

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for 75 years

March 2022 - Issue No. 3



The SPARKS Newsletter is published monthly by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

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Complimentary issues of the SPARKS Newsletter are available to amateur radio clubs on a newsletter exchange by e-mailing your request to sparks.w9og@gmail.com.

E-mail subscriptions are provided to all regular TARS members.

News contributions and letters/emails to the editor are always welcome.

TARS regular membership is open to all licensed Amateur Radio operators for \$25.00 a year. An Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but do not currently hold a license. Associate membership is \$25.00 a year. Student memberships are also available for \$12.50 a year.

Membership information is available at www.w9og.net

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd, Evansville IN, at 7:00 p.m.

Family and visitors are always welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter or email info@w9og.net.

Presidents Corner

Greetings TARS members and friends! I hope and pray you have had a wonderful start to 2022! COVID may not be gone, but pandemic conditions are easing and that is exciting! We hope to be back in the Red Cross facility soon for our meetings and I will keep everyone updated on that.

Lots of excitement brewing for our club in 2022 so get ready! So far, in addition to our regular meetings, we have several events planned for the first half of this year!

- April 14 – TARS' annual BANQUET held at the Log Inn. Look in this issue of Sparks for more info and instructions for making reservations for the banquet.
- May 7 – TARS picnic and the Indiana QSO Party!! Will be held at Scott Township Park this year and it will be great. Plan to attend!
- June 4-19 – Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air. TARS will be THE Indiana station for this special event, and we will need operators scheduled throughout those 2 weeks to be on the air as a special event. More info on this later!
- June 25-26 – ARRL Field Day. TARS is headed back to USI for Field Day this year. That is an AWESOME place for field day. Mark your calendars and plan to come out, operate a station and have fun!

In addition, we are planning to run a special event commemorating TARS 75th anniversary and will schedule members to operate under a special call sign for the event. More details on this later.

And as a special bonus- Solar Cycle 25 seems to be heating up a bit. Finally!! If you haven't been on HF recently, I will say the higher bands are opening, and should help make this year even more exciting.

Brian Esche WB9QVR has volunteered to be event chairman for both the May 7 picnic/INQP event as well as our June Field Day at USI. Reach out to Brian and ask how YOU can help! These events are TARS' premier operating events, and we want to do them up right especially this the 75th year for TARS. Thank you, Brian, and thanks to everyone who will help with and participate in these events.

Lastly, information will come out soon regarding the Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air event. I will be scheduling operators over that 2-week period to use the club call as a special event station for this event. There will be many amateurs trying to contact all 16 states along the Lewis and Clark Trail and our club logo will be on the certificate that the LCTOTA organization will send out. Lots of fun! Be watching for more info.

73 everyone! Get out there, get those antennas spruced up and GET ON THE AIR!! If you need help with an antenna or help getting it put up, contact info@w9og.net. We have a team that can help!!

John Van Vorst, N9OL

FINAL REMINDER! CLUB DUES ARE PAST DUE!!

This could be the last SPARKS delivered to your inbox if you haven't renewed your dues for 2022!

March TARS Meeting 3/10/22 7pm

The meeting will be held at the West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#).

For those attending, masks are optional, but as *always if you have or recently had any covid symptoms, not feeling well or have been in contact with anyone with covid or covid symptoms, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND.*

TARS Banquet APRIL 14th

April 14th at the Log Inn, 5:30pm. The banquet is open to current paid TARS member and a guest. The cost is \$20 per person and payment must be received no later than April 12. If you haven't paid your 2022 dues, you must include it with your banquet reservations. **The banquet reservation form was attached with this mailing of SPARKS.**

Hamtober Fest 2022

The 4th annual Hamtober Fest is a GO on October 15, 2022!

Location: Lynnville Community Center

416 West RD 68, IN-68 Lynnville, IN 47619

Website: <http://www.hamtoberfest.com>

TALK UP YOUR HAMFEST!

Call for member QSL CARDS...

Scott KD4SIR would like for all members to bring one of their personal QSL cards to the meeting. You can do this for the next 2 meetings and Scott will come up with some kind of QSL contest. Don't forget! Bring a card and make sure to give it to Scott!

