

Hamfest Calendar

May 15-17 Dayton OH
 Jun 7 Princeton, IL
 Jun 21 Wheaton, IL
 Jul 11 Indianapolis, IN
 Jul 12 Aurora, IL
 Jul 19 Peotone, IL
 Aug 9 Peotone, IL
 Aug 15-16 Huntsville, AL



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TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

VE Exams

07-Jun-2009 Wabash Valley ARC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 D Steven Shorter (812)232-4788
 Glas-Col Annex-Rear Of Building
 1715 S 8th St Terre Haute, IN 47803

11-Jul-2009 K9DUR ARRL/VEC
 8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Terry L Hackett (217)465-4884
 Burkybile Law Office 15175 US Highway 150
 Paris, IL 61944

19-Jul-2009 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 2009

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting May 12

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Our program this month is a presentation by Mark, KC9DUU, and Ben, K9BF. They will share some ideas on fox hunting, locating hidden transmitters. They will show easy to make antennas, hunting tips, and other equipment helpful to the hunt. Come to the meeting to learn all about fox hunting!

Fox Hunt May 9

The April TCARC Fox Hunt was rescheduled for Saturday, May 9 with Mark KC9DUU and Ben K9BF being the fox. Originally planned for April 19, the hunt was moved to May 9 due to the rain on the April date. The hunt started at the Centennial High School parking lot at John & Crescent. The fox was located in the River Bend County Forest Preserve, just South of Mahomet. When the hunters found the fox, they received instructions to find 5 more small foxes hidden around the lake. Some succeeded and some did not. The weather was good and everyone attending had fun hunting. The winner is Al, K9SI.

The Auction is a Success

Our annual auction was April 11 at the Windsor Road Christian Church. A big success, the auction added \$1,027 to our treasury. This consisted of the 10% commission on sales, income from the sales of donated equipment, food sales, bidder ticket sales, and contributions to the club. We thank everyone who helped to make this auction one of the best ever. The setup and tear down crew, the kitchen staff, the auctioneers, and the support staff all were major contributors. Also, we thank everyone who donated equipment to the club which we sold and retained the income. Not only did the kitchen staff work hard providing the food service, they all purchased and prepared the food, so there was no cost to the club. We are fortunate to have so many loyal club members. Here is a summary of the income:

Commission on Sales	\$434
Equipment Donations	169
Food Sales	287
Bidder Number Sales	112
Contributions	125
Total Income	\$1,127
Less Church Rental	100
Net Income from Auction	\$1027

Local Nets

ARES	444.100	Tuesday 9 p.m.
TCARC 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

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302
Vice President	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
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	621-8036

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater W9SEH	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

VE Exams April 19

Our last VE exam on April 19 produced many good results. 8 tested, resulting in upgrades and/or new licenses in each category. One person passed all 3 elements at the session. We are pleased to see the excellent turnout. In addition, a few of our members tested at the MARK Hamfest in Arthur a week later. That resulted in 2 more new licenses and one upgrade in the TCARC family. One of our newest is Daniel Bernstein, KC9PTJ, age 7. Wow! Congratulations to all. Our next VE Exam Session is July 19.

Field Day

The annual ARRL Field Day is approaching! The dates are June 27 and 28. This is a nationwide event to test and exercise our skills in portable operation. Stations all over the USA (and a few outside) will set up with portable power, temporary antennas, and at remote locations. All stations contact as many other stations as they can in a 24-hour period. Points are earned for each contact and for other options in the operation. It is not a contest, but scores are kept and the results are published in QST Magazine. TCARC has participated in Field Day as long as anyone can remember. We always have an enthusiastic group of operators. We will set up at the Ford-Harris park North of Urbana. The actual radio operation is from 1 p.m. (1800 GMT) Saturday to the same time on Sunday. All bands except the WARC bands are used. Anyone wishing to participate may do so. We need radios, antennas, and loggers. Visitors are always welcome. We plan to have a potluck Supper on Saturday, welcoming all families. Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, are coordinating Field Day for our club. If you wish to participate, please contact them so they can add you to the list. We plan to discuss it some at our May meeting and the June meeting will be devoted to making final detailed plans.

