

Hamfest Calendar

Sep 18-19 Peoria, IL
Sep 25 Belvidere, IL
Oct 3 Bedford, IN



VE Exams

09/12/2009 Wabash Valley ARA
8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Terry L. Hackett (217) 465-4884
Burkybile Law Office
15175 US Highway 150 Paris IL

09/15/2009 Moultrie AR Klub
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Ralph Zancha (217) 254-7574
Charleston, IL Municipal Building

10/04/2009 Wabash Valley ARA
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
Raymond N. Andrews (812) 535-3222
1715 South 8th St Terre Haute IN

10/18/2009 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

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

September 2010
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Next Meeting is September 11

Our next meeting is a picnic at the Ford-Harris Park on Saturday, September 11. We will gather mid-afternoon and plan to eat around 4:30 to 5 p.m. The club will provide burgers and brats, along with buns and condiments, as well as tea and lemonade. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. With limited table seating, a chair might be welcome too. This is an event for the whole family, and please invite anyone else who might be interested in our hobby. If you plan to attend the Illini game, you can eat and run, if you wish.

The Ford-Harris Park is on the Ford-Harris Road about 1/2 mile West of US 45. The Ford-Harris Road is about 2 1/2 miles North of I74 on US 45.

Please note that there is no meeting on our regular Tuesday night this month as the picnic replaces that meeting. Our regular Tuesday evening meetings return in October.

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.

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
Second Tuesday - Meets Wednesday	
ARES 444.100	Tuesday 9 p.m.
TCARC 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

Officer Elections

At our June meeting, we elected all officers and one director. We have 3 directors, each serving a 3-year period. Elected are Jeremy Lamb, KC9KJ, President; Wayne Hamilton, AB9FJ, Vice President; Chris Anderson, W9CMA, Secretary; and Milt Forsberg, K9QZI, Treasurer. Al Wolfe, K9SI, is retiring from the board and will be our technical coordinator. Larry Mohr, K9LMM, was elected for the 3-year board term vacated by Al, and Jim Crisman, N9AJV, for the 2-year term vacated by Wayne. Mike Trautman, K9MLT, remains for one more year, with his term expiring in 2011. Congratulations to all and thanks for serving! We look forward to an exciting year. If you have any program suggestions, please contact any of our officers or board members.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Jeremy Lamb KC9KJ	621-8036
Vice President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	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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Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater W9SEH	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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TCARC
PO Box 2061
Champaign, IL 61825-2061

New Trailer

If you have listened to the repeaters recently, you probably heard talk about a new trailer. This all started when we found that there was to be an auction in July in Macomb of surplus trailers used in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. A few of us went to the auction site to survey the available trailers, which totaled around 400. Many were in very good shape and some were almost falling apart. We agreed that if we could find one for around \$1000, we should take it. On the day of the auction, Jim, N9AJV, and Jeremy, KC9KGJ, attended. Sales were brisk, with many going for \$3000 to \$5000. Later in the day, heavy rains attacked the auction. Most buyers left, or headed for shelter. Jim and Jeremy remained and found one trailer in almost perfect shape that went for \$1100 - to them! The rain helped a great deal. Several have agreed to share the cost of the trailer and we plan to convert it into a communication trailer. It will be available for use in the local area for any radio activities. All of the details are not worked out yet, but we are excited to have this for our use. The trailer is equipped with a toilet, shower, kitchen with stove and refrigerator, heating system, and air conditioning. All utilities appear to be in working order. We will post our progress as we continue to work on it.

VE Exams

Our last exam was in July with 7 new licenses or upgrades. 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.

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.

