

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for 70 years



December 2017- 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: SPARKS@w9og.net



President's Corner:

December Meeting Topic will be given by WA2USA Dennis about SOTA Summits On The Air. This is part of the Radio Hobby that Dennis really enjoys and I'm sure he will be giving a great Presentation so don't miss it.

If you able to start paying your Dues (\$25 Regular Member; \$12.50 Old People over 60) and Christmas Party Dollars \$12.00 early (Dec/Jan) I'm sure that the Treasurer would appreciate this.

The New Slate of Officers and Board Members will be running the Club from January 2018 Please Support them as you did for the 2017 Crew. There will be Special Election at the January Meeting for a New Board Member as there will be a Vacancy to fill. This will be for 1 year.

This is my Last Prez Corner so Thanks to all who helped make 2017 what it was.

Chris N9JCA 73

" I'm always doing that which I CANNOT do; in order that I may LEARN how to do it "

It's Dues time! Please use the attached form which you can mail in with your dues or bring to a meeting. This keeps your personal information up-to-date and helps to insure you receive SPARKS in a timely manner. If you have any special topics for a meeting program you would like to see or are willing to present a program, please be sure to indicate this in the space provided. **As a reminder, if you are paying both dues and banquet fee by check, please provide a separate check for each.** It makes the accounting and management of the banquet much easier and would be greatly appreciated.

One man's opinion

For those of you that are new comers to the hobby, take a good look at what you have available to you. There are a vast amount of modes available and you do not have to spend a fortune to use them.



I was doing a little reading on this new mode and that is FT8, now I am from the old school and I prefer CW and at times some SSB contacts. I am an avid DXer and the chase is always on for me, find a new band country, or by some stretch of the imagination a contact with North Korea. That is the only entity I still need on the DXCC lists.

FT8 peaked my interest since stations are making contacts with it on six meters, namely 50.074 otherwise the band is pretty dead. In fact, since my six meter beam is in trouble I am not so eager to have it serviced or replaced. Due to the declining sunspot cycle we may be several years before we see anything happening on six with the standard SSB or CW contacts.

However, the FT8 operators are racking up the contacts including an elusive operation from KH6 the only state I still need on six meters. FT8 has spread also to ten meters, it too has been pretty dead for some time and will be for the most part for several years.

The best thing about the digital modes you do not need high power, in fact even antennas can be make shift, simple, yet effective. I am on the edge, one voice tells me to pursue it, while the other voice tells me to stay on task with my DX challenge award and make the next step of 1500 band countries.

To be honest with myself my pursuit of the DX challenge 1500 will win, anything else will be put on hold for a while. However, this does not keep

you from giving it a try, there are plenty of 100 watt rigs for sale, both new and used. There is not only the latest craze of FT8 there are other digital modes out there you just have to find your niche.

You may prefer RTTY and if so you will find lots of stations using it. My general advice to the new comer is avoid those troublesome frequencies of those who defy the FCC rules with offensive language. Namely, 3.843, 3.822 7.200 and 14.313 kHz should be on your list to avoid and not contribute to a very bad problem. Do not sink to the level of those gatherings, there are so many decent fellows out there to communicate with and who knows you may make lasting friendships.

Explore all the modes, see what pleases you, where you can find the type of hams that are appealing to you and then stake out your area. There are so many possible scenarios for you the new comer to pursue. Of course let us not forget public service, if this is what you want to do go after it and help someone, or some area that has been stricken with a disaster, it is your choice as well.

My usual pep talk to new comers is that I try to encourage them to do something with radio now that they have passed their license requirements. Some have done so, then did nothing, no radios, or gear of any sort, some just faded away after a few weeks.

The choice is yours, now explore those new modes, find out about the new age of radio, I am sure you will find it interesting.

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



Eat'n Before the Meet'n

December 14th Eating Before the Meeting will be at **Penn Station Subs**, before the regular TARS club meeting. Located in the strip directly south of Wal-Mart at Burkhardt and the Lloyd.

Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, or whenever you can make it. Check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in. Everyone is welcome to join us.

