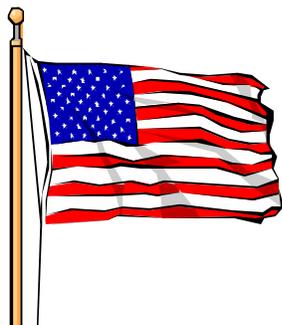


# Sparks

"?:"

## W9OG



Why do we celebrate the 4th?

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

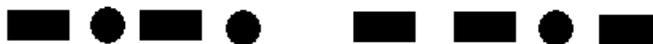
July 2015-Issue No. 7

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

Editor: [ftg2pointer@gmail.com](mailto:ftg2pointer@gmail.com)



### *Presidents Corner*



N9OL



### **One Man's Opinion**

If you read the editorial of Dave Sumner, K1ZZ CEO ARRL May 2015 QST I think this was long overdue by the ARRL. Just in case you have not read the article it was titled "Toothless Tiger" and refers to the FCC enforcement, or lack of it.

In the past quite a few poor examples of operating have resulted on the bands, intentional Interference, jamming repeaters, profanity, harassment of other hams. Take for example the episodes on 14.313 kHz and 3.843 kHz poor examples of how radio amateurs should behave themselves.

Now, the ARRL for years has sponsored the OO program, but it has been very discouraging to most of those in the OO program to spend their time monitoring, recording and shipping tapes, or CD's at their expense to the league and then have nothing done. The first step in reporting a problem, the chain of command is the league and the next step is the FCC. However, the person who manages the OO program at the league determines if your case merits forwarding to the FCC.

The proper procedure for any monitoring is to send an OO notice first, but wait this puts you at risk with the person you are sending the notice to and they may retaliate against you. Ok, so we ask that we be unknown and send in recordings, we document the times, dates, bands used and record the offender. So what happens? Nothing in the way of enforcement, fines or even a stern warning letter. The FCC looks the other way in regard to foul mouthed individuals on the ham bands and for the most part this is not enforced.

If the situation goes on for an extended period of time, we might persuade the FCC to at least send a warning letter. Ok you say you have read about hams being fined for offenses, the FCC sends them an NAL. Another fact, the FCC has no means to collect fines, they might be able to withhold your income tax refund and get it that way? We all know that collection, or conviction can take years for any results and in the same time period the offender continues to get away with his antics.

Thing is, a major offender can continue to operate bringing havoc to the ham bands, causing more problems, agitating other people, interfere with repeaters, nets, DXers and they can continue to do this until the FCC takes action. This may be a long time in waiting, results as we have seen are not instantly, it can take months, years, or even decades.

In the most recent upgrading of the FCC monitoring system and read this carefully, we have seen the number of Field agents drop from 63 to 33 and the number of Field offices drop from 24 to 8. Did you read that right? Another so called improvement is a "Tiger Team" of Field agents based in Columbia, Maryland available for deployment as needed then move on once the problem is solved.

This might work for prolonged cases, but Jammers and those creating intentional interference are not stupid, they will create their havoc on an irregular basis. It may take years to track them down and even if we do, well nothing may be done about the problem. We are advised to ignore jammers by commenting on their activities we encourage them to continue. Does this work, not really!

I am sure that all amateur complaints will be put on the bottom of the pile as far as enforcement is concerned. In the past the ARRL OO program would suggest you send the OO notice, of course if you had the person dead to rights, ARRL would let you dangle in the breeze. They did not want to risk any retaliation from other Amateurs if you sent in tapes or CD's on certain days of the week, it was the wrong day, or the tape used was not the right brand. Another dodge and hedge and it indeed was frustrating to the OO monitoring system. Some even resigned their positions since all they received were shuck and jive and more double talk.

Apparently, Dave Sumner has become frustrated as well with all the double talk the league has gotten in the last few years. Plus the fact that the double talk is passed on to the OO monitoring system and those complaining about problematic issues. Personally, I do not see things getting any better as to enforcement.

This new reorganization of the FCC requires time to get things in order, but as in the past do not expect miracles, or instant results. It just will not happen no matter how good the picture is painted, or the promises made, the rules have to be enforced and the FCC is not doing it in an effective manner.

