

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

October 2008  
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Hamfest Calendar

Oct 11	Logan, IL
Oct 12	Kalamazoo, MI
Oct 18	Decatur, IL
Oct 25	Kirkwood, MO
Nov 1	Milwaukee, WI
Nov 2	Davenport, IA
Nov 9	Litchfield, IL ATV Banquet
Nov 15-16	Ft Wayne, IN
Nov 29	Evansville, IN



## VE Exams

### 19-Oct-2008 Twin City Amateur Radio Club

1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
Debra J Fligor (217)244-4446  
Email: N9DN@ARRL.NET  
Univ Of IL Fire Service Inst  
11 Gerty Dr Champaign, IL 61820

### 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

## Meeting October 14

Our next meeting of the Twin City Amateur Radio Club is Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. The program is "Prototyping - from Schematic to PCB" by Nick W9MH. He will show steps creating a finished PC Board from a schematic.

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.

## September Picnic a Success

Our September meeting was September 6 at the Ford-Harris Park, the same location as Field Day. There was a fox hunt for the early arrivals. Several foxes (low power FM transmitters) were hidden around the park. The hunters used their fox hunting equipment to locate each of the foxes. The equipment consisted of a portable antenna, receiver with an S meter, and attenuating devices. Everyone brought a dish to share and the club provided the burgers. Dave, W9DML, provided the German hot dogs. Ralph, W9PGE, provided the grill and cooked. The weather was excellent. Around 40 attended and everyone had a good time and ate well.



Debbie, N9DN, and her son hunting the fox

## VE Exam Session

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, October 19, at the UI Fire Institute. We start at 1:00 p.m. and run until all are finished. All 3 exam elements are offered and prior reservations are not needed. The exam fee is \$14.00, as set by the ARRL/VEC and the FCC. This covers all elements that are passed that day. If an element is failed and taken again, another \$14.00 fee is charged. For information, please contact Debbie Fligor, N9DN, our VE Coordinator.

## Interference and What to Do

Recently, we have experienced a little interference on our repeaters by someone sending CTCSS tones over others talking. We are looking into this. If you hear it, just ignore it - don't even mention it as the person is probably looking for a reaction.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Dr Mike Trautman K9MLT	356-4302
<b>Vice President</b>	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	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
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Website	<a href="http://www.w9seh.org">www.w9seh.org</a>
Analog Repeater W9SEH	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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**TCARC**  
PO Box 2061  
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

## Fox Hunt October 12 Marshall, IL

The 2008 Eastside Outdoor Ham Club Fox Hunt and Picnic are being held on Sunday, October 12th at Lincoln Trail State Park, just south of Marshall, IL. Several hams from our area have been attending this event for years, and found it to be really enjoyable. Whether you're just a beginner or an expert at hidden transmitter hunting, this is a fun day, with gracious hosts. Here's the flyer:

<http://www.wirelessinfield.com/hunt101208>

Last year, 3 teams from TCARC participated in the Fox Hunt. There were others from the Eastside club participating as well. Our teams took First, Second, and Third places in the hunt. The winning team was Mark, KC9DUU, and Ben, K9BF. Several are talking about taking part in this year's event. We expect to hear some good reports from those who hunt.

## Scanning Update

For those who listen to the Public Service frequencies on your scanner, here is the latest status of the services around us.

METCAD is using the MDICE digital system almost entirely now. All police are digital and most fire departments are as well. The rural fire departments recently switched to the new system. However, fire dispatch (only) is both on the old frequencies as well as on the new system. There are many pagers in use and they won't receive the new system. Champaign-Urbana Fire is dispatched on 154.07 and rural fire is dispatched on 154.25. Except for dispatch, the rest of the fire communications is on the new system. There is talk of moving the CU dispatch to 154.25, but this has not happened yet. Some public works have moved, as well as the courthouse security. The Rantoul Police also moved to the new system. Uniden Scanner owners - Uniden just released Firmware Upgrade Version 3. It fixes some of the problems in the past on both 396 and 996.