Field Day

Our 2010 Field Day went very well. Again, we operated at the Ford-Harris Park, North of Urbana. We send a big thanks to Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, for heading up the operation again this year. We operated 4A, which means we had 4 transmitters on the air at the same time and running on emergency power. Band conditions were usable, but not that great, as has been the case for the past few years. We still made a lot of contacts and as always, had a lot of fun. The potluck dinner went well, with many families attending and enjoying the event. Thanks to Jeremy KC9KGJ, and Cassie, KC9KZG, who arranged for and prepared the main dish, barbecue meat from Hickory River. This was a welcome change from our usual burgers. We don't know how we placed in the scoring compared to others in our category, but we should find out in a couple of months when the ARRL publishes the results. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Repeaters

Our local repeaters seem to be running well at present. There is a minor problem with the IRLP link on the K9BF, 444.525 repeater. It will not connect to reflectors, but it appears to connect to repeaters only. Wayne, AB9FJ, is looking into this issue. Our 146.76 repeater has not changed callsigns yet, but probably will soon. Ben, K9BF, is still working on the new controller for this repeater. He hopes to have it finished in the next few weeks. When it is installed, we will have more features on the repeater and much better control. The Echolink node will not be affected by the change. It should operate as it always has. Our W9YR D-Star repeater is seeing more use. We encourage all D-Star users to check into the Illinois D-Star Net on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. The net control is K9QZI. We also encourage participation in the Ozark net on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. It originates in Ozark, MO. and we link to Reflector 001C for the net.

KA9SZX Gathering

Mark, KA9SZX, is planning another "gathering" at his home in Macomb on October 2. This is an informal get together of friends to enjoy visiting and relaxing. He has very limited bed space, but his large yard is excellent for campers or motorhomes. Those attending can, of course, head home Saturday evening, but staying over allows more time to socialize. Motels are available in the area as well. All Amateur Radio Operators are invited. Please contact Mark for details and to let him know if you plan to attend.

D-Star at ARRL

From ARRL News

The ARRL Lab has installed a D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) repeater in the Lab at the ARRL Headquarters building. Operating with an output of 147.390 MHz, positive offset, the W1HQ D-STAR repeater is a local repeater with a modest footprint covering the Hartford-New Britain, Connecticut area. The antenna is on the roof of the Headquarters building with the repeater located in the Lab. With its gateway, the repeater is accessible to any D-STAR user on the planet. The Lab's call sign is W1INF.

"The purpose of the repeater is to better educate the Lab staff on D-STAR technology," explained ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM. "In turn, we will have the ability to handle some of our members' questions on the matter. We also intend to use this new technology when emergencies occur where D-STAR technology is deployed."

In the near future, the W1HQ D-STAR system will also include 70 and 23 cm repeaters, as well as a 23 cm high speed data link, once initial frequency coordination is granted. "We're especially interested in the high speed data link," Allison said. "Though it will have a limited range, we can begin experimenting with its potential and use it as a training tool for Lab staff."

Hamfests

As the Summer winds down, so are hamfests in our area. There were many good ones over the past couple of months. The Princeton, IL hamfest went well, changing to a one day event in June. Peotone, IL, hosted the usual 2 hamfests, one in July, and one in August. As in the past, the July event was smaller than the August weekend. Huntsville was excellent! It again occupied one room only, instead of the split location of last year. The one room is huge, and handles the crowd very well. Attendance appeared to be about normal, but sales were a little slow. The Missile Defence Command show was just prior to the hamfest, at the same location. Some of us arrived early enough in the week to visit this show. It was very interesting to see all of the military defence equipment on display. The weather was warm, but everything was inside the well-air conditioned Von Braun Center in Huntsville. Danville held their hamfest on the same weekend as Huntsville. Over Labor Day weekend, the annual Shelby Hamfest was held in Dallas, NC. As always, it was large and with lots of attendees. Dallas is just West of Charlotte. K9QZI and AB9FJ attended and enjoyed it. Several vendors from the Midwest were there as well. Golf carts were everywhere as they could be rented at the hamfest. The grounds are large enough that the carts were a welcome addition.

Coming up are Peoria, Belvidere, and Bedford. The Peoria Superfest is September 18-19, at the Peoria Expo Gardens. This is always a good one to attend. A week later, on September 25, the Radio Expo hamfest is at Belvidere. This is the hamfest that used to be at Grayslake. This year, it is one day only, Saturday. October 3 is the Bedford, IN hamfest. It is always a nice event with cooler weather to enjoy.

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

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