



**VE Exam Schedule**

11-10 Terre haute Radio Club  
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
Virginia L. Monastyrski (812) 243-9052  
Email: wb9zhc@ma.rr.com  
5475 S State Road 63 Terre Haute IN

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

**November 2016**  
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Meeting November 8

We have an interesting presentation for our November meeting this Tuesday! 12 year old Dhruv Rebba, KC9ZJX, will tell us about his Amateur Radio experiences since becoming licensed 3 years ago. He made this presentation at the 2016 Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum. Unlike many newer Hams, he has been involved with many activities like contesting, DXpedition, D-Star, and speaking to school groups in India, just to name a few. Please see Page 2 for more!

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.

## Our Next VE Session

Exam sessions are planned for January, April, July, and October 2017. Exact dates will be announced when we receive confirmation from the 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

## December Meeting Christmas Dinner!

Our December 13 meeting is a Christmas Dinner at the [Rib Eye restaurant](#). We discussed and voted on it at our October meeting. It will be for everyone, family and friends. Everyone pays their own way. It will be a dinner only with no gifts or party. We must notify the restaurant on the number attending. Please email Rick Hurd KC9NRI with the number in your family planning to attend. [rhurd1969@gmail.com](mailto:rhurd1969@gmail.com)

## Dues - Yes It's That Time Again!

Our fiscal year begins January 1. We ask that everyone renew their membership for 2017. Several have already paid for next year and some for the next 2-3 years. When you receive your newsletter in email, there is a note included that shows the date your membership expires. Please check this and notify Milt K9QZI if it is in error. Dues are still \$20 per year for individual members and \$21 covers all licensed family members residing in your home. You can pay at meetings or mail a check to TCARC, PO Box 2061, Champaign 61825-2061, Thanks to all who have already paid!

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Vice President</b>	Rick Hurd KC9NRI	419-2359
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

### Board Members

Kevin Coogan	KC8RFE	2016	937-985-2081
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.k9cu.club">www.k9cu.club</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

## Dhruv Rebba KC9ZJX

Our November Guest Speaker



Photo F. 11-year-old Dhruv Rebba, KC9ZJX, spoke about his "Inspirations and Accomplishments with Ham Radio." (Photo by Charles Kirmuss, W0CBK)

Photo from CQ Magazine

Dhruv started his Amateur Radio hobby at our TCARC VE Exam session in the Summer of 2013, passing the Technician Exam. Since then, he has been most active in many aspects of the hobby including contesting, DXpeditions, and digital communications (D-Star and Echolink). He also has a strong interest in robotics, cycling, Karate (First Degree Black Belt), chess, and watching cartoons. His interest in chess has taken him to playing remotely over the Internet. He holds a dual citizenship in the USA and India. He traveled to India recently and made presentations at schools there on Amateur Radio, to encourage others his age to get into the hobby. He lives in Bloomington, IL, and is a member of the Bloomington Radio Club.

We look forward to his presentation. Prior to the meeting, we will host Dhruv and his parents with a meal at Culver's around 5:30. Everyone is welcome to join us and meet Dhruv.

To see an excellent interview with Dhruv on YouTube, [click here](#). Don't be concerned by the opening, it is in English!

## Jamboree On The Air

October 14-16 2016

The weekend went well for JOTA. Many Scouts worldwide had the opportunity to connect by Ham Radio and visit. If you tuned around the HF bands that weekend, you probably heard the youthful voices on many bands. Amateur Radio digital communications were a big plus to this event. Echolink, D-Star, DMR, and IRLP all had lots of activity. These modes provided more reliable contacts with less interference and noise. The hi tech features of digital was exciting to the youth who are most familiar with computer technology. All Amateurs providing service for JOTA are most appreciated.

### Repeater News

We are pleased that our Internet connection appears to be fixed. It has been up and running for the past month. We think the cause of the earlier outages has been repaired by AT&T.

There has been some work on the K9CU repeater to install a compressor, which will adjust the varying audio input levels to make all transmissions out at the same level for our listening pleasure. After the first install, technical problems occurred, making the repeater sound very noisy, so the compressor is out for now until more testing can be done.

### October VE Session

Our last VE Session for this year was October 16 at the Fire Institute. 3 tested and all left with smiles on their faces. Congratulations to Curt Gidding, KC9UNL who upgraded to Extra Class! Some of our newer Hams set up a portable HF operation in the parking lot to demonstrate the hobby to those testing. We thank them and the VEs who assisted with the session.

### Please RSVP Our Christmas Dinner

Reminder from page 1

If you plan to attend our Christmas Dinner, it is critical that you send a note to [Rick Hurd](#) with the number of people. We must give the restaurant a count well before the day of the dinner.

## Synton Net Reminder

[Synton](#), the UI Student Amateur Radio Club holds a net on the first Wednesday of each month on the 444.525 W9YH repeater (Tone 162.2). TCARC members are encouraged to check into the net.

### D-Star Nets

Our W9YR D-Star offers 4 nets each week. They are open to all. The Raspberry Pi Net on Mondays is a technical net where everyone can ask questions, get answers, as well as just check in. The Net Control rotates each week. AB9FJ and KC9SIO take it once each month. The International D-Star Net on Sundays is the oldest and largest net on D-Star. Started in 2007 by Connie, KB0ZSG, it has continued every Sunday evening without fail since. She does have assistance when needed from Steve, KC9SIO, who has been faithful in taking the net if she has any problem. Also, AB9FJ and K9QZI assist if needed. Saturday is the Saturday Night D-Star Net, based in Spokane, Washington. It is an informal net and everyone is welcome to check in. And our own Illinois D-Star Net is on Wednesdays, hosted by K9QZI. The nets are available on our W9YR repeater, with some also on the W9IPA repeater. Users don't need to change anything on their radios to participate. We link our repeater to the net. Here are the nets:

Monday 9pm Raspberry Pi Ref 38C  
Wednesday 9 pm Illinois D-Star Net Ref 1B  
Saturday Night D-Star Net 9 pm Ref 29A  
Sunday International D-Star Net 7pm Ref 1C

Times are our local time. Reflectors listed for information only for those wishing to connect their own hot spot to the reflector. Using W9YR, simply use it as you normally talk on it. Your transmission will go to the net.

For a complete D-Star net list:  
<http://www.dstarinfo.com/>

## HRO Open and Running Well

The [Ham Radio Outlet](#) store in Milwaukee is fully open and has already served some of our members. The Grand Opening was in October. In the old Amateur Electronics Supply (AES), the showroom space is greatly expanded, with many radios hooked up and running for all to see and hear. They will have a Superfest like AES did, but it will be in the Summer or Fall of 2017. None in the Spring.



Radios on display and working at HRO

Photo courtesy of K9UTQ

### Lunch Bunch

Please join us on Mondays at the Steak n Shake on South Neil. We gather shortly after 12 pm. All are welcome! Other days we coordinate on the K9CU 146.76 repeater just after 12. We encourage input on where to go, or not go, by anyone wishing to join us. Thursdays are not always Lunch days, and weekends vary, depending on those wishing to have Lunch.

### Hamfests

Not many hamfests on the calendar for the rest of the year, but there is a very nice one in [Fort Wayne, IN](#) on November 12-13. The location is the [War Memorial Colosseum](#) in Fort Wayne. It is an all indoor event with [flea market vendors](#) as well as [commercial vendors](#) in one large room. [Forums](#) are on Saturday. This is probably the last close big hamfest this year. January will see a few more indoor events on the calendar.

Click on words in blue for more information!