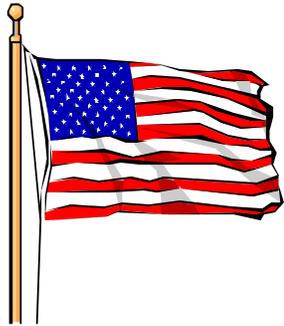


Sparks

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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73s. DE N9OL.



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.



Winter Field Day Time Again

We will be operating on January 25th 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>

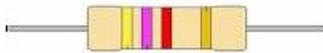
Trivia Time.

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.

••• ••••• ••• •••

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
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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.

