

## Hamfest Calendar

May 16-18 Dayton, OH  
Jun 1 Princeton, IL  
Jun 8 Granite City, IL  
Jun 8 Wheaton, IL  
Jul 12 Indianapolis, IN  
Jul 13 Aurora, IL  
Jul 20 Peotone, IL  
Jul 20 Washington, MO



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TCARC  
PO Box 2061  
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

## VE Exams

10-May-2008 K9DUR ARRL/VEC  
8:30 AM (Walk-Ins allowed)  
TERRY L HACKETT (217)465-4884  
BURKYBILE LAW OFFICE  
15175 US HIGHWAY 150 PARIS, IL

10-May-2008 PIATT COUNTY ARC  
1:00PM (Walk-Ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
MICHAEL S MULLINS (217)278-5819  
EMERGENCY OPS CENTER - PIATT COUNTY  
301 S CHARTER ST MONTICELLO, IL

01-Jun-2008 WABASH VALLEY ARA  
1:00 PM (Walk-Ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
RAYMOND N ANDREWS (812)535-3222  
GLAS-COL ANNEX NE 7TH & IDAHO ST.  
1730 S 7TH ST TERRE HAUTE, IN

07-Jun-2008 SANGAMON VALLEY RADIO CLUB  
9:00 AM (Walk-Ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
JAMES STEVE UPCHURCH (217)529-3218  
AMERICAN RED CROSS  
1045 OUTER PARK DR SPRINGFIELD, IL

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

May 2008

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor

## Meeting May 13

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The program is by Zack Widup, W9SZ, on DX Clusters, DXing, and other interesting stuff. Find out what DX Clusters are and how to use them.

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.

## Officer Nominations

An Officer Nomination Committee is being organized to present a slate of nominations for our annual election at the June meeting. If you are interested in serving as an officer, or know someone who does, please contact the committee. Not everyone requested to participate on the committee has accepted, so the names will be presented at our May meeting.

## Field Day

Ralph, W9PGE, is laying out the plans for a fun weekend on June 28-29. We will operate at the Ford-Harris Park in Somer Township again this year. That's on Ford-Harris Road just west of US 45, North of Urbana. The park is confirmed and several operators have volunteered for the event. We still need more operators and stations, so contact Ralph right away if you wish to be involved. We need assistants as well, if you don't have a station to bring. Each station needs a logger and anyone can operate under the supervision of the main operator, regardless of license class, or even with no license. Plans are in the works for an evening meal at the site, as we did last year. We hope it will be without rain this year. Ralph will present an outline of the plans at the meeting, and we will discuss it in detail at the June meeting.

## The Auction Was A Success

Our annual auction on April 12 was a big success. There were 2 more bidders than last year. Sales were similar to last year, less a couple of large items donated to the club last year. Our profit for the auction was \$807. This included \$114 from bidder registration, \$231 from food sales, and \$461 from sales. We thank everyone who helped with the auction, with a special thanks to the ladies who provided the food service. All of the food was prepared and donated by the ladies, so the total income from food went to the club. Those helping with the food were Lynda Wolfe, Donna Curtin, Pat Butler, Carol Lamb, Ann Leining, and Barbara Carter. Steve Zahos, KR4S, covered the cost of using the church for the day. Thanks to all who helped set up and tear down, as well as those managing the items during the auction, and providing security. We watched the exit of sold goods closely this year and have heard no complaints of anything removed by mistake.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

President Ralph Cox W9PGE	398-5111
Vice President Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	358-4302
Secretary Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

### Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI	688-2790
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8038

### VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4448
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Website

[www.w9seh.org](http://www.w9seh.org)

## VE Session April 20

At our last VE session, 9 persons tested, resulting in 1 Technician, 4 Generals, and 1 Extra Class licenses. It was good to see the upgrade activity. Thanks to the VEs who served at the exam. They are Fred, W9FWS, Milt, K9QZI, Greg, K9CFH, Ann, W9EML, and Dave, W9DML. Congratulations to all who earned a new license or upgrade. Our next exam session is July 20.

## D-Star Repeater

We are beginning the testing stage of the new D-Star repeater. It will be located temporarily at the Synton Amateur Radio Club site on the University of Illinois campus. The antenna is on the Everett Lab Building, also known as the Electrical Engineering Building at Wright & Green. We plan to start with only the repeater operating and add the gateway as soon as everyone operating it is comfortable with the radio and software. There is some formal online training required by the operators before the gateway can be connected. This should take place soon after the repeater is operating. The callsign will be W9YR, which is the former call of Jay Gooch, a longtime Synton Advisor and longtime former member of TCARC. The temporary frequency will be 444.650, which is the frequency currently used by the Synton repeater. The final frequency when we move to a higher antenna location will be determined in coordination the Illinois Repeater Association. This temporary plan was approved by the IRA.

## Hamfests

The Madison Wisconsin hamfest was April 19. An all indoor hamfest, it was about the same as last year. It is a moderate sized and had about the same attendance as last year. The weather cooperated most of the time, with a little rain off and on. On April 27, the MARK Hamfest was at the Fire Station in Arthur. The weather cooperated well this year. Attendance was a little less than last year, but everyone had a good time visiting and looking. On May 4, the Sandwich, IL hamfest lucked out with the weather. After a poor weather week prior, Sunday turned out to be a very nice day.