Officer Election in June

The June meeting is our annual election of officers. Please contact Mike K9MLT if you are willing to serve as an officer or board member.

Digital Radio News

W9YR

The W9YR D-Star repeater continues to run well. We are leaving the linking to reflectors up to individual users. If you wish to link, please feel free to do so, then unlink it when you are finished.

Dayton Link

During the Dayton Hamvention, Reflector 9C will be connected to the Dayton D-Star repeater. Any D-Star users in our area may link our repeater to REF009C to listen and/or talk. Callsign routing will also work to talk to a specific individual. The reflector will probably be busy most of the time, so users here may want to limit time connected. Some of us at Dayton may make a call to the W9YR repeater with callsign routing and request that our repeater be linked to the reflector, so we can talk with users in CU.

D-Rats

Join the fun of sending and receiving text and small graphics on the W9YR D-Star repeater. Every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. local time, several users test the use of D-Rats, a digital texting program. The program may be run on almost any D-Star radio and a computer, with the proper cable. All users are invited to participate. You may test your capability sending text. During the hour, callsigns will appear on your radio screen, but you will hear nothing. The recent testing has been successful.

The Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub, MARK, has been testing their new D-Star system. The location will probably be on the grain elevator where the 2 meter repeater presently resides. The D-Star system will be a "full stack" which means that all 4 systems will operate on 1.2 GHz, both data and voice, as well as 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

New D-Star Radios

Icom introduced 2 new radios in the past week. They are the ID-80 and the ID-880. The first is a handheld and the second is a mobile unit. The new radios arrived on the West Coast about a week ago. Midwest stores expect delivery just prior to Dayton. There should be a good stock of these radios at Dayton. Prices are around \$460 for the ID-80 and \$500 for the ID-880. Not many details are available, but users who have them seem happy with the new radios.

Dayton!

A week away, the big one is almost here. May 15-17 will find 17,000 Amateur Radio Operators attending the largest ham gathering in the world. The organization by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association appears to be much improved over last year. All flea market vendor packets were mailed and should be in the hands of the users by now. The website is much improved, with online ticket ordering as well as flea market space ordering. Both the inside and outside areas have floor plans available online which show the status of each space. Pass the cursor over each space to see who is in that location. White spaces are not yet taken. There are many white ones, but the word is that they are still filling up. Ticket prices and flea market space prices remain the same as last year. Parking is available at the old Salem Mall, with bus service to and from the hamfest. Bus passes are \$8 for the 3 days. Everyone attending from our area is welcome to stop by the spaces of K9QZI, 1513, 1514, 1515, and 1516. Extra chairs and shade will be available for you. Friday and Saturday are the best days to attend. For more information, visit www.hamvention.org

ARRL Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your ARRL membership through TCARC as we receive a commission. New member applications are most welcome. Send the form along with a check payable to TCARC to our PO Box.

Hamfest Report

The hamfest season is underway! Several have appeared since our last newsletter. The Madison Wisconsin hamfest, held in Stoughton, went well. It was about the same as past years, with no noticeable decline in attendance. The weather was excellent and vendors sales were ok.

April 26 found many TCARC members attending the Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub hamfest in Arthur. The new fire station provided excellent facilities for the event. The fire trucks were moved outside, leaving lots of space for vendors inside. Vendors set up outside also as the weather was outstanding. The crowd was very good and many were in a buying mood. The club provided food service during the hamfest. K9QZI made a short presentation on the D-Star system, to help introduce the new digital mode to those not familiar with it. Everyone attending the hamfest appeared to have a great time.

Watch for many more hamfests over the Summer. Princeton is June 7, there are 2 at Peotone in July and August. Huntsville is August 22 and 23. Please see the ARRL website for complete lists.

METCAD Rebanding

METCAD scheduled the change in frequency of their radio system on May 13. All of the frequencies will change, so scanner users will need to reprogram. We understand that each present frequency will drop 15 MHz. We are not sure how this change will affect various scanners as some may require some additional programming to operate properly. Unfortunately, this change is just prior to Dayton, so most of us who program scanners will be away for the weekend. If your scanner suddenly goes quiet on the 13th, the rebanding has been made. There will be assistance available the week following Dayton for those who need help in reprogramming. This change has been planned for some time, but the actual date was just announced.