

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for 75 years

September 2022 - Issue No. 9



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. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced provided that TARS and the article author is properly credited. 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.

TARS September Meeting

The regular TARS meeting will be 7:00pm September 8th at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd. Come out and join us. Topic will be Yaesu digital Fusion and Wires-X.

We will review the TARS repeater network, talk about digital repeaters, and how all of TARS Yaesu digital repeaters are connected to the Indiana Link South Wires-X network.

We will also talk about and answer questions about programming Yaesu radios. We will even provide assistance in programming your radio if you need it. Bring it along.

Looking forward to seeing everyone. 73!

John N9oL

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that wants to join us.

Come out to Salsarita's Fresh Mexican Grill at 5:30 for some storytelling, fellowship and good eats. Salsarita's is located at 3910 E Morgan Ave, Evansville, on the north side of the intersection at Morgan and Stockwell.

You can check out their menu and info at <https://salsaritas.com/menu/>

October TARS meeting

– How To Work Amateur Satellites With Your HT!!

Clint Bradford, K6LCS, AMSAT Ambassador, ARRL Instructor and Affiliated Club Coordinator will join us and give a presentation titled 'How To Work Amateur Satellites With Your HT!'.

You do not need 100W of transmit power nor expensive antenna arrays to work the FM voice amateur satellites! Many hams already have the necessary equipment to "work the birds." This presentation will walk you through ALL the steps needed to successfully work several ham satellites - including the International Space Station.

Clint will join us via Zoom to put on this informative and entertaining presentation.

Plan on joining in as well on October 13, 2022 at 7PM!



TARS 75 Anniversary Special Event On The Air

John N9OL has the QSL cards and Dennis will start processing them as soon as he is back home. We had somewhere around 400 contacts and will have better info next month.

Officer Elections

It's election time once again and we are looking for volunteers.

We will take nominations during the Sep and Oct meetings and also solicit nominations via e-mail to elections@w9og.net

The Offices open for election are:

President, Vice Pres, Treasurer, Secretary and

Board of Directors - 3 POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION

The only requirement is that you are a current TARS member in good standing and have been a TARS member for at least 1 full year. If you are interested in serving or would like to learn more, contact the election committee. elections@w9og.net

Hamtober Fest 2022

The 4th annual Hamtober Fest **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 on all nets and if you are attending a hamfest take a few fliers!

Raffle tickets are now on sale and will be available at the club meetings.

The Great Central US ShakeOut

<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/index.html>

Did you know Indiana is exposed to a serious threat of #earthquakes along the New Madrid & Wabash Valley Seismic Zones? The #ShakeOut, which is a great opportunity to practice what you would do during an earthquake.

We all must get better prepared for major earthquakes, and practice how to protect ourselves when they happen. The purpose of the ShakeOut is to help people and organizations do both. You could be anywhere when an earthquake strikes: at home, at work, at school or even on vacation.

What we do now will determine our quality of life after our next big earthquake. Are you prepared to survive and recover quickly?

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is an annual opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes: "[Drop, Cover and Hold On](#)." The ShakeOut has also been [organized](#) to encourage [you, your community, your school, or your organization](#) to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies, and to [secure your space](#) in order to prevent damage and injuries.

TARS Calendar

September

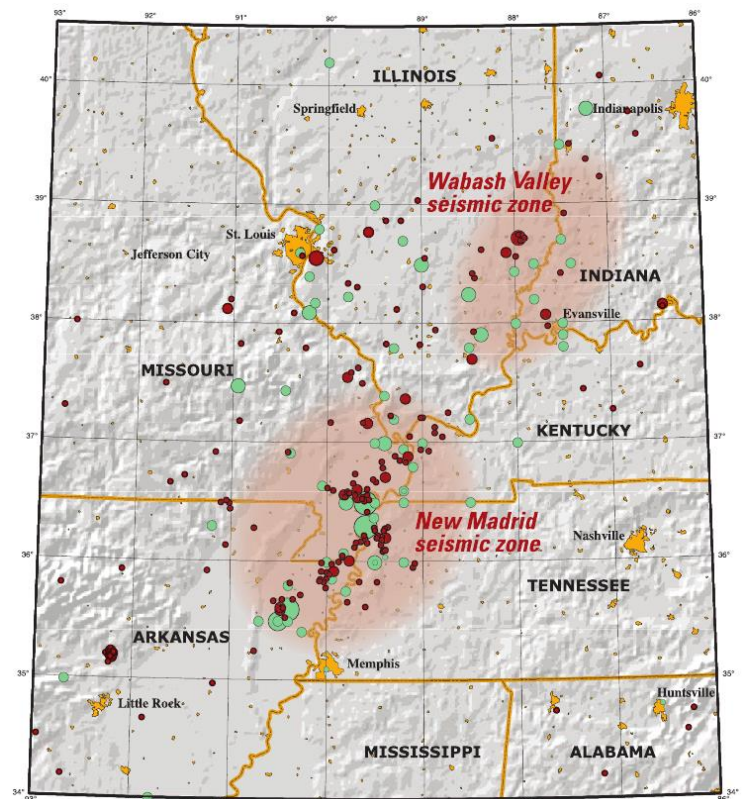
- 1 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 7 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
10m Net following on 28.405 +-
- 8 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 14 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 21 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)