Special Election

Don Land KB9YWQ was elected to fill the remaining term of 2022 for Scott Hibbs KD4SIR after his election to Vice President.

Thank you, Don for stepping up!

TARS Operating Events

INQP/Field Day Committee Members Needed!

Plans are being developed for two of our biggest operating events of the year - the Indiana QSO Party [May 7th] and Field Day [June 23-24]! To make these events as successful as we know they can be, I would like to form a small committee (perhaps four or five members) to discuss the plans and to head up various aspects (food, station captains, publicity, GOTA, etc.) of the operations.

If you would be interested in assisting, please contact me at brian.esche@gmail.com or via text at 812-455-9797. I'll organize a meeting of the interested members so we can start working out the details.

Be a part of the planning for these on-air adventures so we can make TARS' 75th year one of the best yet!

73, Brian WB9QVR

John Marley WB9EFH SK

John Marley WB9EFH, 80, passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at St. Vincent's Hospital.

John was a long time TARS member, serving on the TARS board for many years, always participating in TARS activities and Field Day. John also served as the Vanderburgh Co ARES EC and district 10 DEC for a number of years.



John served in the Army Airborne, Special Forces 75 Rangers. He attended St. Benedict Cathedral. He was past board president of Marion Day School. John was a small plane pilot, ham radio operator, and a member of Homeland Security in Vanderburgh County. He was also a member of Knights of Columbus. He worked at Hahn and Becker where he handled Commercial Insurance and later was District Manager for Meridian Insurance. After retirement, he managed several Radio Shacks.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/evansville-in/john-marley-10585264>

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air

ARRL Club News for February 22, 2022

Clark County Amateur Radio Club, out of Vancouver, WA will be hosting a new event to start June 2022. CCARC is an active club of over 400 members. It has also received the recognition of being an ARRL Special Services Club. The club has made a big impact on the amateur radio community in the Pacific Northwest.

Lewis and Clark Trail OTA is being organized by a committee of CCARC members. The event will be from June 4-19, 2022. Lewis and Clark traveled through 16 states, and we're working on getting a club from each state to activate. There will be certificates sent out for those that contact all 16, and another certificate for those that contact less than 16.

We see this as a chance to promote the Lewis and Clark Expedition and honor them for their achievement by bringing them in to the amateur radio world of 2022. Mark your calendars for this special event and see how many contacts you can make.

www.LCTOTA.org

[Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air on Facebook](#)

[ED Note:] As John N9QL has said in the Presidents corner, TARS has been selected for the club to represent the Indiana leg of the event. More information will be forthcoming for club members opportunities for operating over the 2 weeks of this inaugural special event.

This event is in the initial planning stages right now so please be patient and watch for more information.

TARS @ Groups.IO



Have you heard about the new TARS Groups.io email list?

You can subscribe at <https://groups.io/g/TARS> or by sending an email to TARS+subscribe@groups.io directly.

The mail list is an area where you can ask questions or get the latest information on club happenings.

For HELP on the Groups.IO site, send an email to:

TARS+help@groups.io

"We Will Have Hamvention," General Chairman Pledges

The ARRL Letter for March 3, 2022

In case you missed the earlier announcement, [Dayton Hamvention](#) 2022 is on, Hamvention General Chairman Rick Allnutt, WS8G, said this week. He said many Hamvention volunteers attended the recent Orlando HamCation in Florida and were encouraged to see so many friends at the show.

"The aisles were full of people, the vendors appeared pleased with the brisk business, and the Hamvention booth was bombarded with well-wishers and folks with one question on their mind -- 'Are you going to have Hamvention this year?'" Allnutt said it's been a pleasure to assure everyone that Hamvention 2022 is a go.

Many Hamvention tickets were sold at the pre-show price and are also available on the Hamvention website. Hamvention, an ARRL-sanctioned event, will be held May 20 - 22, at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Allnutt noted that he and Michael Kalter, W8CI, were interviewed in a [DX Engineering YouTube](#) video on February 22 and unveiled the official logo for Hamvention 2022. This year's theme, "reunion," celebrates the return to a world of hams getting together after missing two Hamventions, and commemorates the history of Dayton Hamvention, which stretches back 70 years to 1952.

