



Don't miss the club auction Thursday Lots of fun. Lots of bargains.

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society January 2016-Issue No. 1 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



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Years holidays. As we look back on 2015, I think we as a club had a great year, did some fun stuff, and had some great meetings. 2016 looks like it is shaping up to be

even more exciting and I hope you plan to plug into what we have going on and get involved. We have several operating events including an INPOTA operating activity, an special event station in the fall, Field Day, Winter Field Day, and more! So I urge you to come to the meetings and get involved. And if you have an idea for a club event or operating opportunity please speak up! January 14 meeting will be the TARS Annual Auction night. The club has some equipment that we will be selling, including some HF rigs! If you have items that you would like to auction off, you are more than welcome to bring them. A donation to the club is requested for personal sales. So see you all next week on January 14.

The Dígítal Mobile Radío (DMR) repeater is up and operating on the Hoosier-DMR network. DMR radios are available at very reasonable prices too! So check it out. If you have questions about DMR feel free to ask me. There are several other club members getting active on DMR that can help also.

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I am excited about our club in 2016, and I hope you are too!

73, and hope to see you at the meeting! !**John N90!** 

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Welcome to a brand new year. We are looking forward to great times in the club with many activities planned.

Come join us . To get the year started off right, here are some important dates to mark your calendar with.

#### TARS board meetings

Room: The Red Cross board room. 7-9PM on following dates (first Thursday of each month): 1/7/2016 7/7/2016 2/4/2016 8/4/2016 3/3/2016 9/1/2016 4/7/2016 10/6/2016 5/5/2016 11/3/2016 6/2/2016 12/1/2016

#### TARS membership meetings

Room: ½ of the large classroom space 7-10PM on the following dates (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month except Feb): 1/14/2016 3/10/2016 4/14/2016- Board Room 5/12/2016 7/14/2016 8/11/2016 9/8/2016 10/13/2016 11/10/2016 12/8/2016

6/9/2016

Ham radio testing sessions The using the Red Cross board Room: room 8:30-11AM on following Saturday mornings: 1/30/2016 6/25/2016 2/27/2016 7/30/2016 3/26/2016 8/27/2016 4/30/2016 9/24/2016 5/28/2016 10/29/2016 12/31/2016

Winter Field Day 1-30-16 Club dinner 2-11-16 TARS Picnic and Indiana QSO party 5-7-16 ARRL Field Day 6-(24-26)-2016

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In addition, don't forget:

Club Auction

Indiana Parks on the Air Sept 16,atMurphy park in New Harmony

### We will be operating a Special Event Station from Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> through Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> during **One Man's Opinion**

The other day I was tuning around on twenty meters phone, now those of you that know me well may wonder why I was in the phone band? To be honest about it I had a dx station I wanted to work on SSB so decided to venture up to 14.200KHZ.

After working the station I wanted I decided to tune downward to around 14.178 KHZ and see what discussions were in progress on the channel. This frequency is known for a number of fellows gathering and adjusting their radios for the best sound, or the highest audio quality.

One station checked in and was proud of the fact that his signal was taking up 4 KHZ in over all width. I verified this on my spectrum scope and indeed it was four KHZ wide. The question is this, WHY? The normal width of an SSB signal is 2.8khz beyond that it is indeed a bad venture.

SSB came about to save spectrum space, I recall the days of AM when signals occupied about five or six Khz. In those days you had to look around the band for a clear space, even then it was not a sure fired method.

If you recall I had written an article of review on the Yaesu FT 5 and the fact it had a normal and wide selection of your SSB signal. I quite frankly feel it should have never been included, My new Kenwood does not have this and I do not miss it. Transmitted the 2016 West Side Nut Club Fall Festival in conjunction with Indiana's Bicentennial

The club would also like to participate in National Parks on the Air. We have Lincoln State Park and Harmonie State Park close enough to operate the event. We have operated from both in the past. Let us know which one you would like to hold the event at.

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signal is 2.8khz and that is where it will stay, Pushing the button for wide only makes enemies and in reality accomplishes nothing.

