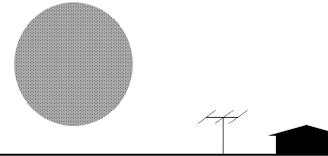


Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

October 2006

Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Editor



Hamfest Calendar

Oct 8 Bedford, In
Nov 12 Litchfield, IL ATV Banquet
18-19 Fort Wayne, IN
25 Evansville, IN

VE Exams

07-Oct-2006 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

15-Oct-2006 TWIN CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
DEBRA J FLIGOR (217) 244-4446
UNIV OF IL FIRE SERVICE INST 11 GERTY DR
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820

16-Oct-2006 MOULTRIE ARC ARRL/VEC
7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
RALPH ZANCHA (217) 873-5287
MOULTRIE ARC CLUBHOUSE
CALL FOR DIRECTIONS SULLIVAN, IL 61951

21-Oct-2006 Exams will be held at the Decatur, IL
Hamfest at 10 a.m. Walk-ins only.

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Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Meeting October 10

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, October 10, at the UI Fire Institute at 7:00 p.m. The program is a presentation on the MiniNVA Analyzer for tuning antennas. Mike, K9MLT, and Larry, K9LMM, will demonstrate the analyzer.

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. Please note that this is a change from our past board meeting locations. All members are welcome to attend.

ARRL Membership

Please remember to renew your ARRL Membership through TCARC. We receive \$2 for each renewal and \$15 for each new membership transmitted through the club. Please complete the ARRL form and send to TCARC at the return address on this newsletter, along with a check to TCARC in the amount required by the ARRL. We will forward it to the ARRL, along with our club check. Please renew early to allow processing time.

VE Exams

Our next session is at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, October 15, at the UI Fire Institute. The new Technician Question Pool is in effect and will be used at this session. General and Extra remain the same.

Repeater Update

Thanks to Al, K9SI and Wayne, AB9FJ, for installing an air conditioner in the repeater building. Thanks to TJ, N9PFC, for providing and refurbishing the air-conditioning unit. TJ will supply the outside cover for winter weather protections. He also donated three additional filters for the unit.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President Bob Minton WA9KGU 352-4859
Vice President Ralph Cox W9PGE 396-5111
Secretary Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ 384-4310
Treasurer Milt Forsberg K9QZI 352-5075

Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI 688-2790
Drew White K9CW 643-7327
Ben Fisher K9BF 351-7655

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN 244-4446
Website www.qsl.net/w9seh

Hamfests

The Peoria Superfest has come and gone. The weather cooperated this year, with no rain during the whole event. Sunday's forecast, however, was for rain much of the day. This kept the attendance much smaller than the usual light crowd Sunday. The crowd was good on Saturday and there were more vendors in the flea market than the past couple of years. Sales were down for most vendors, even with a better crowd. KA9SZX and N9RIX won prizes in the final rapid-fire drawing on Sunday.

The Bedford, Indiana hamfest is this Sunday, Oct 8. The Decatur, Illinois hamfest is October 21. The date was moved from May to avoid conflicts. It is a one-day hamfest on Saturday.

The Fort Wayne, Indiana, hamfest is November 18-19. All indoors, this is a large hamfest in comfortable surroundings. As with most 2-day hamfests, Saturday is the best day to attend.

Suitsat-1 Re-enters Earth's Atmosphere

From ARRL News

SuitSat-1 (AO-54) is history. The surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit turned satellite, which became one of the greatest public relations vehicles for Amateur Radio in years, re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere Thursday, September 7, at 1600 UTC some 1400 km south-southwest of Western Australia. The announcement came September 8 from Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. Bauer expressed thanks to "all who made SuitSat-1 the phenomenal event that it was." Launched February 3 during a spacewalk from the ISS, SuitSat-1's 2-meter signal was heard around the world, although at a much weaker signal strength than anticipated.

Please note – this happened just after our September newsletter went out with the story that Suitsat was still in orbit.

