

## Hamfest Calendar

Nov 19-20 Fort Wayne, IN  
Nov 26 Evansville, IN  
Jan 7 Waukesha, WI  
Feb 10-12 Orlando, FL



## VE Exam Schedule

Eastside Outdoor Ham Club ARRL/VEC  
Nov 10 2011 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584  
Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall  
1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

Central Illinois Radio Club W5YI VEC  
Nov 12 2011 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Keith R. Hanson (309) 378-4416  
Fire Station-Lower Level  
1300 E College Ave Normal IL

Wabash Valley ARA ARRL/VEC  
Nov 12 2011 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Terry L. Hackett (217) 465-4884  
Burkybile Law Office 15175 US Highway 150  
Paris IL

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

November 2011

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Meeting November 8

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The program this month is a presentation on Considerations in the Selection of Dipole Antenna Height. There is more to erecting a dipole other than just getting it up in the air. Come learn all about it.

## 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. All club members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings.

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.

## VE Exam

Our October VE Exam Session sent 8 persons home with big smiles on their faces. 4 new licensees and 4 upgrades were the result of the session. Everyone attending passed! Our next session is mid-January, exact date not yet set.

## Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
◆Week of 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

## You Are Invited To A Christmas Party!

**When: December 17th around 5:00 P.M.**

**Where: 2507 Berniece Dr, home of Pat (N9GOC) and Donna (N9KVE) Curtin**

All are welcome; bring a friend or/and family, or come by yourself.

As usual, this is a pot luck dinner, so bring a dish to share. Don't forget your White Elephant gift for a rip-roaring, action-packed, rousing, invigorating gift exchange!

If you wish to RSVP or you have any questions the phone number is 217 398 4914 and the e-mail is N9GOC73@gmail.com Hope to see all of you there!

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

### Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE	937-572-2081

### 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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Champaign, IL 61825-2061

## Dues Time Again!

Yes, it is time to renew your membership in the club. The dues remain at \$20 per year for individual members and \$21 will cover the whole family living at home. Our dues are on the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. We greatly appreciate your early response in sending your dues. Checks are preferred as they are easier to track, but cash will be accepted. Checks should be payable to Twin City Amateur Radio Club or just TCARC, and sent to the PO Box on the newsletter return address. Those receiving paper newsletters may check your address label for the expiration date of your dues. Those receiving the newsletter by email will see a comment in the email indicating your dues status.

## Newsletter by Email

You can receive your TCARC newsletter by email if you wish. You will receive it sooner and you may print it from you computer, giving you a paper copy. Please let Milt K9QZI know if you wish to change to email. You can add a note with your dues payment requesting email also.

## HOGs

The HOGs, or Ham trailer Owners Group, as it is called, held a work day recently to work on the R/V radio trailer. Those contributing to the purchase and maintenance make up this informal group. The trailer is for use by the whole club, but presently ownership is not the responsibility of the club. Much was accomplished on the work day a couple of weeks ago, making some repairs and modifying the trailer for better radio related use. Around Noon, the leftover food, mostly burgers and brats, was served to all club members who came by Jim Crisman's shop at that time. Working on the trailer was not required to eat. We have now disposed of the leftover picnic food that we had due to the rainy picnic. Thanks to all who helped with the trailer

## 2 Meter FM Challenge

Once again we will hold our 2 Meter FM Challenge, a 2 meter only contest. Jeremy, KC9KGJ, is heading the activity. It will be Sunday, December 4, from 2p.m. to 3 p.m. Logs must be submitted to Jeremy by Midnight December 19. Mail or email the logs to him. For complete rules, please go to our website, [www.w9seh.org](http://www.w9seh.org) and click on 2 Meter Challenge. Rules are the same as our previous contests.

## CQ Worldwide DX Contest

October 29-30 found many many Amateur Radio Operators on the air for the contest. The band conditions were the best we have seen in many years. The were back to normal as some of us remember. All regular bands (not WARC) were jammed from one end to the other with all kinds of DX stations making contacts. This includes 10 meters! However, 6 meters opens under different conditions and is not normally open when the HF bands are hot, as was the case here.

