

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

February 2023 – Vol. LXXVI, No. 2



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.net.

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

As you know, my presidential “theme” has been on sharing. So, I’ll repeat, let’s try bringing a small hobby related item to each of the meetings to share when you are introduced. (start with name/call – one minute description – end with name/call) We can get 100% joy from the hobby by ourselves but when we share, that joy is expounded upon.

I want to thank the club for coming together to help KD0EE get his tower up at his new QTH. Over several days last month members met at his house to dig the hole, pour concrete, and carry the tower into place. This allowed us to experience that new tower joy too. And another thanks for the members who got together to put up an VHF/UHF antenna for KB9MZH. It was a lot of fun. There were 6 hams with 6 ideas on how to get it done. A lot of GREAT ideas were shared (you know who you are) which made the whole project even easier. If you need help at your QTH, please let us know at the next meeting.

I’m super excited about our club. As I write this Winter Field Day is upon us. I want to thank everyone (ahead of time) who helped make this fun for all those who attended. I like that we are very active!

We need your ideas for presentations (teaching or learning). Some of you are experts at doing things in Amateur Radio because you do it more than others. Or you want to know more about certain things. The last meeting on logging programs was simply because I wanted to switch programs. When half the members present stated, they used ALog, it was sold on me.

What do you want to know or share?

See you at the Banquet,
Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023

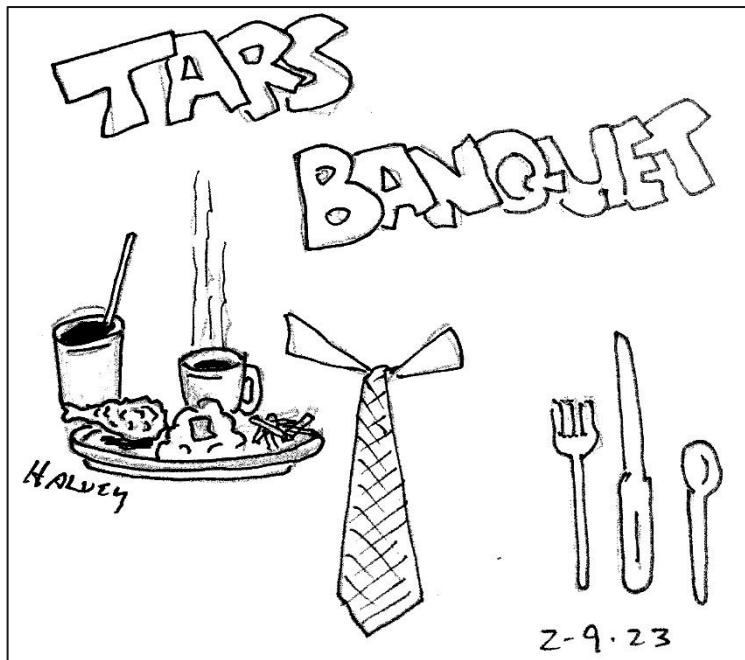
REMINDER CLUB DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!!

February Meeting - Banquet

The February 9th meeting will be our annual banquet, to be held at Golden Corral, 130 Cross Pointe Blvd, Evansville.

TARS has the meeting room reserved to start at 5:30 pm.

This will be dutch treat, so just pay as you enter and come to the meeting room and join us. Prices are listed as \$15.99 per person, seniors over 60 are \$14.99, drinks \$2.99, plus taxes.



Special Election

TARS will hold a special election in Feb at the regular club meeting (banquet) to fill the vacant Board Member spot left by Jerry WB9ONU as he moved into the Vice President position.

This will be to fill the remaining term of 2022.

Current TARS members should have received a ballot in a previous email. Please bring your ballot to vote to the Feb meeting [Banquet] or mail your ballot following the instructions included with the ballot.

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air

Mark your calendars for 6/3 - 6/18/2023!

Info for the LCTOTA this year. TARS will be an Indiana club that will activate LCTOTA stations. Mark your calendars! If you are interested in participating as an activator please send me an email with your name and email address. Check out LCTOTA.org for more info.

Date: June 3rd, 0000 UTC to June 18th 2400 UTC

Operating Hours: 24 hrs/day for duration of the event

Simple Rules: Contact one club in each of the 16 states on the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. Operating modes include SSB Phone, FM Phone, CW, and FT8. Any combination of modes towards working all 16 states is allowed. A schedule for planned operations for each state will be posted on this web site.

