

Sparks

W9OG



June 24-25, 2017
Evansville Red Cross Grounds.

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society
June 2017-Issue No. 6

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

*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

To All Club Members

Fellow Hams

As you know this month is Field Day so in the June Meeting we will be discussing Locations; Rig Captains Supplies etc. There should be 1 Digital Station: 2 SSB Stations : 1 or 2 CW Stations : 1 GOTA Station and maybe a 6M Station. Don't forget that the Hams who operated the Ind QSO Party and

who also work Field Day are eligible for a "Door Prize" It has been discussed at the last Board Meeting that we will have WFIE on site for the weather portion of the News. If you have a TARS T-Shirt tucked away now would be the time to wear it



Chris N9JCA TARS President

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆

One man's opinion

Recently we have read a special informative editorial in the April edition of QST written by Tom Gallagher, NY2RF. The article attempted to dispel the rumors abounding about the future of the Official Observer Program. According to Mister Gallagher the league is in the process of reworking the entire program regarding Official Observers.

For those of you vaguely familiar with the Official Observer program I will tell you what we are not and what we are doing for ham radio.

We are not an enforcement arm of the F.C.C.

We do not levy fines, confiscate equipment of the offender, invade any residence, or attempt to arrest any one.

We as a group are advisers and that is it, we advise those who are in violation, or have some minor infraction of the rules and regulations. As an instance, you might receive an OO notice if your audio has hum, or audio is distorted.

You may receive a notice for out of band operation, example of this is operating on frequencies not allowed for your license class.

On CW, key clicks, or a chirpy signal, in some cases of the vintage rigs harmonics may be generated.

Failure to ID properly and this does happen on

repeaters a lot, you may receive a friendly notice.

Receiving a notice does not require a reply, the person receiving the notice may take the advice, or simply throw the notice in the trash can. Of course we hope the advice is heeded, but if it is not then additional monitoring may be required.

With that said, we have nearly a thousand ham radio ops who are serving as Official Observers, I myself have served as the Official Observer Coordinator for the last fifteen years for the state of Kentucky.

However, those years have not been without some frustration, disappointments, or we have felt we did not get the reaction of enforcement from the Commission we expected.

This of course has led to many dropping out of the program and the frustration level has hit an all time high. So, now the league is telling us the program is heading for a total fix and reorganization, or at least that is what we are led to believe. To be quite honest about it, we have not received a single thing regarding changes, all we have been told is no further applications for an OO will be accepted until the new program comes in place.

I have had two instances of flagrant violations in my own state, well let's make it three, egregious behavior, plus an unlicensed operation, and the prize of all superfluous distress transmissions and false attacks against the United States. All these were submitted three months ago, our connection at the league that does the forwarding to the FCC has not replied to his mail in over two months. So, who is in charge of the program, has our appointments been suspended, does the program still exist? No one has made an effort to fully explain the new status, well granted an insert on the back pages of QST and that has been it.

The fear I have will be we will have a new suit of clothes and underneath the old ways will still exist. Maybe, we will have more shuck and Jive, double talk, confused meanings, and the league distancing themselves from an OO sending a report to an

offender. Keep in mind, if we had any direction before, the pass off was you send the notice, you deal with the problem, you take the responsibility. The appointees in the OO program dangle in the wind and receive only the above mentioned double talk, shuck and Jive and confused meanings.

Personally, with no information from the league, little enforcement from the FCC and a one woman operation to deal with the problems of ham radio, well the future to me is dim. Eleven offices of the FCC have closed further reducing the effect benefit of enforcement. Yet, we are led to believe they have our backs covered. I do not buy it for now, there will have to be a major overhaul with the OO program and of course more enforcement.

The ball is in their court, but scoring points is just not an urgent priority, shame it is, our times have changed. Let's see what happens, I do not expect much.

As always my friends this is "One Man's Opinion"
Bill, K4LRX 05/17



© Ron Leishman * www.ClipartOf.com/442408

A few years ago the FCC switched from being an enforcement agency to a frequency selling agency.

Enforcement was only something when big dollars were involved or politics was part of the deal. Let's examine what happened to one valuable resource under the watchful eye of the FCC.

Citizens Band radio was a portion of the 10-11 meter band. In about 1945 frequencies were set aside for personal and business communications for the average citizen or small business. A class D license was required but was easy to obtain. A fee of \$5.00 and filling out a simple license request was all that was needed.

