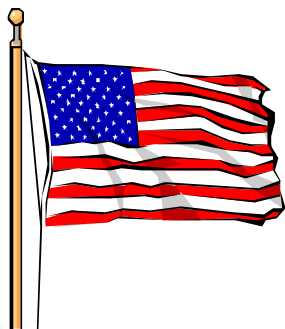


Sparks

W9OG



Thanks to Pete for his excellent article on the art of QSLing
(click on Learn More link after the Trivia Time)

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

July 2014--Vol. LVII, No. 7

TARS Website: <http://www.w9og.net> Club repeaters: 146.79 and 147.15

Say "Hello" at the weekly Tri-State Emergency Net, 8:00pm Wednesdays on 146.79

Please feel to submit articles or suggestions to

Editor: ftg2pointer@gmail.com



Presidents Corner

I hope you are having a fantastic summer. I know I am. June was a great month with lots of things to do. Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed Field Day with us. It was a ton of fun and we kept the stations very busy for the whole 24 hours! We had some challenges with how antennas were deployed and will look to do more planning next year for antenna spacing and layout. If you have any other suggestions or comments we will be very happy to hear them.

I am writing this on July 6 after a very enjoyable 4th of July weekend. I hope you were able to enjoy the fabulous weather and the very nice band

conditions on HF. I particularly enjoyed the 13 Colonies special event that was held this weekend and look forward to receiving the certificate for that. I also operated Patio-portable on the evening and night of the 4th. By only the glow from my rig and the flashing explosions being launched from several neighborhood locations, I made a lot of great contacts.

At the July meeting next Thursday, we will make a dipole. If you would like to make a dipole antenna for yourself, feel free to bring the supplies needed and we can make dipoles together. If you have never made a dipole this is a good way to learn from those who have some experience. I plan to

bring supplies for a dipole and hope to learn something myself. So if you want to learn the basics of dipoles, and especially if you have experience and know-how with dipoles, I would love for you to come to the meeting and join in!

We have lots of new Hams in the area, and I hope that if you know one of these folks you will invite them to the meetings and get them involved. Remember we do have a club station at the Red Cross that members can access for their use and for meeting with newer hams who want to learn more about ham radio and HF operations. If you have little or no experience with HF radio operations and want to learn more and even get on the air, get with me or another club member who can meet with you and show you how to get on the air.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and if you have a memorable ham radio experience, a cool idea, or a good story to tell please write it down and submit it for an edition of Sparks, or a presentation at a meeting! None of my ideas are original- I learned them all from someone else. So share those ideas and experiences with the club!

John C VanVorst Manager of Systems
Infrastructure
Vectren Corporation
812-491-4100 office
812-305-4100 cell
73s. DE N9OL.



N9OL

One Man's Opinion

One Man's Opinion:

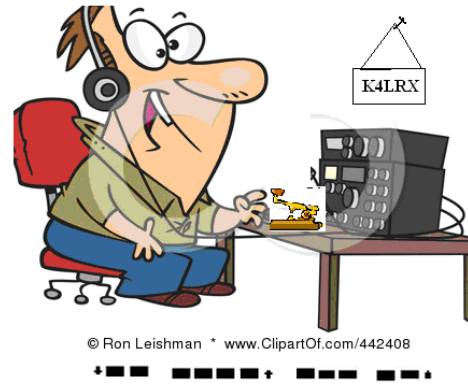
The other day I came across an article written in a pen name of Rusty Bumpers, N4LID this gives us forty different ways to be a lid on the air. Of course each offense gives you so many points and amassing a minimum of 50 points gains you admittance to the LIDS club of America.

In looking over Rusty's list some offenses relate to grammatical errors, misuse of Q signals and timing out repeaters with a lengthy oratory.

My top ten favorites in Lidism is listed with bonus points for doing some equally stupid acts on the air, some with dire consequences.

1. My first choice in how to become a lid is never listen on the frequency you are transmitting. Just set down anywhere, extra points can be received for tuning up your rig on top of nets, or qsos in progress. Be sure and transmit an unmodulated carrier for five minutes or longer squeezing the last few watts out of your linear. Plus extra bonus points for tinkering with the antenna tuner for an extended period of time. Total Point Value 20 plus bonus points of ten. Grand total 30 you are half way in to the LIDS club.
2. Be sure and open your audio gain to the fullest, give total disregard to the the proper set up by adjusting the ALC to the green band, or half way up the scale as with some transceivers. You get 20 Points in the Lids club and 10 extra points if your compression and processor are also wide open.
3. Operating on the band edge, how many times have we covered this subject, your side bands can be out of the band and unless you can prove your suppression meets standards then do not do it. Same thing applies for cw. 20 points in the LIDS club and extra points if you receive a notice from an OO, or the FCC.
4. Failing to ID at ten minute intervals, just ignoring the repeater ID, since some cannot copy cw that ID or what ever it is just ignore it. 20 points in the LIDS club and extra points for each time the repeater Ids and you do not.