October

- 1 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 5 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
10m Net following on 28.405 +-
- 6 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 12 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 13 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 15 **The 4th annual Hamtober Fest**
- 19 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 26 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)

Learn more below, or read answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

Sign up today at <https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>.



TAPE MEASURE BEAM FOR RADIO DIRECTION FINDING

Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU

I didn't design the tape measure beam, but built it from an article by Joe Leggio WB2HOL at

http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm.

I did change a few things since I don't want to make it a permanent feature for my shack.

The 1st change was to not to glue the PVC. This way I could take it apart for storage. The antenna is design for foxhunting on 2 meters, but it will also transmit.

We will need 1/2 inch PVC pipe, two of those four way PVC connectors, and 1 PVC T connector. Once you have the materials cut the pipe to the length in the picture below and assemble. If you want to make it permanent you will also need some PVC glue for these connections.

Using a pair of shears, or an old pair of scissors, cut the tape measure to the given length in the picture below. Be careful not to cut yourself on the cut edges of the tape measure. I use electrical tape on the ends of the cut tape measure to avoid this. Assemble the cut length of tape measure to the PVC framework. I use 1/2 inch hose clamps to attach the cut tape measure lengths to the PVC framework as shown it the picture below.

The matching network uses a "hairpin match". This is made from a 5 inch length of wire that is connected across the feed points of the driven element. The reason for the "hairpin match" is this antenna has some capacitive reactance and the 5 inch length of wire has just enough inductance to cancel the capacitive reactance. Scrape the enamel off of the tape measure to solder the 5 inch hairpin match. You may have to desolder and resolder as you trim the 5 inch wire for the desired SWR.

Once you have all the above done it is time to attach the coax. I use RG58, because of its small size. The coax is connected directly to the driven element. Remember to either sand or scrape the enamel off of the tape measure elements. Do this weather you solder or use another method to connect the coax to the driven element halves.

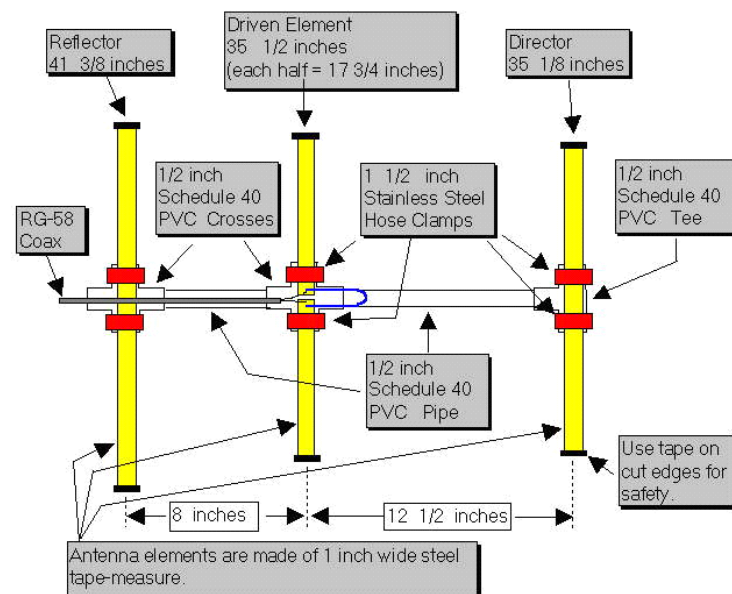
Note: You may have to adjust the hairpin match or slide the driven elements closer or farther apart. Be patient and you will get it to work.

Note: If you are making this antenna for a 2 meter beam at your QTH you may want to cut some extra PVC pipe for each element and then secure each element either with electrical tape or other method to keep the elements in line and stop them from moving with the wind.