If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet, contact:

Herb Alvey KB9MZH c: 812.431.1037



Club Equipment Inventory List

A couple of months ago, our insurance representative met with the club to discuss our policy. As a result of that meeting, we are putting together an inventory list of the club radios and equipment. While the older members might remember a list from long ago, we have not been able to locate it. Chris N9JCA has volunteered to take on the task of locating and identifying club equipment. Recently, we cleared out the Westside storage area and those items were found were stored at the WEMA building. If you have any club equipment or know of its whereabouts, please let Chris know so we can document it. This will be a daunting task, but if we ever need to file a claim, we will need to show that it was in our possession in the first place.

Club Shirts - LAST CHANCE

We will be ordering the club t-shirts beginning at the November meeting and ending at the **December** regular meeting. Shirt style will be a regular T-shirt (no collar), dark blue in color and will have the club logo, the member's name and call sign. Sizes will be Small thru 3XL, cost will be **\$15.00** each regardless of size. To simplify the bookkeeping, **all shirts will be pre-paid**. We will have a signup sheet at the meeting and after filling in your information, please make your check out to Southwest Graphics.

February Meeting LOG INN

The February club meeting will be **the annual TARS banquet**, February 8th at the Log Inn. **Please arrive by 6:00 pm** so that your choice of meat can be ordered, followed by a short business meeting and award presentations before our food is served.

The Log Inn is fully handicap accessible using the entrance on the east side of building. [\[MAP\]](#)

The cost will be \$12.00 per person for 2018 paid members and spouse / guest.

Nonmembers will be full price of \$18.00.

All reservations must be **PAID IN ADVANCE no later than Feb. 1st**. Preferred by the regular club meeting Jan 11, 2018.

If paying both membership dues and banquet fee by check, please provide a separate check for each. You may bring your payment to the meetings or mail to:

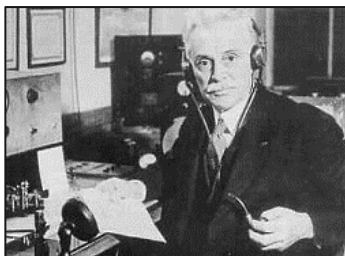
TARS
PO Box 4521
Evansville, IN, 47724

Please do not mail cash.

The story of the "Wouff-Hong"

Amateur radio, while under the control of the Federal Communications Commission today, has always been to some extent a "self-policed" hobby. Conscientious amateur radio operators pride themselves on operating stations that are clean, safe, well regulated, and which adhere to the law. In the case of those rare operators and hacks who do not adhere to the standards, they are usually called down by their licensed peers even before they come to the attention of the Federal regulators. The FCC imposes stiff fines on wayward members of the amateur radio service, just as it does for those licensees in the commercial broadcast industry.

In the early days of Radio, the radio spectrum had become a playground for experimenters who were operating all manner of spark transmitters and other unregulated radio devices that often impeded critical communications between ships at sea and other public safety and broadcast efforts.



Since the government had not yet become the official regulator of the radio spectrum, amateurs, particularly those who subscribed to the standards of the American Radio Relay League, felt that there was a need to present a fictitious symbol of an instrument of punishment for those early hams who didn't operate courteously or in conformance with the law. Out of this early period evolved the instrument of torture known as the "Wouff-Hong." It is believed that league founder Hiram Percy Maxim (pictured above) offered the Wouff-Hong as that very symbol in 1919. That year, Maxim wrote an article in QST magazine, the official journal of the ARRL, in which he offered the Hong as a representation of the spirit of self-policing of the radio bands. Today, the Secret Society of the Wouff-Hong convenes annually at

ARRL conventions, and the original Wouff-Hong, presented to the league by Maxim in 1919, hangs in the office of the League's secretary in the Newington, CT. headquarters of the organization.



The device shown above is the dreaded "Wouff-Hong."

The manner in which the Hong was to be applied to wayward ham radio operators was never really openly discussed, however in viewing it, it is not hard to imagine how those early wireless operators envisioned its application.

Wondering how many TARS members belong to the Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong? - Ed.

Announcing: ARRL International Grid Chase!