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



© Ron Leishman \* www.ClipartOf.com/442408

\*■ ■■■■+ ■■■ ■■  
\*■ ■■■■+ ■■■ ■■

\*■ ■■■■+ ■■■ ■■

## Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead

### Things to look forward to:

\*■ ■■■■+ ■■■ ■■

**Thanks to Mitch K9PNP** for pointing out an incorrect answer to last month's trivia.

The answer to #18 should have been a Half wave Dipole has the highest current at the feed point and the maximum voltage at the ends.

\*■ ■■■■+ ■■■ ■■

## Birthdays

### July Birthdays

AF9F Bob Futrell	26th
KC9JKP Ron Huck	20th
KG9QC Tom Schlecthe	16th
WA9C David Voegel	19th

·  
\*■ ■■■■+ ■■■ ■■

## Presentations and demonstrations

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

Built something new?  
Have a neat item to share? Working on a project? Bring it to the meeting; we would love to see it.



**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**

## Trivia Time.

Let's take a brief break from radio and discuss why we celebrate the 4th of July. Many take it for granted as a day off with pay. Others think of it as fireworks, bar-b-q and picnics. How much do you really know about the event?

1. July 4th is Independence Day or also known as \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States
  - a. Armistice Day
  - b. VJ Day
  - c. Memorial Day
  - d. America's Birthday
2. We celebrate the 4th of July because it represents
  - a. beer, fireworks and bar-b-q
  - b. the day that America became separate from British rule.
  - c. The day we officially signed the constitution
  - d. The day we dumped a lot of tea in the ocean
3. Why were the people unhappy under the rule of the British Crown?
  - a. The King made the colonists dress funny and wear powdered wigs.
  - b. They felt they were unfairly taxed and had no vote on the laws that affected them
  - c. They were tired of using Pounds, shillings and 6pences for money and wanted something different they could understand.
  - d. The King's laws were arbitrary and he could change them at will.
4. On the 4th of July our founders officially signed the :
  - a. Constitution of the United States
  - b. The Patriot Act
  - c. The Declaration of Independence
  - d. The Bill of Rights
5. In what year did we break away from a foreign country and announce we no longer served under them? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What foreign country did we declare our independence from? \_\_\_\_\_

7. To express our anger at higher taxes patriots threw what into the Boston Harbor?
  - a. British Soldiers
  - b. Tax collectors
  - c. Tea
  - d. Coffee
  - e. Sugar
8. How many colonies were in existence when the Declaration of Independence was signed?
  - a. 12
  - b. 13
  - c. 36
  - d. 48
  - e. 50
9. The final straw for the colonists was when the king continued to draw even more money from the colonists with even more direct and indirect taxes. What was the famous saying and main reason for the separation from Great Britain? \_\_\_\_\_,
10. Were the signers of the Declaration of Independence in any danger after signing the document?
  - a. not really
  - b. somewhat. They could face fines and jail time
  - c. A lot. They could lose their fortunes and property as well as do some jail time
  - d. extreme danger. They could be put to death for treason to the king, tortured, properties and assets seized and even family members suffered.

\*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

And for those die-hard radio fans, here are some Trivia questions submitted by our Members that are about Ham Radio.

1. The most recent expedition to Navassa Island was called what as Project name?
2. Most common RST report used in DXexpeditions?
- 3 Stations signs his/her call on cw and sends up 2.. I means what?
4. Major contest in November for state side stations.

5. Zone 23 is what two countries?
- 6 DXCC stands for what award?
7. The DS prefix belongs to what country?
8. P5 is the rarest country in the world, what is it?
- 9 DXCC challenge is obtained by what activities on the air?
- 10 LOTW stands for what sponsored by the ARRL.



### Interested in helping our community?

All ARES/RACES members and any Amateur interested in emergency communications are encouraged to participate  
 For ARES/RACES announcements you can join the Emergency Comms yahoo group at  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency\\_comms/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency_comms/join)  
 Contact Chris KE9YK or John WB9EFH for more information on how you can help out.  
 Chris KE9YK

\*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

### Trivia Answers: for this month

1. d. July 4th is Independence Day or also known as America's birthday in the United States
2. b. the day that America became separate from British rule.
3. b and d They felt they were unfairly taxed and had no vote on the laws that affected them. The King's laws were mostly unfair, cruel and he could change them on a whim.
4. c The Declaration of Independence
5. 1776 July 4th.
6. Great Brittan
7. c. TEA, ever hear of the Boston Tea Party?
8. b. The original 13 colonies.