TARS Calendar

February

- 1 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
10m Net following on 28.405 +-
- 2 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 8 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 9 **TARS Club Meeting 5:30pm Golden Corral**
- 15 Tri-State Emergency Net (* Bruce, W9GFS *)
- 22 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)
- 25 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**

March

- 1 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
HF net following Listen for freq on net
- 2 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 8 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 9 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 15 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UUG)
- 22 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 29 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)

****No VE TESTING in March****

October

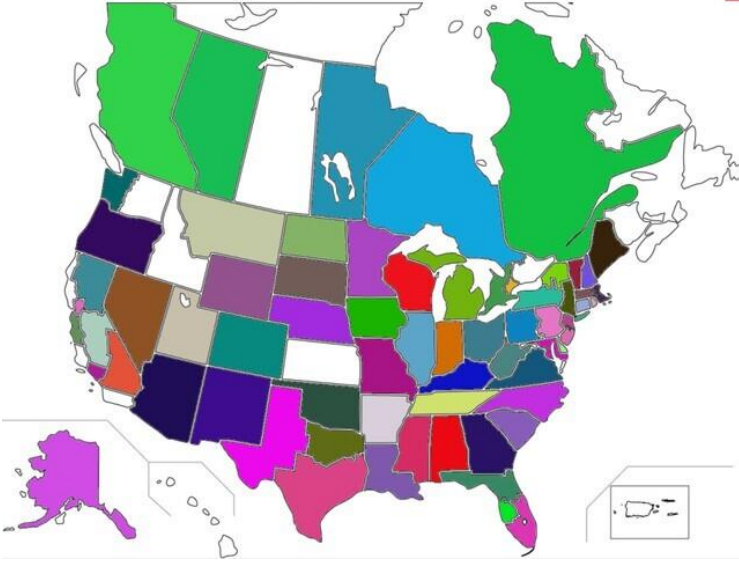
- 14 **HAMTOBER FEST 7am – Noon, Lynnville**

Winter Field Day

Thank you to everyone for their contribution to 2023 Winter Field Day! The bands were cooperative this year and we had quite a number of contacts for the short time we operated, celebrated Charlie's 85th birthday and had some good food with the birthday cake. Discussions are already turning to 2024 and the consensus seems to be to do a full 24 hours for our first time. WFD has gained popularity the last couple of years and with a lot more stations participating it should be fun.

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total
WB4ZUT	84
AA9WJ	70
N9OL	69
KC9UUG	43
K3LWD	9



Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
40	42	0	0	42	15
20	19	166	0	185	67
15	39	0	0	39	14
10	4	5	0	9	3

Total	104	171	0	275	100

KD0EE mast Install

Pictures from Jan Holland N0TEE, from Saturday January 5th. Guys arrived about 8:45 in good weather and left about 9:15. Mark KD0EE is super excited to have this up. Thanks to the guys that showed up to get this beast mounted!



Herby says Thanks!

I would like to thank the following TARS Elmer's for helping me with my antennas. Scott kd4sir, Jerry wb9onu, Dennis wa2usa, Jeff aa9wj, Terry ab9jk.

With my sincere gratitude, Thank You!

Herby kb9mzh



Looking to ditch Twitter? Morse Code is back

Larry Kahaner. Smithsonian magazine, January/February 2023

"While most hams have moved on to more advanced communications modes, like digital messages, a hard-core group is sticking with Morse code, a telecommunications language that dates back to the early 1800s—and that offers a distinct pleasure and even relief to modern devotees."

"Strangely enough, while the number of ham operators is declining globally, it's growing in the United States, as is Morse code, by all accounts. ARRL (formerly the American Radio Relay League), based in Newington, Connecticut, the largest membership association of amateur radio enthusiasts in the world, reports that a recent worldwide ham radio contest—wherein hams garner points based on how many conversations they complete over the airwaves within a tight time frame—showed Morse code participants up 10 percent in 2021 over the year before." | [READ MORE](#)

HAARP Thanks Amateur Radio Operators for Help with Latest Experiment

The ARRL Letter for January 12, 2023

On Tuesday, December 27, 2022, the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) conducted its latest ionospheric experiment of bouncing radio signals off an asteroid passing near Earth's orbit (see the [ARRL News](#) story from December 23, 2022).

