

Sparks

W9OG



Now, that is an antenna farm.
N00Y home antenna farm

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society
December 2015-Issue No. 12

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



73!
John N9ol



check for your dues from the check you use to pay for auction items. It makes the accounting for the auction so much simpler.

Reminder #2 - February is the TARS banquet. If you are a paid member for 2015 or 2016 you can come and bring a guest and TARS will foot part of the bill. Another good reason to get up to date with your dues.

Len Schmitt N9QVQ

Another message from N9OL

I am still lining out the details, but a local entity as offered to allow the club to use a 100' tower, an antenna for 70cm at the top of that tower, and a Motorola digital repeater so we can put a DMR repeater on the air. I am pursuing this and would like to be the trustee of this installation- I am very interested in seeing what DMR can do. Of course I want it to be a club project as well. I am working on getting a frequency coordination for this and want to move forward with this as quickly as we can.

So ask Santa for a new DMR radio for Christmas. The good thing is that Santa wont have to dig too deep into his pockets!

JCVV

Trivia Time

Many hams seemed to have lost the concept of net operation. They check into the net on Wednesday night as short timers, have no traffic or don't stay tuned to the net to learn what is going on. Perhaps we have lost the understanding of what nets are and why they are helpful.

1. When is the TARS net scheduled?
 - a. Monday evenings @ 8 PM

- b. Friday afternoon @ 4 PM
 - c. Tuesday evening at 6 PM
 - d. Wednesday evening @ 8 PM
 - e. Sunday afternoon @ 1 PM
2. The net format is:
 - a. an open net
 - b. a controlled net
 - c. an informal chat group
3. The person running the net is
 - a. the net control operator
 - b. the club president
 - c. the club secretary
 - d. anyone who wants to be
4. The original reason for having nets was for:
 - a. rag chewing
 - b. testing radio equipment
 - c. sharing ideas and technical support from other hams
 - d. talking about politics and religion
5. Many nets in operation today consist of:
 - a. special interest groups
 - b. emergency preparedness
 - c. socializing
 - d. Service oriented
6. In a controlled net who decides who can make contact with another member of the net?
 - a. the caller by saying "Break" between transmissions
 - b. The caller by saying "contact" between transmissions
 - c. the net control operator
 - d. the club president or his/her representative
7. The net is in progress. A member has a question about a particular function on his radio. The net control operator is trying his best to explain but not very well. You know the correct answer but it is not your turn to talk. What is the proper procedure?
 - a. jump in and give the correct answer

- b. wait until it is your turn to talk and answer it
 - c. say "information" between transmissions
 - d. let someone else answer it
8. The net is in progress. You are in your mobile when you witness a traffic accident that looks pretty serious. How do you get into the net quickly?
- a. say "information" between transmissions
 - b. say BREAK between transmissions
 - c. just go ahead and talk over the current user of the repeater
9. It is 8:05 PM and the net has not started yet. Everyone is waiting for someone else to do it. What are the options?
- a. just skip it for that night
 - b. wait until someone finally gives in and runs the net
 - c. Give your call sign and ask if anyone is doing the net tonight
 - d. run the net yourself if no one is available
10. You decided to run the net yourself and did a great job. What duties do you have after the net closes?
- a. nothing
 - b. submit a short report of the number of check ins to Chris KE9YK along with any important club business he needs to know
 - c. send off to the ARRL for an "atta-boy" certificate.
 - d.

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Trivia Answers

1. d. Wednesday night at 8 PM
2. b. a controlled net
3. a and d are correct. In the absence of a net control operator any club member can handle the net for that evening.
4. b and c In the early days of ham radio much of the equipment was home brew or experimental. Hams would set a date and time to get together on the air to test their equipment or to share ideas and support with other hams.
5. all of the above are examples: Special interest groups might be something like the NAVY net where current and past Navy personnel meet to rag chew. SKYWARN net is an example of emergency preparedness nets, Many nets are just for socializing and rag chewing. The Maritime net on 14.300 is a service oriented net for ships at sea to get the latest weather, report their location and other services.
6. c and b are correct. All traffic is handled by the net control operator and you can request to make contact when it is your turn in the net rotation or if you need to make contact immediately it is permissible to say "contact" between transmissions and the net control operator grants you permission.
7. c. The net control operator may direct the question to anyone on the net and wait for a reply. If not you can say "information" between transmissions and the net control operator should let you in.
8. b. saying BREAK will give you immediate access to the repeater where you can request someone call 911. Saying "BREAK EMERGENCY TRAFFIC" will also get quick attention. Talking over someone else will most likely not work
9. c and d will work. It could be the net control operator for that evening is running a little late but if no one takes the net, put on your big boy

(or girl) pants and run the net yourself. We got over mike fright a long time ago.

- 10. b. Keep track of the number of check ins and any important information to pass on to the club. send a short email report to Chris KE9YK to update his NET Log.

