

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

June 2023 – Vol. LXXVI, No. 6



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.

Presidents Corner

June 2023

Summer is in full swing and time is flying fast when you're having fun. Now is the time to get antennas up and clean and rearrange the shack. If you find items that you are no longer using, please consider donating them for the Hamtober Fest we are having in October. Other club members and even new hams can get a chance to use the equipment we no longer find an interest in or use anymore.

As you read this, we should be in the middle of our Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air. I hope many of you will activate for the club when you have some spare time. Please contact John N9OL if you want to join us in this activity.

I'm still working on several items but it's a slow process. I'd love for us to modernize our radios, repeaters and shack to make our club more useful to its members. To this end, I would like to create a working budget for our expenditures and solidify what we own and need to maintain. We are progressing on getting a Tech Class going, and for us to do activities as a club within our community to promote Amateur Radio.

Plenty of opportunities are STILL available to serve the club too. We need a website developer to bring w9og.net up to date. Activators are needed for the Lewis & Clark Trail On The Air. Station Captains are needed for Field Day so please step up – you know who you are. Certainly you can give a club presentation on something you know or want to know. Write an article for Sparks with your latest adventures. If you can help with any of this or any other way, please speak out. Also, the Vanderburgh ARES Emergency Coordinator position remains open. If interested contact Jim Moehring KB9WWM at KB9WWM@arrl.net. Trust me, just attending meetings and reading this newsletter is super fun, but sharing your time and talent makes this hobby even more enjoyable and this club even more awesome.

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023

The next VE testing June 17th, will be earlier than usual due to Field Day.

Mark your calendar for the TARS Picnic September 16th, Mesker Park.

TARS was once again the recipient of a generous anonymous donor.

THANK YOU whomever you are for the FTM300 radio. This will go to good use in our Red Cross radio room to access the fusion repeaters.



June TARS Meeting

The next TARS regular meeting is Thursday June 8th 7:00 pm at the Red Cross, 29 S Stockwell Rd, Evansville.

The meeting program will be presentation and discussion on our Field Day activity and rig review.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that would like to join us. **We will meet at 5:30**, for you to grab a bite to eat, swap stories and whatever else you like, giving us time to make it to the Red Cross for the meeting.

Come out and join us at **G. D. Ritz's 601 N Green River Rd, Evansville.**

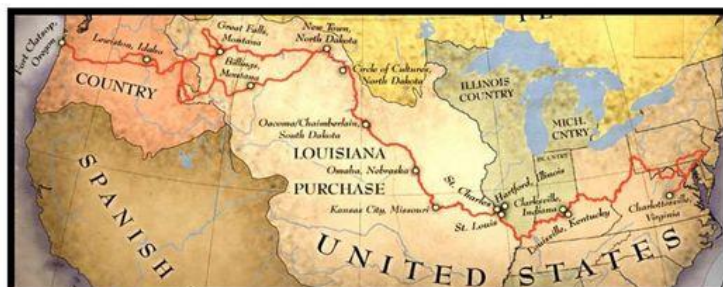
Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air

NOW ACTIVE!!!

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 an email to N9OL@arri.net** with your name and email address.

Check out www.LCTOTA.org for more information.



LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL ON THE AIR SPECIAL EVENT

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

The Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air event commemorates the historic Lewis and Clark Trail covering 4900 miles through 16 states.

Contact all 16 states using SSB, CW or FT8

More information at www.LCTOTA.org

Sponsored by the Clark County ARC



TARS Calendar

June

- 1 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 3-18 **Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air**
- 7 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)
- 8 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 14 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 17 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 21 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 24-25 **Field Day Red Cross**
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)

July

- 5 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 6 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 12 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 13 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 19 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 26 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)

October

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

W9OG ARRL Field Day 2023

Brian Esche WB9QVR

TARS will participate in the 2023 ARRL Field Day (June 24-25) from the Southwestern Indiana Red Cross Chapter located at 29 South Stockwell in Evansville (the same building where

