repeaters. Elections were held, voting on some officers and some board members. Al, K9SI, and Jerry, N9RBQ, were reelected as board members. Milt, K9QZI, has one more year in his term. Fred, K9FWS, retired as the Newsletter Editor after 15 years of service. Milt, K9QZI, volunteered and was appointed as Newsletter Editor to replace Fred. We greatly appreciate Fred's efforts over the many years!

### Peoria Superfest Tickets

At the request of the *Peoria Superfest* Committee, Milt K9QZI has tickets for sale to this event which is September 18-20 2015. Always a big hit with TCARC members, Superfest is held at the Expo Gardens. Advance tickets with 2 prize stubs are \$7.00. At the gate, tickets are \$10 with one stub. See Milt for your advance ticket!

## 2015 Dayton Hamvention

May 15-17 2015

TCARC members are welcome to use, free, our fleamarket spaces *FW2731 to 2734*. Supported by TCARC and K9QZI, this location may be used at no charge to sell items or just sit and relax. Soft drinks and snacks are available as well as chairs and shade. These spaces are located near the center of the West half of the flea market. Look for the Illini flag flying high over our spaces. We generally use 147.400 for our talk frequency. Best to put in a tone of 162.2 as many will use tone squelch due to heavy traffic on all bands.

The Hamvention preparation is going well. Most of the vendor spaces are booked and hotels are filling fast. There are still a few rooms left in the area, but it will take an online search to locate them. The South side of Dayton appears to have several openings. Be careful not to get caught up in the price gouging on rates. Rooms are always higher for this weekend, but some are outrageous. One location where normal rates are \$60 to \$90 is charging rates of \$309 and up per night. Most rooms in the area are \$100 to \$189 per night for this weekend.

Plan to attend, even if it is for one day. This is the largest Ham Radio event in the world and is well worth the trip to Dayton. It can be done in one day from here, leaving very early and returning very late. Driving time is under 3 hours. Gates open at 8 am each day, Eastern Daylight Time. Almost every manufacturer in our hobby is there, along with many vendors selling products. The outdoor flea market is unbelievable, with around 2,500 spaces to visit.

Forums are a huge part of Hamvention. You can see the schedule on the *website*. Almost every aspect of our hobby has a forum, provided by experts. For D-Star users, there is an informal pizza gathering Thursday evening, an all-morning class on the basics Friday, a forum at 12:45 Friday and an evening session on what's new Friday.