

Hamfest Calendar

Nov 9	Litchfield, IL ATV Banquet
Nov 15-16	Ft Wayne, IN
Nov 29	Evansville, IN
Dec 13	Carthage, IL



VE Exams

08-Nov-2008 K9DUR ARRL/VEC
8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Terry L Hackett (217)465-4884
Burkybile Law Office
15175 Us Highway 150 Paris, IL

08-Nov-2008 Piatt County ARC
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Michael S Mullins (217)377-1523
Emergency Ops Center - Piatt County
301 S Charter St Monticello, IL

13-Nov-2008 Kankakee ARS
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Carl F Schroeder (815)473-4263
Kankakee County Sheriff's Complex
3000 Justice Way Kankakee, IL

16-Nov-2008 National Trail ARC - K9UXZ
7:00 PM (walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Russell D Thomas (217)536-6169
Effingham County EOC
311 Miracle Ave Effingham, IL 62401

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

November 2008
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting November 11

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The program is a demonstration of the Solder-Flo Oven Project by Nick Popa and Larry Mohr, W9MH and K9LMM. The project creates a processor-controlled solder oven for surface mount parts soldering, using a standard toaster oven. This eliminates the tedious hand soldering of extremely small parts located on many of today's PC boards.

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.

D-Star Net

We started a D-Star Net on the W9YR repeater. Wednesday nights at 9:00 p.m. is the time. It is an informal net to share information about D-Star or any other Amateur Radio related topic. Our first net was October 23, with 8 stations participating. The second week had 14. If you have a D-Star radio, please join us on the net.

Newsletter Future

We discussed the possibility of sending the newsletter electronically to those wishing to receive it that way. We can send a PDF file by email, or we can send a link to the PDF file by email so you can load it yourself. For those who prefer, we can still send the newsletter by US Mail. We need your input on this so we can provide the best service. Please let us know by a note to newsletter@w9seh.org or drop a US Mail note to the return address on this newsletter. We can provide all 3 services, so you won't be left out. The newsletter already is posted in a PDF file on our website, after the mailing is sent.

VE Exam Session

Our last VE Exam Session was October 19. 6 took exams and all left with the results they desired. There were 2 upgrades to General, 3 Technicians, and 1 passed Technician and General. Callsigns are KC9OMI through KC9OML. Congratulations to all. Our next session is in January, the date to be determined.

Dues Are Soon Due

Our fiscal year ends December 31 each year, which means that membership dues should be paid at that time. Some have already renewed. Please make checks to TCARC and send to the return address on this newsletter. Dues are still only \$20 for individuals and \$21 to include all family members. Your early renewal is greatly appreciated.

The TCARC Board meets the Thursday prior to our regular meeting at 7 at the Fire Institute.

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

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PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Fox Hunt

On October 12, the Eastside Outdoor Ham Club hosted their annual fox hunt at Lincoln Trail State Park, near Marshall, Illinois. The hunt is always lots of fun as well as challenging. This year was no exception. The weather was outstanding and the trees were showing lots of color. 7 TCARC members participated, along with 2 from Macomb, IL and some from Bedford, Indiana. The morning hunt was for "10 Little Foxes" which were hidden in the woods of the park. All on the same 2 meter frequency, they were tiny transmitters sending Morse Code identification. When a transmitter was located, the finder recorded the number printed on the bag containing the fox. Most of the hunters found several, but no one found them all. In fact, one is still missing as it was not found and could not be located by the owner. Around Noon, a potluck lunch was served, with lots of good food. Everyone brought items for the meal. In the afternoon, the 5 big foxes were turned loose. They were in ammunition boxes and were higher power than the little foxes. They were all coordinated to transmit for 1 minute, one after another. This meant the hunters had to wait 4 minutes for a second reading. The foxes were well hidden in ravines, under fallen trees and other difficult locations. The hunt ended in the late afternoon and winning plaques were presented. We are pleased to see that Jeremy, KC9KGJ, and Cassie, KC9KZG, took first place in both the morning and afternoon hunts! They received the traveling fox, awarded to the best hunters each year. Third Place in the Little Foxes was the team of K9BF and KC9DUU. In the afternoon hunt, the K9BF and KC9DUU team placed second, and the team of Jesse Risley, K9JLR, and Joe Rutkiewicz, KC9LEA, from Macomb, placed third. This was their first fox hunt working without assistance of an experienced hunter. Many of us met them at the N9GOC/N9KVE get together the night prior to the hunt. K9QZI went along as an observer, and had a great time. The event was well organized and a lot of fun. Look for a repeat next October. You can view photos from the hunt on the TCARC website.