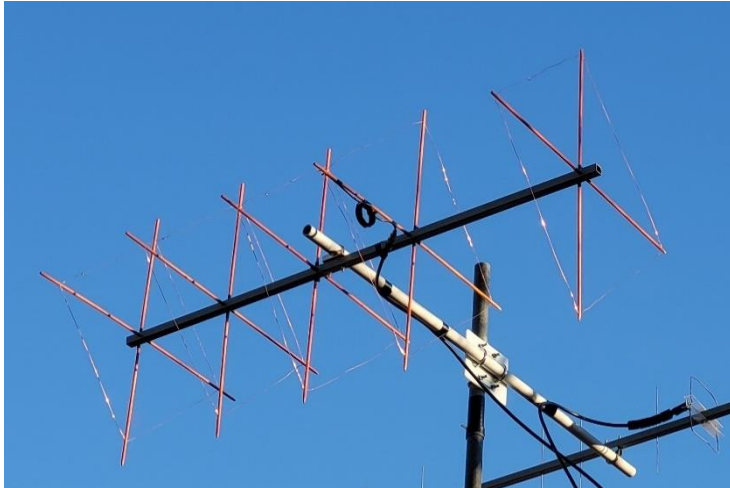


our meetings are held). We plan to have four operating positions active along with a Get On The Air (GOTA) station - so whether you're a seasoned amateur radio veteran or new to the hobby, we have a spot available for you to make some contacts! We'll start hanging antennas Friday evening June 23 at about 5:00 PM and setup of the stations will begin Saturday morning around 8:00 AM. Field Day kicks off at 1:00 PM Saturday afternoon so we should have plenty of time to assemble the gear and enjoy a little ham radio camaraderie before the event gets underway!

If you'd like to learn more about our FD operation or Field Day in general, please join us at the June TARS club meeting (June 8 at 7:00 PM) when we'll discuss our plans including, of course, how you can be a part of the fun!

July Antenna Build Meeting

I'm still taking orders to build a 2 meter, 5 element Cubical Quad Antenna for the July meeting. The cost is \$30, with any money saved going to the club. This antenna using 50 watts can hit repeaters nearly 50 miles away. If you can't make it to the July meeting and still want the antenna, we can gather the parts with instructions. Contact scotthibbs@gmail.com.



Beyond the Baofeng

Chris Lantaff, KE9YK

Have you ever wondered what DX might be on the bands?

One way to find out the latest DX stations operating is the ARRL weekly DX News Bulletin.

It is available as a weekly email from the ARRL.

Here is the bulletin for June 6th 2023.

ARLD022 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by HA7VK, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

CHINA, BY. David, K6FA is QRV as BY2/K6FA until the middle of August. Activity is holiday style on the HF bands using mainly CW. QSL via LoTW.

CAPE VERDE, D4. Oliver, DJ5QW is QRV as D44DX and D4CW from Sal Island, IOTA AF-086, until June 13. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DA. A group of operators from IARU Society DARC are QRV with special callsign DB23SOWG until June 25 during the Special Olympics World Games. QSL direct to DL2VFR.

TURKMENISTAN, EZ. David, DL7ZM is QRV as EZ/DL7ZM until June 3. Activity is in his spare time during his afternoon hours. Lately

he has been active on 10 meters using CW. QSL direct to home call.

MAYOTTE, FH. Marek, FH4VVK is here until June 2024 and QRV on the HF bands and 6 meters using SSB and FT8. He may soon be active using RTTY. QSL to home call.

HUNGARY, HA. Sanyi, HA7VK will be QRV as HG23TISZA as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the Tisza Cup HF CW contest. QSL via LoTW.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. Teru, JE7IZM will be QRV as JE7IZM/JD1 on June 8 and 9 while on work assignment. Activity will be in his spare time on 17 and 15 meters. QSL to home call.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special callsign PA37AC will be QRV from the former minesweeper Abraham Crijnsen moored at the Navy Museum in Den Helder while participating in the Museum Ships Weekend. QSL via operators' instructions.

CENTRAL KIRIBATI, T31. A group of operators are QRV as T31TT from Kanton Island, IOTA OC-043, until June 14. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and with seven FT8 stations in DXpedition mode. QSL via OQRS.

ICELAND, TF. Derk, PD9DX is QRV as TF/PD9DX until June 9. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via MOURX.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. John, W5JON is QRV as V47JA from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, until June 7. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Bob, N7XR is QRV as V7/N7XR from Kwajalein, IOTA OC-028, and is here until the end of June. Activity is in his spare time on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS, VU7. Yuris, YL2GM will be QRV as VU7W from Minicoy Island, IOTA AS-106, from June 6 to 18. Activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to home call.

VIET NAM, XV. Tom, DL7BO is QRV as XV9K near Phan Thiet. Activity is on 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to home call.

MYANMAR, XZ. Akio, JE2QIZ is QRV as XZ2B from Yangon until the end of September. Activity is on 15, 12, 10, and 6 meters using CW. QSL via JH3SIF.

SOUTH SUDAN, Z8. Diya, YI1DZ is QRV as Z81D from Juba. Activity is in his spare time on 40 to 6 meters, and possibly 80 and 60 meters, using SSB and FT8. QSL via OM3JW.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The ARRL International Digital Contest, Museum Ships Weekend, PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest, NCCC FT4 Sprint, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, HA3NS Sprint Memorial CW Contest, K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, PVRC Reunion, 10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest, Tisza Cup CW Contest, Wake-Up. QRP CW Sprint, KANHAM Contest, UKSMG Summer 6-Meter Contest, Kentucky QSO Party, IARU Region 1 CW Field Day and RSGB National Field Day are all scheduled for this upcoming weekend.

