

## Hamfest Calendar

2014  
 Nov 15-16 Fort Wayne IN  
 2015  
 Jan 10 Waukesha, W  
 Jan 24 Collinsville, IL  
 Feb 13-15 Orlando FL Hamcation



## VE Exam Schedule

Nov 22 2014 VCARA ARRL/VEC  
 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
 Josh D. Kittle (217) 442-0578 n9wew@arrl.net  
 Vermilion County EMA Building  
 2508 Georgetown Rd Danville IL

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

**November 2014**  
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Meeting November 11

The next TCARC meeting is Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The program is an update on local scanner frequencies and use. New scanners are available and there are some important changes in our local METCAD radio system. Milt, K9QZI, will provide the information. As usual, we have an informal gathering at Culver's on South Neil around 6 for Dinner. Please join us if you can!

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

January 5015

UI Fire Institute

Please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, for information.  
 Walk-ins are welcome.

## Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR Tuesday 8 p.m.  
 ◆Week of Second Tuesday - No Net TCARC Meet  
 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

## Dues!

Yes, it is that time again. Our fiscal year goes with the calendar year. January 1 is the start of our next year for membership. Several members paid at the October meeting - this is greatly appreciated. The annual dues remain at \$20 per person and \$21 for everyone in the family living at home and licensed. Payments for future years are happily accepted and will remain paid even if there is a dues increase. (No, there is no plan for any dues increase!) You may check the status of your membership by reading the message included with your online newsletter, or on your address label of paper newsletters. Payments are accepted at our meetings, or you may send a check payable to TCARC to the return address on this newsletter.

## Newsletter by Email

We encourage paper email recipients to consider receiving this newsletter by email. It will arrive sooner than from the Post Office and contains color graphics. Please contact Milt K9QZI to change to

## 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
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<b>Website</b>	www.w9seh.org
<b>Analog Repeater K9CU</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

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

## Antenna Building Party

Right after our October VE Session, the ARES group provided an antenna building project at the Fire Institute. The joint venture included TCARC members. The antennas were constructed using steel measuring tape for elements and PVC pipe for the mast and boom. It was a fun time and everyone attending built one. They were for 2 meters, used mainly for fox hunting. Thanks to Patrick Twigg and ARES for the event!

## Thanks to Clean-Up Crew

October 18 found some TCARC members assisting with the clean-up of weeds and trash at our repeater site at WLRW. We keep the area around our building free of weeds and trash as much as possible. We thank Al K9SI, Dave W9IPV, Milt K9QZI, Larry N9XDH, and Wayne AB9FJ for spending their Saturday morning assuring that our area is well kept.

## CQ WW Contest

The weekend of October 26 and 27 found huge numbers of Amateur Radio Operators on all of the HF bands, participating in the CQ World Wide SSB Contest. Band conditions were outstanding, possibly the best in many years. It was exciting to make contacts all over the world, even if you were not in the contest. All contacts counted for those in the contest. Bands have been up and down since, with many excellent days.

## Hardened Power Systems Fire

We are saddened to learn that the plant of Hardened Power Systems was completely destroyed by fire on October 31. They make power supplies, the Juice Box, the Rogue, and the DHAP for D-Star radio. Plans are underway to rebuild and continue operations. More information is on their website.

<http://www.portableuniversalpower.com/>

## W9LMC SK

W9LMC - Jack Hathaway passed away October 28. He was a resident of Champaign, graduate of Danville High, BS IL State, MS U of I, Air Force veteran of 20 years, and at U of I for 33 years. Some of our old timers will remember him.

## Hamfests

Finding hamfests over the next couple of months is difficult due to weather and seasons. However, one excellent hamfest is this coming weekend, November 15 and 16, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. All indoors, it is on both Saturday and Sunday. Several forums are on the schedule as well as a large flea market and premium vendor area. The Allen County War Memorial Coliseum is the location. As mentioned in earlier newsletters, the Evansville Indiana Hamfest is cancelled. It was held the weekend right after Thanksgiving. Don't worry, however, Waukesha and St Louis hamfests are on the January calendar.

## KC9SBG Heard on Echolink

This may seem a little uninteresting to report a contact with a local on Echolink, but this one is special. Logan Starwalt, KC9SBG, checked in on Echolink late one recent evening. It is special in that he is now in the US Marines, stationed in Okinawa. He found iPhones very reasonably priced there and purchased one. He installed Echolink and now can communicate back home to his father, N9OQW, who lives in Danville. He probably will connect in the future and he will be pleased to hear from any of our local members. He is stationed there for 2 to 3 years.

## New Repeaters

Two new D-Star repeaters are operating nearby. Decatur and Heyworth recently added repeaters in their communities. KD9AKF is operating on 444.700 in Heyworth. KC9YFX operates on 147.240 and 442.64375 in Decatur. We welcome the new additions to our neighborhood.

## ARRL Asks FCC to Continue Issuing Hard Copy Licenses To Those Who Want Them

From ARRL

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL has recommended that the FCC continue to provide paper license documents to Amateur Radio licensees who want them. The League's remarks were in response to an FCC Public Notice (in WT Docket 14-161) that proposed to cease the routine issuance of hard-copy license documents to all Wireless Service licensees, including radio amateurs. While having a paper license document from the FCC to post on the wall of the ham shack has been a tradition, the Commission for several years has considered the "official" Amateur Radio license to be the virtual document residing in its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

"The FCC is willing to continue to mail paper licenses to those who request them," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has explained. "However, they are making available to licensees — starting right now — the actual license to print via the FCC ULS, and it is allowing hams now to opt out of receiving paper licenses from the FCC directly." (See ULS menu image.)

Under the FCC-proposed process, once a license application is granted, the ULS will generate an official electronic license but will no longer mail a hard copy license unless notified that the licensee wishes to receive an official paper license document. Until new procedures are final, however, the Commission will continue to print and mail official paper licenses, unless notified to stop.

"Should the Commission proceed with the Notice proposals," the League said in its comments, "it is ARRL's strong recommendation that the Commission give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

The ARRL pointed out that not everyone has easy access to, or is comfortable using, the ULS and that Amateur Radio licensees may occasionally need an official license document — for example, when applying for a license upgrade at a VEC exam session or for vehicle call sign license plates.

"If there is not a license printed on distinctive license stock by the Commission, authentication issues arise and the possibility of electronic alteration of a license document is created," the League.

The ARRL also suggested that requiring individuals to go online in order to obtain a license document may prove to be a roadblock to some applicants.

"It is not acceptable to erect barriers to entry for anyone to obtain an Amateur Radio license or to modify a license," the League commented. "ARRL is concerned that there should be, especially for newcomers, an easy, intuitive path to make the election for license delivery method that does not involve ULS access at the outset."

The Notice also proposes, alternatively, that the FCC send the official electronic license via e-mail upon grant of an application, if the applicant has provided a valid e-mail address on the application form. Licensees not wanting to provide an e-mail address could obtain an official electronic license document directly from the ULS. The Notice further proposes that licensees could notify the Commission that they wish to receive or continue receiving official authorizations on paper.

The ULS License Manager online system now includes a setting that allows licensees to notify the FCC that they want to receive official licenses on paper. Licensees could change the default setting online, so that once an application has been granted, the FCC would mail an official paper license.

The deadline to file comments is November 10.

## Lunch Bunch

We meet for Lunch almost daily. We have a reservation for Mondays in the meeting room at the Atlanta Bread Co. With the exception of the first Monday of each month. Because another group already booked the room, we will be in the main dining area. Other days we announce the location on 146.76, usually anywhere from shortly after Noon to 12:30.. All are welcome to attend and may come late, leave early, or both.