

Sparks

W9OG



Just think....Spring time = gardens = **home grown tomatoes**

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

March 2017-Issue No. 3

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

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President's Corner

I think the Banquet went very well maybe do it at the Log Inn

next year as well I think the count was 42

Members et al

Due to Family Matters Herb KB9MZH has asked to be released from

the Secretary's position so we will be having a Special Election

after Introductions on Thursday Night We are looking for someone to

fill the position for the remainder of the year

Presentation this Month is given by Mike Townsend on Repeaters

Anything you've wanted to know on how a Repeater system now would

be a good time to find out and ask

INQP will be upon us on May 6th Looking for a Few Operators to work

the INQP this Year we are going to have it at the F.O.P Club

Sign the Register when you come to Attend the Meeting this might be a Month

of giving away an H.T. MUST BE
PRESENT TO WIN
Comments Suggestions Good/Bad are
always listened to
Talk to an Officer or Board Member anytime
Chris N9JCA T.A.R.S. President

N9JCA Chris President TARS



N9OL has graciously accepted the job
of Red Cross Liaison officer. The job is
important to ensure good communications
between the Red Cross and TARS. Thank
you John.

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One man's opinion



© Ron Leishman * www.ClipartOf.com/442408

A few days ago I viewed the speech made by
Laura Smith who heads the FCC
enforcement division, this speech was given
at the recent ARRL Pacific convention. The
speech lasted for about an hour and covered
a broad base of subjects regarding
enforcement of Part 97 of the Amateur
Rules.

The big problem I see that has developed
with the FCC lately is eleven monitoring
offices have closed around the country and

one In Puerto Rico. According to Smith, and
what she hopes will be done is that amateurs
will continue to police themselves, and she
is relying upon the OO program to provide
information.

To me this is flaw number one, this puts the
burden on those having OO appointments to
send Advisory Cards, sign your name to the
report and you alone will bare the wrath of
the person receiving the notice.

One thing I do not need is some angry
person attacking me, or making harsh phone
calls if they have received a notice. The
League is not going to run to your defense,
which exists only in the minds of a few, in
reality they want no part of a debate for fear
of a lawsuit.

So, with that we have some serious doubts,
point number two regarding filing of a
complaint, according to Smith the FCC has
developed a stream lined web site for this
purpose. That is to report those who
continue to break the rules and pursue
egregious conduct on the air, this according
to Smith will get her attention and she can
address the problems.

Well, again this has basically come down to
a one woman operation, only so much can be
done, only so much can be processed. In her
statements regarding license revocation and
suspension this to desires some needed
changes. Smith stated that many of those in
violation needed to have their license
revoked or suspended. However, as stated
these persons no matter how bad they are
have rights, the big obstacle is the court
system and defense attorneys would wreck
the efforts of Smith.

One thing I agreed with Smith over trying to control some instances of a flare up by several hams on certain frequencies were the self-appointed band cops trying to intervene. Smith stated “ By doing so you are part of the problem and not the solution!” so true is this statement. Smith has urged others to record instances of debate, or egregious conduct and forward them to her office.

I have heard instances of self-appointed band cops advising others to watch their language, they were met with a verbal barrage of profanity. One station operator stated “If you do not like what you hear, tune your rig to another frequency!” The expletives used were not included, rather a poor answer from a somewhat mentally challenged mind.

Smith urged hams to avoid such troublesome areas such as 3.843 KHZ,, 3.840 KHZ, 7.200 KHZ and 14.313 KHZ, In the reasoning of the enforcement chief was as we have often received from the league is to avoid it, ignore and maybe it will just go away.

However, in the case of what is considered a violation of FCC rules by using profane statements on the ham bands is not enforced. Thing is we might as well drop it from Part 97 since the FCC turns a blind eye toward this type of operation. The reason for this is our First Amendment rights, we covered this in the last opinion column.

