

2014 Hamfest Calendar

Sep 13 CENOIS Tailgate, Decatur IL
 Sep 13 Belvidere, IL Radio Expo
 Sep 20-21 Peoria, IL Superfest
 Oct 4 Bedford IN
 Nov 15-16 Fort Wayne IN



VE Exam Schedule

Oct 19 2014 Twin City Amateur Radio Club
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Debra J. Fligor (217) 762-3232 n9dn@n9dn.net
 Univ of IL Fire Service Inst 11 Gerty Dr Champaign IL

Nov 22 2014 VCARA ARRL/VEC
 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
 Josh D. Kittle (217) 442-0578 n9wew@arrrl.net
 Vermilion County EMA Building
 2508 Georgetown Rd Danville IL

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

September 2014
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting September 14

Our September meeting, in keeping with past years, is a picnic. We are not meeting this month at the Fire Institute. Sunday, September 14, we will hold our picnic at the River Bend Forest Preserve on the South edge of Mahomet. The club provides the meat and condiments, with Tom K5LEA cooking, and we ask those attending to bring a dish to share. This event is for all TCARC members and their families. Prospective members are also most welcome. Please see page 2 for all the details and directions to the park. This is a new park under the Champaign County Forest Preserve. It is a well-kept park with hiking and biking trails along with a lake for fishing.

June Elections

At our June meeting, we elected a slate of officers to serve for the coming year. The current officers and board members agreed to continue and there were no nominations from the floor. The membership unanimously reelected everyone on the slate. We have one change since the election. Kevin Coogan, KC8RFE, is moving to Dayton, Ohio to accept a position with a large TV station corporation. This is a huge move upward for him and we wish him the best. We greatly appreciate his support the past few years. He plans to move by the end of September. He will move his W9IPA D-Star repeater to his new location. We also thank him for the use of his repeater during the last few years.

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TCARC
 PO Box 2061
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

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.

Our Next VE Session

October 19 2014
 UI Fire Institute

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR Tuesday 8 p.m.
 ♦Week of Second Tuesday - No Net TCARC Meet
 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

501c3

Our 501c3 status is approved by the IRS. Actually, it was approved in March 2013, but the notification was sent July 2014. Contributions to the club can now be deductions on your income tax!

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Jeremy Lamb KC8KGJ	2016	621-8036
Al Wolfe K9SI	2017	722-8803
Jim Crisman N9AJV	2015	202-7402

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

Picnic Details

The TCARC Board discussed plans for the September Picnic. We wanted something just a little different from this time. In talking with Tom K9LEA, he suggested River Bend Forest Preserve as a location. This is a relatively new park, created by the Champaign County Forest Preserve. It is a gravel pit area just South of Mahomet. The area is nicely wooded and very well maintained. It has several trails for hikers and bikers. Fishing is permitted in the lake that is part of the park. There is a metal dock going out into the lake and back to the shore, with a small pavilion in the center. Only electric motors are permitted in the lake. Watercraft using paddles are permitted as well. Tom will bring his Jon boat with an electric motor so anyone attending can go out and explore the lake. He also agreed to take on the chef duties. He will bring some of the fish he caught in the lake to serve as part of the meal. The club will provide meat, condiments, plates and utensils, and limited drink. Families attending please bring a dish to share. It can be a side dish, salad, or desert. Also, please include serving utensils for the dish. We will have a container of lemonade for drink. Those wanting other drinks, please bring them. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Meats are hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, and fish. We plan to eat around 4:30 pm. Some TCARC members will be at the park around 1 to 2 pm. You may arrive anytime prior to 4:30.

Here are some park details. There is a very nice pavilion with many picnic tables in it. No electricity or fresh water is available. We will have water jugs for hand washing. There are toilets at the park, brick construction, clean, and contain adequate supplies. The park closes at 7 pm, so we must be on our way home by then. It looks like a very nice place for our picnic. There is no problem with the Ford-Harris Park, but we thought it would be a nice change to go somewhere different. A few members visited the location a few years ago during a fox hunt. However, the park is much improved since then.

Picnic Directions

The park is at the West end of Mid America Road, which starts at IL Route 47 South of Mahomet. Mid America is 1.2 miles South of US 150 and 3.7 miles North of IL Route 10. Watch for a brown and white sign to River Bend. Go West on Mid America to the T intersection. Turn right or North and you are in the Preserve. Continue to the pavilion at the end of the park road. We will monitor 146.76 for those needing directions.