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the



ARRL International Grid Chase gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on *any* band (*except* 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW).

Registration is free, and it costs nothing to use LoTW.

The ARRL International Grid Chase is open to all amateurs, regardless of location or license class. Any operating mode is eligible as well as every band, except 60 meters. You'll find the complete rules at www.arrl.org/aigc2018.

ARES/RACES NEWS

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting **January 18th**, 7:00 pm at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#).



Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

in82races@gmail.com c: 812.453.1972

Warrick County ARES/RACES:

Auxiliary Communications Trailer....

The Warrick County ARES/RACES group has been assigned an enclosed trailer to be converted into an Auxiliary Communications Trailer. Members of the group have spent several days replacing flooring, insulating and covering the walls and ceiling, painting, wiring, carpeting, and constructing custom cabinets. It will be some time before the trailer is completed. There is still a lot of work needing to be done. The transformation of the trailer indicates the many talents that Amateur Radio Operators possess. Many thanks for all of the hard work being supplied. And a thank you to the Warrick County EMA for the trailer.

Communications...

During the November meeting the main topic of discussion was communications. Mike Koester (KA9VKO) provided an exercise for the group that showed how "to much" or "to little" information can change the outcome of the final understanding. This exercise involved wooden blocks and isolation from one another. One person would build a structure with the blocks and then communicate with the other persons what he had in front of him. The other people would then attempt to duplicate the structure with the information received. It is amazing how the same information can be interpreted differently by each and every person in the room. By the third attempt everyone present knew what to give as information and the

questions to ask to confirm the information received was what they needed to know.

Meetings...

The December Warrick ARES/RACES meeting will be held at Archie & Clyde's in Newburgh. The meeting will be December 11th at 6:30 pm.

Warrick ARES/RACES meets at 6:30 pm, on the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings are held at the EMA facilities on the 3rd floor of the old courthouse in Boonville and is open to anyone interested. We hold a net on the 147.075, Boonville repeater each Tuesday evening at 7:30. We invite everyone to check into the net. More information is available on the net or by e-mailing K9SRC@ARRL.net.

Until next time:

Happy Holidays

73's

Chris L Owen (KC9CLO)

Public Information Officer

Warrick County ARES/RACES group

Tri-State Emergency Net

8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights on 146.79 pl 88.5

If you haven't checked into the **Tri-State Emergency Net**, please take a few minutes at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening, the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time to time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Net Operator schedule

December

6	KC9UVG
13	N9QVQ
20	WB9KQF
27	KB9YWQ

January

3	KC9UVG
10	KC9TYA
17	N9QVQ
24	KB9YWQ
31	WB9KQF

VE Testing



Test dates: 2017

1/28	2/25	3/25
4/29	5/27	6-none
7/29	8/26	9/30
10/28	11-none	12/30

All TARS ARRL examination sessions are 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. For more info contact:

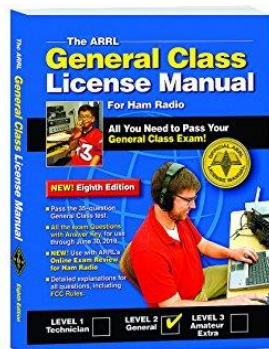
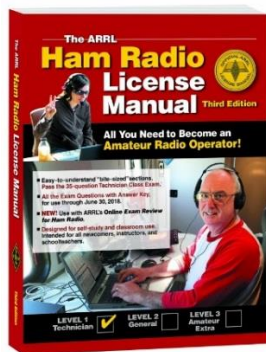
[John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9OL) c: 812.305.4100



Amateur License Classes

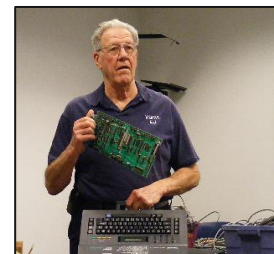
Mike Koester KA9VKO is collecting information on persons interested in classes for **Tech**, **General**, and **Extra Class** licensing. This is still in the early planning stages and mike needs to gage the interest to plan the classes. Please have any one that might be interested in any of these classes contact Mike at ka9vko@ohiovalleyarc.org. Feel free to pass along to any other groups that may have interest.

