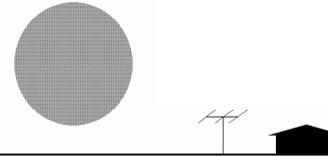


# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

November 2007

Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Editor



## Hamfest Calendar

Nov 11 Litchfield IL ATV Banquet  
17-18 Fort Wayne IN  
24 Evansville IN  
Dec 8 Carthage IL

## VE Exams

10-Nov-2007 K9DUR ARRL/VEC  
8:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
TERRY L HACKETT (217)465-4884  
BURKYBILE LAW OFFICE  
15175 US HIGHWAY 150 PARIS, IL

18-Nov-2007 VCARA ARRL/VEC  
1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
JOSH D KITTLE (217)442-0578  
VCARA CLUBHOUSE WOODBURY HILL RD  
DANVILLE, IL 61832

01-Dec-2007 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 62704

02-Dec-2007 WABASH VALLEY ARA  
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
RAYMOND N ANDREWS (812)535-3222  
GLAS-COL ANNEX NE CORNER OF 7TH & IDAHO ST.  
1730 S 7TH ST (REAR OF BLDG) TERRE HAUTE, IN

## Amateur Accessories

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**Champaign, IL 61825-2061**

## Meeting November 13

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The meeting is "Chasing Satellites". Here is a description by Mike Trautman, K9MLT, our Vice President:

### Chasing Satellites The November TCARC Program

NH7WN, Bob Smith has it rough. When he works satellites from Hawaii, he has to carry his HT and his Arrow antenna to the top of Diamond Head, overlooking the beach at Waikiki. That gives him an expanded horizon and being located in Hawaii, he often has satellites passing overhead virtually to himself. He has had to learn how to handle the pileups of operators from the Western States who want to QSO with Hawaii. He uses software to predict the satellite passes, decode the telemetry, and work satellite packet radio. Semi-retired in Hawaii, Bob has had lots of time and experience working this varied and interesting facet of Ham Radio.

Bob will visit us in November and bring photos, sound bites, and videos of satellite operations in Hawaii. We'll also have examples of specialized satellite equipment, and demonstrations of useful software. If you know satellites, bring your knowledge and experience to add to the discussion. If you haven't explored this amazing world of long distance communications, digital operations, weather images, come to begin enjoying the fun!

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.

The Board meets the Thursday prior to the club meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute.. All members are welcome to attend.

## Dues Time Again!

It is almost time to renew your TCARC membership. The dues remain at \$20 for individuals and \$21 for families. You can send your check to TCARC at the return address on the newsletter anytime to extend your membership from January 1 through 2008.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b> Ralph Cox W9PGE	396-5111
<b>Vice President</b> Dr Mike Trautman	356-4302
<b>Secretary</b> Chris Anderson	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b> 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

## Website

www.w9seh.org

## VE Exams

October 21 was our most recent exam session. 5 candidates took exams with everyone attaining the license that they wanted. Congratulations to Bill AB9PT, who went from no license to Amateur Extra Class at that session. Our next session is in January, but the date is not firm yet

## Eastside Outdoor Ham Club Annual Fox Hunt

By Mark Joseph KC9DUU

The Eastside Outdoor Ham Club hosted its fifth annual Family Picnic and Fox Hunt on October 14, 2007. A group of hams from the Champaign-Urbana area attended the event, held at the Lincoln Trail State Park, south of Marshall, Illinois. The EOHC members are great hosts, and we really enjoyed ourselves. Local participants included K9BF, KC9DUU, AB9FJ, KA9SZX, KC9KGJ, KC9KZG, and W9AFB. There were another half-dozen or more hunters from the Terre Haute area, as well.

The day started with square doughnuts and coffee, comparing equipment, and socializing, and then on to the morning hunt of the "Ten Little Foxes". Jim Osburn, WD9EYB had put together ten low power, pulsing CW transmitters, all on the same frequency. He spread them around one particular area of the park, just far enough apart that you could concentrate on one at a time without too much trouble. The object here was to find as many of them as you could, picking them up and turning them off as you went. We set out to find them, some of us in teams, others alone, with both mobile and foot hunting gear. We raced around that area of the park for about 1/2 an hour, picking up foxes until no more were heard. They were never too far from the park road, so we'd start hunting in the vehicles, then jump out and track them down on foot. This wound up being a bit more competitive than anticipated - some of the less experienced hunters were getting close to finding foxes, only to have other hunters more quickly track the last few yards and snatch the transmitters away. In

hindsight, we regretted that, and I think that part of the hunt may be organized a bit differently in the future. Team AB9FJ / KA9SZX found six of the "Little Foxes", Team K9BF / KC9DUU found three, and Team KC9KGJ / KC9KZG found one.