Hamfest Report

October found a few hamfests nearby. October 5 was Bedford, IN and West Liberty, IA. Bedford was about the same as previous years, as was West Liberty. October 18 was the Decatur, IL hamfest. It was fairly well attended, with nice weather for those selling outside. Many of our club members were there. October 25 was the Kirkwood, MO hamfest. Coming up is the Litchfield, IL ATV Banquet. It is not a hamfest, but it is a lot of fun and good eating. Many door prizes are given, and there are a few selling items. November 15 and 16 will see the Fort Wayne, IN hamfest again. This is always a good hamfest, all inside and very comfortable. Saturday is the best day to attend. November 29, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, is the Evansville, IN hamfest. It can be all inside with the possibility of outside vending, weather permitting. It is in the same park as before, but in a new building. It is worth the trip. December 13 is Carthage, IL. This is a fairly small hamfest, close to Mark, KA9SZX, so we have the opportunity to stop and visit.



Cassie Lee, KC9KZG, and Jeremy Lamb, KC9KGJ, with winning plaques and traveling fox

ARRL Announces New Youth Editor

From the ARRL Newsletter

Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, of Prairie Village, Kansas, has been named as the new ARRL Youth Editor and will write the youth@HamRadio.Fun column <<http://www.arrl.org/news/youth/>>. MacLachlan, who turns 14 next week, takes over from Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, as she continues her education at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). Amateur Radio runs in the MacLachlan family -- 12 family members are hams. "I got interested in ham radio through Boy Scouts," MacLachlan said, "but it was with family support that I got licensed."

An ARRL member, MacLachlan was first licensed in February 2006. "I passed my Technician and decided I might as well get the code out of the way at the same time," he said. "I came home that afternoon with my CSCE and began the cycle of looking at radios, checking their price and then checking to see if I was in the database. Finally, after what felt like a year, but was really just a few days, I learned my call: KC0VVU."

Using an old handheld transceiver that his uncle, Phillip Fry, WD0FHK, loaned him, MacLachlan quickly got on the air. "I soon learned that I wasn't going to get into any repeaters from my room, so I put on a jacket and went outside to brave a February evening to talk on the radio," he said. "It was worth it! But it wasn't long that I got restless with being restricted to VHF/UHF -- I wanted to be able to talk around the world! I decided it was time to get to work on getting my General class license. I studied for two weeks and passed that test in April 2006 at a local hamfest."

MacLachlan said he remembers "getting on HF and gleefully calling CQ every afternoon." But soon, he said, he caught the DX bug: "I was satisfied with stateside QSOs, but not for long. I had heard about DX hunters, and the 'last 25,' so after doing some research, I knew I'd need my Amateur Extra license to get those contacts. After about a year of procrastinating, I decided it was time to start studying for my Extra. I think late January 2007 was one of the happiest times of my ham career: I had passed my Extra! Later that year, I changed my call to KU0DM. The KU is for University of Kansas (go Jayhawks!) and the DM is for my initials."

Since then, MacLachlan has become active in public service and emergency communications. "I feel that it is very important to provide Amateur Radio communications when asked or needed and that we do it in a way that is efficient for the operation and that respects accepted practice on the bands. I am currently the coordinator for the Johnson County ARES Rapid Response Team. My job is to assemble a roster of amateurs who are ready to respond at moment's notice to any disaster or request to aid in communications."

Outside of public service, MacLachlan, who calls himself a "big APRS geek," enjoys helping to build and maintain repeaters and digipeaters, trying to get the most range and reliability out of them. "I am a huge DXer," he said. "My total is currently at 110 entities (with a dipole and 100 W). When I get the chance, I'll put in an effort for almost any contest. I mainly operate SSB, but am getting up to speed on my CW after a year-long hiatus. I also enjoy weak-signal/sound card modes on HF and spend a lot of my time on PSK31 or RTTY. My favorite band is 15 meters. It is really almost always open, but people just don't use it."

Outside of ham radio, MacLachlan is an 8th grader at Indian Hills Middle School: "I enjoy football, basketball, climbing, swimming, listening to music and just spending time with friends and family. I am a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 91 and am working toward my Eagle Scout rank. I also am a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. I'm always looking ahead to see what's next in life and Amateur Radio!"

The two previous ARRL youth editors -- Hartlage and Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT -- have both received the prestigious Hiram Percy Maxim Award from the ARRL, as well as "Amateur Radio Newsline's" Young Ham of the Year Award.

Hartlage was also awarded the Goldfarb Scholarship from the ARRL Foundation in 2007. Milesosky currently serves as Rocky Mountain Division Director; he is the youngest to be elected ARRL Vice Director and Director.

ARRL Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your ARRL membership through TCARC. Just send your application and check to TCARC to the return address on this newsletter.