Steve K9SRC



Meeting Presentations

December, we will have a presentation from Dennis WA2USA when on his SOTA activations; he experienced a hit from several solar flares.



January will be TARS annual auction with Little ED, K9HVI

everyone's favorite auctioneer.

February will be our dinner and a meeting at the Log Inn. More information is in this issue.

What have you missed at meetings lately?

TARS has given away attendance prizes, but you can't win if you don't attend!

October GO Boxes



November USI CubeSat program



UNITE CubeSat Project

The Undergraduate Nano Ionospheric Temperature Explorer CubeSat, or UNITE CubeSat, is a NASA funded small satellite project. The University of Southern Indiana has received a Undergraduate Student Instruments Project (USIP) grant from NASA to complete a small satellite focusing on NASA specific goals.

More info at: <http://wp.usispace.com/wp/>

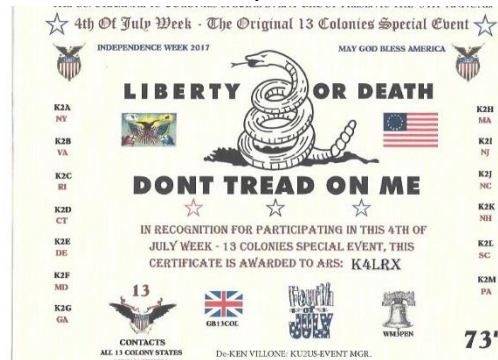
Save the Date

Winter Field Day will be on **January 27th** and we plan to be at Wesselman's Park, same place as last year. Set-up 9:00 am. Chris KE9YK will have bean soup and cornbread at NOON. You are welcome to bring any side dishes for lunch if you wish. Come out and enjoy the FUN!



Operating

Bill K4LRX sent this from a special event operation over 4th of July week.

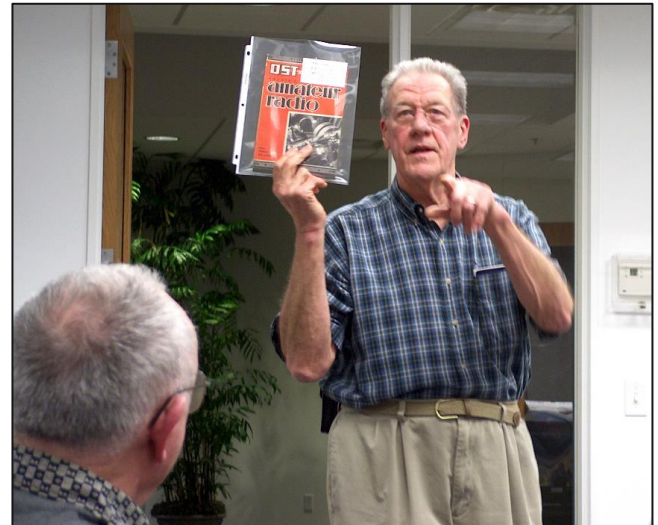


The 13 colonies special event.

Looks like Bill had a clean sweep of the 13 original colonies. Congratulations!

Do you have any special event certificates you have recently received, unique QSL cards or contacts? Let everyone know what you have been doing on the air.

Auction



January 11th will be TARS annual club auction. **NOW is the time** to start cleaning out your shack closet and operating position to make room for your new toys. TARS will accept any of your radio/electronics donations, or you may sell your wares with only a small percentage of the selling price going to TARS. You may set a minimum starting bid price if you wish.

Congratulations to TARS Field Day 2017

The TARS W9OG/WA9C field day station placed **3rd** in the nation for class 4F.

Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to the station chiefs and coordinators.



December Birthdays

Herbert Alvey	KB9MZH	12th
William (Alan) Jr Dale	W9ZPP	23rd
Gene R. Flick	KC9SYL	25th
Ron Goebel	KF9RR	10th
Robert "Bob" Kissel	K9BKL	26th
John Marley	WB9EFH	20th
Chris Owen	KC9CLO	24th
Chris Politano	KC9HWQ	20th
John Van Vorst	N9OL	9th
Steve Viers	KM4ZII	27th
Don Wade	W9ADE	13th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all !