Now people could stay in contact on camping, Small walkie-talkie units were becoming available to reach the family on hiking trips. Farmers could reach units in the field and homes could keep in contact with their family members via mobile radios. Small businesses that could not afford the very expensive UHF units of early citizens band frequencies could now have communications with trucks and mobile units.

A set of rules were established (Part 97) and most people respected it and followed the rules. Violators were dealt with by the FCC and stiff fines were imposed for serious infractions. In some cases the FCC had the power to take your radio equipment. Field units actually listened to the airways for violations.

The movie Smoky and the Bandit launched CB into the popular spotlight and everyone had to have one. About that time the FCC decided \$5.00 was not enough to police the bands with their limited resources and ask for license fee increases. Requests were denied so the FCC simply dropped the license fee and at the same time stopped most enforcement of the 11 meter band. Citizens band developed into a cesspool of bad manners, profanity, rule violations and even a dangerous place to operate.

The FCC to date does very little enforcement activity, even with hundreds of complaints from citizens and public utilities. Since the FCC is part of the Executive Branch, local law enforcement's hands are tied unless local governments enact special ordinances to deal with the problem. Basically it has turned into a CB free for all. It even turned into a means for prostitutes and drug dealers to advertise their wares. Bullying others was common as small men hid behind microphones and acted like bad men.

Amateur radio had long been enforced by "gentlemen's agreement" and has been self-policed by amateurs themselves. The Official Observers were started as a means to politely inform hams of rule violations, improper operation, equipment

problems and even notice of outstanding performance by operators. Usually a notice was all that was needed to correct the problems.

Enter an era of newer operators that have little regard for rules or self-governing. You can hear them on the various bands acting like CB (Children's Band) operators and disregarding the rules. Profanity, illegal operation, wide band splatter, higher than legal power etc. Notices from Official Observers are ignored and sometimes answered with threats and violence. Notices sent to the FCC by the local Official Observers go unnoticed or completely ignored. It sometimes takes years to rein in a violator

New hams, hearing all this, often drop out of the hobby or lose interest altogether with ham radio. Will Ham Radio go the way of the CB radio? With little or no cooperation from the FCC, it is a possibility. Riley Hollingsworth demonstrated how the job was supposed to be done. So far, the new director shows little of any desire to continue the job. The ARRL seems not to follow up with OO complaints with any enthusiasm and wants to make entry level license more easier with each new test.

May thanks to Bill and our Official Obvers for what you do. Many thanks to the hams that follow the rules and promote the hobby.

Susie Schmitt	KC9BLZ	30th
Stevan Wells	KC9SOE	14th

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

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

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

June	7	KC9UVG
	14	N9QVQ
	21	KE9YK
	28	KC9TYA

July	5	KB9YWQ
	12	KC9UVG
	19	N9QVQ
	26	KC9TYA

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

Covers @ FirstCovers.com

Friday Night Simplex

146.430

7 PM

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

June Birthdays

Rick Jackson	K9EXY	13th
Debbie Julian	KB9AXD	1st
Dave Julian	WB9YIG	10th
Chris Lantaff	KE9YK	9th
Mervin Nolt	N9AFC	13th

Museum Ships on the Air 2017



N9OL operating the ship's WWII radio equipment. He was making contact with the USS Indianapolis Memorial.

Raymond also stopped by:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmateurRadioLiveHams/>

The other day I was taking inventory of a box of vacuum tubes donated to the ship. (Thanks George).

I came across a box, red and white colored with RCA printed on it and had pause to reflect.

It had a 12AX7/GT tube in it.

Here was a brand new tube. I took it out of the box thinking I was the first human being to touch it. (a machine put it in the box)

I marveled at the clean clear glass envelope and its markings. My mind was filled with memories of encounters with this tube. A very popular twin triode in audio circuits.

I used to buy them by the carton for \$0.99 each. I must have replaced hundreds of them and even built several projects using them.

I don't know why I dwell on this particular tube. Nostalgia perhaps? It is certainly more beautiful than a transistor to look at. How many of you have spent hours in the dark with only the glow of several vacuum tubes listening to a radio?

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

Upcoming events

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>

www.w9gyq.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>

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

•■ ■■■■, ■■■ ■■

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

Antenna

We use them every day.

