

Hamfest Calendar

Mar 12 Terre Haute, IN
 Apr 1-2 AES Superfest, Milwaukee, WI
 Apr 2 Belton, TX
 Apr 16 Madison, WI
 Apr 30 Godfrey, IL
 May 1 Arthur, IL
 May 1 Sandwich, IL
 May 20 Dayton, OH



VE Exam Schedule

03/10/2011 Eastside Outdoor Ham Club
 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584
 Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall
 1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

03/12/2011 Central Illinois Radio Club
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Keith R. Hanson (309) 378-4416
 Fire Station 1300 E College Ave Normal IL

04/09/2011 Piatt County ARC
 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC
 Michael S. Mullins (217) 377-1523
 Piatt County Emergency Operations Centers
 302 S Charter St Monticello IL

04/17/2011 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

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

March 2011

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Next Meeting is March 8

Our next meeting is at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at the UI Fire Institute. Ben, K9BF, will present a program explaining Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, NMR, which is a process to identify chemicals and elements. Ben works with this equipment daily

Newsletter Email Error

Your Newsletter Editor, K9QZI, apologizes for a few members missing the February newsletter. All were emailed, but the multiple addresses in one batch were taken by the computer as all one address and no one received anything. As your editor was in Florida when the problem was discovered, there was no way to resend. Those missed will receive that issue with the current issue. This was a true computer error!

Summer Camping?

Donna, N9KVE, would like to organize a weekend for TCARC families to camp at Kickapoo State Park on a weekend in June or July. Motorhomes, Campers, 5th Wheels, as well as tents will be welcome. A potluck supper would highlight the event, and those wishing to attend the supper only will be welcome. Please contact Donna at 217-398-4914 or pat-donna@hotmail.com with ideas, suggestions, dates, or to discuss the idea. More details as they develop.

Local Nets

D-Rats Net on W9YR Tuesday 8 p.m.
 ♦Week of Second Tuesday - Meets Wednesday
 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

The Second 2 Meter FM Challenge

After a lot of fun with the January 2 Meter FM Challenge, we held another on February 20, during the afternoon to permit safer conditions for rovers being able to operate in daylight hours. As with our other challenges, it was a success and a lot of fun. 3 rovers appeared, which gave everyone a chance to multiply points more times by making contacts to more towns. The rovers were Mark-KC9DUU, Paul-N9XDN, and Steve-KB9UJX. We thank them for making the contest more interesting! Many operated from home in and around CU. Several Danville Amateurs participated, but they could hear only a few of the CU stations. One new licensee participated with excellent results. Brian, KC9TOK, was invited to use the station of N9GOC. With a little coaching before the contest, he made many contacts and multipliers by himself. The results are not compiled yet, but they will be announced soon.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Jeremy Lamb KC9KGJ	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
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Auction April 9

First, please correct the previous announcement regarding the day and date. April 9 is a Saturday. Most plans for the Auction are finalized and we are ready to go. As mentioned previously, crews are needed at 9 a.m. to set up the room, and at the end, probably around 4 p.m. to return the room to the original condition.. It is extremely critical that we have enough help both times.

We have 2 or 3 auctioneers lined up for the day. Mike, K9MLT, and Larry, K9LMM, will operate the computer tracking system, keeping records of items and selling prices. Al, K9SI, is in charge of setup and tear down. Wayne, AB9FJ, is managing the check in and tagging of equipment. Milt, K9QZI, will handle cash including bidder number purchase and payments for equipment purchased. Prior to the start of the auction, he will manage the talk-in.

The location is the Windsor Road Christian Church in the 2500 block of Windsor Road in Champaign. That's between Mattis and Duncan on Windsor. (Same location as in the past) Talk-in will be on the 146.76 and 444.100 repeaters.

Setup starts at 9:00 a.m. - Jeremy, KC9KGJ, will provide donuts for all helping. Doors open for equipment arriving at 11:00 a.m. and the auction begins at 1.00 p.m. Food will be available for purchase up to the start of the auction, and possibly for a short time later, depending on what's left.

Please consider donating items to the club for the event. This is our main club income other than dues.

Steve, KR4S, Amateur Accessories will set up at the auction. He also sponsors the event by paying the building rent and he provides items for prizes. We greatly appreciate his support. His items are for sale over the counter and will not appear in the auction.

The Illini Net - 35 Years!

On March 1, 1976, Earl Finder, W9CGZ, retired as the Director of the Illini Union. He wanted to keep in touch with his friends who moved to other parts of the country, so he established a net on 20 meters just to talk with his friends. The net grew in popularity and size over the years, and this year it is 35 years old. The net meets on 14.320 daily except Thursdays. Earl normally is net control unless he is away, then others run the net. Often on Thursdays, a few net members get together for an unofficial chat. Earl estimates around 125,000 contacts by 400 to 500 individuals. Many states and countries are included in the logs. The net is open to anyone from CU, from Illinois, heard of Illinois, or never heard of Illinois. That opens it to almost everyone! It is an informal net with each station commenting on local activities, health, and other news, as well as sharing information. Earl stated that he has been retired longer than he was employed! Congratulations, Earl!

