

**Hamfest Calendar  
2015**

[Nov 14-15 Fort Wayne IN](#)

**2016**

Jan 9 Waukesha, WI  
Jan 17 St. Charles, IL  
Jan 23 Collinsville, IL  
Feb 12 Orlando, FL



**VE Exam Schedule**

Nov 12 2015 and Dec 10 2015  
Terre Haute Radio Club  
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) VEC: LAUREL MD  
Virginia L. Monastyrski (812) 243-9052  
wb9zhc@ma.rr.com  
Ryves Youth Center 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

**TCARC Will hold an exam session in January.  
The exact date is not yet confirmed with the Fire Institute**

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

**November 2015**  
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



**Meeting November 10**

Our November meeting is this Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm in the UI Fire Institute. Our program is a presentation on the use of crimp on connectors, including coax. Ben, K9BF, will give us some insight on why he uses crimping whenever he can. Come and learn the crimp advantage!

There is an informal gathering at Culver's on South Neil around 6. Everyone is welcome!

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. No meetings are planned for July and August.

**Our Next VE Session**

**January 2016  
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

**2016 Dues!**

It's getting to that time again, your 2016 dues are payable January 1. If you wish to pay at the meeting, that is the easiest. Those who prefer to mail dues can make a check payable to TCARC and send it to the address on page 4. If you are paid for 2016, you need to do nothing. The note with your newsletter gives the expiration date of your dues. If the note is in error, please contact Milt K9QZI for a correction.

**TCARC Vice President**

After much consideration, Paul, N9XDN, finds it necessary to step down from this position. Work schedule changes and family responsibilities create conflicts with his time. He feels it best to let someone else handle the position. His interest in TCARC and Amateur Radio is still very strong, but he just cannot guarantee his availability at present. We greatly appreciate the time he has given.

**TCARC Officers and Board Members**

<b>President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Vice President</b>		
<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
Tom Lea	K5LEA	2018	586-5377

**VE Coordinator**

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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<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

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

## Last VE Exam a Big Success!

Our October VE Exam Session had lots of challenges, but it went very well. We planned a normal session, with the addition of one person requiring the questions be read to him. Debbie arranged for 3 more VEs to provide the service. She also was notified that several UI students planned to test as they wanted to use Amateur Radio for communications in their solar automobile project. 2 additional VEs asked to assist, making a total of 9 VEs at the session. Milt K9QZI managed the session and was concerned that we had too many. However, at start time, the room was almost full of candidates. 22 to be exact! The extra help was needed. We ran out of exam booklets using the exam Debbie had chosen for Tech, so we used additional versions, which made grading a little difficult.. One candidate arrived with no cash or checks, so we sent him off to an ATM. 2 needed to retest but had no more money with them. They waited until a friend finished - he went out and brought back cash for them. One other candidate finished and left before signing his CSCE form. One of his friends finished and then went to locate the person who needed to sign and brought him back to sign. All of the unusual circumstances were handled before the last person finished his exam, so there was no delay. The results were 1 Extra, 5 Generals, and the 15 Technicians. The licenses were issued a week later. Callsigns of new issues begin with KD9EV\*. We greatly appreciate the excellent assistance provided by our 9 VEs.

## Echolink Update

Echolink is back up and running on the K9CU repeater. It was on and off during the last few weeks due to a bad motherboard in the control computer. Ben K9BF determined that it was not prudent to try to repair the board, so we purchased a brand new computer. Ben immediately got it up and on the air, spending a good part of a day. There are a few adjustments yet to be made, but it is running and usable now. We greatly appreciate Ben's work on this.

## We Wish the Best to Steve

Last week, Steve, KC9SIO, was injured in a collision with a car while on his bicycle at Prospect and Devonshire. Steve announces his travels on the repeater. Shortly after his announcement, an emergency call was monitored, sent to fire and ambulance services, for a bike struck by a car. Other club members on their way to Lunch checked at the scene and determined it was Steve. Dave, W9IPV, was on his way to Lunch and heard about the accident. He detoured to the hospital emergency room and located Steve. Dave contacted Steve's mother and stayed with him until after she arrived. Fortunately, Steve did not have any serious injuries, only a separated shoulder. He returned home that evening and is getting along well. His bike had some damage, but is repairable. The most damage was to his HT, which was smashed, probably run over by the car. We are pleased that Steve was not seriously injured and wish him speedy recovery.