Where did the name come from?

The origin of the word *antenna* relative to wireless apparatus is attributed to Italian radio pioneer [Guglielmo Marconi](#). In the summer of 1895, Marconi began testing his wireless system outdoors on his father's estate near [Bologna](#) and soon began to experiment with long wire "aerials". Marconi discovered that by raising the "aerial" wire above the ground and connecting the other side of his transmitter to ground, the transmission range was increased.^[5] Soon he was able to transmit signals over a hill, a distance of approximately 2.4 kilometers (1.5 mi).^[6] In Italian a tent pole is known as *l'antenna centrale*, and the pole with the wire was simply called *l'antenna*. Until then wireless radiating transmitting and receiving elements were known simply as aerials or terminals. Because of his prominence, Marconi's use of the word *antenna* spread among wireless researchers, and later to the general public

Source: Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antenna_\(radio\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antenna_(radio))



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

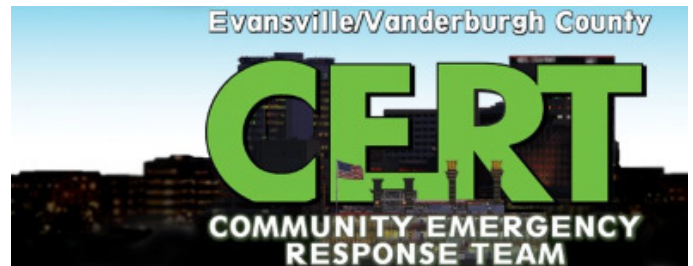
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency_comms/join

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

Chris KE9YK

••• ••••••• ••• •••

••• ••••••• ••• •••



**CERT – Community Emergency Response Team –
An Element of Indiana Department of Homeland
Security**

Welcome to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) information page. Here you can find an explanation of the Program itself; as well as registration requirements and class schedules.

CERT IS NEIGHBORHOOD-ORIENTED

Following a disaster in your neighborhood, you will be able to use the CERT training provided; ensuring you and your family are safe and secure and then using your training to help your neighborhood. No one in CERT self-deploys to another area without a specific call out from the Director of Emergency Management. When professional first responders arrive on site; you will know to give them all documentation and possible search and rescue information you may have accrued as

you worked your neighborhood. At that point, you may step out of the situation or ask if you can assist the professionals in any way.

Sponsorship: The CERT Program is overseen by Citizen Corps of Evansville and EMA Advisory Board and is sponsored locally by the Evansville/Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency (EMA); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). All classes and equipment are provided for you free of charge and there are no dues.

Training: Local CERT Programs offer training to the public and organizations and all CERT Instructors are FEMA certified. CERT Instructors will emphasize disaster preparedness and planning for hazards that may impact your family and your neighborhood and will focus their training on basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. To continue as an active CERT, a requirement of at least 6 hours of “Continual Education Classes” or drill/exercises is considered the minimum for active status per year.

“Open classes” are scheduled for 2017 during the months of May and October and are open to the public with completed application form and background check approval. (Actual Dates of classes are posted below.)

FEMA-based Classroom Training:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Introduction to the Incident Command System
- Basic Fire Suppression
- Basic first aid and triage (2 Units)
- Search and Rescue and cribbing
- CERT and Psychology
- CERT and Terrorism

Program Registration and Open CERT Class Training Dates for 2017:

- Each candidate must complete an Application Form and pass a background check. The Application form is included in your packet of information we have passed out to you tonight. If you are interested in taking the May session, please fill out the form and hand it in to a CERT representative at the sign in table and place your name on the May Class

Schedule Sheet. If you are considering the October Classes, please indicate that you prefer October, again at the sign in table. CERT representatives will be available to help you with the entire process.

• **CLASS SCHEDULES:**

The application form must be completed first. We do have a maximum amount of candidates we can take for each class. Your application may be turned in to us tonight if you are considering May. We will follow up with those preferring October classes and you may fill out your application after we contact you.

Classroom training is held at the CERT Training Center located at 1440 Harmony Way in Evansville. FEMA requires a total of 21 hours of instruction to become a CERT. Each set of classes is arranged in 3 hour increments from 6:00pm to 9:00pm each Tuesday and Thursday night for 3 weeks with a Saturday morning exercise & graduation. You will also be provided with emergency equipment to keep and use as needed.

