

Hamfest Calendar

Sep 17 Peoria, IL
 Oct 2 Bedford, IN



VE Exam Schedule

Oct 02 2011 Wabash Valley ARC ARRL/VEC
 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 D Steven. Shorter (812) 232-4788
 Glas-Col Annex-Rear of Building
 1715 S 8th St Terre Haute IN

Oct 08 2011 Piatt County ARC ARRL/VEC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Michael S. Mullins (217) 377-1523
 Location: Piatt County Emergency Operations Centers
 302 S Charter St Monticello IL

Oct 13 2011 Eastside Outdoor Ham Club ARRL/VEC
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
 James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584
 Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall
 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

Oct 16 2011 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

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

September 2011
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Picnic September 18

In our usual manner, we opted to hold a picnic instead of a regular meeting this month. No meeting was held Tuesday. Our picnic is Sunday, September 18 at the Ford-Harris Park (same location as Field Day). Burgers and Brats are provided by the club, along condiments and buns. Some drinks are available. Please bring a dish to share and, if you wish, your own soft drinks. We plan to gather around 4:30 p.m. and eat around 5. This timing will permit those attending the Peoria Hamfest on Sunday to return to town and attend. Please bring the family and any guests who might be interested in our hobby. Lawn chairs are needed as the tables are limited. This is an informal gathering and a great time to connect with other club members.

Ford-Harris Park is 2 1/2 miles North of I74 and 1/2 mile West of US45 or North Cunningham from Urbana. We will monitor the local repeaters for anyone needing help locating the park. We hope to see everyone there!

The TCARC Board meets on the Thursday prior to our regular monthly meeting. It is at 7:00 p.m. at Culver's on S Neil in Champaign. The location changed as we have been meeting for a meal prior and staying at Culver's. We don't want to reserve the Fire Institute then not use it. Club members are welcome to attend.

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

New Officers

At our June meeting, we elected officers for the club to serve through June 2012. We greatly appreciate those who are willing to hold an office and help make the club more exciting. They are listed at the bottom of this page.

The Gathering

Mark Garrett, KA9SZX, set the date for his next Gathering at his home in Macomb, IL the weekend of October 1-2. All are welcome. Some space is available for campers, hotels are available, and he has limited space in the house. This is an informal gathering of hams and families. Please coordinate with Mark for space.

VE Exam

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, October 16, at 1:00 pm at the UI Fire Institute. The General Exam Question Pool changed July 1, so we now test using the new questions.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	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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Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater K9CU	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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TCARC
 PO Box 2061
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Peoria Superfest

The Peoria Superfest is this weekend. It runs Saturday and Sunday at the Expo Gardens in Peoria. It is always an excellent hamfest with lots of local Amateurs attending. This year will be no exception. The weather promises to be excellent, and dry this year! AB9FJ and K9QZI will assist with the D-Star forum at the hamfest 10 a.m. to Noon. Beginning level to advanced users will be covered in the session.

RadioReference.com

A new service is introduced September 15 within RadioReference.com. This website contains public service frequency listings for the whole country. Until now, Ham Radio repeaters were listed only if they operate ESDA, Skywarn, or other public services. Now, there is a listing of all Ham Radio repeaters in the country along with the public service lists. Several programs used to program scanners can download from this site. Now we can download our repeaters into our scanners. This is particularly interesting for those using the Uniden Home Patrol scanner which contains the whole RadioReference database. We can set up Ham repeater groups along with police and fire. This new feature should be active by the time you receive this newsletter. See www.radioreference.com for details.

Field Day

This year's Field Day went well. We again thank Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, for organizing the event. The band conditions were better than last year, but still not outstanding. Many contacts were made by all stations operating by several operators. Even the overnight stations worked well. Our trailer proved to be an ideal arrangement for one of the stations. We enjoyed the potluck dinner with meat from Hickory River Smokehouse, arranged by Jeremy, KC9KGJ. The weather was with us, making the weekend very enjoyable. Our placing in the scores will be announced in a couple of months in the QST magazine.

Springfield D-Star Repeater

W9DUA is up and running well. Located on the top floor of St John's Hospital in Springfield, it is seeing 30-40 mile coverage. This is the system that the Springfield club received reimbursement from Icom for the purchase. 70 clubs were granted this award in May. The repeater has been very active since going on the air with several Amateurs enjoying the new mode of D-Star. The system is on the Internet Gateway, so we can link to it from CU, or link back to CU from there if we are in Springfield. The repeater operates on 443.78125 MHz, so a "B" in the 8th position is needed when programming your radio. The location is ideal as backup power is available as well as the Internet connection, provided by the hospital.

