

Hamfest Calendar

Oct 29 Kirkwood, MO Halloween Hamfest
Nov 19-20 Fort Wayne, IN
Nov 26 Evansville, IN



VE Exam Schedule

Oct 08 2011 Piatt County ARC ARRL/VEC
1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Michael S. Mullins (217) 377-1523
Location: Piatt County Emergency Operations Centers
302 S Charter St Monticello IL

Oct 13 2011 Eastside Outdoor Ham Club ARRL/VEC
7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
James P. Osburn (812) 238-0584
Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall
1356 Locust St Terre Haute IN

Oct 16 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

Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

October 2011
Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



Meeting October 11

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 11, at the UI Fire Institute. The program this month is a presentation on emergency generators, connecting, and use. Jim, N9AJV, is providing this information. Connecting a generator to your home may not be as simple as it appears. Come learn all about the safety of connecting and proper methods.

Following the meeting, we will have a short meeting of those who contributed to the trailer purchase and improvements. We wish to establish policy on use, membership, and costs. Anyone interested in joining this group is welcome to attend. At present, the trailer is owned by those who have contributed, and it is not financially supported by TCARC.

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.

VE Exam

Our next VE Exam Session is Sunday, October 16, at 1:00 pm at the UI Fire Institute. The General Exam Question Pool changed July 1, so we now test using the new questions.

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

TCARC Board Meeting

The TCARC Board meets during the week prior to the club meeting. This provides a few days between meetings to act on anything needed for the upcoming club meeting, and members don't have to sit through the meeting as they did a few years ago when it was the first part of our regular meeting. We have met on Thursdays, but due to conflicts, we will change the day. We are considering the first Wednesday around 5:30 so ARES members may leave the board meeting and attend the ARES meeting. This will help members living away from CU as they can make one trip for 2 meetings. We will post the final decision in next month's newsletter. Meetings are planned to be at Culver's on South Neil Street.

TCARC Officers and Board Members

President	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
Vice President	Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402
Secretary	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
Treasurer	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

Board Members

Larry Mohr K9LMM	356-3794
Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE	937-572-2081

VE Coordinator

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
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Website	www.w9seh.org
Analog Repeater K9CU	146.760
D-Star Repeater W9YR	443.48125

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Champaign, IL 61825-2061

Courtesy Tone

It might be time for a reminder about the courtesy tone on the K9CU repeater. It appears that there are some misconceptions, so here are the details:

The courtesy tone, which sounds like a Star Wars gun, appears shortly after each transmission made through the repeater. The tone is a reminder to pause before you key up. Please wait for the tone before keying. This provides a short space for anyone wanting to join the conversation and/or have emergency traffic. Those needing to break in (please don't use the word "break" as that indicates an emergency) should key **before the tone** and state their callsign. Then the person whose turn to talk should acknowledge the breaking station. Also, at times we have quick comments to throw into the conversation - the courtesy tone provides the necessary space to make a comment before the other station keys. Rapid fire keying, immediate keying after the other station turns the conversation over, prevents anyone from entering or making comments. One misunderstanding is thinking the breaking stations must wait for the tone. This is **not** the case. On repeaters with no courtesy tone, please be polite and wait a second or two before keying, as if there were a tone.

The K9CU repeater has 3 courtesy tones. The normal one, Star Trek, means that your signal is strong. A low-pitched solid tone indicates your signal is weak into the repeater. If there is an Echolink connection on the repeater, a tone sounding like a telephone dial tone appears about every 5 minutes instead of either of the other courtesy tones.

Peoria Superfest

The Superfest went well. Good weather, good crowd, and many vendors made it all happen. N9RIX and N9SYV won prizes in the rapid fire drawing on Sunday.