Election Results Officers & Board members 2018

President – Dave KC9UVG

Vice President – Max KD9ABT

Treasurer – Jeff AA9WJ

Secretary – Don KB9YWQ

New Board members (2 year term)

Len N9QVQ

Mark KC9TYA

Terry WB9KQF

Continuing Board members – (1 year remaining)

Raymond W9KHP

Rick K9EXY

Position Open for special election in Jan.

AO-91 Commissioned Declared Open for Amateur Use

AMSAT News November 23, 2017 by Paul Stoetzer

At 06:50 UTC on November 23, 2017, AMSAT

Engineering officially commissioned AO-91

(RadFxSat/Fox-1B). AMSAT Vice-President

Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, turned over

operation to AMSAT Operations in a QSO on the

AO-91 transponder with Mark Hammond,

N8MH, of the AMSAT Operations team during

the pass over the Eastern United States.

N8MH responded and declared AO-91 open for amateur use!

AO-91 was built as a partnership with Vanderbilt University ISDE and features the Fox-1 style FM U/v repeater with an uplink on 435.250 MHz (67.0 Hz CTCSS) and a downlink on 145.960 MHz.

More info at: <https://www.amsat.org/ao-91-commissioned-declared-open-for-amateur-use/>

[Ed. Note: Reports on FACEBOOK indicate AO-91 has been easily usable with an HT and hand held beam but has experienced heavy use.]



SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD)

Saturday, December 2 from 0000 until 2400 UTC (starts on the evening of Friday, December 1, in US time zones). During the SKYWARN Special Event, ham radio operators will set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other radio amateurs around the world. Participating Amateur Radio stations will exchange a brief description of their current weather with as many NWS-based stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

SRD was developed jointly in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL to celebrate the contributions SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission — the protection of life and property. Amateur Radio operators, which comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN volunteers, also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency managers, if normal communications become inoperative.

Secretary Report

Nov. 2, 2017 Board Meeting

N9JCA Chris called the meeting to order. Introductions were given. First order of business was an invoice from myself for the purchase of two baofeng uv 82 handhelds. The invoice was for 50 dollars. It was approved by the board and the treasurer paid the invoice.

Next on the agenda was an invoice from Mark kc9tya for a prize to be given at the banquet in February. It was approved and the treasurer paid the invoice.

The next item brought to the boards' attention was the secretary report. It was read and approved as read. Following the secretary report was the treasurer report. It was read and accepted as given.

The board then moved forward to the club party to be held in February of next year. Dues and member price for the banquet reservation must be made to the club by the February board meeting.

The floor was opened for old business. First under old business was the topic of club tee shirts. Payment and orders must be given to the treasurer by the club meeting in December. Next order of business was winter field day. It will be held at Wesselman's park again this coming year.

The topic of hosting a tailgate style of ham fest was brought up. It was tabled for the time being. There was one topic for discussion for new business and that was the election of officers for the upcoming year. The board was informed that all of slated positions were full but more candidates could still be added.

The meeting was adjourned.

Donald Land, kb9ywq, Secretary

November 9, 2017 General Meeting

Chris, n9jca, called the meeting to order. Introductions were given. The floor was then given to Glen Kissel kc9zuy. Glen talked in depth about USI building of a space craft. They were given a 200,000 dollar grant from NASA to make the craft. The presentation was welcomed warmly by the group and Glen was thanked for his work.

The floor was then given to the secretary for the secretary report. It was accepted as read.

After the secretary report the floor was given to the treasurer for his monthly report. It was accepted as read.

Elections were the first order of business for the club. Since there were no new nominations the club officers were elected by acclamation. The officers for the 2018 year4 were Dave, kc9uvg, president. Max, kd9abt, vice president. Don Land, kb9ywq, secretary. Jeff, aa9wj, as treasurer. Board members with one year left to their term were Raymond, w9khp: Rick, k9exy.