## K9CW Repeater

If you use the K9CW 147.060 MHz repeater, you will need to change the CTCSS tone to access it. Until recently, the tone was 131.8 and everything worked well. The repeater is located in the METCAD building with antennas on the METCAD tower. Part of the METCAD system uses a VHF frequency for fire paging. This is because many firemen have pagers that work only on VHF analog. The frequency used was 154.250 until the recent change. METCAD wanted to move to a frequency that allows higher power, so the decision was to use 155.040 with the same 131.8 tone. Some will recognize this as the old county highway truck repeater which was also used for storm spotting. This frequency at higher power interfered with the K9CW repeater using the same CTCSS tone. By changing the K9CW tone to 162.2, the interference disappeared. There is still some desensing of the repeater, but it appears to work ok for now. If you have not already made the change, please switch to 162.2.

## Pat Butler WB9PAT SK

Sadly, we report the loss of another TCARC member, Pat Butler. She passed away October 29 and the funeral was November 3. She is survived by Bill Butler, WB9KMD, and their sons and daughters. She will be greatly missed as she and Bill were present at almost all club activities.

## Dayton 2016

It might seem a little early to talk about Dayton, but there are rumors around which need to be corrected. The Internet and some radio nets have been spreading the word that Hamvention will be at a different location in 2016. This is NOT TRUE! The President of DARA, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, recently announced on the air several times that Hamvention will be at the Hara Arena in 2016. The rumors surfaced after a newspaper reported on the financial and physical situations of Hara. There was to be a huge refurbishing of Hara, but the funding for that disappeared. It appears that Hara is not drawing all the venues as in past years. However, Hamvention is contracted for next year. Beyond that, there are still questions to be answered. DARA is looking for alternatives, as they have always done in the past. The city wants to keep Hamvention as it provides millions of dollars going into the local economy over just a few days. Please don't give up on Hamvention or Hara yet!

## Hamfests

Coming up is Fort Wayne November 14 and 15. It is always an enjoyable indoor hamfest. Located in the modern War Memorial Colosseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, all vendors are in the same room. Several excellent forums are on the schedule for Saturday, with none on Sunday.

[For complete information, please click here.](#)

## Yaesu Fusion Repeater

It is still temporary as the K9SI repeater 444.100.

## ARRL Field Day 2015 Results

From ARRL

Results of ARRL Field Day 2015 are now available. These include the [searchable scores database](#), the [soapbox link](#), and [the QST results article \(PDF\)](#). A total of 2720 stations submitted entries for the June 27-28 event.

While propagation was on the sorry side for Field Day 2015, the number of contacts for this year's event rose slightly over 2014 — a modest 1.1 percent — and the number of CW contacts account for all of that increase; phone and digital contact numbers dipped slightly in 2015. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015.

The number of logs received appears to be an all-time ARRL Field Day record. This year saw 35,369 participants, down slightly from 2014.

A total of 1247 entries claimed the broad classification of "A" (which includes generator, commercial, and alternate/battery powered entries). Joining that core group operating in temporary setups were an additional 315 Class B entries (one or two-person entries). This indicates that 58 percent of all Field Day 2015 participants in some way took to the field.

As for the TCARC score, we made 490 contacts with 30 attendees, scoring a total of 1,644 points. We operated 3A, meaning we ran 3 transmitters at the same time, under 150 watts. We were 197 from the top, with 286 stations in 3A. The top score was 14,536 and the lowest in 3A was 400. Participant numbers ranged from 6 to 216. We were in the 79-86 position on this. (8 clubs had 30 participating.) Please understand that this is not a contest and no awards are made. It does, however, show how we stacked up with others in our category. It was a good exercise and we did very well considering the heavy rains prior to Field Day. Thanks to everyone who joined us in June.

Links above take you to all the details. The full report is contained in the December QST.