

## Hamfest Calendar

Oct 30 Kirkwood, MO  
 Nov 13-14 Fort Wayne, IN  
 Nov 27 Evansville, IN



## VE Exams

10/14/2010 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

10/17/2009 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

10/18/2010 Iroquois County ARC  
 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 Carl F. Schroeder (815) 473-4263  
 Glen Raymond School  
 101 E Mulberry Street Watseka IL

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

October 2010  
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## Next Meeting is October 12

Our next TCARC meeting is October 12 at the UI Fire Institute. Kevin Coogan, KC8RFE, will demonstrate his Hot Spot. This is a board that connects to an analog FM Ham radio that allows it to pass D-Star communications. The board also connects to a computer for Internet access. Any D-Star radio can be used to transmit and receive to and from the analog radio. Basically, it permits the use of an HT into a higher power radio, to access D-Star systems.

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.

## Illinois D-Star Net

We invite all D-Star users to join us on the Illinois D-Star Net each Wednesday evening at 9 p.m. Central Time. The net is informal and everyone is welcome. It started as our own TCARC net, but now it includes most D-Star repeaters in Illinois.

## 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

## W9CMA is a Winner!

Chris Anderson, W9CMA, attended the Peoria Superfest the last few years, always dropping his ticket in the barrel and asking someone to hold the stub in case he won anything. This year, his ticket was drawn for the Grand Prize. Milt, K9QZI, held his ticket and picked up the prize, a brand new Yaesu FT-817 radio. It is an all-band, all-mode transceiver suited for portable operation, running 5 watts. Chris is learning to operate it and has had it on the air. So, there is a chance that someone from here can win a top prize. K9QZI was pleased to hold the ticket as this is the first time any tickets held won the tip prize. Others have won lesser prizes, but this is a first! Congratulations, Chris!

## Newsletter by Email

You can receive your newsletter faster by email. Contact K9QZI, Milt, to change your delivery.

## TCARC Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	Jeremy Lamb KC9KJG	621-8036
<b>Vice President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	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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<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.w9seh.org">www.w9seh.org</a>
<b>Analog Repeater W9SEH</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

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

## JOTA

From ARRL News

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than 400,000 Scouts and Guides “get together” over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. With no restrictions on age or on the number of participants, and at little or no expense, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

JOTA is held the third weekend in October of each year, October 16-17 this year. JOTA takes place starting Saturday at 0000 hours local time (12:00 AM) to Sunday, 23.59 hours local time (12:00 PM), though some activity continues from Friday to Monday to take advantage of long distance (DX) time differences.

If you can, invite some Scouts to your station to participate in JOTA. It is not a contest, but is an informal opportunity for Scouts to be introduced to Ham Radio.

For more information, please go to the following: <http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

## Fox Hunt October 24

There will be a fox hunt on October 24, starting at 1:00 p.m. at Lake of the Woods Park. It will be mostly a foot hunt, with several fox transmitters hiding. A fox hunt is a search for hidden transmitters, using direction finding equipment, or just using an HT close to your body. Club members will be available to assist those who are not familiar with fox hunting.

## Yet Another Balloon Chase

On Sunday, October 10, several TCARC members assisted with a balloon launch and chase to recover the balloon and payload. A University High School class launched the balloon in a field near Sidney. Our members volunteered to chase it down when it landed. Because the students planned and organized the launch, our members only assisted with the recovery. There was no APRS equipment on board. A cell phone was used as a GPS to track the flight. Mark, KC9DUU did donate a beacon transmitter to make recovery a little easier. The launch was around 10 a.m. with the balloon heading Northeast. It floated over the Indiana state line and descended into a corn field about 25 miles inside Indiana, about 3 miles North of I74. The recovery team was Ben, K9BF, Jeremy, KC9KGJ, Pat, N9GOC, and Dennis, KA9IBS. Mark, KC9DUU assisted for part of the time, but had a prior commitment in the afternoon. The landing was in the middle of a cornfield, and yes, one that was not yet harvested. After obtaining permission from the farmer, they trudged through the corn for about an hour when the package was located.

## VE Exams

The next session will be October 17 at the UI Fire Institute. Please contact Debbie, N9DN, for details or questions. Walk-ins are welcome. The fee remains at \$15. The Technician question pool changed July 1, so if someone plans to test, be sure to use the new questions for study.

## New Trailer

The new trailer purchased by several club members made an appearance at our picnic in September. K9QZI towed it to the park for everyone to see it. A couple of radios were set up temporarily inside, just to give it a radio feel. It is not finished as the work on it is just begun, but it is in great shape and will make a very nice communication trailer. N9AJV towed it to the Peoria Superfest and found it provided excellent accommodations for both AB9FJ and N9AJV during the all night rain at Peoria.

## Hamfests

September provided us with a couple of good hamfests. The Peoria Superfest was off to a good start until the rain came, just prior to Noon. It shut down the fleamarket for the rest of the day, but the inside dealers were open the whole time. The rain was off and on the rest of the day and evening. Sunday, the flea market was more water than gravel, so most did not reopen. The crowd was good on Saturday. Rob, N9RIX, and Molly provided Supper for those of us who stayed overnight. As always, the food was excellent and plentiful. And, as announced on the first page, Chris, W9CMA, won the top prize in the drawing on Sunday.

The following weekend was Radio Expo in Belvidere, IL. The weather cooperated and the crowd was good. Buyers were holding back, but overall sales were ok. This was a Saturday only hamfest this year.

Coming up is the Fort Wayne Hamfest on November 13 and 14. This is always an excellent hamfest, all indoors in comfortable surroundings. The Saturday after Thanksgiving is the Evansville, IN hamfest.

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

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

## KA9SZX Gathering

Mark, KA9SZX, held his annual gathering at his home in Macomb, IL. The guest list totaled somewhere around 25 over the October 2-3 weekend. 4 motorhomes and/or camper trailers spent the weekend in Mark's front yard, along with a tent that housed KC9DUU. Others stayed in guest rooms, while the Macomb locals returned to their homes. A few guests from here stayed in hotels overnight. The festivities began Friday and ended mostly on Sunday. Pat and Donna, N9GOC and N9KVE, stayed in their camper in Mark's yard until Tuesday. The weather was great, permitting those who wished to sit around a campfire in the evenings in Mark's back yard. The meals were potluck, with a lot of great food. Rob, N9RIX, cooked a turkey for the evening meal.

On Saturday, a Ham Radio balloon was launched in Iowa. Mark was unable to attend, due to the gathering, but Mark, KC9DUU, Jeremy, KC9KGJ, and Jesse Riskey, K9JLR, drove to Ottumwa, Iowa to chase the balloon and recover it when it descended. They followed the path, taking them about 2 hours from Macomb, where the balloon came down in a field, near Carlinville, Illinois. As the balloon descended, the crew was almost directly beneath it and watched it come down. None of the group had chased balloons prior to this experience, however, they have lots of practice fox hunting for hidden radio transmitters. They returned to Mark's house in time for the big Supper potluck meal.

Overall, it was a most enjoyable weekend. Everyone is already looking forward to next year! We send a big thanks to Mark for hosting us.

## 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.