Amateur radio operators and radio astronomy enthusiasts were invited to monitor the test and send their results to HAARP for analysis. While the results of the experiment will take several weeks, Jessica Matthews, HAARP Program



A frosty landscape surrounds antennas at the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program site in Gakona, Alaska, on December 20, 2022. [JR Ancheta, UAF/GI, photo]

Manager, said the help was greatly appreciated. "So far we have received over 300 reception reports from the amateur radio and radio astronomy communities from six continents who confirmed the HAARP transmission."

HAARP officials say the results of the experiment could aid efforts to defend Earth from larger asteroids that could cause significant damage.

"We will be analyzing the data over the next few weeks and hope to publish the results in the coming months," said Mark Haynes, lead investigator on the project and a radar systems engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. "This

experiment was the first time an asteroid observation was attempted at such low frequencies," he said. "This shows the value of HAARP as a potential future research tool for the study of near-Earth objects."

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) operates [HAARP](#) under an agreement with the Air Force, which developed and owned HAARP but transferred the research instruments to UAF in August 2015.

== Upcoming Indiana Hamfests ==

February 11 -- Hendricks County Hamfest, Hendricks County 4H Fairgrounds, Danville IN, <http://n9hc.org>, Public Contact: Bill Pfaffenberger AE9R, Phone: 317-407-1988, Email: hamfest@n9hc.net

February 25 -- Dugger Hamfest, Dugger Community Building, Dugger IN,
Public Contact: Jonathan Olvey KD9AMN, Phone: 812-691-1653, Email: Jonolvey@gmail.com

February 25 -- La Porte Cabin Fever Hamfest, La Porte Civic Auditorium, La Porte IN, Public Contact: Brian Salzer KB9HMR, Phone: 219-851-2133, Email: kb9hmr@gmail.com

March 11 -- Wabash Valley ARA Hamfest, Clay County 4H Fairgrounds, Brazil IN, <http://w9uuu.org/>, Public Contact: Chuck Procarione W9COD, Phone: 812-239-8061, Email: hamfest@w9uuu.org

Brag Rag



Mark Thienes KC9TYA elmering Steve Brewster KD9VZQ for his first HF contact on 28.410 at 10:43AM 28Jan2023 with OK1KIM, the Radio Club Tes Litvinov in Mezibori, Czech Republic.

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.net to have them included in your newsletter.

VE Testing 2023

February 25 2023 - 9AM Central time
April 29 2023 - 9AM Central time
May 27 2023 - 9AM Central time
June 17 2023 - 9AM Central time
July 29 2023 - 9AM Central time
August 26 2023 - 9AM Central time
September 30 2023 - 9AM Central time
November 4 2023 - 9AM Central time
December 9 2023 - 9AM Central time



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@arrrl.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.com) c: 812.305.4100

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

February Birthdays!!!

KB9KVX	Larry	Rudolph	2
KB9YWQ	Don	Land	10
KC9GNM	Keith	MaCurdy	10
W9FHA	John	Small	14
W9CFI	Chris	Lemon	21
AB9JK	Terry	Stuckey	24



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

Tuesday February 15, 2022 - 6:00 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2291426632927344912>

Monday March 21, 2022 - 6:00 PM

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

SPOTTER TRAINING ON SITE CLASSES:

Registration is REQUIRED to attend on site classes:

Thursday February 24, 2022 - 6:00 PM CST: Chrisney, IN
(Spencer County) Chrisney Youth & Community Center

Saturday February 26, 2022 - 10:00 AM CST: Mt. Vernon, IN
(Posey County) Posey EMA Annex 311 Mill St.

More Information, full list of classes and registration:

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

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.

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).

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county
ARES/RACES meeting February 16th,
6:30pm on ZOOM.

Anyone interested in emergency
communication in Vanderburgh County is
invited to participate.



Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline 12604 WinLink KE9YK

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 1/5/2023

TARS Board Meeting 1/5/2023

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by Scott KD4SIR

Members present, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Charlie WB8LDV, Jerry WB9ONU, KC9UVG Dave, Dennis WA2USA, Walt WB4ZUT, Brian WB9QVR and Herby KB9MZH

- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted with a change in the treasury ending balance
- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH ending balance of \$8,013.35 Accepted
- Motion to pay John N9OL for the December snacks, \$ 30.30 by Walt, second by Tom. Motion Passed
- Scott proposed that we have the board as the welcoming committee and he has made some brochures.
- Scott is looking for someone to reach out to Ian KC9VQC. Ian had trouble with a power supply and the microphone on his radio. Scott had offered help and hasn't heard anything back. Chris KE9YK will try to make contact with him.
- Herb invited Ron Lyle's son to the meeting as he is going to be getting rid on Ron's equipment.
- Winter Field Day Scott TWP Park; Brian will have logging computers and a SSB station with antennas. We will need a CW station. Charlie will have birthday cake.
- Banquet; Feb 9th Motion for Golden Corral. Dave made contact during the meeting and reserved the meeting room for 5:30pm. Will make it dutch treat so everyone pays as they come in. Motion Passed
- Nomination Committee: Nominations for filling board member open slot for 2023, Don KB9YWQ, Duane K3LWD and Dennis WA2USA. Will take nominations at Jan meeting with the election in Feb.
- Shack Committee: John N9OL will head up this committee.
- Herby brought up the idea of a new banner including the 75th anniversary. A 9x4 banner will run \$115.56. Herby will check on other pricing and will discuss it later.
- It was announced that Chris Matthews wife Sharon, Jeremy's mom, passed away Dec 24th. card
- Tom has updated the ARRL information for the club.
- Hamtober Fest discussion: October 14th, 7am to Noon. Need to add that camping is nearby to the flier. Dennis will get things posted with the ARRL to get approval and on their listing.

- Scott mentioned the HAM ALERT App. An app to track when certain operators are on the air.
- Scott would like to get a list of favorite HAM Apps to publish.
- Chris mentioned the Hamtober Fest domains were up for renewal.
- Feb- Banquet
- Mar- Jerry suggested a WX/emergency prep meeting or spotter training.
- Apr-
- May- INQP
- June- LCTOTA, Field Day

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

TARS Regular meeting 1/12/2023

2023 1/12 TARS General Meeting

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross
We had introductions from everyone with 25 in attendance and 4 on ZOOM online.

- Discussed Winter Field Day, Jan 28th. Setup at 8:00am at Scott Twp Park in an enclosed shelter. Tom will have coffee.
- Nominating committee; Have nominations for the open board seat Dennis WA2USA, Duane K3LWD and Don KB9YWQ. No additional nominations from the floor.
- Banquet Feb 9th, Golden Corral 5:30pm
- Scott mentioned the shack committee will be looking for recommendations, soundproofing, rearranging / new chairs etc. and volunteers.
- A condolence card for Chris and Jeremy Matthews is passing around for all to sign.
- Hamtober Fest: Oct 14th at Lynnville community center again this year. Dennis WA2USA is chairman
- Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air, June 3 – 18. More info to come.
- Field Day will be held at the Red Cross this year.
- July: 2m quad antenna project
- Reminder Dues are now due.
- INQP coming up in May
- March meeting: Jerry is working on a weather spotter class
- Looking for meeting ideas????
- Meeting Program: Logging Software.
 - Scott KD4SIR
 - John N9OL
 - Mark KD0EE
- Reminder Jan 21 is Herbie's antenna party.

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

Treasurer Report

Financial Report for
December 2022 (prepared 1/1/2023)

Opening Balance: \$7,344.53

Receipts:

Memberships	\$217.50
Rodney Witherspoon KD9NCP donation	\$32.50
Sale of 749 Pro Radio	\$625.00
VE Testing	\$7.00
Total Receipts --->>	\$882.00

Expenditures:

PO Box Rental for 2023	(\$182.00)
Pd John Van Vorst N9oL for December meeting refreshments	(\$31.18)
Total Expenditures---->>	(\$213.18)

Ending Balance \$8,013.35

Red Cross fund \$1,395.82

Funds Available to TARS \$6,617.53

Looking Ahead

TARS PICNIC TBD

TARS Banquet February

INQP 2023 May

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air June 3-18 2023

Field Day June 26-27

13 Colonies Special Event

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

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

Winter Field Day January 28 2023

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

TARS @ Groups.IO



Have you heard about the 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

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.net

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 E-mail: info@w9og.net

2023 Club Officers - Board members

President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)

Vice President [Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#)

Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

Secretary [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](#)

Board of Directors

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

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

OPEN Special election Feb (2023)

[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2023-2024)

[Brian Esche WB9QVR](#) (2023-2024)

[Walter Egenmaier WB4ZUT](#) (2023-2024)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

E-mail: sparks.w9og@gmail.com