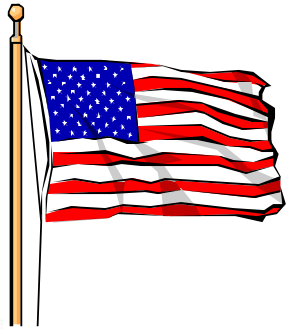


# Sparks

## W9OG



Each in their own way, celebrate the reason for the season.

And talk often with the one who created you



Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

December 2013--Vol. LVI, 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

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### Presidents Corner

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N9OL

## One Man's Opinion

In the last few weeks the HF bands have exploded with various DX expeditions, namely 3B9FR on Rodriguez Island, A92HK with a big signal on 15, plus W8A an operation from American Samoa.

Other real good ones this month were Z81X in Southern Sudan, plus XV1X from Viet Nam, the old megahertz were agitated even more with the presence of XZ1J from Myanmar formerly Burma.

If you have read my daily DX posts on the W9OG forum you know that I am an avid DX chaser, this is my niche in ham radio. However, my comments this month center on the rather poor practices some hams do when there are major expeditions going on during the day and evening.

You have those ops that must tune up their rigs right on top of the DX station, taking the time to squeeze out the last watt to the antenna. Grinding on a continuous carrier for an endless amount of time and creating havoc for those wanting to work the DX station.

Another problem no matter how many times the DX station sends up on CW, or states listening up five, to ten you always have someone transmitting on top of the DX. They do not push the right buttons in their haste to be number one to call. Thing is with DX it matters not if you are the first in line, or the last one to have been worked, what matters are you in the log?

In the recent XR0XR operation from Juan Fernandez Island there were a number of vocalists singing "La Cucaracha" right on top of the operation for several minutes. Quite frankly they were not that good, my question is why?

Of course you have some that never listen on a frequency before calling CQ, no use of QRL on CW, or a simple inquiry if the frequency is in use on SSB, They start a long CQ right on top of a major DX operation and then chased off by many self appointed band cops.

Of course those self-appointed band cops that must try to direct traffic by yelling up, or split, plus some name calling really sets a fine example. Many times

due to the band cops a report had to be repeated and time wasted due to the state side band cops covering up the DX station. Perhaps good intentions, but we all know what they say about good intentions!

I do realize we are all human, we make mistakes, those cockpit errors sometimes catch up with us, but some of this behavior is not necessary. I for one enjoy working DX; I ignore the band cops, the intentional QRM and above all the poor singing. My objective is to work a new band country, or in one rare instance a new country, an operation from North Korea would be nice, but the chances are slim to none and slim left town.

Perhaps there could be some band segment outside the normal ham bands for these types of ops, one of them could pretend to be a DX station. Others could put on carriers, whistles and sing, they could call each other names and vent their anger with one another. Plus, whatever pleasure they derive from this type of behavior could be limited to this new sub band and not the regular ham bands. Yeah, I know I am dreaming!

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



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## ELECTION NEWS 2013

### Election Results are in

After the votes were tallied and no hanging chad verified. The following was decided. John N9OL President, Steve K4SAW V-Pres., Len N9QVQ for Treasurer and Ron KC9OUT for Secretary. The new Board members were Terry WB9KQF, Bob N9XAW, and Mark KC9TYA.

We will have a special election in January for Ron KC9OUT position on the Board and also Chris N9JCA who will not be able to fulfill his position on the Board. We will be taking nominations in November and December and be voting in January for 2 Board positions. These positions will only be for 1 year only. There was some discussion on how to proceed with the special election and it was decided that we would hold the special election after notifying the membership and also those who were not at the meeting. Watch SPARKS newsletter for further information. –Mark KC9TYA

## December

We will have a very interesting presentation and discussion on **Propagation**. There is much more to radio than turning on the dial and seeing who is out there. With some knowledge of propagation you can start selecting times and conditions to improve your contacts. Ron Lyle will be the presenter. Be sure to attend this informative meeting.