Performance Predicted by YAGI-CAD

GAIN	7.3 dbd
Front-to-Back Ratio	>50db
3 db Beamwidth	E = 67.5 degrees
3 db Beamwidth	H = 110 degrees

The above measurements was calculated by a program written by Paul McMahon VK3DIP at www.yagicad.com.



Happy Hamming
Jerry - WB9ONU

Route 66 On the Air Special Event

The ARRL Letter for September 1, 2022

The annual Route 66 On the Air Special Event will take place September 10 - 18, 2022. The purpose of the event is to commemorate the history of the "Mother Road" connecting the east and west United States.

Now in its 23rd year, the Northern Arizona DX Association (NADXA) started the event, which is now coordinated by the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) in San Bernardino, California.

There will be 21 stations with 1x1 call signs on the air from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, all with consecutive calls starting with W6. NADXA will operate three of the 21 stations, including W6G (Flagstaff, Arizona), and W6S (Arizona Rover 1). They'll set up at various spots along Route 66 east of Flagstaff, and W6T (Arizona Rover 2) will be set up in Bellemont. Later in the week, the event will be moved to Parks, on old Route 66, west of Flagstaff.



The history of the Mother Road began in 1926, when US Highway 66 was established. It was the first major improvement to the link between the west coast and the nation's heartland. Through stories, songs, and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America in its entirety. The demise of Route 66 began in the 1950s, as construction began on the new interstate highway system. US Route 66 was officially decommissioned in 1986, but today, small portions of the highway still exist in several states.

For more information on participating stations, certificates and decals, and the Route 66 On the Air Special Event, visit the [Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club \(CBARC\)](#) and [Northern Arizona DX Association \(NADXA\)](#) websites.

Visit the ARRL Special Event Stations database to find other on-the-air events and commemorations.

www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

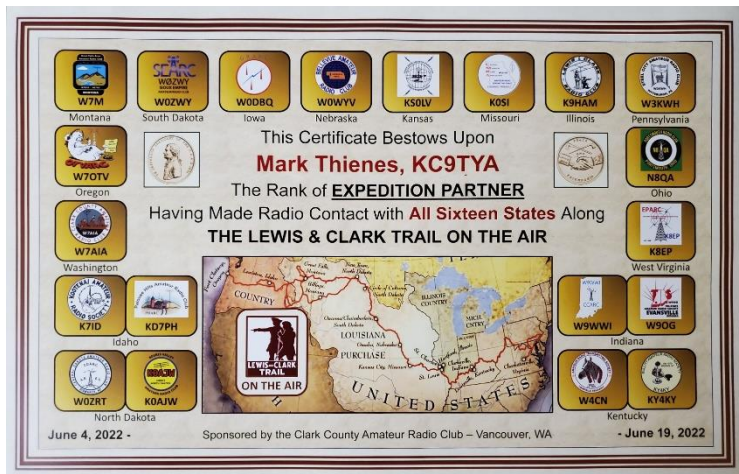
Ohio State Parks On The Air

The ARRL Letter for September 1, 2022

The 15th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA)

contest will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2022. The event is held annually on the first Saturday following Labor Day. All 75 Ohio state parks can be used for the 2022 contest, and the contest period will be from 10 AM to 6 PM ET. OSPOTA was conceived with three main goals in mind: to promote public awareness of amateur radio and Ohio's beautiful state park system, to contribute to the recognition of Ohio's diverse ecology, and to promote camaraderie among the ranks of Ohio's amateur radio operators. Some minor changes to the rules have been made for 2022. Only standard Cabrillo log files will be accepted for entries. Text files, PDFs, CSVs, ADIFs, BINs, photos of logs, paper, etc. will not be accepted. For more information on the 2022 [Ohio State Parks On The Air](#) contest, visit their website.

Brag Rag



Mark KC9TYA had all 16 states for the Lewis and Clark Trail.



Dave WB9YIG had 3 clean sweeps on the 13 Colonies Event! Satellite, Digital and SSB.



POTA is picking up more operators all the time. If you aren't activating there are all kind of opportunities to be a hunter!

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.



September Birthdays!!!

W9GFS	Bruce Hatfield	5
KK7XT	Bill Cunnane	6
WN9HRB	Earl Pfetscher	9
WB9ZFN	Tom Washburne	20
KC9BMA	Bernie Schmitt	30



VE Testing

The next VE Testing session will be Oct 1st.

Examinations start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.