## Jamboree On The Air

The annual Scout Jamboree On The Air is October 18 and 19. This is a time when Amateur Radio Operators open their stations to Scouts all over the world. The Scouts can visit with each other and exchange information. It is an informal program where the goal is to get Scouts on the radio. No points are scored - it is not a contest. Most of the time, the boys must be prodded to get them to talk the first time, but usually after that, they enjoy it. If you know of a nearby Scout Troop, you might contact them and offer to host the boys sometime during the weekend, if you are willing to do this.

The event is sponsored by the World Scout Bureau. You can find out more at the World Scout Bureau website [www.scout.org/jota/](http://www.scout.org/jota/). The ARRL also has information and ideas to prepare for the event. [www.arrl.org/scouts](http://www.arrl.org/scouts) is the website.

Cloth patches and certificates are available for those participating. Patches are \$4 each, postpaid from the BSA headquarters. Certificates are free. Orders can be sent to Jamboree on the Air Certificates Cards & Patches, S221, PO Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. New last year was the JOTA storyboard on the ARRL website. The URL is [www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/Stories/](http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/Stories/)

Operating times are from 0000 local time Saturday to 2400 local time Sunday. Most activity takes place during the day on Saturday and into the evening. Sunday is also active, but not as much as Saturday.

Here are the frequencies:

80 m 3.690 & 3.940 MHz 3.570 MHz  
40 m 7.090 & 7.190 MHz 7.030 MHz  
20 m 14.290 MHz 14.060 MHz  
17 m 18.140 MHz 18.080 MHz  
15 m 21.360 MHz 21.140 MHz  
12 m 24.960 MHz 24.910 MHz  
10 m 28.390 MHz 28.180 MHz  
6 m 50.160 MHz 50.160 MHz

## Hamfests

As we move into Fall, the number of nearby hamfests decreases. Some of the best ones are in this time of year, and there are a few in the future.

Radio Expo, by the Chicago FM Club, was at Belvidere on September 13 and 14. That was the weekend we saw the remains of the hurricane pass through. At the hamfest, there was constant rain all day Saturday and most of Sunday. The hamfest committee permitted outside vendors to move inside the buildings wherever there was space, and at no charge, provided they brought their own tables. The crowd was down considerably due to the weather.

The Peoria Superfest was September 20 and 21. The weather was outstanding both days, even though we had rain in Champaign. The crowd may have been down some from last year, but only a little smaller. Those attending were in the buying mood, according to some vendors. Other vendors reported poor sales. Sunday found almost no crowd and many vendors gone. K9QZI held tickets for TCARC members at the final drawing. However, of the 17 held, none were drawn. Oh well.... There is always next year.

The Bedford, Indiana hamfest was October 5, with nice weather. The crowd was a little smaller than last year and there were a few less vendors, but those attending were in a buying mood and the food was good.

Coming up is the Decatur Hamfest on Saturday, October 18, at the Richland Community College. There are both inside and outside vendors. This is a nice local hamfest. October 25 is the Kirkwood, MO hamfest.

November is busy with hamfests and other activities. November 1 is Milwaukee, November 2 is Davenport, IA, November 9 is the Litchfield, IL ATV Banquet, November 15-16 is Ft Wayne, IN, and November 29 is Evansville, IN.

## D-Star Repeater

Our D-Star repeater is operating well. The range appears to be 30 to 40 miles, possibly more. There are around 15 users in the Champaign-Urbana area. 5 or 6 new users appeared this week to our South. They are from Mattoon, Sullivan, Lovington, Decatur and Charleston. Last month, the Moultrie County Club, MARK, had the same program by Kermit, W9XA, as ours in March. Several MARC members were fascinated by the new mode and ordered radios. They indicated that their club will install a D-Star repeater in the near future.

We are still running without the Internet connection. We don't want to irritate our repeater site host, so we are carefully checking into Internet possibilities. Debbie, N9DN, has the Gateway software running, so we can now register users on the Gateway. This registration is required in order to connect to the Gateway from any location. Registration is one time only, allowing the user to operate through any Gateway to other repeaters. Also, the Gateway registration is required to use the DV Dongle. For registration, please contact N9DN or K9QZI.



Seen at Peoria - WA0KGU automobile. From Hazelwood, MO, he appears at many hamfests with at least 24 antennas. Photo by W9CMA