

Sparks

W90G



Back To School

Be careful and alert for kids heading back to school

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

August 2015-Issue No. 8

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



Presidents Corner



One Man's Opinion

Recently there has been a proposal by other radio amateurs to reduce the size of the present 75/80 meter phone band. The proposal asked that the region from 3600khz to 3650khz be fully restored to non voice modes.

At the present time hams can operate on 75/80 voice modes all the way down to 3.600 khz. When this expansion was first introduced we all thought it would be a great idea. I can recall operating only CW in the Novice bands from 3.700khz to 3.750Khz in my first few months as a young Novice operator.

In time, this expansion of the phone band has proven to be a mistake, based on the fact that digital and non voice modes have grown a lot in the last few years.

The complaints that I have heard are SSB stations interfering with non-voice modes due to the little space they now have on the 75/80 meter band.

Personally, it has not been a problem for me, my interest in this band has been very little in the last twenty years. However, would I want the CW bands open to phone ops in the twenty, fifteen, or ten meter bands? No, I would not, first of all it causes conflict and unnecessary interference.

The 75 meter phone band is 400Khz wide, one of the wider bands we have, by reducing the band by 50 kHz still gives one 350Khz for phone operation. In fact the proposal states the area in question should be Extra Class only and not open to all classes. On that point I agree also with the change and say why not? I am still in favor of doing something with the 40 meter phone band as well, no one has yet to propose any changes on this band as well.

So, if we give up 50 kHz on 75/80 then a fair trade would be to extend the 40 meter band down to 7.100

to 7.125 KHZ for Extra Class only and establish an Extra section on ten CW of the first twenty five Khz, 28.000 to 28.025 KHZ.

To me this makes the digital ops on 75 happy, Extra's will have an additional sub band on 40 and ten meters. Doubt it will happen this way, but nice thought.

For those of you that wish to respond to this column check the W9OG forum under Radio Discussion. Post your thoughts, opinions, or suggestions.

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



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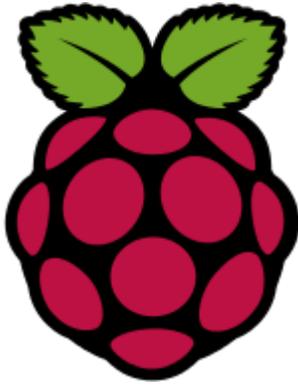
Elections

It is that time of year again. We are taking nominations and volunteers for next year's officers. PLEASE consider running for one of our office positions.

Let Mark KC9TYA, Len N9QVQ and Herb KB9MZH know if you would like to serve as an officer or know of someone who would.

We have plenty of Indians, we need some Chiefs. Help do your part to make this a successful club.





Raspberry PI Night at the Club

Come join us for an evening of learning. The small but powerful Raspberry PI computer will be discussed. These neat little gadgets are a real computer, capable of many things a full sized computer can do. Perfect for the experimenter, from expert to novice. They are about the size of a credit card, but loaded with features. They were designed by the UK to help students learn about computers while on a budget.



Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Come learn about these wonderful little devices.

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

Indiana Parks on the Air Sept. 12 – 13

Indiana Parks on the Air 2015

I really enjoyed the trip to Lincoln Park for a Indiana Parks On The Air event a few years ago. The weather was perfect, the location was great and we had a lot of fun. A few of us camped out, which made the event a mini-vacation as well.

This year the event will be held the week end of **September 12, 2015**. Start getting some ideas of where to operate this year. Are closest choices are Lincoln and Harmony State Parks for our city. We have operated from both and had a lot of fun. Early planning is necessary to guarantee a place as most facilities are rented early in the year. (in fact, we should have already made arrangements)

Birthdays

August Birthdays:

AC9KQ	Dennis Adams	8th
N9FTJ	Jim Funkhouser	19th
KC9OUT	Ron Hanes	22nd
KA9AZS	Darlene Pfettscher	15th
WB9QAV	Randall Schoenbachler	27th
W9KXP	Mike Townsend	5th

Old music, new meaning

In college I would hear the group Peter, Paul and Mary sing “Where have all the flowers gone?”. It challenged us to promote peace and harmony.

I thought it might have a different meaning if we changed the words a little to “Where have all the new hams gone?”.

It could challenge us to think about the dozens of new hams that pass their technician license, never to be heard from again.

If you know of such new hams, make it a point to talk with them. Find out what they are doing with their new license. Are they operating at all? Ask what they expected from their new license. Is there any reason they are not active? Was it just a

challenge to see if they could do it or did they have other goals in mind?

Bring your observations to the club meeting and discuss your findings with us. Perhaps we can come up with some ideas to get them on the air and become active club members as well.

Presentations and demonstrations

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

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.

No one has done more for the preservation and promotion of the Amateur Radio service than the ARRL. We encourage all new hams to join the ARRL and share in this wonderful hobby. How much do we actually know about it?