## For 2014 topics

The event calendar is filling up fast. If you have ideas for events or presentations, be sure to let us know.

**January:** The annual (and greatest) TARS auction

**February** Our annual Dinner. Normally it would be February 15, our meeting night, however since many of us would have taken our loved ones out for Valentines dinners, we may move it to another date, such as February 20<sup>th</sup>. The location will again be the Teppanyaki restaurant. They took real good care of us last year. (some of the crafty old goats in the club wanted to keep it on the 15<sup>th</sup> so they could make one dinner count for both occasions. We figured no self respecting XYL or BFF would let that happen so we moved the date)

May 3: Indiana QSO party. We will probably have our spring cook out and picnic that day also. If you have suggestions as to where to hold it let us know.



## Field Day Report 2013

The November QST issue listed our Club **TARS as 1<sup>st</sup> in Indiana** and 105<sup>th</sup> in the Country. Should we pick another spot for Field Day next year or keep going to USI? There were no objections so we will be going to USI for Field Day. Many thanks go to those who participated to make TARS number one in the state.

## Presentations and demonstrations

Be thinking about topics for our meeting presentations. Let us know what you want to see or do as a club.

Presentations and demonstrations are a fun part of our meetings. Join us!



**We have several openings for demonstrations or lectures if you care to give one. It doesn't have to be technical or long winded, just something of general interest**



## Dues Time:

Attached to this issue is your membership application. You can fill it out and bring it to the meeting anytime, or you can mail it in. Dues help support your club and its many activities. Send dues in early and thanks for all your support





## Winter Field Day Time Again

We will be operating on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at Wesselmans Park for Winter Field Day. Anyone who is brave enough can operate 24 hrs. Chris KE9YK offered to cook up Bean Soup and Cornbread and Danielle WB9YIL offered to bring a dessert.

The event runs from 11 AM Saturday to 11 AM. We will have an HF station set up but you can bring your own equipment if you wish. Truth be known, we usually operate until about 4 PM. All are welcome to attend and operate if you wish.

Truth be known, we usually operate until about 4PM. Each year everyone has a great time and stories to tell after the event.

Rules can be found at

<http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php?pg=2>

### Trivia Time.

We may have covered this in earlier issues but I find interesting things often add to our knowledge of ham radio. This month we will look at the lowly resistor and see what we know about them.

1. since energy can not be created or destroyed, when a resistor changes voltage from 12 volts to 9 volts, what happens to the other 3 volts?
  - a. It just goes away
  - b. It is dissipated as heat
  - c. It is folded back into the circuit
  - d. It is used up by another type of component.
2. the most common type of resistor that has been around since before you were born (well most of us anyway) is made from
  - a. glass
  - b. carbon
  - c. silicone
  - d. iron oxide

3. another common type of resistor used in higher power circuits is
  - a. iron oxide
  - b. encased in stainless steel
  - c. wire wound
  - d. carbon and zinc compound
4. the reactance in a carbon composition type resistor (in a purely resistive circuit) is
  - a. equal to the resistance value
  - b. greater than the resistance value
  - c. less than the resistance value
  - d. zero
  - e. what the heck is reactance?
5. A resistor designed not to ignite or catch fire even when overloaded to the point of failing is what type?
6. a type of resistor so small you often need tweezers and a magnifying glass to install or remove is used where?
  - a. Under water
  - b. In rotary dial telephones
  - c. In tube radios
  - d. In surface mount circuit boards
7. a resistor that purposefully burns out if current exceeds a specific level is a
  - a. fusible link
  - b. fusistor
  - c. current switch
  - d. voltage limiting device
8. If a fusistor blows, can I just replace it with a regular resistor of the same value?
9. On very small circuits where even surface mount parts are too large, how are resistors placed on the board?
  - a. Pressed into the board
  - b. Mounted externally near the circuit
  - c. Painted on
  - d. Micro resistors are placed on the circuit under a microscope.
10. An adjustable resistor is often called
  - a. Varistor
  - b. Current limiting resistor
  - c. variohm
  - d. slider resistor
11. My radio has a burned out 100 ohm half watt resistor in the RF amplifier section. I don't have the exact replacement but I do have a 100 ohm wire wound one watt resistor in my junk box. Can I use it?