The best part of the weekend was Ben, K9BF, opening his station to anyone wanting to operate during the contest. It was not a high pressure operation to go for max points, but it was an introduction to contesting. Ben and Matt, KB9UWU, supervised the operating and helped those new to the hobby to learn to contest. Everyone had an outstanding time talking to the world! We understand that Pat and Donna, N9GOC and N9KVE, attended on Saturday where Donna made several contacts. Then on Sunday morning Pat woke up to find Donna at their ham station, working the contest! She wanted to know why Pat had no contest logging software! I think there might be a new contender in the community. Thanks to Ben for making his station available, and we hear that he might do it again.

## Ham Nation

A recent addition to the Internet related to our hobby is a weekly program called Ham Radio Nation. Gordon West WB6NOA, Bob Heil K9EID, Leo Laporte, W6TWT, George Thomas, W5JDX, and a few others provide this informative hour of Amateur Radio information. It is in HD video and always something new each week. Many aspects of the hobby are presented and explained and there is always a portion devoted to building equipment, soldering techniques, and other technical aspects of electronic construction. There is something in the show for everyone, and it is very entertaining. Following the show, there are several nets available for questions and comments. Frequencies are given at the end of the show and D-Star Reflector 014C is used as well. Anyone may connect our D-Star repeater to that reflector if it isn't already connected. Tuesday evenings at 8:30, go to <http://www.twit.tv/hn> for the show. All previous shows are available to watch at that same location.

## KA9SZX Gathering

All we can say is that everyone attending had a good time and there was lots of good food. Mark, KA9SZX, held his annual gathering at his home in Macomb the first weekend in October. Several TCARC members and their families attended, along with several of Mark's local friends. Some stayed in Mark's home, several brought their RVs and parked in the yard, and others camped in tents. Pat, N9GOC, connected with a couple of his former classmates who attended the Jacksonville School for the Blind. He had a very nice visit with these Macomb residents as he had not met them face to face. The weather was beautiful, the food was good, and a few were able to attend a hamfest on Sunday. The hamfest was in North Liberty, Iowa, about 2 hours from Mark's place. There was a balloon launch at the hamfest and many of us watched the launch, then talked through the repeater on the balloon as we drove home. The hamfest was a very nice smaller hamfest, but worth the trip.

## D-Star QSO Party

Icom Inc. is organizing a weekend long D-STAR QSO Party for 2011 to be held between 0:00 on the 11th of November to 24:00 on the 13th of November (UTC).

This event differs from previous D-STAR contests that have taken place over the last few years. Instead of competing for numbers of contacted call signs, the goal this year is to encourage D-STAR operators to communicate through as many D-STAR repeaters and with other D-STAR operators across the globe. The more countries a user contacts during the time period, the more entries in the prize pool they will have. Icom Inc. has a total of fifteen of the forthcoming ID-31E D-STAR UHF handheld transceivers. available as prizes for this event.

Participation in the contest is via DV mode. All operators who submit an approved log will be eligible for the draw and 15 (fifteen) winners will be randomly selected to each win a prize. To qualify for the draw:

- You need make a contact through at least one repeater in your own country.
- Contact D-STAR users in 5 foreign countries and you will double your chances to win a prize.
- Contact D-STAR users in 10 foreign countries and you will triple your chances to win a prize.
- Contact D-STAR users in more than 20 foreign countries and you will quadruple your chances to win a prize.

## Fort Wayne Hamfest

November 19 and 20 is the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Hamfest. This is always a good hamfest, in very nice accommodations inside the Memorial Colosseum. As with most hamfests now, Saturday is the best day to attend. It is a 4 hour trip, but well worth driving there. A bonus can be had as Fry's Electronics is easy to visit on the way home, located near the intersection of I69 and I475 near Indianapolis.