"Ticket sales are very brisk," Kalter said. "The community is very excited about things, there have been improvements made at the Expo Center, and they're totally on our side working with us." He said both he and Allnutt were at Orlando HamCation, which he called "very successful," and a good omen for Hamvention's success in 2022. "We don't consider it a competition [among shows]," Kalter said. "We're all working together to make amateur radio much better."



Hamvention General Chair Rick Allnutt, WS8G, in a DX Engineering interview. [Photo courtesy of DX Engineering]

"It's [going to be] be wonderful," Allnutt told DX Engineering's Tim Duffy, K3LR.

Hamvention will also feature ARRL EXPO, a large assembly of ARRL-sponsored exhibits, activities, and representatives for ARRL programs and services. Several ARRL-sponsored presentations and forums will be given. Information will be posted to www.arrl.org/expo as it becomes available. Kalter also highly recommended attending Contest University (CTU) on May 19 at the Hope Hotel, which takes place on the Thursday before Hamvention, as an adjunct to the Hamvention experience.

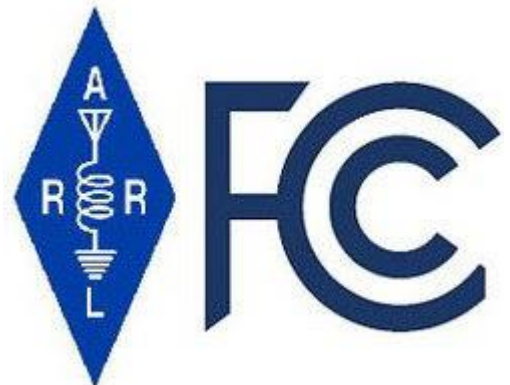
Volunteer Monitor Program Cautions against Operating Beyond License Privileges.

The ARRL Letter for March 3, 2022

Many of the Advisory Notices sent out each month by the ARRL [Volunteer Monitor Program](#) go to stations heard operating outside the operator's license privileges. While some may be doing so deliberately, it seems clear that many of these reports reflect a lack of clarity regarding the Part 97 -- Amateur Radio Service rules.

Typical cases often involve operators holding Technician- or General-class amateur licenses being heard on a frequency or band not permitted by their license privileges. Most recent incidents

have frequently entailed FT8 digital mode operation by Technician licensees on 20 and 40 meters. Technician licensees do not have any operating privileges on 20 meters, let alone digital privileges, and FT8 is a digital protocol.



Technicians (and Novices) may operate CW between 21.025 and 21.200 MHz on 15 meters, from 7.025 and 7.125 MHz on 40

meters, and from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, but they do not have *any* digital (data) mode privileges on these bands.

ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said licensees who need a refresher course regarding their operating privileges may refer to Section 97.301 of the rules. ARRL also has a convenient chart on its [website](#) that details privileges available to all license classes, from Novice to Amateur Extra.

As monthly Volunteer Monitor reports indicate, some General-class operators have lost their way on some bands too, and Advisory Notices have gone out to those operating outside of the General-class phone subbands. For example, on 20 meters, Generals may operate phone from 14.225 to 14.350 MHz, but occasionally, General-class operators are heard outside of that subband. On 40 meters, the phone and image subband open to General licensees is 7.175 to 7.300 MHz. Of course, Technician- and General-class licensees may operate CW on any subband on which they have operating privileges, although operation within the CW subbands is preferred by band plan.

On 10 meters, Technicians have RTTY and data privileges -- including FT8 -- from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and SSB phone privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz, and may operate on CW over the entire 28.0000 - 28.500 MHz segment. Technicians may enjoy all operating privileges at 50 MHz and above.

The ARRL Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL monitor the airwaves and report evidence that may be used to correct errant operation or to recognize exemplary on-air operation.

VE Testing

The next VE Testing session will be March 19th.

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society VE Team is currently holding all VE test sessions at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, 1440 Harmony Way in Evansville. This is the building behind the old school building. Look for the tower and antennas and enter the side door by the tower.