One more thing to mention, convicted felons can and do hold amateur radio licenses, according to Smith the determination to license them is left up to the Commission. As Smith stated the convicted felon is sent a

questionnaire and it depends on the crime they committed and if they have served Prison time. In some cases and taking this case by case, a man, or woman may have made a mistake in life that resulted in Prison Time. If they have paid their debt to society then so be it, if they are reformed and have led a crime free life since their time was served I see no reason to deny them of a ham license.

My overall opinion of Smith’s speech was an “A” for effort, I do have to give her credit for solving some long time problems on the bands. But, some of the problems may never be solved, we just have to live with it. Like it, or not, there is only so much that can be done.

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

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Covers @ FirstCovers.com

Friday Night Simplex

146.430

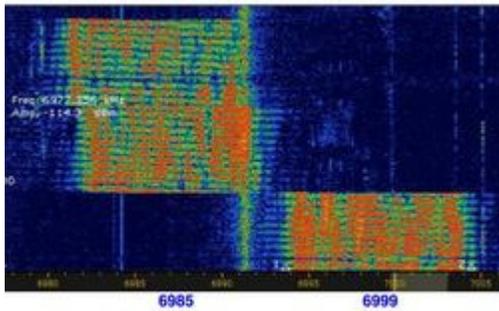
7 PM

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Discussion Junction

The headline read “Eleven Kills and 23 hurt” as deadly tornado rips through Mississippi”.

As the newsletter reported: "A jumping Chinese OTH radar covered the CW DX-edge of our exclusive 7 MHz band



Waveform of the Chinese OTH radar on 6.999 MHz, taken by Wolf Hadel, DK2OM.

on November 17 at about 1500 UTC and later (long lasting)." The signal was 67 sweeps per second with a 10 kHz bandwidth.

Elsewhere on 40 meters, military ALE transmissions have been heard from Kyrgyzstan on 7050.0 kHz. IARUMS also reports that the Australian Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) has been heard on 10.131 MHz in the amateur 30-meter band; Amateur Radio is secondary on 30 meters. Radio Eritrea appeared in November on 7180 kHz together with white noise from Ethiopia. The frequencies 7146.5, 7175, and 7185 kHz were reported to be still in use as well.

Reports of Amateur Radio band intruders may be [logged](#) on the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System logger.

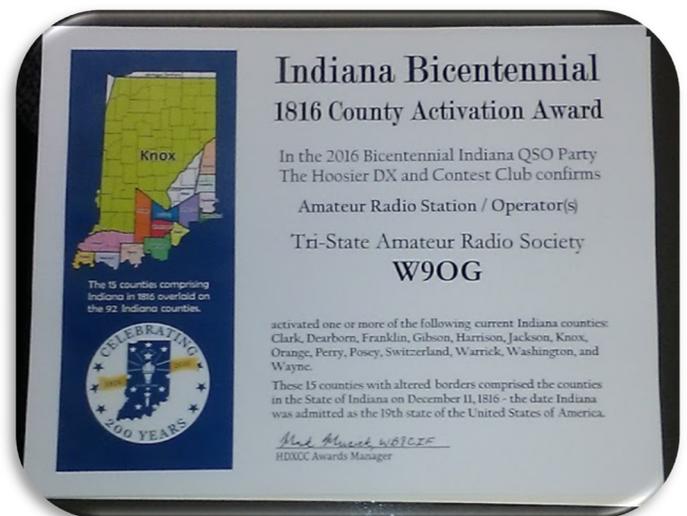
NPOTA Report



Post by [Ron Hanes](#) to TARS Facebook [TriState Amateur Radio Society, Evansville Indiana](#)

Well, NPOTA is in the books. Several area hams took the opportunity to participate as an activator, a chaser, or both. The final numbers are not in yet, but at least two local hams both placed in the top 100 (out of over 16,500 unique call signs that participated) when scores and ranks were combined for overall participation. Congrats to Dennis Martin WA2USA and Mark Thienes KC9TYA for this outstanding accomplishment. Also Kudos to Tom KC9SFQ 199 QSOs and [Steve Wilzbacher](#) K4SAW 192 QSOs as of the last time the leader boards were updated for chasers.

