

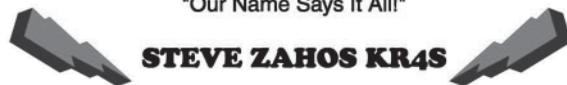
## Hamfest Calendar

Sep 13-14 Belvedere, IL Radio Expo  
Sep 20-21 Peoria, IL  
Sep 28 Greenfield, IN  
Oct 5 Bedford, IN  
Oct 11 Logan, IL  
Oct 18 Decatur, IL



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## TCARC

PO Box 2061

Champaign, IL 61825-2061

## VE Exams

13-Sep-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 61944

04-Oct-2008 ARRL/VEC  
SANGAMON VALLEY RADIO CLUB  
9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
JAMES UPCHURCH (217)529-3218  
AMERICAN RED CROSS  
1045 OUTER PARK DR  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

05-Oct-2008 WABASH VALLEY ARA  
1:00PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
RAYMOND ANDREWS (812)535-3222  
1715 SOUTH 8TH ST  
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47802

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](mailto:N9DN@ARRL.NET)  
UNIV OF IL FIRE SERVICE INST  
11 GERTY DR CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

September 2008

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



## September Burger Fry

Our September meeting is a burger fry potluck dinner on Saturday, September 6 at the Ford-Harris Park, which is where we operated Field Day. We will meet around 3 p.m. and plan to eat around 4. Please bring a dish to share, your own table service, your own drinks, and chairs if you can. There is limited seating space at the park. The club will furnish the burgers, brats and condiments.

The Ford-Harris Park is located on Ford-Harris Road, North of Urbana. Go North on US45 2.6 miles from I74 and you will see a sign on the left for the park. That is Ford-Harris Road. Go West one half mile and watch for the park on your right. All club members and their families as well as any others interested in the club are invited to attend.

There will be no meeting at the Fire Institute in September, due to the burger fry. In October we will begin meeting at the Fire Institute.

## 2008-2009 Officers

At our June meeting, we elected our officers for the coming year. Our President is Dr Mike Trautman, K9MLT; the Vice President is Larry Mohr, K9LMM; the Secretary is Chris Anderson, W9CMA; and the Treasurer is Milt Forsberg, K9QZI. The Board Members are Al Wolfe, K9SI; Wayne Hamilton, AB9FJ; and Jeremy Lamb, KC9KGJ. We are looking forward to another fun year for members of TCARC. We congratulate and thank all of the officers and board members for their willingness to serve TCARC.

## D-Star is on the Air

Our D-Star repeater is now on the air, sharing the K9SI antennas. Al was able to set up the sharing so both repeaters have the height advantage of the WLRW tower. We ran the D-Star system for a month at the Synton site on the UI Campus, then when our coordinated frequency was assigned, we put the repeater at the present location. The range is excellent. There are around 15 of us who have D-Star radios, and the number is growing. The Internet connection is not functional yet, but the repeater can be used in the normal manner. We are looking for a way to feed the Internet to the repeater site, without using the radio station Internet connection. We are also discussing the start of a weekly net on the D-Star repeater. The callsign is W9YR, which was the call of Jay Gooch, a long-time TCARC member. The frequency is 443.48125 MHz.

## 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 |
|--------------------|----------|

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Website               | <a href="http://www.w9seh.org">www.w9seh.org</a> |
| Analog Repeater W9SEH | 146.760  |
| D-Star Repeater W9YR  | 443.48125  |

## Hamfests

The Summer was busy with hamfests, as it is every year. Most were down a little in attendance, probably due to gas prices and the economy, but they were not down by large numbers. Both vendors and attendees were down. Sales held fairly well, even with the lower attendance. Here are some of the hamfests attended by our members. Princeton was June 1. There is some uncertainty about the future of this one due to costs and income. The Indianapolis Hamfest on July 12 was hit by rain. The crowd was good, but the rain came early, stopped, then started again. The next weekend was the KARS hamfest at Peotone. Numbers were down considerably at this one. The Hamfesters Radio Club Hamfest at Peotone in August was larger, but still a little down from previous years. Huntsville, AL, seemed to be the same as in the past - all tables were filled and there was a huge crowd attending. The Danville hamfest was good this year. The numbers seemed a little lower than last year, but those attending were in the buying mood. TCARC was well represented. Several of our members won door prizes, including KR4S who won 2 prizes - yes, he bought 2 tickets. The weather was excellent, and food service was available. The Vermilion County Fairgrounds is a very nice location for the hamfest.

Look for some of the good ones coming soon. Radio Expo is again at Belvedere on September 13 and 14, and Peoria is September 20-21. Please note that Peoria is now back to 2 days. Friday is setup only. Decatur is October 18 this year.