You will need to know your FRN number. If you have a license currently you have an FRN number. If you do not yet have a license you can register with the FCC and obtain an FRN number. Go to www.fcc.gov/register.

If you need help or have questions, please let me know at n9ol@arrl.net.

Examinations will start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time. We have no pre-registration, and examinations are administered on a walk-in basis.

Details can be found at: <http://w9og.net/ve-testing>

For more info contact: [John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst.N9OL) c: 812.305.4100



Amazon Smile

To set up your Amazon Smile account to donate to TARS with every Amazon purchase you make, click our unique link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-6042852> .

Now when making an **Amazon** purchase from your browser **online**, login via

smile.amazon.com

[this is important: it's only via smile we will receive a donation] then make your purchases as usual and TARS will get a donation.

If you use your mobile app, just turn on AmazonSmile and it will connect you automatically.

Turn on AmazonSmile in your mobile app.

Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

IT IS THAT EASY!



March Birthdays!!!

Bob	Pointer	N9XAW	2
Rob	Ferguson	KZ9C	4
Gordon	Conley	WR9W	14
Dan	Kelley	N9WJ	24
Jay	King	WB9ICL	26

Brag Rag

Do you have something you would like to submit for the Brag Rag? Send your QSLs, special event certificates, awards, interesting photos, projects etc. to sparks.w9og@gmail.com to have them included in your newsletter.

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, upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time-to-time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Net Operator schedule

Mar	2	KB9MZH
	9	KB9YWQ
	16	KC9TYA
	23	KE9YK
Apr	6	KC9UVG
	13	WB9KQF
	20	WB4ZUT
	27	KB9MZH

If you would like to be a Net Control Operator for the Wednesday Night Net or learn how to run a SKYWARN net, Contact: [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](mailto:Chris.Lantaff.KE9YK).



2022 Spring Spotter Training Season Classes

Questions about webinars or on-site classes can be directed to: Christine.Wielgos@noaa.gov

SPOTTER TRAINING WEBINARS (VIRTUAL CLASSES):

Click link below to register

Monday March 21, 2022 - 6:00 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3300815690621103630>

Elite SPOTTER Training

Thursday April 21, 2022 - 6:00 pm CDT: Evansville, IN: Sheriff's Dept. Training Room Vanderburgh County EMA Building 3500 N. Harlan Ave. Use Main front doors by flag poles. Elevator to 2nd floor. Follow hallway to EMA office. (Space is limited to 40 people).

More Information, full list of classes and registration:

<https://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting March 17th, 6:30pm at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, **1440 Harmony Way**. Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited to participate.

Feel free to check in to the Vanderburgh Co ARES net **each Tuesday at 8:00pm** on the 146.790 repeater.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline 12604



Warrick Co ARES/RACES

The Warrick County ARES/RACES group meets on the second Monday of each month. The meeting begins at 6:30pm and generally is completed by 9:00pm. The meetings are held on the third floor of the Court House in the EMA Conference room. Anyone needing additional information concerning meetings or location contact: Chris L. Owen at KC9CLO@gmail.com

Secretary Report

TARS Board meeting 2/3/2022

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by John N9OL

Members present, John N9OL, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Dave KC9UVG, Jerry WB9ONU, Mike W9KXP, Herb KB9MZH, Charlie WB8LDV, Dennis WA2USA and Brian WB9QVR. Secretary Report Chris KE9YK

Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH The 990N filing was submitted. Discussion on Repeaters, need to formalize a repeater committee.

Winter FD, Jerry WB9ONU reported that everyone had a good time and several new members worked a contest for the first time. Thanks to Charlie WB8LDV and his wife for Chili and birthday cake.

May picnic and INQP at Scott Twp Park May 7th. Brian WB9QVR chairman

June Field Day WB9QVR chairman, discussion on location and USI was selected. Motion made and seconded to pay the \$100 rental. Motion passed; Tom will start making the reservations.

Brian WB9QVR noted that he was looking to get a volunteer committee for INQP / Field Day, and wanted to make this a real nice event for our 75th anniversary.

