

Hamfest Calendar

Jun 7 Princeton, IL
 Oct 4 Bedford, IN
 Oct 17 Decatur free Tailgate
 Oct 31 Kirkwood, MO
 Nov 1 Davenport, IA
 Nov 8 Litchfield, IL ATV Dinner
 Nov 14-15 Fort Wayne, IN
 Nov 28 Evansville, IN



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TCARC
 PO Box 2061
 Champaign, IL 61825-2061

VE Exams

04-Oct-2009 Wabash Valley ARC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 D Steven Shorter (812)232-4788
 Glas-Col Annex-Rear Of Building
 1715 S 8TH ST Terre Haute, IN

08-Oct-2009 Illiana Radio Club
 7:00PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 James P Osburn (812)238-0584
 Ryves Youth Center At Etling Hall
 1356 Locust ST Terre Haute, IN

10-Oct-2009 Sangamon Valley Radio Club
 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 James Steven Upchurch (217)529-3218
 American Red Cross-IL Capital Area Chapter
 1045 Outer Park DR Springfield, IL

18-Oct-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-October 2009

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Picnic September 27

Our September meeting is a picnic at the Field Day location on Sunday, September 27. The club will provide meat and buns. Please bring a dish to share, along with your own table service and drinks. We will be treated to turkey cooked by Rob Steiger, N9RIX. We also have burgers and brats to grill as well. A fox hunt within the park is planned for those interested in learning to hunt. We will begin to gather around 2 p.m. and eat around 3:30 to 4 p.m. All families are welcome. The location is the Ford-Harris Park on Ford-Harris Road, 2 1/2 miles North of I74 on US45. The park is about 1/2 mile West of US45.

Next Meeting is October 13

The next TCARC meeting is Tuesday, October 13 at the UI Fire Institute, starting at 7:00 p.m. The program is a demonstration of the FlexRadio Systems FLEX-3000 Software Defined HF/50 MHz Transceiver by Milt, K9QZI. This radio is reviewed in the October 2009 issue of QST. Mark your calendar now for the first indoors club meeting of the season.

To get to the Fire Institute, go south on First Street from the Assembly Hall to the UI Credit Union - that is Gerty. Go West on Gerty to the end of the street. You will be in the Fire Institute parking lot. We are in one of the classrooms inside.

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.

2009-2010 Officers

At the June meeting, we elected a slate of officers for 2009-2010. President is Larry Mohr, K9LMM, Vice President is Jeremy Lamb, KC9KGJ, Secretary is Chris Anderson, W9CMA, and Treasurer is Milt Forsberg, K9QZI. Dr. Mike Trautman, K9MLT, moved to the Board of Directors and joined Al Wolfe, K9SI, and Wayne Hamilton, AB9FJ. We look forward to another exciting year for the Twin City Amateur Radio Club.

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR	Tuesday 8 p.m.
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

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Vice President	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	621-8036
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Al Wolfe K9SI	688-2790
Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
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

ARRL Central Division Election

There will be an election in the ARRL Central Division this year. During the past few years, only one person ran for office, negating the need for ballots. However, this year, Kermit Carlson, W9XA, is running for the Vice Director position. He is running against the incumbent. Dick Isley, W9GIG will most likely be the only candidate for Director. Dick and Kermit are close friends and the combination of the two of them will work very well. There is a good possibility that Kermit will run for Director in 3 years as Dick intends to retire at that time. We remember Kermit from our D-Star presentation at a club meeting. ARRL members will receive a paper ballot in the mail. Please vote and send your ballot back for counting. This will take place in late October or early November. Please don't miss the opportunity to make your vote count!

VE Exams October 18

At our last session July 19. 6 persons passed exams for a new license and/or upgrade. Thanks to all who helped. Our next session is Sunday, October 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the UI Fire Institute. Exams for all license classes are available. The fee is \$15, as set by the ARRL/VEC. A photo ID is required along with your original license and a copy for attaching to the exam if you are upgrading. For information, please contact Debbie, N9DN. No reservations are necessary.

Decatur Tailgate

The Decatur club cancelled their hamfest which was in October. Instead, they are offering a "Tailgate" on Saturday, October 17. It will be at the Decatur Airport, not far from the location of the previous hamfests. There is no charge, no tables, and a large parking lot. Everyone is welcome to bring items to sell. This creates a lot less work for the club members by not having to move tables in a building and all the other chores associated with a hamfest. It is a trial this year to see how it goes. It appears that the time will be Saturday afternoon. Please contact Jerry, N9RBQ, for details.