5. Calling a DX station on his frequency when the instruction on SSB are 5 to 10 up and on cw the word up is sent. LIDS club points 20 and extra points for each time some self appointed band cop tells you Up, or “He’s listening up” or profane statements toward you.
6. Being a self appointed band cop, stepping out side the bands to let some one know they are out of the band, you yourself are in violation and have no authority to be there regardless of your class of license. Lids club 20 Points and extra points if some one tells the self appointed band cop he is out of the band.
- 7 Unidentified noises, carriers, snorts, belches etc. You gain points only if some one knows if it is you. Total points for this one 20, extra points if you can be identified.
- 8 Using the double break to enter a net, this is for emergency only, you get 20 points if you enter the net, then make a total fool of your self after some one asks for the emergency message. 20 Points, 10 extra for the acknowledgement.
9. Calling a dx station on a split channel, but never listening to see if the f
Frequency is in use. LIDS club 20 points and extra points if you succeed in breaking up a net, or qso in progress.
10. Last and number ten by far and this one takes some explanation, some years ago the suffix ASS was never issued. It was considered inappropriate for on the air use. Not so any longer, a large group of hams have applied for these calls and have a group on 40 meter phone. They call themselves “A group of Asses” well if the shoe fits, wear it, I have to reserve this one for last, LIDS club benefit 20 points, extra if someone refers to you as a male donkey!



From the Desk of WA9C

CCC -- Civilian Conservation Corps CCC On-the-Air Weekend

TARS is going to operate in a Special Event weekend for Camp Sites of the CCC. These Camps were all over the US. This is a great opportunity to operate from historical sites that were used for only a few years. You probably have seen buildings designated as constructed by CCC men. A lot of our State Parks had buildings erected by the CCC. TARS is trying to decide where to operate in August. If you have any knowledge of a CCC Camp or construction site near Evansville please let me know. The CCC was created in 1933 and operated until 1942. The list of camps that I have is not very precise; for example, it lists a Booneville Camp as . 25 miles N of Booneville. Not very helpful. There were 2,650 Camps at the end of 1935 with over 600,000 Enrollees. This will be another fun contact sport for TARS. Any knowledge about local CCC Camps would be appreciated.

This is as always “One Man’s Opinion” Bill,
K4LRX

July 2 N9QVQ
 9 KE9YK
 16 KC9TYA
 23 WB9KQF
 30 KC9YIL

August 6 N9QVQ
 13 KC9TYA
 20 KE9YK
 27 WB9KQF

Many, many thanks to our net control operators.
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Presentations and demonstrations

Be thinking about topics for our meeting presentations. Let us know what you want to see or do as a club.



Presentations and demonstrations are a fun part of our meetings. Join us!

We have several openings for demonstrations or lectures if you care to give one. It doesn't have to be technical or long winded, just something of general interest

Trivia Time.

QSL Etiquette

We used to paper our walls with colorful QSL cards. Later, as they accumulated we started to file them in shoe boxes (remember the shoe box file system?)

Senior hams appreciate the value of a QSL card as more than a wall decoration. Bill K4LRX probably has more than anyone I know and can probably recall the conversations from each one. To hams

like him they are memories, prizes, goals and rewards for hard work.

What do we know about the art of QSLing?

1. What does QSL stand for?
 - a. Can you acknowledge receipt of my message?
 - b. I agree with what you said
 - c. You came through loud and clear
 - d. I have no idea but it sounds good to repeat it over and over again.
2. A QSL card can verify that you made contact (two way) with another ham. What minimum information must it contain
 - a. Date and time
 - b. Frequency
 - c. type of radio and antenna used
 - d. call sign of both parties
 - e. how much power was used
 - f. mailing address
 - g. Grid Square number
 - h. Your CQ zone or ITU region
3. Who else collects QSL cards?
 - a. VFO
 - b. SWL
 - c. RCA
 - d. FCC
 - e. QRN
4. What is good amateur practice when sending your QSL card to another ham and want one in return?
 - a. Print or write clearly
 - b. Always use black ink
 - c. Include a SASE
 - d. Wait a few days after the contact
5. You finally made contact with that hard to get station to complete your WAC award. Postage must cost a fortune to send and receive mail from there. What is a slower but less expensive option?
 - a. Parcel post
 - b. Priority mail envelope
 - c. By the bureau
 - d. Canadian post
 - e. Carrier pigeon



Interested in helping our community?