9. Taxation Without Representation. British subjects could not be taxed without the express approval of their representatives in Parliament. The colonists were not represented and had on say so.
10. d. several were put to death for treason. Some died defending their independence. Some lost family members, assets, property, and even their family members were jailed or tortured.

I am sure we all got a good score. Many of us take our country's history seriously. You might even think everyone would know the answers to these questions. But....do they?

Check out the following links.

<http://www.infowars.com/video-americans-have-no-idea-why-they-are-celebrating-the-4th-of-july/>

<https://www.facebook.com/paul.j.watson.71>

For a quick history refresher check out this page

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipserb/2015/07/04/taxation-without-representation-why-we-celebrate-july-4th/>

<http://www.choisser.com/bill/decofind.html>

\*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

### Answers to this months Radio Trivia questions:

- 1 It was called the KP1-5 project.
- 2 On CW 599 on fone 59.
3. Listening up 2 khz.
- 4 Sweepstakes.
5. Mongolia and China.
- 6 DX Century Club.
7. One has to refer to the international prefixes and this one belongs to South Korea, it is often used as a special event call.

8 Rarest of them all and little chance of ever contacting it is North Korea.

9. Working and confirming at least 1000 band countries, in other words different bands same country, to add up to 1000.

10 Log Book of the World.

Thanks to **Bill Hilyers K4LRX** for the trivia questions and answers.

\*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

Repeater issues:

If you noticed a problem with the 146.790 repeater you were not imagining things. The Campground receive site was temporarily down while some equipment had to be moved around. James has it up and running again. Tnx James for all the hard work.

\*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

### **Eat'n Before the Meet'n**

The July Eating Before the Meeting will be at **Fazoli's** Eastland Place 899 N Green River Rd before the regular TARS club meeting July 9th. Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in.

Everyone is welcome to join us.



Chris KE9YK

If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet, contact Chris (KE9YK@arrl.net).

\*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■



All ARRL examination sessions will be held at the Evansville Chapter of the American Red Cross. The ARC is located at 29 S. Stockwell Road, at the intersection of Stockwell Road and Lloyd Expressway. Sessions start promptly at 9:00 AM, Evansville time.

Those candidates wishing to earn their first Amateur Radio License, or upgrade their present valid license, need to bring the following:

1. Their original signed and valid FCC Amateur Radio License.
  2. Any previously earned CSCE.
  3. One copy of the license *and* CSCE.
  4. Two forms of Identification, one bearing a recent photograph.
  5. The current ARRL testing fee of \$15.00.
- You “**must**” have your Social Security number or EIN with you

**Don't forget to check out our web page  
[www.w9og.net](http://www.w9og.net)**

## **2015 Club Officers and Board members**

### *2014 Club Officers and Board members*

#### **Board of Directors**

President: John Vanvorst [jcvanvorst@wowway.com](mailto:jcvanvorst@wowway.com)  
812-305-4100 cell

Vice Pres: Steven Wilzbacher KC9SAW  
[k4saw@twc.com](mailto:k4saw@twc.com)

[Bob Pointer N9XAW](#) 425-2118 (2014-2015)  
[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) 812-963-6455 (2014-2015)  
[Terry McCrary WB9KQF](#) 812-760-8007 (2014-2015)  
[Dave Vogel WA9C](#) 812-430-5727 (2014)  
Herb Alvey KB9MZH 477-2757  
[Halvey1813@aol.com](mailto:Halvey1813@aol.com)

ARRL Indiana Section  
Section Manager: Joseph D Lawrence, K9RFZ  
[k9rfz@arrl.org](mailto:k9rfz@arrl.org)

Tars mailing address:

TARS  
P.O. Box 4521  
Evansville, IN 47724

Sparks editor Bob Pointer N9XAW