

Hamfest Calendar

Nov 6 Milwaukee, WI
 Nov 13-14 Fort Wayne, IN
 Nov 27 Evansville, IN



VE Exams

11/11/2010 Illiana Radio Club
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584
 Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall
 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

11/13/2010 Wabash Valley ARA
 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Terry L. Hackett (217) 465-4884
 Burkybile Law Office
 15175 US Highway 150 Paris IL

11/13/2010 W5YI W5YI VEC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Keith R. Hanson (309) 378-4416
 Fire Station 1300 E College Ave
 Bloomington IL

11/14/2010 VCARA ARRL/VEC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Josh D. Kittle (217) 442-0578
 Vermilion County EMA Building
 2507 Georgetown Rd Danville IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

November 2010
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Next Meeting is November 9

Our next TCARC meeting is November 9 at the UI Fire Institute. Zack, W9SZ, will tell us about microwave Amateur Radio and his experiences with it. His microwave contacts are in the 10 GHz range, and it is amazing to hear about some of the distances covered. This will be a most informative meeting.

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 TCARC Board meets on the Thursday prior to our regular monthly meeting. It is at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Club members are welcome to attend.

Christmas Party!

Once again, Donna and Pat Curtin, N9KVE and N9GOC, plan to host a Ham Radio Christmas Party at their home on Sunday, December 19. Details are not finalized yet, but it will most likely be a potluck as in the past. All Amateur Radio Operators and their families are invited, TCARC club members and non-club members. Details will be in the December newsletter.

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
Second Tuesday - Meets Wednesday	
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

Our October Meeting

We apologize for the inconvenience last month, having to move the meeting location at the last minute. The Fire Institute had a special tour and demonstration and we were not aware of it until we arrived. Several members scrambled to find an alternate meeting place, and we thank Mark, KC9DUU, for arranging the use of a conference room in Huff Hall. Most of the members made the trip to Huff, and enjoyed the presentation by Kevin, KC8RFE, on the D-Star Hot Spot. We are secondary users of the Fire Institute, so we can see scheduling conflicts, but hopefully infrequently.

Dues Are Due!

It is again time to pay TCARC dues. Please make your check payable to TCARC and either mail to the return address on your newsletter, or bring to the next meeting. The dues are by calendar year.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036
Vice President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302

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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TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

We Are Fortunate!

Our members deserve a compliment! We have one of the most active radio clubs around. We get along with each other quite well, for the most part, and we like to socialize informally. It is rare that a call goes unanswered on our repeaters by those passing through our area. Many pass through who remember the hospitality of Champaign-Urbana hams and they tell us how they look forward to returning. Our informal lunches promote good will between members and this is a good way to get to know our newer licensees, not to mention that getting together is fun. As many have heard, we think that maybe our hobby is eating and we just use Ham Radio to coordinate our hobby! Those who travel should know that many repeaters are silent much of the time. It is excellent that we have activity much of the time, and everyone shares the time, not being a hog and overusing the systems. We are also very fortunate to have wonderful locations for repeaters, and blessed with competent club members who maintain them. When anyone needs assistance putting up an antenna, or repairing equipment, there is always an abundant number of responders to share the work. We hope this attitude never changes!

ARRL Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your ARRL membership through TCARC as we receive a commission. New member applications are most welcome. Send the form along with a check payable to TCARC to our PO Box.

VE Exams

The last TCARC VE Exam was October 24. Only one candidate tested, and is now a General Class Licensee. Thanks to the VEs who assisted with the exam session. Our next exam is in January.

New Uniden Scanner

Uniden has done it again! In early October, the Uniden Home Patrol scanner hit the streets. What is different about this model? The big feature is that it programs itself from an internal database. A location is entered on the screen, types of radio services are chosen, then in less than a minute, the scanner is talking. Locations can be entered in several ways. Zip Code can be used, City names can be used, specific coordinates can be entered, or a GPS may be connected. Using a GPS, the scanner will program itself as you travel on the highways. The database contains all of the listings in RadioReference.com, and can be updated as frequently as desired, using a computer and the Internet. The controls are by using the touch sensitive color screen. About the size of a GPS with screen, the Home Patrol runs on 4 AA batteries, an AC adapter, or a car cord, all included. It handles trunking and digital systems very well. The street price is holding around \$500.

Repeaters

Our access to the Internet was interrupted for a few days due to a power supply failure on the modem/router. The supply was replaced and everything seems to function normally now. The Echolink access was affected as was the D-Star internet access. Both repeaters remained on the air, but no Internet features were functioning. Otherwise, all repeaters are running well.

Ben K9BF, moved his repeater from the tower Northwest of Champaign to the top of the 21 story Presidential Tower building on the UI campus. The move is still in progress, but the repeater is working well. Many years ago, we had the 146.76 repeater located there. This move provides excellent coverage for the campus area. The IRLP node, 4280, still functions on the K9BF repeater. The frequency is 444.525 with a tone of 162.2.

Hamfests

We still have a few hamfests coming soon, but they are inside now. On Saturday and Sunday, November 13 and 14, the Fort Wayne club holds their annual hamfest at the Memorial Colosseum in Fort Wayne. This has always been an excellent hamfest, managed well, and with comfortable surroundings. Saturday is the busiest day, as with most 2 day events. On Saturday, November 27, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Evansville, Indiana club holds their hamfest in a building located in the county 4-H grounds. This is a smaller hamfest, but very friendly. It is sponsored by the Ham Station of Evansville.

You can locate hamfests in the USA by going to the ARRL link below:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>



Fox Hunt October 24

Sunday afternoon, October 24, found several TCARC members out hunting foxes at Lake of the Woods Park. The weather was beautiful as were the tree colors. Beating a wet weather forecast, we saw no rain. Jeremy, KC9KGJ, and Cassie, KC9KZG, hid 7 little foxes, better known as miniature radio transmitters. Each transmitted every 60 seconds with a voice message, or Morse Code. Six club members brought their hunting equipment to the park for the hunt. Equipment consists of a portable yagi antenna, radio, and some sort of attenuator for close-in work. 3 of the foxes were on the same frequency while the others were exclusive. Most foxes were hidden in wooded areas along roads. One, however, was not, and it proved to be quite entertaining for spectators. The transmitter had no antenna, and was placed inside a metal drinking fountain, visible only by looking under the hiding spot. Some found it promptly, while others searched and searched before locating the hiding fox. The signal was strong only right at the fountain, but trees and the shelter roof were checked before everyone located the fox. After the hunt, everyone enjoyed a meal in Mahomet before returning home. We hope to have more hunts in the near future, but none are scheduled at present.

Photos from the hunt. Up left the crew starts. **Low left** Mark KC9DUU getting close. **Below** Paul, N9XDN locates the fox.