Radio Jammer Jack Gerritsen Gets Seven Years, Fines

From ARRL News

It was a day a lot of radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom.

Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency. The judge berated Gerritsen as a repeat offender and said he believed Gerritsen would continue to commit similar offenses. The sentence even exceeded US District Attorney Lamar Baker's recommended 46 months incarceration.

In addition to the prison time, Klausner fined Gerritsen \$225, payable immediately, and an additional \$15,000 to be paid through the Probation Department. Klausner tacked on two years' supervised probation and recommended Gerritsen remain in custody in Southern California during that period.

Klausner further ordered Gerritsen to participate in a substance abuse program at his own expense. He told Gerritsen he could not use any identification, including his previous Amateur Radio call sign KG6IRO, other than his real name when identifying himself, and he told Gerritsen he could not own, possess or use any radio transmitting equipment.

The FCC had been investigating complaints of illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years. According to court documents, the FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen

transmitted both prerecorded messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often targeting local Amateur Radio repeater systems and precluding their use by licensed operators.

Following trial last December, Gerritsen was found guilty of causing malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States -- a felony. The court also found him guilty of two misdemeanor counts of willful or malicious interference with radio communications and three misdemeanor counts of transmitting radio signals without a license. Gerritsen has been in custody since his conviction.

The FCC has already levied \$52,000 in fines on Gerritsen for violating its rules and the Communications Act.

Chip Margelli Moves from Yaesu to Heil Sound

From ARRL News

Well-known Amateur Radio industry personality Chip Margelli, K7JA, has joined Heil Sound Ltd as vice president of sales and marketing. Heil Sound President Bob Heil, K9EID, and his wife Sarah announced September 14 that Margelli will be responsible for all national and international Amateur Radio sales and marketing plans. Margelli, who for many years has been associated with the Yaesu Amateur Radio brand and regularly fronted that manufacturer's hamfest concessions all over the US, says he's "honored and excited" to be making the move to Heil Sound.

"Heil Sound is a dynamic, growing, and creative enterprise, and I look forward to being a part of their bright future," Margelli commented.

Calling it "an historic day for Amateur Radio," Heil said Margelli "brings his great passion and knowledge of Amateur Radio to this new post." He cited Margelli's more than 40 years of experience and expertise as a DXer,

DXpeditioner, contesteer and top-notch CW operator "along with his great knowledge of just about every radio in existence" as assets that will benefit Heil Sound's dealers and customers worldwide.

Licensed since 1963, Margelli is an ARRL Life Member. He also belongs to AMSAT and the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). He and his wife Janet, KL7MF, live in Garden Grove, California.

Margelli has authored articles for QST, QCWA Journal, CQ and CQ VHF magazines. His most recent contribution for QST was "Field Day 2003 from Cuba," which appeared in the December 2003 issue. Margelli enjoys operating on all amateur bands from HF through UHF -- including "weak-signal" terrestrial and moonbounce work and satellite operation -- and has a special fondness for 6 meters. Beyond ham radio, Margelli enjoys photography, astronomy and running marathons.

Margelli holds both bachelor's and master's degrees (political science and business administration, respectively) from the University of Washington. He speaks fluent Japanese.

In May 2005, Margelli and partner Ken Miller, K6CTW, enjoyed their "15 minutes of Amateur Radio fame" with an appearance on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on NBC. Using Morse code, the two radio amateurs went head to head with US cell-phone text messaging champ Ben Cook and his partner to see which mode would get the message through in the shortest time. Margelli, Miller and Morse won hands down.

Outside of the realm of the Amateur Radio industry, Margelli and Heil are longtime friends. An industry personality in his own right, Heil was recognized by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in June on the basis of his pioneering sound work with a variety of rock bands, including The James Gang and The Eagles (see Bob Heil, K9EID: "It's all Because of Ham Radio!" in Oct 2006 QST, p 49). Another Heil friend, Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, plays in both bands.