Hamfests

Saturday September 13 is the Decatur Tailgate. It is at a new location this year. Please see <http://www.cenois.com/> for details. Also on the same date, Radio Expo is at the fairgrounds in Belvidere, IL. This is sponsored by the Chicago FM Club and was held in Grayslake for several years prior to moving to Belvidere. It is a nice location and easy to access. It is Saturday only.

September 20 and 21 is the **Peoria Superfest** at the Peoria Expo Gardens. This year the hamfest should be exciting. Many activities are planned, with one being a talk by Gordon West, WB6NOA,. He attends many hamfests, but this is the first in our area. His talks are always fascinating and most entertaining. In addition, he will present an all day seminar on Friday speaking on how to teach the Technician Class License. A balloon launch with a repeater on board is scheduled to launch on Sunday late morning. The hamfest is Saturday and Sunday with Saturday being the big day. Many TCARC members will be there!

And last, on a sad note, the MARK Hamfest held in Arthur, IL will no longer be continued. This was announced recently by MARK club members responsible for the hamfest. We are sorry to hear this as it was one of our local hamfests where we could find many friends attending.

July VE Session

Using the new Technician questions, the session went well. Next one is October 19.

Field Day

Our 2014 Field Day was a success! Many of our members participated and had a great time. The bands were ok, but not outstanding. However, many contacts were logged on all bands. We had a request from Jerry Dagenais, W9PMV, to be permitted to operate Field Day with our club. Visiting from the Chicago area, Jerry was willing to operate as much as possible. His interest is using CW, so he was a big asset to our operation. He had his own equipment and he enjoyed the weekend. The News-Gazette photographer took several photos of our Field Day and used 2, with one being of Jerry. Eric Meyer was in the other photo. We thank Paul, N9XDN, for heading up the weekend operation. Also, many families enjoyed the potluck dinner late afternoon on Saturday. Sunday morning, Patrick Twigg, N9OQT, and his wife, Mary, W9MAP, provided an outstanding Breakfast for everyone at the park. We send a huge thanks to the Twiggs! ARES members set up and operated the 80 meter station and assisted others during the daylight hours. Now we look forward to next year!

D-Star QSO Party

September 19-21 is the next D-Star QSO Party. This is an opportunity to contact D-Star users worldwide and be eligible for a prize drawing for 10 new HTs. Points are earned by contacts, countries, and GPS reports. Icom America sponsors this annual event. All details and rules are located at this URL:

<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/d-starparty2014.aspx>

Lunch Bunch

We meet for Lunch almost daily. We have a reservation for Mondays in the meeting room at the Atlanta Bread Co. With the exception of the first Monday of each month. Because another group already booked the room, we will be in the main dining area. Other days we announce the location on 146.76, usually anywhere from shortly after Noon to 12:30.. All are welcome to attend and may come late, leave early, or both.

ARRL 100

The American Radio Relay League continues to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the organization founding. Many activities are part of the festivities. Most of us are aware of the portable operation of W1AW from all US States as W1AW/(Callsign district) all this year. Many amateurs are trying to contact the stations in every state for a certificate. To contact them, all you need to do is give a signal report and state. They will do the same. This runs through the end of this year.

In July, the ARRL held a large celebration/conference in Hartford and Newington, CT. Milt K9QZI attended and enjoyed it. Many informative forums were held throughout the 3 days. Leaders of these forums were professionals in their categories. A large room in the Hartford Convention Center provided space for many manufacturers and vendors related to our hobby. One area contained flea market vendors. There was no outdoor market. Luncheons provided food and entertaining guest speakers for those wishing to attend. ARRL First Vice President, Rick Roderick, K5UR, presented an outstanding talk at the Thursday Luncheon. Attendance was just under 1,000. Craig Fugate, KK4INZ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator attended and signed a Memorandum of Understanding relating coordination of FEMA emergency activities and Amateur Radio. It appears we will provide more service and be better recognized in emergencies. He was the Friday evening banquet keynote speaker. Attendance was 1,500. As a licensed Amateur, he is very positive about the hobby and praised it throughout his talk. Tours of W1AW were also provided throughout the conference. Bus service gave everyone an opportunity to visit and operate, if they wanted to. K9QZI arranged to operate 20 meters at 12:30 EDT and, of course, checked into the Illini Net on 14.320! Some volunteered to assist during the convention. Gold ARRL shirts were provided only to those assisting. Gold shirts were not sold.