All ARES/RACES members and any Amateur interested in emergency communications are encouraged to participate

For ARES/RACES announcements you can join the Emergency Comms yahoo group at

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency_comms/join

Contact Chris KE9YK or John WB9EFH for more information on how you can help out.

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Trivia Answers: for this month

1. a. it can either ask if you can acknowledge receipt of my message or it can verify that you did receive all of the other ham's message. It grew to sending cards as physical proof that the message was sent and received by both parties.
2. a, b, and d. date and time, call signs of both parties and frequency or band used. Everything else is extra
3. b. SWL – short wave listeners –often submit verification of having received a radio station in exchange for a QSL card. Some even have their own SWL cards. In early days of radio and TV this information was valuable to the stations to see just how well their signals were being received.
4. c. include a self addressed stamped envelope for the return card. It is appreciated.
5. c. cards sent by the bureau may take a long time but postage is considerably cheaper.
6. A QSL manager acts as a middle man for the event.

7. He will probably get the card, however it is like cheating at cards. For a verified contact you must have the full call sign copied yourself, not with help. It might be ok for a rag chew but not for QSL verification if you want to play fair. Remember a lot of ham stuff depends on the honor system.
8. EQSL or LOTW logs can not currently be used for the WAC awards.
9. The ARRL bureau does not charge for the service. It is staffed with volunteers and membership is not required to use the service.
10. Yes. He has the required information already. Getting the mailing address from QRZ is permissible.

Learn More:

<http://www.k5prt.com/qsletiquette.html>

Or seek guidance from our QSL guru **K4LRX**

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

July Eating Before the Meeting will be at CiCi's Pizza before the regular TARS club meeting July 10th. Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

CiCi's Pizza is located at 101 North Green River Road, just North of the Lloyd Expressway next to Burlington Coat Factory.

If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet, contact Chris (KE9YK@arrl.net).

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Net operators WANTED

TARS is in need of volunteers for net control operators. While we could use a couple more for the regular Wed night nets we desperately need volunteers for Skywarn/Weather nets. We have not recently had consistent weather nets I am working

to change that. Weather nets are not only good for local hams to find out what coming their way but the National Weather Service depends on Hams via Skywarn to be their eyes and ears to confirm what the radar data is telling them and find out what they may be missing.

If you are interested in being a control operator contact Chris KE9YK@arrl.net 626-0069. Next time there is a weather event check in on the TARS 146.79 repeater and see what is going on.

Many thanks to our award winning Net Control operators.



You provide a valuable service to the club and the community. We often fail to thank you enough for your service. Keep up the good work.

We have been having a nice turn out on the Wed. night net. If you haven't checked in, please take a few minutes at **8:00 p.m. Wednesday** evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening. As we move into the thunderstorm season, remember to monitor the weather net on 146.79. Anytime there is a severe weather watch issued from the Paducah NWS for Vanderburgh or surrounding counties, we will have a stand by net active. Once a warning or severe weather is reported we will go into a controlled net and relay your SKYWARN weather reports to the NWS in Paducah.

On the Wednesday night net you can hear the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and good old-fashioned rag chewing.

If you would like to help run the net please Help is always appreciated and it is fun.

Net controls: Please forward a list of your check-ins to KE9YK@arrl.net thanks.

VE Test information



Test dates:

7/26, 8/30,
9/27, 10/25, 12/27

All ARRL examination sessions will be held at the Evansville Chapter of the American Red Cross. The ARC is located at 29 S. Stockwell Road, at the intersection of Stockwell Road and Lloyd Expressway. Sessions start promptly at 9:00 AM, Evansville time.

Those candidates wishing to earn their first Amateur Radio License, or upgrade their present valid license, need to bring the following:

1. Their original signed and valid FCC Amateur Radio License.
2. Any previously earned CSCE.
3. One copy of the license *and* CSCE.
4. Two forms of Identification, one bearing a recent photograph.
5. The current ARRL testing fee of \$15.00.
6. You "**must**" have your Social Security number or EIN with you.

**Don't forget to check out our web page
www.w9og.net**

*2013 Club Officers and Board
members*

***2014 Club Officers and Board
members***

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