While the picnic lunch was being prepared (burgers and dogs on the grill, etc.), we hid some foxes familiar to the Champaign-area crowd. KA9SZX hid Crystal, with her seductive, taunting voice ("Find me now, big boy..."). KC9DUU hid Rich, another voice-recording fox transmitter with a bit of a James Earl Jones quality, and K9BF hid his CW fox. These were all hid within fairly quick walking distance of the picnic area, and were hunted in a more casual, non-competitive atmosphere.

After lunch the five KT9E fox boxes were synchronized and hidden by Ginger Downing, WB9ZHC. These all transmit on the same frequency: each one for a minute, for a five minute sequence. They were distributed across a wide area of the park, and well hidden, I might add. Ginger is a geocacher, and let's just say she's clever about hiding things. This got fairly rough - especially given the terrain of the park. Although none of the foxes were that far from some road, the signals were strong enough that we wound up switching from vehicle to foot hunting with quite a bit of tracking left to do. That could mean going down a steep ravine and coming back up the other side, only to discover that the fox might still be beyond the next one. We each got quite a bit of exercise, to say the least. Some teams stuck together for each fox. Others tracked in the mobile, then dropped off a team member to hunt one fox on foot and focused on another one themselves. After just under two hours, K9BF and KC9DUU had found all five foxes; some covered with rotting branches, others shoved in hollowed tree trunks, with just an antenna sticking out. AB9FJ and KA9SZX finished about an hour later. KC9KGJ, KC9KZG, with W9AFB joining in found three of the fox boxes.

In the end, AB9FJ and KA9SZX were awarded the EOHC Fox Hunting Trophy, as the team

finding the greatest total number of foxes for the day, and a second place certificate for the afternoon hunt. K9BF and KC9DUU were awarded first place for the afternoon hunt; KC9KGJ and KC9KZG took third place.

The combination of great weather, good company, a beautiful state park, and friendly competition provided us with a really enjoyable day. I think everyone is already looking forward to this event next year, and perhaps putting together something similar in our area to which we can invite the folks from Terre Haute.

## A Little Excitement at the FCC

October was an interesting month at the FCC. Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth, announced his retirement effective January 3, 2008. He assured everyone that enforcement would continue just as it has in the past. Many were concerned about his retirement as he accomplished so much making our hobby better. As an active Amateur Radio Operator, Riley has a deep interest in our hobby. Later in the month, the following bulletin was released by the ARRL, announcing the cancellation of his retirement:

*SB QST ARL ARLB024*

*ARLB024 Hollingsworth to Stay Put at FCC*

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Special Counsel for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has decided not to retire. He had announced last week that he would leave the FCC in January 2008.

Riley states, "After spending the entire weekend thinking about the decision [to retire], it became more and more clear to me that it just isn't the right decision for me right now. There are several issues on the table that I want to continue to work through with the amateur community."

The Enforcement Bureau is the primary organizational unit within the Federal Communications Commission that is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules,

Commission orders and terms and conditions of station authorizations, as well as enforcement of Amateur Radio rules (Part 97).

## New Contest Manager on the Job

From ARRL News

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the ARRL Headquarters staff on October 8 as the ARRL Contest Manager. First licensed in 1982 as KA9NGH, Kutzko developed a taste for contesting after winning the Illinois section in the 1988 ARRL Novice Roundup. Since then, he has been active in both HF and VHF contesting, as well as HF DXing and VHF weak-signal communications. A long-standing member of the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) and a strong advocate of mentoring new contesters, Kutzko has won several contest and DX awards, including several Top Ten finishes in the ARRL Sweepstakes SSB contest as a QRP entrant. He has been on two HF contest DXpeditions, including 6Y7M in the 1994 CQ WPX CW contest, and V26NA in the 1997 ARRL International DX CW Contest. Kutzko also enjoys activating rare grid squares by going on "Grid DXpeditions" in the continental US for the VHF/UHF community. In the late 1990s, Kutzko published a regular column in the National Contest Journal (NCJ) that focused on DX locations available for hams to rent for contests or DXpeditions. "It's a great honor to be the Contest Branch Manager. Everybody at HQ has been very friendly and generous of their time and knowledge for me, the newcomer. There is a lot of work from several folks -- hams and non-hams alike -- that goes on behind the scenes to keep your contest logs properly scored and managed. While I still have a lot to learn, rest assured that as a fellow HF and VHF contester myself, my primary interest is to ensure logs are received and processed correctly, scores are reported quickly and accurately and awards are mailed in a timely fashion. Feel free to contact me with any contest-related questions you may have. You can reach me at 860-594-0232 or via e-mail [kx9x@arrl.org](mailto:kx9x@arrl.org). I am at your service," Kutzko said.