The new members elected to a two year term are; Mark, kc9tya, Len, N9qvq; and Terry, wb9kqf. There will have to be a special election in January to fill the board vacancy left by Max who is the new vice president.

Next on the agenda was the 147.150 repeater. Dave, has received the repeater and will be installing it in the near future.

Dennis will have the presentation for January. Ed will again be the auctioneer for the auction in January.

February will be the club party at the Log Inn. The cost will be 12.00 each and dues and reservations must be paid by the board meeting in February.

Tee shirts must be ordered and paid for by the general meeting in December.

Winter field day will be January 27, 2018. The time will be from 9 am till dark or cold.

Summer field day will be June 23 and 24, 2018. The meeting was then adjourned.

Donald Land, kb9ywq, Secretary

Treasurer Report

Budget:

October 2017 (prepared 11/1/17)

Opening Balance: \$3,675.10

Receipts:

Memberships \$25.00

Yaesu stop check reimbursement \$27.00

Total Receipts \$52.00

Expenditures:

Total Expenditures-- \$0.00

Ending Balance \$3,727.10

Red Cross balance \$987.07

Jeff Holt AA9WJ

TARS Treasurer



Thank You to Donut Bank for furnishing donuts at the November TARS meeting.

Your input is important.

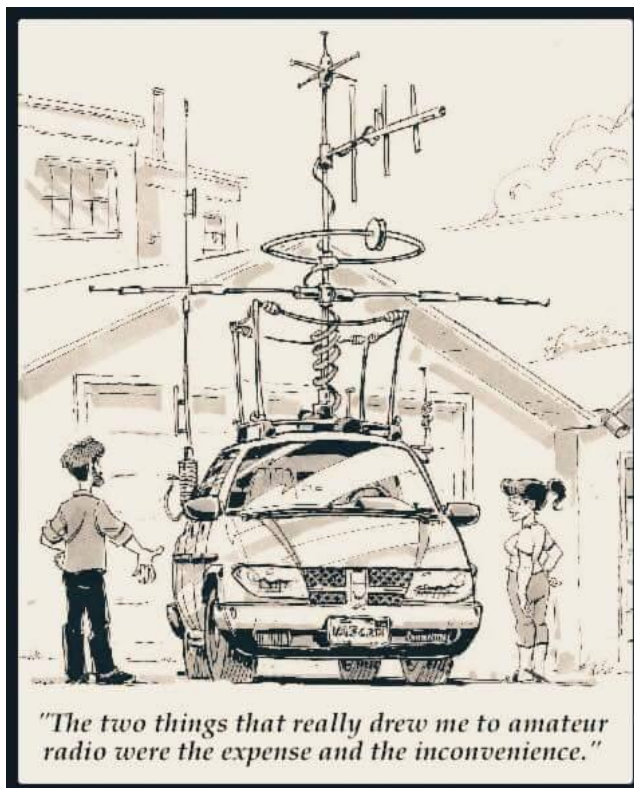
Sparks is **YOUR** information source for club activities and local Amateur radio information. In each issue we ask for submissions from club members. Tell us about your station, projects you have made or are making, anything interesting the TARS membership might be interested in.

Submission deadline is the 25th of the month.

Most any document format is acceptable.

Photos or graphics of your subject are welcome.

Send your article to: sparks@w9oq.net



TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club
ARRL [Indiana Section](#)
Section Manager: Brent Walls N9BA
bwalls@arrl.org



TARS mailing address:

TARS
P.O. Box 4521
Evansville, IN 47724

Don't forget to check out our web page

www.w9og.net

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TARSw9og>

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2017 Club Officers and Board members

President [Chris Matthews N9JCA](#) 812.205.6490

Vice President [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#) 812.858.2968

Secretary [Don Land KB9YWQ](#)

Board of Directors

[Bob Pointer N9XAW](#) 812.425.2118 (2016-2017)

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) 812.963.6455 (2016-2017)

[Dave Julian WB9YIG](#) (2016-2017)

[Raymond Edge W9KHP](#) (2017-18)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](#) (2017-18)

[Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#) (2017-18)

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