## W9YH Repeater Back on the Air

The Synton W9YH repeater was not working well in the Spring. When we used the site for our D-Star testing, the repeater was fixed and K9SI provided a new hard line coax for the antenna. W9YH is now back on with full power, covering the campus on 444.650 with a 103.5 tone.

## Club Functions

Here are some of the TCARC functions that are either ongoing or take place occasionally. This is to inform everyone of what is available to club members.

**Meetings** We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month except July and August. We meet at the UI Fire Institute at 7:00 p.m. most of the time. We may meet elsewhere if we have a tour of some facility in town.

**Board Meetings** The Board meets the Thursday prior to our regular meeting at the UI Fire Institute at 7:00 p.m. This is where the club business is managed and is separate from the regular meetings so members don't have to sit through all of the business discussions. All TCARC members are welcome to attend the Board meetings.

**Picnic or Burger Fry** We usually devote our September meeting to a cookout and potluck dinner at a local park. Normally, this will be on a weekend.

**Field Day** is the last weekend in June every year. This event is sponsored by the ARRL and is nationwide. It is a 24-hour period when all stations try to contact as many others as possible while operating portable.

**Contest Group** We do have some members interested in working contests. They are a group within the club. For information, please contact Ben K9BF.

**ARRL Membership Renewal** We can process your ARRL renewal and we make a small commission on it, costing you no more than if you send it direct. Just mail your renewal notice along with a check for the total renewal amount (pay to TCARC) to our mail box on the return address of this newsletter, or get the paperwork to Milt, K9QZI, our Treasurer. Your renewals net the club \$2 and new ARRL memberships net the club \$15.

**Website** Our website is [www.w9seh.org](http://www.w9seh.org) and should be current on our activities. We post information frequently, including newsletters and board meeting minutes, so be sure to check into the website often.

**Newsletter** is published each month we meet.

**Repeaters** The club operates the W9SEH repeater on 146.760. Many members also use the K9SI repeater on 444.100 as well. We also use the K9BF repeater on 444.525. All 3 repeaters require a 162.2 CTCSS tone. The 146.76 repeater has Echolink on it, open to all users. The 444.525 repeater has IRLP on it, also open to all users. We also have the D-Star digital repeater, W9YR, on 443.48125.

**VE Exams** We hold exam sessions quarterly, in January, April, July, and October. Walk-ins are welcome. The current exam fee is \$14. Please contact Debbie, N9DN, for information.

**Officer Elections** are held at the June meeting each year.

**Membership Dues** are \$20 for individuals and \$21 for families. All licensed family members can be included for \$21.

**Champaign County 2 Meter Net** This net meets on the 146.760 repeater each Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. Items may be swapped or sold, announcements are made, and questions may be answered on the net. Newsline, a recorded audio Amateur Radio production, is presented during the net. This keeps us up on the latest happenings in our world of Ham Radio.

**Annual Auction** Each year in the Spring, we hold our annual auction. Anyone can bring electronic items to sell. If the item sells, the club retains 10% of the selling price. Items not sold are no charge to the owner. Also, we encourage donations of items to the club for sale where the club keeps all proceeds. Please consider donating equipment to our next auction. This is our main fund raiser.

**TCARC Yahoo Groups** We maintain 2 Yahoo Groups for members to visit with each other. The all club group is W9SEH and the other, K9CU, is for those interested in the contest group. You can join by using the link in our website. You must join Yahoo first if you are not already a member.

## Field Day

The last weekend of June found club members at the Ford-Harris Park operating Field Day. 5 stations were set up Saturday morning to operate on most of the HF bands. Radio conditions were still weak from the low sunspot cycle, but we managed to make lots of contacts anyway. The ARES group set up and operated the 80 meter station, and the other 4 operated 40, 20, 10/15/6, and digital. We had 162 CW contacts, 190 digital contacts, and 1,229 phone contacts. The Saturday evening meal was a potluck with burgers and brats cooked by Dave, KB9NJW, and drinks provided by Jeremy, KC9KGJ. As always, the meal was outstanding. Mike, K9MLT, made a video of our operation and put it on U-Tube. You can find the link on our TCARC web page. We thank everyone who participated or attended - all of you helped make the weekend a big success! A special thanks goes to Ralph, W9PGE, and Wayne, AB9FJ, who shared the responsibility of the total operation. Look for our score in the November or December QST magazine.

## VE Exams

Our July VE session went well. 5 attendees either earned a new license or upgraded. Our next VE session is October 19 at the UI Fire Institute, at 1:00 p.m.

## Vanity Call Sign Fee Increase

From ARRL Special Bulletin

On August 11, the Federal Communications Commission announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 25, 2008.