## Dayton!

Just over a week away, everything is gearing up for the big one at Dayton again this year. The Hamvention begins 8 am Friday morning, May 16 and runs all day Friday, all day Saturday, and to 1 pm Sunday. The crowd was over 19,000 last year, and it is expected to be about the same this year. Many of our club members attend every year and it is always the largest and best hamfest of the year. If you are going, here are some items that might help your travels.

There is a lot of road construction in the area. See the end of this article for details.

Tickets are very late. The Hamvention regular tickets should all be received by now. Fleamarket packets were mailed over the past weekend, Express Mail, so you should receive it soon. If not, take proof of purchase with you and present it to the Fleamarket office upon arrival. There have been may delays in processing this year.

If you have reservations at the Dayton Executive Hotel, you will need to move. This hotel closed Tuesday April 29 without notice. An attempted sale failed and there is a large tax bill due. Rooms are still available in the area at a few other hotels.

Last year, several thefts from parked autos happened overnight in hotel parking lots. If you have a mobile rig, take it into the room with you along with any purchases you made. We don't know if this will happen again, but take precautions.

If you have a D-Star radio, take it with you! The main simplex frequency is 145.670, with an alternate on 441.000. There will be a special D-Star repeater for the Hamvention on 440.800, with a call of K5DIT. Put a "B" in the 8th digit when you program this call into RPT1.

Dayton is about 230 miles from Champaign-Urbana, with a driving time of around 3 1/2 hours. Dayton is on Eastern time.

Here are some comments from the Hamvention web page:

One of the main surface streets used by attendees of Hamvention every year is Needmore Road since it is almost a straight shot from I-75 (exit 58) to Hara Arena. Unfortunately a rebuild project is underway on this roadway right in the travel path to Hara in which it will be down to one lane each way during Hamvention.

The next problem is construction at the north end of the Downtown Dayton area (about the 53 to 56 mile markers on I-75). In this area the Ohio Department of Transportation has started a multi-year multi-phase reconstruction of I-75 in which there are lane restrictions, bridge replacements, and various other adjacent projects.

Individuals traveling on I-70 will not need to make any changes from years past due to this construction. For more information or if you have questions feel free to contact the Talk-In Chairman Rob Lunsford KB8UEY via email at [talkin@hamvention.org](mailto:talkin@hamvention.org). Also once in the Dayton area if you need assistance you can tune to 146.940- for further assistance. Please pass this information on.

Satellite parking is again at the former Salem Mall as it has been for a number of years. If you Google Salem Mall Dayton you will get a map which shows the area at the intersection of Salem Avenue (Ohio 49) and Shiloh Springs Road. Please use the alternatives routes listed below listed to get to the Salem Mall area.

**I-75 Southbound from Troy & Toledo**  
Exit 61 (I-70 Westbound), Richmond, IN) Take Exit 61 west to Exit 26 Hoke Rd. Turn left at the end of the ramp. The next intersection is SR 49 (Salem Ave.) Travel south on SR 49 (Salem Ave.) 4 miles to Salem Bend Road. Turn left on Salem Bend Road. Turn right on Wood Creek into the parking lot. If you miss the turn at Salem Bend Road, in 100 yards turn left on Shiloh Springs and turn left into the mall and drive to the rear of the mall for Hamvention@ Parking.

**I-75 Northbound From Cincinnati**  
Exit 52 US Route 35 West Go west on US 35 approximately 5 1/2 miles. US 35 will curve to the right becoming Northbound and once it crosses West Third Street becomes SR 49. Continue North on SR 49. Follow to intersection with Salem Avenue and turn Right. When you make this turn, move to the left thru lane, as you will be turning left very shortly. You will come to a traffic light at Salem Bend Road. Turn left on Salem Bend Road. Turn right on Wood Creek into the parking lot. If you miss the turn at Salem Bend Road, in 100 yards turn left on Shiloh Springs and turn left into the mall and drive to the rear of the mall for Hamvention@ Parking.

## Flea Market & Handicap Parking

**I-75 Southbound from Troy & Toledo**  
Exit 61 (I-70 Westbound), Richmond, IN) Take Exit 61 west to Exit 29 North Main St. State Route 48). Turn left at the end of the ramp. Follow south about 5 miles to Shiloh Springs Road and turn Right. Flea Market Vendors and Handicap Parking enter through Entrance 4 (Right turn only)

**I-75 Northbound From Cincinnati**  
Exit 52 US Route 35 West Go west on US 35 approximately 5 1/2 miles. US 35 will curve to the right becoming Northbound and once it crosses West Third Street becomes SR 49. Continue North on SR 49. Follow to intersection with Turner Road and turn Right. Follow Turner Road to Philadelphia Road and turn left. Then follow to North Main Street (State Route 48) and turn left. Stay in the left lane and turn left on Shiloh Springs Road. Enter at Entrance 4. (Right turn only)

For further information, go to the Hamvention web page at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org) and click on News.

## Two Meter FM Challenge

Zack is processing the logs that were submitted from our FM Challenge at the end of March. We hope everyone sent their logs to Zack by the due date. He will have the results posted on the website soon.