K1USN Slow Speed CW Test, ICWC Medium Speed CW Test, OK1WC CW Memorial, RSGB 80-Meter Club Data Championship, ARS Spartan CW Sprint, Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, Phone Weekly Test, A1Club AWT, CWops CW Test, VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, Mini-Test 40 CW and the Mini-Test 80 CW are on tap for June 5 to 7.

Please see June QST, page 69, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest web sites for details.

results in a large fine against a California amateur radio license holder.

A Notice of Apparent Liability Forfeiture (NALF) for \$24,000 has been filed against Phillip J. Beaudet, N6PJB, of Burney, California. According to the filing, the penalty is for Beaudet "willfully and repeatedly interfering with the radio communications of the Western

Amateur Radio Friendship Association (WARFA) while it was attempting

to hold a regularly scheduled net and for failing to provide station identification on amateur radio frequencies."

FCC agents used direction finding techniques during November and

December of 2022 to track the interfering signals to Beaudet's home

station. Agents "heard him playing recordings on 3.908 MHz that caused interference to the ongoing WARFA net while failing to provide his assigned amateur call sign," the document stated.



June Birthdays!!!

KB9AXD	Debbie Julian	1
WB9ONU	Jerry McIntosh	5
KE9YK	Chris Lantaff	9
WB9YIG	Dave Julian	10
KC9EOU	Wendy Hibbs	12
K9EXY	Rick Jackson	13
N9AFC	Mervin Nolt	13
KD9VZQ	Steve Brewster	29
KC9BLZ	Susie Schmitt	30

WANTED - WANTED - WANTED

The Antenna Committee is getting lazy and fat.

If you need help with your shack or an antenna install, please reach out to Scott, KD4SIR @ scotthibbs@gmail.com or Jerry, WB9ONU @ wb9onu@hotmail.com or speak up at a meeting. A dozen or so hams are ready and waiting to help.

April 8th, 2024 Great North American Eclipse

Have you made plans? Plan to operate or have a special event station? Lots of creative ideas you could do.

Evansville is not quite in the center but should be interesting here locally.

<https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/april-8-2024>

Nice article from Astronomy Magazine on the eclipse.

https://www.astronomy.com/observing/20-of-the-best-places-to-view-the-2024-great-north-american-eclipse/?fbclid=IwAR3g83QHsY28zRCuRiAjF-V7NKmihJxo6uJeeQTOK8XwAyX-S4lr_q6JmMQ

Ham Operator Faces Fine for Disruptions to WARFA Net

Special Bulletin 5 ARLX005

ARLX005 Licensee Hit With \$24,000 Fine for Jamming Net, Failure to ID: FCC

An investigation by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)



Brag Rag

Herby KB9MZH was excited to complete the Elite SPOTTER training.



John N9OL: This was my view doing a POTA activation today (6/2/23) at Badlands National Park!



VE Testing 2023

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@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@arrl.net) c: 812.305.4100



Hamfest Calendar

06/17/2023 - Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention - ARRL Tennessee State Convention

Location: Knoxville, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville

Website: <http://WWW.W4BBB.ORG>

08/19/2023 - 08/20/2023

Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Alabama State Convention

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Association

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

09/09/2023 - Greater Louisville Hamfest 2023

Location: Shepherdsville, KY

Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association

Website: <http://LouisvilleHamfest.com>

10/14/2023 - **Hamtober Fest**

Location: Lynnville, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tri State Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>



For a complete ARRL hamfest list, go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

ARRL -- Your One-Stop Resource for Amateur Radio News and Information

TARS can benefit from you joining ARRL through the club.

If you would like information on joining ARRL contact Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH the TARS treasurer and he will get you the forms.

- **Join or Renew Today!** Eligible US-based members can elect to receive *QST* or *On the Air* magazine in print when they join ARRL or when they renew their membership. All members can access digital editions of all four ARRL magazines: *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCL*.
- Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.
- *The ARRL Letter* is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the [Blind-hams Groups.io](#) email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next regular ARES/RACES meeting is July 20th 6:30 pm at the West Side EMA training center. We are always looking for new operators interested in joining and participating.

Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited to contact us for more details.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

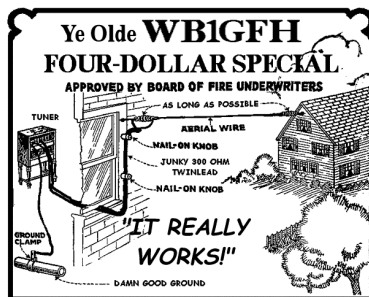
812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline 12604 WinLink KE9YK



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 5/2/2023

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

Members present, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Jerry WB9ONU, Brian WB9QVR, Herby KB9MZH, Walt WB4ZUT, Duane K3LWD and John N9OL

- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH ending balance of \$7,728.98, Accepted
- Repeater report- 146.79 still has a receiver with static/intermod.
- Club asset list – Still looking for any more club equipment and Scott will create a google sheets list with access for the board.
- Scott had business cards made and showed the result.
- INQP May 6th – Tom / Scott SSB, Jeff AA9WJ CW, Brian Logging, Duane Grill, Walt 3rd station. Use both shelters. Tom coffee, cups, plates and supplies.
- Shack Committee – Discussion: They have done some cleaning.
- Scott and Mark KD0EE still taking orders for the Quad antenna build project in July.
- Hamtober Fest - Ticket price discussion. Price will stay the same as last year, \$5 ea. or 3-\$10.
- Field Day - Brian WB9QVR – CW will use the 590, Tom will set up the rig in the shed with the loop antenna.
- Picnic September 16th – Jerry WB9ONU chairman, possible activities, QLF contest / Fox hunt.
- Scott talked about the Scout meeting attended by Scott, Walt, Jerry, Herby and Dennis. Thinks we might have opportunities to do the BSA Radio merit badge or other demonstrations.
- Discussion on setting up a Tech class and a facilitator to coordinate.
- Future meeting ideas: Antenna Parties... “Open House” – after test sessions near-pota activation, Video Hamshack visits, fox hunt -Basics of Foxhunting coincide with foxhunt?

Meeting adjourned 7:55pm

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

TARS Regular meeting 5/11/2023

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross

We had introductions from everyone with 20 in attendance and a couple on ZOOM online.

- Secretary Report: Chris KE9YK
- Treasurer Report: Tom KD9PFH, with an ending balance of \$7,741.23
- Scott announced that TARS had another anonymous donor of a Yaesu FTM300. This makes a great addition for the radio room, since we don't currently have a Yaesu fusion radio.
- Club Asset Inventory: Still looking for any leads on TARS equipment that might be around.
- Scott, discussion on new HF radio for the radio room. While we had the new HF radio donation do we want to look at selling the TS2000 and getting another rig?
- Discussion on the Boy Scout meeting attended by Scott, Jerry, Walt, Dennis and Herby, looking for opportunities to highlight amateur radio and public service.
- INQP: Duane K3LWD, everything went well and had a good turnout.

- The Antenna committee needs a project and Scott is looking to put up a 160m loop.
- Still taking orders for the quad antenna build at the July meeting. See Scott.
- Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air: June 3-18
- Field Day: June 24-25 – Brian WB9QVR, we have a plan to set up the stations and are looking for station captains. Station captains just need to coordinate the station.
- Hamtober Fest: Oct 14th at Lynnville community: Raffle for FT-891.
- TARS Picnic: Sep 16th at Mesker Park shelter #15
- June program will be on Field Day
- July meeting, Quad antenna build
- August meeting: Antenna Myths – Brian WB9QVR
- Discussed placing TARS information at the Red Cross. John will check on our options and Scott is working on updating tri-fold fliers.
- Discussed ways to keep food cold at the picnic / field day etc.
- Door Prize Drawing for a number of items.
- John N9OL discussed the Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air event and demonstrated the activator portion of the website
- John N9OL talked about the FT891 rig operation
- Waly WB4ZUT talked about the FT991 rig operation and his antenna setup for portable ops.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm
Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

Treasurer Report

Financial Report

April 2023 (prepared 5/14/23)

Club Opening Balance \$7,628.98

Amateur Radio Society Account

Opening Balance: \$7,608.73

Receipts:

Memberships \$100.00

Total Receipts ---->> \$100.00

Expenditures:

Total Expenditures---->> \$0.00

Ending Balance \$7,708.73

TARS IGC Account

Opening Balance: \$20.25

Receipts:

Expenditures:

TARS IGC Balance \$20.25

Club Ending Balance \$7,728.98

Red Cross Account \$1,444.82

Funds Available to TARS \$6,284.16

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

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

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 24-25

13 Colonies Special Event July

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

TARS PICNIC September 16th

Route 66 Special Event September 11-19

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

TARS 5th annual Hamtober Fest Sep 14, 2023

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December 2024

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

Winter Field Day January

TARS Banquet February

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

INQP May 2024

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 3 and 4, 2023

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)

[Duane Vanderpool K3LWD](#) (2023)

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

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

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

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