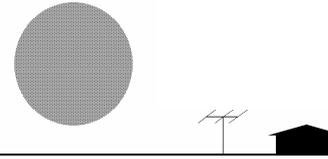


Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

September 2007

Milt Forsberg K9QZI, Editor



Hamfest Calendar

Sep 15-16 Peoria IL
29-30 Belvidere IL Radio Expo
Oct 7 Bedford IN
13 Logan IL
20 Decatur IL
Nov 11 Litchfield IL ATV Banquet
17-18 Fort Wayne IN
24 Evansville IN

VE Exams

08-Sep-2007 K9DUR ARRL/VEC
8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
TERRY L HACKETT (217)465-4884
BURKYBILE LAW OFFICE
15175 US HIGHWAY 150 PARIS, IL 61944

06-Oct-2007 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

07-Oct-2007 WABASH VALLEY ARA
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
DAVID L PIFER (812)466-1005
GLAS-COL ANNEX NE CORNER OF 7TH & IDAHO ST.
1730 S 7TH ST (REAR OF BLDG) TERRE HAUTE, IN

21-Oct-2007 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

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TCARC
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Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Picnic September 9

Our first meeting of the Fall is a picnic on Sunday, September 9. We will be at Burwash Park in Savoy, (between Prospect and Neil on Burwash) starting at 3 p.m. Plan to eat by 4. All TCARC members and their families are welcome. Any prospective members are welcome, too. Please bring your own table service, drinks, and a dish to share. The club will provide the burgers, brats, buns, and condiments. This will kick off our meetings for the Fall. Starting with the October meeting, we will meet at the UI Fire Institute.

Fox Hunt September 9

Our next Fox Hunt is Sunday September 9 at 1 p.m. starting at the Champaign Centennial High School parking lot. Everyone is invited to attend. If you are not a fox hunter, you may ride with someone who is and learn about this exciting activity. The hunt will be by vehicle and the foxes will be somewhere in Champaign or Urbana. Mark, KC9DUU, and Adam, KC9JVY are the foxes for this hunt. Be starting at 1, we should be finished in time to attend the picnic and celebrate.

New Officers and Board Members

At the June meeting, we elected our new officers for the coming year, along with 2 new board members. Congratulations to all and we appreciate your willingness to serve the club. The list at the bottom of the page reflects the new officers and board members.

Field Day 2007

Field Day is over and everyone who participated had a lot of fun. We were at the Ford-Harris Park north of Urbana. This was an excellent location with plenty of room and it was very quiet. We had a little rain during Saturday, but it did not slow anyone down. The bands were in poor shape, but many contacts were made anyway. The evening meal was a full house for the pavilion in the rain. You can see a few pictures on our website. Around 50 participated, making over 1300 contacts. The ARES group combined efforts with TCARC and ran 80 meters for the event. Thanks to all who helped make Field Day 2007 an excellent event.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President Ralph Cox W9PGE	396-5111
Vice President Dr Mike Trautman	356-4302
Secretary Chris Anderson	403-1599
Treasurer 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

www.w9seh.org

Hamfests

The summer was filled with Hamfests around our area. In July and August, the Will County Fairgrounds at Peotone hosted a hamfest each month. The Kankakee Radio Club was in July and the Hamfesters Radio Club was in August. The July event was a little smaller than in August, but both were well attended. The weather cooperated for both, except for a short rain shower overnight in August. The Indianapolis hamfest at Camp Sertoma was in early July. It was also well attended and provided good weather. In mid-August, the Huntsville Hamfest was the usual outstanding hamfest. The crowd on Saturday set a record for attendance at that hamfest. Most of the day, the hamfest looked like Dayton inside, with crowded aisles most of the time. The weather was warm, over 100, but the Von Braun Conference Center had great air conditioning. Some had to step outside to warm up occasionally. Sales were good as was the selection of available products. Several dealers were there with new Amateur products and the flea market provided a wide selection of items to purchase. There were many excellent seminars and the Young Ham of the Year Award was presented on Saturday to Grant Morine, W4GDM, from Wilmington, NC. He was selected because of his Eagle Scout Project of constructing and donating 30 J-Pole antennas to the Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services. The antennas will be used as indoor back-ups for hospitals in the Carolinas during hurricanes. Grant holds a Technician Class license, which demonstrates that the recipient of this award need not be a higher class operator. This past weekend, many of us attended the Danville hamfest. Held at the Vermilion County Fairgrounds, it was a time to meet our friends from around the area. This was the first annual hamfest as there have been none in Danville for several years. Considering that, the crowd was good, estimated around 500, with many vendors inside and outside. Sales were slow, but the mood was upbeat and the weather was outstanding. The fairgrounds location was an excellent choice.

Several hamfests are scheduled for the next few months. Mid-September is the annual Peoria Hamfest at Expo Gardens. This is always an excellent hamfest with a large attendance. The last weekend of September is Radio Expo. This one used to be at Grays Lake, but with the sale and demolition of the fairgrounds, a move was necessary. This year the hamfest is at the fairgrounds at Belvidere, IL. This is an easier location for most of us. October is the month for the Decatur Hamfest, and November is Fort Wayne, IN and Evansville, IN.

The 2007 ARRL National Convention Gone, But Definitely Not Forgotten

From ARRL News

The 2007 ARRL National Convention, held August 18-19 in conjunction with the Huntsville Hamfest, lived up to its promise to be 'chock-full of activities and exhibits.' The centerpiece of the Convention was ARRL EXPO -- an entire exhibit area showcasing many ARRL programs and services. According to Charlie Emerson, N4OKL, vice president of the Huntsville Hamfest Association, more than 5000 people enjoyed the National Convention and hamfest.

ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, led the team that organized ARRL's exhibit and convention activities. "The Huntsville Hamfest Committee rolled out the red carpet for ARRL members and friends. We were delighted to sign up more than 150 new and renewing members throughout the event. But the greatest measure of this event's success was in the relationship-building that took place throughout these days. GAREC, the Huntsville Hamfest and the ARRL National Convention brought together the very best of our Amateur Radio Service."

Just prior to the hamfest, the 2007 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC-07), sponsored by the IARU, was Thursday and Friday, August 16-17. GAREC-07 registrants participated in emergency communications-themed presentations, discussions and demonstrations.

ARRL staff and volunteers ran booths and tables at the Convention, showcasing the services and programs offered by the League. Representatives from various ARRL departments were in attendance, including the ARRL Lab, Public Relations, Publications, DXCC and Awards, and the ARRL VEC. The big ARRL Bookstore offered hundreds of books and other ARRL publications and merchandise, as well.

ARRL Officers and Directors were on hand, too, including President Joel Harrison, W5ZN and CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, as well as Vice Presidents Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Rod Stafford, W6ROD. Representatives from the IARU, including President Larry Price, W4RA, and Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, made the trek to Alabama, as well.

ARRL Headquarters staff and Field Organization leaders gave more than a dozen short mini-forums on the ARRL Stage during the Convention in ARRL's big exhibit area. Presentations on the ARRL Stage included an update on Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) given by Ed Hare, W1RFI; suggestions for energizing young -- and potential -- hams, presented by ARRL Youth Contributing Editor and Georgia Assistant Section Manager/Youth Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM; a "how-to" session on writing for QST, presented by ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA; an introduction to ARRL operating Awards and the ARRL QSL bureau with ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L; tips for contesting with QST Contributing Editor and ARRL author Ward Silver, N0AX, and an overview of Amateur Radio on the International Space station (ARISS) presented by Rob Suggs, KB5EZ, NASA Space Environments Team Lead from the Marshall Space Flight Center.

ARRL staff presented forums at the hamfest, as well as on the ARRL Stage. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, moderated the ARRL Membership Forum. ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, led the ARRL Education Forums which included an overview of the ARRL's new Education Services Department. She also covered topics on the new ARRL mission statement on education, new licensing materials, enrichment courses and an update on ARRL outreach activities through the Education and Technology Program and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS).

ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, took visitors on a virtual ARRL Headquarters tour, sharing stories of ARRL special event activities aimed at encouraging on-air activity among new and newly active hams, including real-time Web blogs and videos, Hello-Live! and the W1AW HF Open House. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, talked about ARES and the media, and discussed ways to help public service activities capture the attention of the media. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, and ARRL Web and Software Development Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, presented ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) and the DXCC award program.

More than 8000 copies of the 2007 Public Relations brochure, "Getting the Message Through" were distributed at the convention, as well as 200 copies of the revamped "Hello!" brochure, according to Pitts.

Another activity offered at the Convention this year was the ARRL Passport. While this activity was a smaller version of the one offered at the Dayton Hamvention, it provided the same excitement and thrill as its counterpart. Billed as the ultimate Convention scavenger hunt, those taking part this year searched the ARRL EXPO area and attended ARRL Forums to acquire special Passport codes that, once entered in the Passport, qualified the hunters to win one of two prizes. Out of nearly 500 entries, Richard Pavalonis, KE5ORR, of Santa Fe, Texas, won an Icom IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF all-mode mobile transceiver, and Tim Shipman of Owensboro, Kentucky, son of Walter, K14OHY, will have fun with the Yaesu FT-8577D HF/VHF/UHF all-mode mobile transceiver. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated.

For those who couldn't make it to Huntsville, Keane and Bloom together contributed to a Convention Weblog <<http://www.arrl.org/blog/Huntsville%202007>> that posted news and happenings direct from the ARRL EXPO area (and beyond!).

One of the busiest places at the ARRL EXPO was the Youth Lounge. Young people, ranging from ages of about 7 to 17 were all over the Convention and hamfest, exploring all that Amateur Radio has to offer. There were many foxhunts throughout the two days, as well as scavenger hunts, a ham radio quiz show, crafts, prizes and more.

Other hamfest forums covered contesting, emergency communications such as D-STAR, public service, education and many technical issues.

After the hamfest closed on Saturday, the ARRL Alabama Section held a reception for retiring ARRL Southeastern Director Frank Butler, W4RH. Butler is retiring after more than 50 years of elected service to the ARRL. He began his elected service as Section Communications Manager for the Western Florida Section. Butler plans to stay involved with the ARRL, attending the IARU Region 2 Committee Meeting in Brasilia, Brazil as a member of the ARRL delegation next month, and the ARRL Executive Committee Meeting in October, before his term ends January 1, 2008.

Emerson said that Convention and hamfest attendance reached unprecedented levels. "The hamfest is getting into the 'unreal' category. We have reports of people coming in from everywhere." Both official hotels, the Embassy Suites (connected to the all air-conditioned Von Braun Center, site of the Convention and Hamfest) and the Holiday Inn (across the street) sold out before the hamfest.

When asked where the next ARRL National Convention would be held, Inderbitzen said, "We're glad to help evaluate National Convention applications, but the ultimate decision is made by the elected officials of the ARRL Board of Directors. In the meantime, we hope that all of our members can someday enjoy attending an ARRL National Convention."