12. A potentiometer is another kind of variable resistor. They come in two basic types in the way the resistance changes. What are the two basic types?
13. A rheostat is a:
  - a. Surgical instrument
  - b. A voltage dividing resistor
  - c. Wire wound variable resistor
  - d. Chemically treated resistor
  - e. A constant current device
14. On most antenna tuners the variable inductor and the variable capacitor combination changes the resistance of the circuit to match that of the antenna. T / F
15. a coil wrapped around a resistor is a way to make a what?
  - a. Heating element
  - b. Faraday shield
  - c. Transformer
  - d. Choke
16. A resistor that changes values in relation to the surrounding temperature is an example of what?
17. What is the value of this common resistor stated two ways?



(Yellow, violet, red, gold)

18. Of what value is the temperature coefficient for a resistor?

••• ••••• ••• •••

## Eat'n Before the Meet'n



We will meet for food, fellowship socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind before the regular **December 12th** TARS meeting at **Jason's Deli** 943 North Green River Road.

<http://www.jasonsdeli.com/restaurants/in/evansville/evansville-deli>

As usual we will be monitoring the 146.79 repeater if you need directions or just want to chat on the way. **Meet the group at 5:30** (you can get there sooner if you want) or whenever you can make it. Check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just want to chat on your drive in. Everyone is welcome.

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## TARS 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 report for November 2013

4 Regular Nets

2 SKYWARN

95 Stations check-in

1 Traffic message

350 Minutes total Time

A big thank you to Mark KC9TYA for running the SKYWARN nets and for everyone who checked in during the last weather events. We have had several excellent SKYWARN nets and been lucky to miss out on any local damage. Remember to tune into the 146.79 repeater during severe weather.

If you are not SKYWARN trained we will have training opportunities available in the spring.

### Net Operator schedule

Dec	4	KC9TYA
	11	N9QVQ
	18	KE9YK
	25	WB9KQF
Jan	1	KC9YIL
	8	N9QVQ
	15	KC9TYA
	22	KE9YK
	29	WB9KQF

Feb 5 KC9YIL  
 12 KC9TYA  
 19 N9QVQ  
 26 KE9YK

**Some reminders about why we participate in SKYWARN and Storm Spotting.**

Many, many thanks to our net control operators.

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**Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES**

The 2013 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is in the books. Chris KE9YK said the October SET went very well. We had 10 participants who operated portable or battery. We were told to check in on 146.79 and were given instructions to go to a different frequency and a different tone. So everyone had to figure out how to program their radios. Congratulations to Zach KC9TKJ on being the first one to check in. There was also mobile packet that some used to check in on.

There is no ARES/RACES meeting scheduled for December due to the holidays. See you in 2014 !

Chris Lantaff KE9YK  
 Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer  
 ke9yk@arrl.net 626-0069

With all the changes at the EMA we need become even more active in our role as radio communicators. Learn about the latest information, planning and where we are headed in the future. Remember amateur radio's main purpose is to provide emergency communication.

Come join the ARES and RACES group and see what it is all about.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK  
 Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer  
 ke9yk@arrl.net 626-0069

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[28 People Died In Tornado Outbreak Last Week](#)  
 WIBQ

[Midwest Tornado Outbreak: Death Toll Rises](#) ....Nov 19, 2013 Entire city blocks were leveled as a **tornado outbreak** wreaked ...