Field Day

Field Day 2009 is now history. We had a good weekend with the weather cooperating well. Band conditions were not the best, but we managed lots of contacts using 4 stations over the 24-hour period June 27-28. Everyone attending enjoyed a very nice pot luck evening meal at the park. We will have details on numbers when the ARRL certifies results. Thanks to everyone participating and we send a special thanks to Wayne, AB9FJ, and Ralph, W9PGE, for heading up the operation. Many of us are already looking forward to Field Day 2010.

Digital Radio News

The W9YR repeater is working well and receives a lot of use. Our Internet connection putting us on the gateway is also working well. Many stations are heard from all over the world at times with the gateway activated. We hold a net on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 p.m. local time on the W9YR repeater. Since the Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub now has the W9BIL repeater connected to the gateway, we link our repeater and theirs for the net. The name of the net will change to the "Central Illinois D-Star Net" to reflect other repeaters. We might possibly include the Peoria repeater in the future. The net is informal and open to all users. We encourage information, questions, help, items for sale, and any other comments during the net. Also, several members using D-Rats, a texting program for D-Star, gather on the repeater at 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays. All are welcome here as well. The W9BIL repeater changed frequency as required by the Illinois Repeater Association. The new frequency is 440.64375 MHz. It is close to the old frequency, but you do need to change your radio. W9BIL is fully on the gateway now.

Since we now have the Internet at our repeater site, we will move the EchoLink node to the repeater site. At present, it is in Urbana, connected by radio to the repeater. The move will improve the overall operation and will abolish the need for the identifier currently used by the EchoLink connection.

Hamfests

This was a good Summer for hamfests. The weather cooperated at most and attendance was good. Flea market sales were down from past years, but that was expected. Here is a rundown on many of the hamfests held this Summer:

Princeton, June, rain did affect the event, but many attended anyway.

Indianapolis, July, good weather for most of the day, with heavy rain around Noon. The crowd was good and sales were ok.

Peotone, July, was smaller than the one in August, but there was a good crowd. The weather was great. The August event was also blessed by good weather and was larger than the July event. Sales were a bit slow.

Huntsville, August, was it's usual excellence. The crowd was good, as were sales. Due to a military conference after the hamfest, 2 separate rooms were used for the hamfest. New products were in the North Hall while used products were in the arena. It is a one time only change. As always, the hamfest committee provided outstanding service to those attending.

Danville, August, was small, with great weather and many local attendees. It is always a nice hamfest to visit with our local and nearby hams.

Shelby NC, September, is now at a new location. It is a park with lots of room and a very nice building for inside vendors. Attendance was very good, with lots of items to see and purchase. Golf carts were rented at a very reasonable rate. The location is Dallas, NC, just North of Gastonia and near Charlotte.

Radio Expo, September, at Belvidere, was good with excellent weather. The crowd was good both Saturday and Sunday. The new location for this hamfest is a huge improvement.

Peoria, September, was good on Saturday. Sunday was very light in attendance. The weather was excellent until late morning Sunday, when the skies opened up. Everyone had enough advance notice that they were able to pack up before the rain. The floor in front of the stage flooded during the final ticket drawing. About 6 to 8 inches of water accumulated, but the drawing continued.

KX9X Visit

We were honored by a visit from Sean Kutzko, KX9X on September 22. He is now the contest manager for ARRL and he is a former member of our club. He stopped in on his way from a conference back to ARRL. An informal Lunch gathering got organized at Crane Alley in Urbana. 3 or 4 were expected, but the total was 10 when everyone arrived. Sean bought Lunch for all attending and he was happy to see the turnout. He is managing contesting at ARRL HQ in an excellent manner. The coverage and look of contesting in QST is greatly improved. We are pleased that he is in the position and he loves his job. We send a big thanks to Sean for taking the time to be with us.

October 1959 QST

Noticed in the October 2009 QST on page 101, under the heading "75, 50, and 25 Years Ago", the October 1959 issue is highlighted and one of the articles listed is "The 6DQ5 as a Linear Amplifier", written by O. E. Gardner, W9RWZ, and J. D. Good, W9YRV. The latter name should read Gooch. Both names are well known by many of our members, with Gene Gardner, W9RWZ, a current member of TCARC.

Fox Hunt June 6

Saturday, June 6, found some club members fox hunting. Ben, K9BF, and Mark, kC9DUU, hid the fox transmitters for all to find. The location seemed a bit difficult for some - it was near Mahomet in a park attached to a gravel pit. Several means were used to confuse the hunters, such as varying the power and antenna direction. Upon arrival, the hunters were instructed to find some smaller foxes hidden on the grounds. Some found the main fox, and some found the small ones, and others did not locate the main fox. It was a fun day for all.

JOTA

The 2009 Scout Jamboree on the Air is October 17-18. Please participate if you can.