This brings me to FM transceivers, for the most part the FM deviation is 5 KHZ plenty for voice work only. After all we are not VOA or the local broadcast station, however in a misguided effort to gain more audio some have started to adjust the modulation level control in their radios. But unless you really know what you are doing and have the proper gear to measure deviation, leave it alone. Five KHZ deviation is plenty for voice work as mentioned, turning up the modulation will cause more deviation, thus you are louder to the station you are communicating. If everyone else is using five KHZ, then the rest of the group will be constantly turning their audio control on the receiver up and down each time you transmit and someone else does.

Granted, there are some rigs using 2.5 kHZ deviation, little cut off in the high end, but still readable and good quality.

Best way to adjust is use a spectrum analyzer of some sort, or a modulation meter capable of detecting your transmit frequency.

In one instance I heard a tri-state local bragging about he fact he ran a signal on 440 mhz with 100 kHz of deviation. Again, WHY? a poor practice, even on the sparsely used 70CM band. Your transmissions of SSB and FM should take up the minimum amount of frequency needed. If you want another good reason, try engineering practice of good quality, recheck your rules and regulations regarding this statement. No, there are no rules about the actual width of a signal, but we rely on "Gentlemen" agreement" therefore a good op will not take up unnecessary space on the bands when it is not needed for communication.

Keep your signal in proper width and the audio sounding good, you will make friends and not enemies.

As always my Friends, this is "One Man's Opinion" Bill, K4LRX



Bill, K4LRX

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Point well taken Sir William of Kentucky. Wide-banders have been a constant point of irritation to many of us. I have heard them splattering other QSOs near their frequency many times. In the older days a ham was proud of a clean signal. No hums, chirps, spurious or harmonic signals and within recognized band width for the modes. If you want a studio quality audio signal, why not just go to AM or FM mode in the appropriate band segments? With your signal taking up valuable frequency space and adding an amplifier to that, you are really irritating people, not just locally but internationally.

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Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead Things to look forward to:

# 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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/

<u>Note:</u> 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 Prepaid

## ARRL Field Day 2016

It was suggested that we might want to use a different location next year for Field Day. USI has been used for several years and a fresh location may liven things up a bit.

If we plan to use a park somewhere we must get reservations in early. Those spots fill up very quickly after January first.

If you have a suggestion, please let us know.

So far recommendations have been:

\*Harmonie State Park

\*Murphy Park in New Harmony (also a candidate for the Indiana QSO party)



MINO means Member In Name Only. Minos are members that join the club but never seem to participate in any club activities or meetings. We can see the names on the club roster but can't quite put a face with the name because it is so rare we get to see them.

Don't be a mino. Club meetings and activities can be fun and educational. Come and support your club. Who knows? You might even have some fun and learn something.

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# From the desk of Leonard Schmitt

Don't forget the annual TARS auction. This year we have some HF rigs to sell. If you have items that you wish to sell TARS will put them out there for bidding and give you a wider audience for a modest 15% fee. You can control where the bidding starts by giving us a minimum bid price, if you so desire. Come on out and participate in the auction, a great way to support your club and maybe find some bargains!

2016 is upon us and memberships are due. Thanks to those who have already turned in dues for the new year. See the attached membership application. It is an Adobe form that can be filled out and printed. You can't save changes to this document. Please strike out 2015 at the top and relabel as 2016. You can either mail it or bring it to the club meeting. PLEASE BE USE A SEPARATE CHECK FOR DUES TO KEEP THE TREASURER'S JOB SIMPLER.

## Dues time again:

#### Time for dues

Attached is a Membership Renewal form for 2016 (Cross out 2015 and mark it as 2016). This form can be either printed and filled in by hand or filled in on the computer while the form is open and then printed before closing the file. You cannot save changes to the form. Please return the completed form to our PO box or give it to me at one of the upcoming meetings.