**Nov 18, 2013** - The twisters came as a part of the "second **tornado** season," as some have called this ... 17), killing six people and damaging or destroying thousands of homes, according to **news** reports

[80 tornadoes hit Illinois, Midwest - chicagotribune.com](#)

What started out to be just another work day for thousands in our area, in a matter of minutes turned out to be the worst day of their lives. Homes and businesses destroyed; millions of dollars of damages reported and many lives were lost. Many more lives could have been lost was it not for two factors: early detection and early warnings.

This is where YOU can help. The weather service depends on its storm spotters to make more accurate predictions of storm activities. Ham radio operators are a crucial part of the early warning team. In the aftermath of these storms, ham radio can get emergency traffic through where all other normal means may fail.

Trained Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), familiar with their neighborhoods, can assist in locating injured persons and reporting damages. Using family service radios, they can communicate with local hams to forward reports over greater distances to appropriate response agencies.

After a local disaster, many people want to rush in and help. Lacking proper training and equipment, these well meaning people can become injured or killed and rapidly become part of the problem instead of the solution. CERT training can make all the difference.



luck with it but it takes a steady hand and good vision.

7. b a fusistor, although they are not used much anymore, they were very common in televisions and automobiles a few years ago.
8. NO, fusistors had definite current limits, a regular resistor has only certain standard wattage values and may not be close to the desired rating.
9. c liquid resistive coating is painted on the circuit board between tracings. These are naturally limited to very small currents.
10. a varistor
11. NO. even though it has enough wattage, the wire windings would look like an inductive coil to RF current and completely change the characteristics of the circuit.
12. There are linear taper and log taper types.
13. Both C and E : Connect 1 end and the sliding contact and we have a "variable resistor" as you slide the contact the length of wire increases and thus the resistance increases

Connect both ends and the sliding contact and we have a "rheostat" or "current divider" the rheostat is now 2 variable resistors connected in parallel as one increases in resistance the other decreases. So the total current is constant but divided between 2 circuits

14. False, The combination of the inductor and capacitor forms a tuned circuit that helps match the Impedance of the antenna to the radio. Impedance is somewhat different than pure resistance.
15. d A type of choke that will pass DC current and attenuate RF current. As an example, a plate loading resistor in your RF amplifier.
16. This is one example of a Non Linear Resistor.
17. 4700 ohms  $\pm$  5% or 4.7k ohms  $\pm$  5%
18. The temperature coefficient will tell how much the resistance will change with an increase or decrease in temperature.

**January 25 Winter Field Day**  
**February 20 (tentative) Annual TARS dinner**  
**May 3 TARS picnic and Indiana QSO party**  
**June 28-29 Field Day 2014**

## TARS December Birthdays

I see it was a very popular month, and we even have a Christmas Birthday.

KB9MZH Herb Alvey	12th
KC9TPG Tim Bumowski	1st
KC9SYL Gene Flick	25th
KF9RR Ron Goebel	10th
KB9ZQB Ray Kanipe	22nd
K9BKL Bob Kissel	26th
WB9EFH John Marley	20th
KC9HWQ Chris Politano	20th
WB9VSQ Elvin Reed	17th
N9OL John Van Vorst	9th
W9ADE Don Wade	13th
W9AJR Dave Wood	26th

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## Net operators WANTED

TARS is in need of volunteers for net control operators. While we could use a couple more for the regular Wed night nets we desperately need volunteers for Skywarn/Weather nets. We have not recently had consistent weather nets I am working to change that. Weather nets are not only good for local hams to find out what coming their way but the National Weather Service depends on Hams via Skywarn to be their eyes and ears to confirm what the radar data is telling them and find out what they may be missing.

If you are interested in being a control operator contact Chris [KE9YK@arrl.net](mailto:KE9YK@arrl.net) 626-0069. Next time there is a weather event check in on the TARS 146.79 repeater and see what is going on.

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**Many thanks to our award winning Net Control operators.**



## Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead Things to look forward to:

**January 8 Annual TARS auction**