It was a tremendous education in portable equipment, propagation, and working pile-ups among many other things. — with [Mark Thienes](#) and [Dennis Martin](#).



TARS has received the Indiana Bicentennial 1816 County Activation Award for activating Posey County during the 2016 Indiana QSO Party. TARS will need to make plans for the 2017 INQP very shortly. If you have any suggestions for a location get ahold of any board member.

Winter Field Day 2017

This year's event was held at Wesselman's Park. We had two locations active. The Alcoa group worked at the southern shelter

and the TARS group worked the west shelter.

A warm fire and hot bean soup made the cold weather more bearable.



Photo courtesy of TARS web page and KE9YK

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Hamfest Calendar

02/25/2017 | Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
Location: Dugger, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Dugger Amateur Radio Club

03/11/2017 | Terre Haute Hamfest
Location: Brazil, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
Website: <http://www.w9uuu.org>

04/01/2017 | April Fools' Fest
Location: Noble, IL
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Clay County Area Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://ClayCountyRadio.webs.com>

04/01/2017 | Lincoln Trail ARC 38th Annual Hamfest
Location: Elizabethtown, KY

Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Lincoln Trail ARC

05/19/2017 | 2017 Dayton Hamvention
Location: Xenia, OH
Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association
Website: <http://www.hamvention.org>

06/03/2017 | Princeton, KY Hamfest
Location: Princeton, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Princeton Ham Radio Club
Website: <http://w4kbl.org>

06/03/2017 | Georgia Section Convention
Location: Marietta, GA
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC) & Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club (W4BTI)
Website: <http://atlantahamfest.com>

09/23/2017 | Bloomington IN - Hamfest
Location: Bloomington, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.BloomingtonRadio.org>

10/07/2017 | Vette City Hamfest
Location: Bowling Green, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club

For a more complete listing visit
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

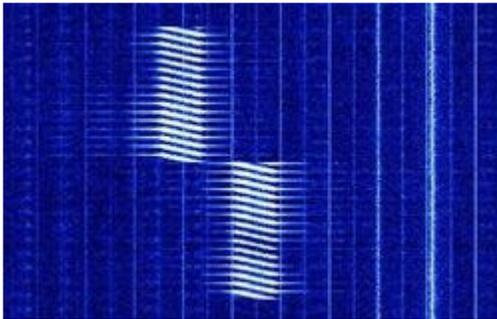
"Mysterious Foghorn" is Chinese Over-the-Horizon Burst Radar

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 ([IARU-R1](#)) Monitoring System [newsletter](#) reports a mysterious "foghorn" -- a Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) burst radar -- is operating in Amateur Radio bands.

"We observed the mysterious foghorn on 7, 10, and 14 MHz," the newsletter recounted. "This is a Chinese OTH radar, which is often jumping, and

sounding like a foghorn." The signal is frequency modulation on pulse (FMOP) with 66.66 sweeps-per-second bursts.

Other intruders include a Russian frequency shift keying (FSK) signal from



The "foghorn" waveform from the Chinese over-the-horizon burst radar. [Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, screenshot]

Kaliningrad on 7,193 kHz and a Russian FSK signal on 7,193 kHz (50 baud, 200 Hz shift). German telecommunications authorities have filed another complaint.

The latest IARUMS newsletter also reports strong splatter from Radio France International (RFI) on 7,205 kHz down to 7,186 kHz. The French REF has informed RFI and French telecommunications authorities.

Intruders still reported, and the subjects of complaints from German authorities include Radio Hargeysa in Somaliland on 7,120.0 kHz; Radio Eritrea with Ethiopian interference on 7,175.0 kHz; Radio Taiwan and a Chinese jammer on 7,200.0 kHz, and a Radio Tajik harmonic (from 4765 kHz) on 14,295.0 kHz.