Reminder #1- If you bring your dues to the TARS auction next month, please make out a separate 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

# **Tri-State Emergency Net**

# **Net Operator schedule**

January	6	KC9YIL
February	13	N9QVQ
	20	KE9YK
	27	КС9ТҮА
	3	WB9KQF
	10	KC9YIL
	17	N9QVQ
	24	КС9ТҮА

# Trivia Time

I apologize that I have not had time to make up a trivia quiz this time. I will try to continue in the next issue. ----



#### 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/em ergency\_comms/join

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

# Eat'n Before the Meet'n

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January Eating Before the Meeting will be at <u>CiCi's</u> <u>Pizza</u> before the regular TARS club meeting January 14th. 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.

<u>CiCi's Pizza</u> is located at <u>101 North Green River</u> <u>Road</u>, 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).

# Vanderburgh Co. RACES/ARES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting is January 21st, 7:00 pm at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) <u>1430 Harmony Way</u>. We will be covering message handling and associated ICS forms.



Anyone interested in emergency communications in Vanderburgh Co. is invited.

We may be scheduling a workday at WEMA soon, so please watch for that announcement. WEMA has had a new HVAC system installed and will most likely have a new roof before you read this. The classrooms need painting with misc. installations and repairs. We also have a flat screen monitor to install in the radio room.

2016 regular meeting dates:

Jan 21	Feb 18
Mar 17	Apr 21
May 19	Jun 16
Jul 21	Aug 18
Sep 15	Oct 20
N 17D	1.7

Nov 17Dec 15

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





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

Chris KE9YK

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 <u>Leader</u> <u>Board</u> based on LoTW data, just as was done during the Centennial QSO Party. Access the NPOTA Leader Board directly at <u>http://npota.arrl.org</u>.

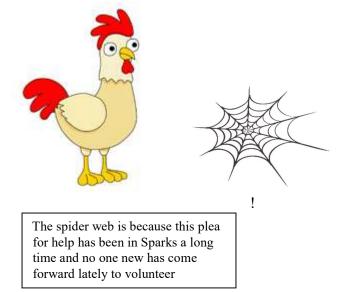
Modeled after the Mixed DXCC award, only one contact with any given NPS unit will be required, and no tally will be kept of NPS units based on bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World (LoTW). *No* paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit 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 there is no 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 <u>list</u> of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. <u>Complete details</u> on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website. Read <u>more</u>.

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



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 <u>KE9YK@arrl.net</u> 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.

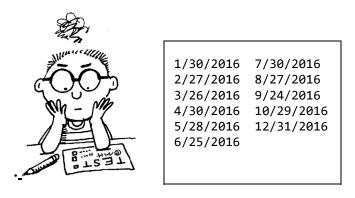
If you would like to help run the net please Help is always appreciated and it is fun. Net controls: Please forward a list of your checkins to KE9YK@arrl.net thanks.

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#### **January Birthdays:**

K4LRX Bill Hilyerd	11th
KD9COS Kelli Lynch-Land WB9LDV Charles Martin	8th 28th
KC9ZAR Dave (Jerry) Purcell	15th
N9QVQ Len Schmitt KD9ABT Max Wilkinson	12th 1st
K4SAW Steve Wilzbacher	17th

# VE Test information - 2016



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

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

# 2016 Club Officers and Board members

President John VanVorst N9OL 812.305.4100 Vice President Chris Matthews N9JCA 812.867.7456 Treasurer Leonard Schmitt N9QVQ 812.963.0027 Secretary Ron Hanes KC9OUT 812-568-1168

#### **Board of Directors**

<u>Stevan Wells KC9SOE</u> 812.473.5918 (2015-16) <u>Herb Alvey KB9MZH</u> 812.477.2756 (2015-16) <u>Steve Connaughton K9SRC</u> 812.480.1395 (2015-16) <u>Bob Pointer N9XAW</u> 812.425.2118 (2016-2017) <u>Mark Thienes KC9TYA</u> 812.963.6455 (2016-2017) Jeff Holt AA9WJ 812.858.2968 (2016-2017)

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Sparks editor Bob Pointer N9XAW