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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. Chris KE9YK

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Eat'n Before the Meet'n

There will not be an Eat'n Before the Meet'n this month.

We will resume again in January.



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

Chris KE9YK

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

There will be no ARES/RACES meeting for December. See you in 2016.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net) 626-0069

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

Tri-State Emergency Net

Net Operator schedule
Net Operator schedule

January	6	KC9YIL
	13	N9QVQ
	20	KE9YK
	27	KC9TYA
February	3	WB9KQF
	10	KC9YIL
	17	N9QVQ
	24	KC9TYA
December	2	KC9YIL
	9	N9QVQ
	16	KC9TYA
	23	KE9YK
	30	WB9KQF

Winter Field Day Jan 30-31

After a year of uncertainty over the future of the old SPARs Winter Field Day event and ill health of SPAR's Board of Directors, it would appear that IT's BACK!!! A NEW group has now taken over the reins and is actively promoting this fun event. Do you like the ARRL's Field Day?? If you do, you'll likely LOVE Winter Field Day as a welcome break and fun event in the middle of the cold winter months. It's an event that you can participate in alone, with a buddy, or with a group. You can operate from home or remotely, QRP or QRO, ANY mode, your choice. **Winter Field Day 2016 will fall**

on Jan 30-31.

TARS has plans to work Winter Field Day from Wesselman Park (tentatively) on Saturday Jan 30th. Chris KE9YK will provide bean soup and cornbread at Noon for lunch and you are welcome but not obligated to bring anything to pitch in as well. WFD has a webpage up now, as well as a Facebook Group page you can follow for updates...
<http://www.winterfieldday.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/winterfieldday/>

Note: The club will provide one operating station at WFD, you are certainly invited to bring your equipment to operate if you wish. A good way to test it under winter conditions. After all, disasters do not keep a schedule and can happen in any weather any time of year. Be Prepared



"ARRL National Parks on the Air" Event to Mark National Park Service Centennial From ARRL Letter October 15, 2015

In 2016, the National Park Service ([NPS](#)) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) event. The event kicks off at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016.

"As ARRL just celebrated our own Centennial, and Amateur Radio is often enjoyed in the great outdoors, it seemed fitting to devise a program to help NPS celebrate their own 100th birthday," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. NPOTA will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US. This includes all 59 National Parks as well as National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, National Scenic Trails, and other units.

The program will have two participation tracks -- Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as possible. Activators will attempt to

activate as many of the units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles. Chaser and Activator totals will be tracked via an online [Leader Board](#) based on LoTW data, just as was done during the Centennial QSO Party. Access the NPOTA Leader Board directly at <http://npota.arrl.org>.

Modeled after the Mixed DXCC award, only one contact with any given NPS unit will be required, and no tally will be kept of NPS units based on bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). *No* paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit will be added to LoTW as a "location."

Chaser Award and Activator Award certificates will be available to any radio amateur who has at least one confirmed contact with an NPS unit or who activates at least one unit, respectively. A station's total number of confirmed or activated units will be printed on the certificate. The National Parks Honor Roll certificate will be available to any station confirming contact with at least 75 percent of the 59 National Parks *activated* in 2016.

While
no

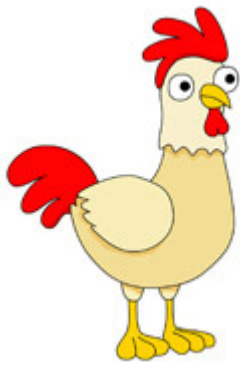


there is
formal

partnership between NPS and ARRL for this event, the League has been in discussions with the NPS over the past year, and the National Park Service is aware that increased Amateur Radio activity in their parks is likely during 2016.

The NPOTA will use the official [list](#) of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. [Complete details](#) on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website. Read [more](#).

Net operators WANTED
Don't be a Chicken! Be a net control operator



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The spider web is because this plea for help has been in Sparks a long time and no one new has come forward lately to volunteer

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.

It can happen !

Unless you live in a cave or in an isolated part of the county, you have to know that we live on a major earthquake fault zone. In minutes, and without warning your area may be a disaster zone. You may be the only one in your area equipped to provide emergency communications. Are you up to the task? Is your field day equipment up to the task? Practice makes perfect. The more you practice setting up and operating from this station, the better prepared you are.

One sure way to become proficient at operating is to be a net control operator. It takes only a few minutes and you gain valuable confidence in your operating skills.

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.

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.

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VE Test information



Test dates:	
1/31/2015	7/25/2015
2/28/2015	8/29/2015
3 none	9/26/2015
4/25/2015	10 none
5/30/2015	11/28/2015
6/27/2015	12/26/2015

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. You “**must**” have your Social Security number or EIN with you

2015 Club Officers and Board members

2014 Club Officers and Board members

Board of Directors

President: John Vanvorst jcvanvorst@wowway.com
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Vice Pres: Steven Wilzbacher KC9SAW
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[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) 812-963-6455 (2014-2015)

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