National Museum to Mark 75th Anniversary of Voice of America

The National Voice of America (VOA) Museum at the VOA-Bethany site in West Chester, Ohio, will join in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the [VOA](#). The Voice of America [marked its diamond jubilee](#) on February 1. In 1942, not 2 months after the US officially entered World War II, a live, 15-minute shortwave broadcast was



The VOA-Bethany station in West Chester, Ohio, now a museum.

transmitted into Germany from a small studio in New York City. Introduced by "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," the voice of announcer William Harlan Hale declared, "We bring you Voices from America. Today, and daily from now on, we shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good for us. The news may be bad. But we shall tell you the truth."

"We're planning a series of events and exhibits this year to celebrate the VOA's commitment across America and the world to embrace best practices in telling the truth in order to let the world decide," said Jack Dominic, the museum's executive director. The West Chester Amateur Radio Club is a museum partner and operates WC8VOA from the museum. At the dedication of VOA-Bethany, FCC Commissioner Clifford Durr referred to the forest of towers on the site as "siege guns of radio...that can hurl explosive facts against the enemy's weapons of lies and confusion... They are also potential guns of peace." Helped by an array of rhombic antennas, VOA-Bethany station transmitted news to Europe during World War II and to South America during the Cold War. The federal government decommissioned the Bethany station in 1994.

"The men and women who made up the VOA



Siege guns: VOA-Bethany's six transmitters were connected to dozens of large antennas spread across a 1-square-mile area. Many people may recall seeing these towers as they drove past on Interstate 75.

broadcasting system were our journalistic beacons of light during the 20th century," said Ken Rieser, president of the VOA Museum board. "Elmer Davis, John Houseman, Edward R. Murrow, and Robert Bauer all had positions of leadership within the VOA."

Today the VOA is the world's largest international broadcaster, transmitting news and information in 47 languages to 236 million people each week, according to the VOA website. The National VOA Museum of Broadcasting, located in the art deco Bethany station building, houses three collections -- the Gray History of Wireless radios, VOA-Bethany station's Voice of America control room, and the Media Heritage Cincinnati Museum of Broadcast History.

The National VOA Museum of Broadcasting is open on the third Saturday of each month -- including February 18 -- from 1 to 4 PM Eastern Time. [For more information](#), visit the VOA Museum website.

7th Annual April Fools' Fest 2017

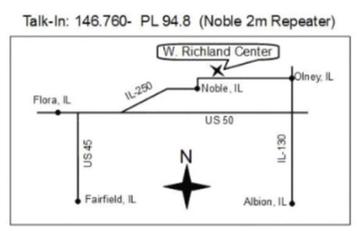
Saturday April 1st
West Richland Center
IL-250 East, Noble, IL
Admission \$4
12-under Free
8am-Noon

Ham Radio Flea Market and Convention

- Big Ham Radio Grand Prize
- Tailgating
- Hourly Radio Prizes
- BBQ Pulled Pork
- Indoor Table Space
- VE Testing

Directions:
From Flora, take US Highway 50 East 12 miles to IL Highway 250. Turn Northeast on IL 250 and follow this highway through Noble. The hamfest will be on your left on the east edge of Noble.
From Olney, take IL Highway 250 west 8 miles to Noble. The hamfest will be on your right as you come in to Noble.

Featured Vendor
Amateur Accessories



ClayCountyRadio@gmail.com ClayCountyRadio.webs.com
Facebook.com/AprilFoolsFest 618-897-2324

April Fools' Fest

Just a few months away from the 7th Annual April Fools' Fest at West Richland High School 320 E North Ave, Noble, Illinois 62868

Table space is \$5 per spot. 1 table is included per spot. We have a mix of 8' and 6' tables available, on a first come-first serve basis. You are free to bring your own tables, shelves, or carts, but must stay in your assigned spot. Space is limited, so if you have interest in a table spot, please contact ClayCountyRadio@gmail.com.