Testing location is the Evansville Red Cross at 29 S Stockwell Rd
Evansville IN



2022 Ham Radio Test Sessions

October 1st 9AM

November 5th 9AM

December 3 9AM

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

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.

We are currently holding a 10m net immediately following the 2m net on the **FIRST WED OF THE MONTH** as part of our 75th anniversary celebration.

Look for us on or about 28.405.

All of you techs out there with HF give us a try.

Vanderburgh Co. AUXCOM

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting September 15th, 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.



We have currently suspended the Vanderburgh Co ARES net on **Tuesdays**. We plan to restart later in the fall when we hope to pick up a little more activity.

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

Treasurer Report

Financial Report for July 2022 (prepared 8/4/22)

Opening Balance: \$5,728.10

Receipts:

Donation from Steve K9MOE, Mark KDOEE \$8.00

VE Testing \$35.00

Tee Shirt Sales \$240.75

Membership \$25.00

Total Receipts --->> \$308.75

Expenditures

Field Day Pizza (\$161.54)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$161.54)

Ending Balance \$5,875.31

Red Cross Fund Balance \$1,339.82

Funds Available to TARS \$4,535.49

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

TARS Treasurer

Secretary Report

TARS Board Meeting 8/4/2022

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

Members present, John N9OL, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Charlie WB8LDV, Jerry WB9ONU, Dave KC9UVG, Herb KB9MZH, Don KB9YWQ, Dennis WA2USA, Jeff AA9WJ and Dave WB9YIG.

- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH accepted
- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Shirt orders are about finished, should have most or all at the meeting next week.
- Discussion – Name tag group purchase. Scott has emailed about a group purchase and will discuss it at the meeting.
- November meeting – Jerry will discuss unusual antennas he has used.
- Tom KD9PFH volunteered for this coming meeting door
- Special Event discussion. Dennis will handle QSL card requests via WA2USA address.
- Lewis and Clark Trail OTA - John N9OL had a wrap up meeting last week. The event will run next year and they were discussing the length of the event and improvements they could make for next year.
- Hamtoberfest - Dit and Dash have changed their mind and WILL be at the Hamtober Fest. Arrl will be sending some items. Talked about volunteer positions for working at the hamfest.
- Scott mentioned he had gone to the Red Cross and checked the radio room. Red Cross had a water heater leak and some water had migrated into the room on the floor. Scott said he couldn't find any damage but did find a pop can had sprung a leak and he moved anything that was on the floor.
- Election Committee – Scott KD4SIR volunteered to chair the committee while Tom KD9PFH and Jerry WB9ONU volunteered to be on the committee. There will be nominations taken from the floor at the Sep and Oct general meetings
- Reminder the power pole orders are due at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

TARS General Meeting

2022 08/11 TARS General Meeting

Meeting called to order by John N9OL, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross
We had introductions from everyone with 24 in attendance

- Shirts are in and will distribute them tonight.

- Treasurer Report - Tom KD9PFH ending balance \$5875.31
- Secretary Report - Chris KE9YK OK
- 75th Special Event Operation- W9OG/75 John can get you the info and sign you up tonight if you want to participate. Will also work 2m simplex for contacts. Event starts tomorrow. Techs can work 2m, 6m and 10m for contacts. Will also be operating from the radio room Saturday Noon to 4pm.
- Hamtober Fest – October 15th. A lot of fun! FREE admission. Raffle for Yaesu FT-5 and FT-70 ht's. We are looking for donations for TARS to sell at the club table.
- Power Pole purchase. Scott has the forms and will be ordering next week.
- November Elections. Sep and Oct we will take nominations from the floor. Looking for people with new ideas. Up for election are all 4 officers and 3 board members.
- Next VE Testing Aug 27
- Reserve your Hamtober Fest table now. \$10 each and only a limited number available.
- LOCOTA Had a wrap-up meeting. One of the issues were some states hard to contact or didn't have many operators. They are going to have it again next year and are working to make it better.
- Program – Jerry WB9ONU, Odd antennas I have used.
2m tape beam
Slinky Antenna
Light bulb antenna
Snake Antenna
Dummy load L match

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

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

Looking Ahead

2022

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

[Great SHAKEOUT](#) third Thursday of October : October 20th
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

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

TARS Banquet Feb

TARS PICNIC / INQP May

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June
ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June

[13 Colonies Special Event](#)

National Night Out first Tuesday of August
International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) third full
weekend of August

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

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club
ARRL [Indiana Section](#)
Section Manager: Bob Burns [AK9R](#)

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 Groups.IO <https://groups.io/g/TARS>

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2022 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

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