KA9SZX Gathering

Over the past weekend, Mark, KA9SZX, held his annual Gathering at his home in Macomb. Mark moved there from Champaign a few years ago. He invites all Hams and families to his home every year in the Fall. This year it was well attended by TCARC members as well as Mark's friends in the Macomb area. Three R/V campers parked in the front yard (yes, Mark has a large yard in a rural area), one stayed at a nearby campground, and some in Mark's house. Oh yes, there was one tent in the front yard as well. Saturday evening was a large potluck dinner, which everyone enjoyed. After dinner, some sat around the campfire in the back yard, making S' mores while others visited inside. Pat, N9GOC, met 2 people from Macomb who attended the same school for the blind about the same time. This resulted in a long but fascinating visit between them. Sunday, Breakfast was served for those staying or returning, while others headed off to the hamfest in West Liberty, Iowa. A balloon launch was scheduled for the morning at the hamfest site. Those going from Mark's arrived in time to watch the launch, and three chased the balloon and recovered it.

The balloon launched from the hamfest contained a simplex repeater on 446.000, APRS transmitting equipment, and a video camera. Several of us talked through the balloon repeater as we drove home. It traveled South from the launch and was recovered by KC9DUU, KC9KGJ, and K9JLR. The launch was by the Iowa High Altitude Balloon Project. You can view the action on their web page at www.ihabproject.com/ihab7 to see videos and still photos from the flight. There are some outstanding photos on the page.

We thank Mark, KA9SZX, for hosting the Gathering and creating an enjoyable weekend!

Picnic

Our September picnic at Ford-Harris Park was a little damp, but those attending enjoyed it. Thanks to AI, K9SI, for the grill and cooking.

JOTA

from ARRL

Each year, more than 500,000 Scouts in more than 100 countries take to the airwaves on the third full weekend in October -- and this year will be no different. The Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) is an annual Scouting and Amateur Radio event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). JOTA is an annual event where Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from all over the world speak to each other via Amateur Radio. Since 1958 -- when the first Jamboree on the Air was held -- millions of Scouts have met through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. The radio stations are operated by radio amateurs; many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations. The majority of JOTA Scouts participate through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual hams.

Scouts of any age can participate, from Brownies to Ambassadors, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers. Once at the ham radio station, the communication typically requires speaking into a microphone and listening on the station speakers. But many forms of specialized communication can also take place, such as video communication, digital communication using typed words on the computer screen transmitted by radio, communication through a satellite relay or an earth-based relay (called a repeater). The exchanges include such information as name, location, Scout rank, age and hobbies. The stations you'll be communicating with can be other Scouts across town, across the country -- even around the world! The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2010 JOTA had more than 700,000 Scout participants from nearly 6000 Amateur Radio stations!

Please keep in mind that this is not a contest to contact the most stations during JOTA. You do not need to submit your logs.

The 54th Jamboree on the Air is October 15–16, 2011. The official hours are 0000 (local time) Saturday, October 15 (right at midnight Friday) through midnight (local time) Sunday, October 16 (midnight Sunday evening).

Stations that participate in JOTA should call "CQ Jamboree" or answer stations doing so. Any authorized frequency may be used. The World Scout Bureau recommends that stations use the agreed World Scout Frequencies:

80 meters -- 3.690 and 3.940 MHz (SSB), 3.570 MHz (CW)

40 meters -- 7.090*, 7.190 and 7.270 MHz (SSB), 7.030 MHz (CW)

20 meters -- 14.290 MHz (SSB), 14.060 MHz (CW)

17 meters -- 18.140 MHz (SSB), 18.080 MHz (CW)

15 meters -- 21.360 MHz (SSB), 21.140 MHz (CW)

12 meters -- 24.960 MHz (SSB), 24.910 MHz (CW)

10 meters -- 28.390 MHz (SSB), 28.180 MHz (CW)

6 meters -- 50.160 MHz (SSB), 50.160 MHz (CW)

* Amateurs in IARU Region 2 are not authorized to transmit on these frequencies.

These are "calling frequencies." After contact has been made, you should move off that frequency (either above or below) to continue your contact and allow others to use the calling frequency.

The AO-51 satellite will be made available for JOTA. It will remain in its current configuration, with an understanding that contacts involving Scouts will be given first priority during this period. The current operating mode of AO-51 is as follows:

Uplink: 145.880 MHz FM (no PL tone)

Downlink: 435.150 MHz FM

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Thirty years ago we had Steve Jobs, Johnny Cash and Bob Hope. Now we have no jobs, no cash and no hope.