Banquet: Discussion to have banquet April 14. Mike W9KXP reported on the expected costs and a motion was made to charge \$14 per person with the club picking up about \$6. Motion was seconded and passed pending getting the actual final costs before announcement.

Meetings:

February – Discussion on what YOU are doing in the hobby. Offer questions to the group for assistance or Elmer.

Mar ??? Apr Banquet May Picnic/INQP

Discussion on the special election at the meeting next week. We have one nomination and will hold the election at the meeting.

Discussion of trying a ZOOM meeting from the regular meeting for those whom cannot or do not feel safe to attend in person. Tom KD9PFH and Scott KD4SIR will work on it and meet at the meeting location early to get it set up.

Name Tags: Remind everyone to wear name tags to let people place a face with the call.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Lantaff KE9YK - TARS Secretary

TARS General meeting 2/10/2022

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 7:00 pm at the West Side EMA Training Center with 11 people present and 12 checking in via ZOOM.

We had introductions from everyone.

Motion made by Chris KE9YK to accept vote by acclimation for Don Land KB9YWQ to the TARS Board.

Second by Tom KD9PFH, motion PASSED.

Discussion on the TARS banquet to be held at the Log Inn on April 14th.

Motion made by Charlie WB8LDV to charge \$20 per member/guest for attendance,

Second by Walt WB4ZUT, motion PASSED

Secretary Report: Chris KE9YK

Treasurer Report; Tom KD9PFH with an ending balance of \$5988.96

Brian WB9QVR is looking for lots of input on the IN QSO Party and Field Day. INQP will be at Scott TWP Park and contact Brian with your ideas or if you would like to assist.

Amazon Smile had raised an another \$56.59 since August. If you haven't signed up for AMAZON SMILE please do so as this is free money for TARS.

QSL Card Contest – A few people brought their cards but we need more. We will be accepting cards again next month and hold some type of contest, yet to be determined.

Bruce W9GFS donated 2 QSL cards that were his fathers [W9GFS] the first president of TARS.

Scott reminded everyone of the Groups.IO site to get in on the club discussions.

Scott also reminded to keep your logs up to date as something is planned for awards covering the year.

Thanks to Jerry WB9ONU for Winter Field Day, and all that participated.

March meeting will be about the History of Amateur Radio and the first years of TARS.

April 14th, Banquet at Log Inn.

June Field Day reservations are in the process for USI.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted
Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

Treasurer Report

Budget:

January 2022 (prepared 2/1/2022)

Opening Balance: \$6,272.76

Receipts:

Memberships (including extra donations) \$362.50

HamFest Sale Dave Julian \$25.00

Total Receipts --->> \$387.50

Expenditures:

Lynnville HamFest Rental(\$375.00)

Scott Township Shelter Rental (\$125.00)

Chris Lantaff for Certificate Paper (\$21.62)

Chris Lantaff for Web Hosting (\$149.68)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$671.30)

Ending Balance \$5,988.96

Red Cross Fund \$1,283.82

Funds Available to TARS \$4,705.14

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH
TARS Treasurer



Looking Ahead

2022

TARS AUCTION TBD once we get back into the Red Cross or find a suitable place to hold an auction

TARS Banquet April 14

TARS PICNIC / INQP 2022 May 7th

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 26-27

[13 Colonies Special Event](#)

National Night Out first Tuesday of August

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) third full weekend of August

Light Up 2 Meters Night August

[Route 66 Special Event](#) September 11-19

Jamboree-on-the-Air third full weekend in October

TARS 4th annual Hamtober Fest 2022

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December 2023

Winter Field Day January xx 2023

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

[Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024](#)

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.w9og@gmail.com

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: **Jimmy Merry KC9RPX**

kc9rpx@arrl.net

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

2022 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9QL](#)

Vice President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)

Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

Secretary [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](#)

Board of Directors

[Mike Townsend W9KXP](#) (2021-2022)

[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2021-2022)

[Don Land KB9YWQ](#) (2022)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2022-2023)

[Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#) (2022-2023)

[Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#) (2022-2023)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

E-mail: sparks.w9og@gmail.com