We're giving away almost \$1,000 worth of prizes. This includes a dual band transceiver during every hourly door drawing and the Club's VE Team will be offering **FREE!!! VE testing for any license class!!** We have reached an agreement with the local EMA to bring out a state ITECS trailer. These mobile communications trailers are ready to operate on nearly any band or mode needed by public safety agencies.

This April Fools' Fest actually falls on April the 1st, so expect someone to get really fooled, **all in good fun, of course!**

www.w9qyq.org

This is not a complete list, more for Indiana can be found on the IN ARRL section website.

<http://www.inarrl.org/hamfest.html>

And all the ARRL hamfests can be found on the ARRL website.

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

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Your input is important

Sparks is YOUR information source for club activities and Amateur radio information of all sorts.

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 club might be interested in.

So far in the last few years we have minimal submissions. Let's make 2017 an even better year for Sparks. Let us hear from you.

A bit of Trivia

We call it RADIO, but why?

The device we call a radio took its name from radio telegraphy. It was commonly referred to as "wireless" up until World War II when the military preference for radio caused that name to catch on to describe the revolutionary receptacle of sound.

The word radio is derived from radius, Latin for "spoke of a wheel" or "ray of light," because transmitted sounds travel out in all directions from a center hub like the spokes of a wheel. Now you know.

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March Birthdays

Dan Kelley	N9WJ	24th
Jay King	WB9ICL	26th
Robert Pointer	N9XAW	2nd
Bruce (Rob) Stewart	K1JNX	13th
Jenny Washburne	KC9NPA	10 th
Jerold (Trent) Williams	KJ4KAF	26th



As mentioned by our president, two events are coming up soon. We are way past time deciding on where to have the Indiana QSO party and club picnic. And a location for Field Day.

Many choice locations require reservations. In the past when we waited until the last minute we had to settle for less than desirable locations as the good ones were booked early in the year by someone else.

Evansville city parks now require and \$80 dollar a day shelter rental and no overnights. Some shelters are open to the public but if someone reserves them, they have first choice and anyone occupying them has to leave. State parks are not as expensive but not many members want to travel that far.

Let us know your suggestions by the banquet so that we can confirm a location. A site will be chosen at the banquet so that we may act on it right away.

Some suggestions so far are:

Harmonie State Park, or Lincoln State park

FOP camp, Boy Scout shelter, Mark Thienes back yard and pool.



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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

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The Evansville/Vanderburgh County CERT program will be holding a new CERT training class starting in May.

For those that have had CERT training, monthly continuing education classes are held at the West-side training center.

March 14 - Continuing Education Class, Ray Sullivan, Speaker. 6:30-8pm

March 22 - Central Library Recruiting Session from 6:30-8:30pm

April 11 - Continuing Education Class - Bob Kissel, Speaker, 6:30-8pm

May 9 - All Dates for New CERT Classes begin in May

Tuesday, May 9th; 11th; 16th; 18th; 23rd; 25th; and Saturday, June 3rd, 8am with final exercise and

graduation.

{This week lapse allows for Memorial Day weekend when many of you may be traveling.}

For more information contact:

Bob Weldon, CERT Program Manager 812-430-4885

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Well phooey, the power is out

How many times have you said that (or worse) when your home lost electricity?

The Evansville area is lucky in that our local power company is well equipped to restore power rapidly after a storm takes down part of the electrical grid. But what happens if the power is off for an extended period of time? Are you prepared?

In an era where 15% of adult males cannot even change a light bulb, using a generator during blackout times can be a real challenge. It can be everything to an expensive mistake to a fatal electrocution.

Many people just wait until the power goes out to rush to the store to buy a generator. A common mind set is that you take it home, make a jumper to plug it into a home outlet and power the house. **This is where you can set your house on fire, burn up the new generator when the power is restored and even cause someone else not even in your home to get electrocuted.**

One size does not fit all. There are many sizes and types of generators available. Choosing the right one for your home use takes a little thought and research.