1. What does ARRL stand for?
 - a. Advanced Radio Requirements Lessons
 - b. Amateur Radio Response League
 - c. Amateur Radio Relay League
 - d. Annoying Romper Room League
2. When was the ARRL first founded?
 - a. 1901
 - b. 1914
 - c. 1921
 - d. 1984
3. Who was the founder of the ARRL?
 - a. Ben Franklin
 - b. James Watt
 - c. Nicola Tula
 - d. Hiram Percy Maxim
4. How does one become a member of the ARRL?
 - a. You are enrolled when you get your license.
 - b. They send you an invitation to join for free the first year.

- c. You sign up a year at a time and pay membership fees
 - d. Membership is free but you have to sign up and take at least one magazine subscription
5. What free bonus do you receive when you join (worth the price of membership alone)?
 - a. 500 free QSL cards
 - b. A plaque with your call sign engraved on it
 - c. An electronics kit of your choosing
 - d. Subscription to QST magazine
 6. How much are annual dues?
 - a. \$39
 - b. \$59
 - c. \$42
 - d. \$19
 7. What other activities is the ARRL involved in?
 - a. Spectrum Defense
 - b. Research
 - c. Lobbying in Washington concerning things that affect Amateurs
 - d. Promoting Good Amateur Practice
 - e. Providing educational materials
 - f. All the above
 8. If it was not for the intense lobbying efforts of the ARRL (in its infancy) All radio matters would be under the control of:
 - a. Congress
 - b. The Navy
 - c. The Army
 - d. The Joint Chiefs of Staffs
 - e. The President
 9. The ARRL is a
 - a. For Profit organization
 - b. A non-profit organization
 10. The latest challenge for ARRL experimenters is
 - a. Bouncing signals off the moon
 - b. Bouncing signals off of Mars
 - c. Bouncing signals off meteors
 - d. Bouncing signals off the ionosphere
 11. The ARRL can enforce laws?
 - a. Yes
 - b. NO
 - c. Some of them

12. The ARRL can provide me an attorney to fight local covenants and antenna restrictions.
- YES
 - NO
 - Kind of
13. The ARRL caters mostly to advanced hams that know a lot of electronics and computer stuff
- True
 - False
14. If there are several members of my household that hold ham licenses, does one membership cover everyone?
- Yes
 - No
 - Yes and No
15. Where is the ARRL main office and headquarters?
- Washington DC
 - New York, New York
 - Chicago, IL
 - Newington, CT
 - Baltimore, OH



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

Contact Chris KE9YK or John WB9EFH for more information on how you can help out.

Chris KE9YK



Trivia Answers: for this month

- c. Amateur Radio Relay League or d. if you hang out on 14.313
- b. 1914
- d. Hiram Percy Maxim
- c. annual dues help support the ARRL
- d. an annual subscription to QST magazine
- a. only \$39 a year with many membership levels and discounts.
- f. all the above (and much more)
- b. The Navy
- b. non-profit
- b. Bouncing signals off Mars. We have successfully bounced radio signals off the moon and Venus.
- b. NO They can lobby, make suggestions, use Official Observers to collect information to report to the FCC, and more, but have no enforcement powers.
- Both b and c. The ARRL has a list of attorneys that are familiar with covenants and restrictions however they cannot suggest any one certain attorney nor will they pay for your legal defense, which is up to you.
- b. False. The ARRL has something for all levels of hams. From beginner to research experts. They have publications that assist all levels of activity from beginner to expert and beyond. When they say something for everybody, they mean it.
- c. yes and no Memberships have different levels. For example, Bill is a full member and pays \$39 annually, His wife Alice and daughter can join for \$8 each, however only one issue of QST to the household There are many other special levels also, including life time memberships.
- d. Newington Ct.

Learn Much More:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Radio_Relay_League

<http://www.arrl.org/about-arrl>

<http://www.arrl.org/membership-levels>

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

The July Eating Before the Meeting will be at [Jason's Deli](#) 943 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.



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

Chris KE9YK

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Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting is Aug 20th, 7:00 pm at the west side VC EMA Training Center [1430 Harmony Way](#).

Anyone interested in emergency communications in Vanderburgh Co. is invited

Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net) 626-0069

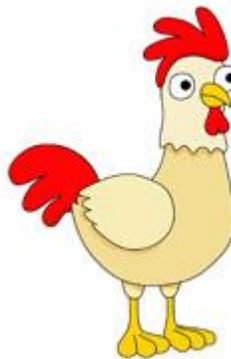
Tri-State Emergency Net

Net Operator schedule

August	5	KE9YK
	12	WB9KQF
	19	KC9YIL
	26	N9QVQ
September	2	KE9YK
	9	KC9TYA
	16	WB9KQF
	23	KC9YIL
October	30	N9QVQ
	7	KC9TYA
	14	KE9YK
	21	WB9KQF
November	28	KC9YIL
	4	N9QVQ
	11	KE9YK
	18	KC9TYA
December	25	WB9KQF
	2	KC9YIL
	9	N9QVQ
	16	KC9TYA
	23	KE9YK
	30	WB9KQF

Net operators WANTED

Don't be a Chicken!



Be a net control operator!

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

ARRL Indiana Section

Section Manager: Joseph D Lawrence, K9RFZ

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TARS

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Sparks editor Bob Pointer N9XAW