Home Patrol Scanner Upgrade

A few of our members use the Uniden Home Patrol Scanner to monitor communications. This scanner programs itself when a location is entered either by city name or zip code, or by use of a GPS receiver connected to the radio. Uniden issued some upgrades to this scanner in August. There is one firmware upgrade and two operating system upgrades. The second operating system upgrade must be purchased, but the other is free as is the firmware upgrade. The paid system upgrade is mainly for the serious scanner person, with a lot of information about the systems heard. For the casual listener, the first system upgrade is sufficient. The firmware upgrade must be accomplished prior to the system upgrade. This is a fun to operate scanner, in a price range along with the other programmable digital scanners. One big addition is being able to load Ham repeaters and scan them as a group. If you own one of these scanners, be sure to at least upgrade the system with the first upgrade, which is the free upgrade. The addition of all Ham repeaters to the database makes an even more exciting scanner.

Hamfest Report

The Summer hamfests are over with a few remaining in the Fall. In general, hamfests appeared to be good in vendor numbers and attendance, but slow in sales. Most were blessed with good weather, possibly a little on the warm side at times. TCARC was well represented in most of the weekend activities including Princeton, Indianapolis, both Peotone hamfests, Huntsville, Danville, Lafayette, Shelby (North Carolina), and Radio Expo in Belvidere. All were quite similar with lots of lookers buying very little.

Here are a few more interesting highlights of some of the events. At the Huntsville weekend, Ham Radio Outlet brought a D-Star repeater on wheels and set it up in their booth. It was complete with Internet, so we used it as we pleased. Our D-Star repeater was linked to it along with many more during the hamfest hours. K9QZI was monitoring and heard a request for a demo of Ham Radio on the repeater. Going back to the station, it was WB6NOA, Gordon West in California. He had a group who wanted to see what our hobby does. K9QZI visited for a few minutes, then Gordon put Bob Heil, K9EID, on to talk. This was quite a surprise and a most enjoyable contact.

On the way to the Shelby Hamfest, held in Dallas, NC, which is near Charlotte, AB9FJ and K9QZI enjoyed a factory tour of Ten-Tec. Tours were given on request, and the Vice President conducted the personalized tour. After the tour, they operated the Ham station set up in the building. It contained most of the current Ten-Tec transceivers, all operating. The next day, they returned and checked into the Illini Net on 20 meters. Ten-Tec produces all transceivers at the factory - no imports except for one small receiver. Everyone was most friendly and they were proud of the quality of the products they created. If you are near Sieverville, TN, be sure to stop at the factory and request a tour. There is a small sales room in the building as well. Their products are sold factory direct only - no distributors.

K9KUZ Tower

Jim, K9KUZ, lost his 100 ft tower during Labor Day weekend. A heavy wind gust toppled a tree which, as it fell, broke one of the guy wires, allowing the other 2 to pull the tower toward the house, causing it to crash into the roof. Jim will be off the air for some time until a replacement can be installed.

The Ham Trailer

The trailer purchased by several club members is seeing excellent use. At Field Day, it was a welcome location for one station. Then it traveled to Oshkosh for the EAA convention and air show. Almost all functions of the trailer were operated at that location. We had running water, hot water, air conditioning, and a flush toilet, all thanks to the trailer. The furnace did not see any use as we did not find it necessary during the warm temperatures that week. It served well and proved to be a comfortable addition to the campground, as well as an excellent Ham Radio station. It made the trip to the Peotone hamfest in August, and will be at Peoria again this year. Work continues on the trailer, making it even more useful. It is a welcome addition to our hobby.

Middle Age Texting Codes

ATD-At The Doctors.
BFF-Best Friend Fell.
BTW-Bring the Wheelchair.
BYOT-Bring Your Own Teeth.
FWIW-Forgot Where I Was.
GHA-Got Heartburn Again.
IMHO-Is My Hearing-Aid On.
LMDO-Laughing My Dentures Out.
OMSG-Oh My! Sorry, Gas.
ROFLACGU-Rolling On Floor Laughing And Can't Get Up.
TTYL-Talk To You Louder.
LSHIPM-Laughing So Hard I Pee'd Myself.