Plan ahead. Do your homework. Seek assistance from an electrician (not your know it all brother in law). Your local Emergency Management Office can offer advice on what to do when the lights go out. Your local Red Cross chapter can also offer good advice.

Like my old physics professor (Dr. Dufford –rest his soul) once said...”A smart man does not know all the answers, he just knows where to find the answers”.

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TARS Attendance Raffle

The TARS board has decided to discontinue the attendance raffle that we have been doing for several years. **BUT GOOD NEWS**, we will now be having door prizes for random meetings. Your chance to get a door prize will start with the March general meeting where you will have a chance for a dual band handheld. *The only way to have a chance to win is be present at the end of the meeting.* See you March 9th at 7:00 pm.

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From the Desk of Herb Alvey
KB9MZH

February 9, 2017 Tars Annual Banquet Report

This year’s event was held at the Log Inn. A short business meeting was conducted on various topics. The raffling of a mobile radio (donated by Bill Hilyerd K4LRX) will be held later on.

Door prizes based on attendance will be drawn at club meetings. Members are eligible to win by signing the attendance log at the meetings or events. Numbered ping pong balls will be drawn (bingo style) If your number is drawn, you win.

Field day and the Indiana QSO party were discussed. Both events will quite possibly be held at the Red Cross center.

Attendance at the banquet was quite an affair, with 42 people attending. Two certificates were drawn. The winners were:

Paul Bickwermert K4PAB for \$50
from the Ham Station

Jeff Holt AA9WJ for a one year free membership to TARS in 2018.

Two long time members were recognized for their endless service and dedication to the club. John Vanvorst N9OL as past president and Leonard Schmidt N9QVQ as long time treasurer. Both received nice certificates and our great appreciation for their service.

Once you have completed this training, you may contact ricky.shanklin@noaa.gov or christine.wielgos@noaa.gov for instructions on making spotter reports.

More information can be found on the [Paducah NWS page](#).

<http://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

If you are interested in being a net control op contact Chris (ke9yk @ arrl. Net).

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Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting will be March 16th 7:00 pm at the West side EMA training center, (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#).



Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net)
H: 812.626.0069 C: 812.453.1972

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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 Operator schedule

March	1	KE9YK
	8	KC9TYA
	15	KB9YWQ
	22	KC9UVG
	29	WB9KQF
April	5	N9QVQ
	12	KE9YK
	19	KC9TYA
	26	KB9YWQ

Tri-State Emergency Net

A big thank you to Don KB9YWQ for running several SKYWARN nets and for everyone who checked in during the latest weather events. Remember to tune into the 146.79 repeater during severe weather to make your SKYWARN reports and follow what is happening with the weather.



If you are not SKYWARN trained we will have training opportunities available in the spring. Two local classes have been already scheduled:

Feb 8, 6:00 pm Oakland City

Feb 16, 5:00 pm Owensboro

Mar 14, 6:00 pm Evansville, Red Cross

Mar 28, 6:30 pm NWS Webinar

Elite Spotter Workshop

Apr 4, 5:00 pm Owensboro

Apr 6, 6:00 pm Evansville, Red Cross

All classes now require registration, are free of charge, open to everyone and last 2 to 2.5 hours. For details about the classes and to register visit

www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining

Questions? Email Ricky.Shanklin@noaa.gov or

Christine.Wielgos@noaa.gov

Or for those wishing to take some basic spotter classes online, or take refresher courses on the material presented by the NWS, MetEd offers an alternate way to achieve your training.

[Role of Skywarn Spotter](#)

[Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics](#)

Once you have completed this training, you may contact ricky.shanklin@noaa.gov or christine.wielgos@noaa.gov for instructions on making spotter reports.

More information can be found on the [Paducah NWS page](#).

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