Orlando!

Another excellent hamfest! Several CU area personalities attended the Orlando Hamcation this year. The crowd was about the same as in the past, including 300 to 400 campers/motor homes on the grounds. The weather was a little cool, but for Midwesterners, it was great. Highs were in the 60s to low 70s, with no rain. Florida locals were shivering while we dressed as if it were Summer. Sales were fairly good. The usual commercial vendors attended with the exception of the Ham Station. We missed him and we don't know why he did not attend. Seen at the hamfest were Bob Minton, Jack Clark, Joe Goggin, Zane and Priscilla Ziegler, Bill Kirkland, and a few former CU non-ham residents. Milt, K9QZI, left early for the event, missing the heavy snowstorm around the first of February. After a couple of days at Daytona Beach Shores, a 3 day cruise to Nassau, a few days in Orlando, he also attended the Hamcation. Everyone is already looking forward to next year!

You Might be a Ham if:

1. You have bought black electrical tape in ten packs.
2. You have stripped wire with your teeth.
3. You have told your child, "One day, all this will be yours," and he or she did not respond at all.
4. You would rather help another Ham friend hook up new equipment, or put up a new tower, than mow your own lawn.
5. You have grabbed the wrong end of a hot soldering iron.
6. You have gotten an RF burn from your own antenna.
7. You have given RST reports while on the telephone.
8. When the microphones or visual aids at a meeting did not work, you rushed up to the front to fix them.
9. You have told the XYL, when she noticed a new rig in the shack, "Why, that has been there for years."
10. You have set your watch to UTC only.
11. You have had to patch your roof after an antenna project fell onto it.
12. You have put a GPS tracker in the XYL's car or on the riding mower, just so you could watch it on APRS.
13. You have tapped out "CQ" or "HI" on the car horn in Morse Code to another Ham.
14. Your teenager has refused to ride in your car because it looks like a porcupine.
15. You know the Latitude, Longitude, and Elevation of your home QTH.
16. You have gone into the local Radio Shack store, and the store clerk asked you where something is and how it works.
17. You have answered the telephone with your call sign, and then finished the conversation with "73" and your call sign.
18. You have looked for antennas, radios, and Morse Code in movies and television shows.
19. When you look at anything made of wire or metal tubing, you wonder if it could be used as an antenna.
20. Your call sign is listed on one or more of your hats, T-shirts, or other garments.
21. You regularly carry one or more tools in your pockets at any given time.
22. When any batteries go on sale, you get really excited.
23. When you look at a barbecue grill, it creates ideas about ground plane antennas.
24. You have designated all friends as Hams or Non-Hams.
25. You have referred to your Ham friends by their call sign suffixes instead of their real names.
26. You have intentionally confused Non-Hams by telling them the only things you talk about on the air are pork products.
27. You have intentionally scared Non-Hams with the word "RADIATION"!
28. You have looked at telephone poles and power line towers as potential antenna supports.
29. You have thought you were still hearing CW, SSB, or SSTV tones, even when your Ham radio was off.
30. Your Go-Bag has more clothes in it than your dresser.
31. You have a SKYWARN sticker on your back window.
32. You have a significant other sits in the back seat, and your radios ride in the front.
33. Your neighbors wonder if you are a "Narc" (narcotics officer), a Spy, or a Federal Agent.
34. The cops pull you over to see the inside of your car.
35. Your cell-phone ring tone is your call sign in Morse Code

2 Meter FM Challenge January 9 Results

Below is a list created from logs submitted. Calls in bold are category winners.

Fixed location, 5 watts or less:

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
W9CMA	14	4	56
W9JX	8	2	16

Fixed location, 5.1- 20 watts:

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
KC9KGJ	17	7	119

Fixed location, 20.1-50 watts:

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
K9QZI	23	9	207
KC9OAC	9	3	27
AB9FJ	20	8	160

Fixed location, 50.1 watts and higher:

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
-NONE-			

Mobile:

Call	QSOs	Multipliers	Score
KC9DUU	41	11	451

Decatur 6 Meter Repeater

Two weeks ago, the Decatur, Illinois radio club installed a 6 meter repeater. The output is 53.230 MHz with a -1.7 offset. This means you transmit on 51.530 MHz. A CTCSS tone of 103.5 is required to access the repeater. We can work this system mobile from higher spots around CU. Home stations with outside antennas should have no problem talking through the repeater. The callsign is WA9RTI. Here is your opportunity to make 6 meter contacts!

Sunspots

Several solar flares have appeared recently, enhancing band conditions. Check 10, 12, 17, and 15 meters! 40 has been good at night. Tune around - you might be surprised what you hear!