OCTOBER TRAINING CLASS

- **DATES - Tuesday, Oct 10 and Thursday, Oct 12**
- **Tuesday, Oct 17 and Thursday, Oct 19**
- **Tuesday, Oct 24 and Thursday, Oct 26**
- **Saturday, Oct 28 – 8:00am – 11:00am**
– Final Exercise and Graduation

Supplemental Training

Supplemental training is highly recommended. Your Instructors will explain this more in depth; with most of the courses taken online. Once completed, a FEMA certificate will be emailed to you. CERT will need a copy to add to your folder.

NIMS (National Incident Management System) Online Training:

- IS-100.a Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS-200.a ICS for Single Resources
- IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
- IS-800.b National Response Framework, An Introduction
- Additional damage assessment

- *Taking care of yourself, your family and your neighborhood*
- Residential / Neighborhood check
- Medical intervention (triage or treatment)
- Sandbagging during flooding situations
- Staffing Emergency Operating Center
- Community relations / Distribution of emergency information to the public

Types of emergencies/disasters to which the CERTs have responded:

- Floods
- Tornados
- Severe Weathers
- Severe Winter Storms
- Earthquakes

Non-Emergency Functions

Non-emergency functions performed by CERT members:

- Conduct and support emergency preparedness efforts and projects, including sharing information with the public about protective actions and encouraging them to practice
- Support for public safety at community events

Additional CERT Program Information:

www.FEMA.gov/community emergency-response-teams

[Citizen Corps Home](#) | [FEMA.gov](#) | [DHS.gov](#) | [Ready.gov](#) | [Serve.gov](#) | [DisasterHelp.gov](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Downloads Plug-Ins](#) | [No FEAR Act Data](#) | [Freedom of Information Act](#)

“Organizational classes” are also scheduled as needed for groups:

- Specific neighborhood groups- Neighborhood Associations – i.e., United Neighborhoods of Evansville
- Businesses – i.e., all Ford Center personnel; Tropicana Security
- Faith-based organizations – i.e., 1 on 1 Church, Simpson United Methodist Church
- All High Schools; Trade & Technical Schools; and nearby Universities – i.e., USI Security & Harrison High School faculty

- Group classes may be scheduled throughout the year depending on Instructor availability.

Contact Information:

Feel free to contact the Emergency Management Office with any questions or concerns at 812-421-6204

or you may contact directly to:

Robert Weldon, CERT Instructor and Program Manager

by phone or text at 812-430-4885;

or by email to bweldon57@gmail.com.

- Businesses – i.e., all Ford Center personnel; Tropicana Security
- Faith-based organizations – i.e., 1 on 1 Church, Simpson United Methodist Church
- All High Schools; Trade & Technical Schools; and nearby Universities – i.e., USI Security & Harrison High School faculty
- Group classes may be scheduled throughout the year depending on Instructor availability.

Contact Information:

Feel free to contact the Emergency Management Office with any questions or concerns at 812-421-6204

or you may contact directly to:

Robert Weldon, CERT Instructor and Program Manager by phone or text at 812-430-4885;

or by email to bweldon57@gmail.com.

CERT in Action – Emergencies – “Your personal safety is considered above all else”

•■■■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

•■■■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

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.

*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

May will not have Eat'n Before the Meet'n as the club picnic and INQP on May 6th will be the meeting for the month. Look for more information in this edition of SPARKS.

*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

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.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net) 626-0069
We now have internet access at WEMA and Len N9QVQ will be updating the packet node to get internet access back online as soon as we have a network address assigned. If you have packet capability connect to N9QVQ-1 on 145.010 @1200 or 440.950 @9600.

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

*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

. Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting will be May 18th 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

*■ ■■■■■+ ■■■ ■■■

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.



Net operators WANTED

If you look at back issues of Sparks you will see this column in every issue. Our net operators do a great job of managing the Wednesday night net and weather nets when required.

If you look at the list of net control operators you notice that the list doesn't change much from month to month. Despite repeated requests for assistance, it falls on deaf ears. "Let somebody else do it" is not a good way to run a club.

Nets take only a few minutes out of your week. They also provide valuable experience in running nets and getting to know club members.

If our hams are ever called upon to assist in a community project or disaster we will need more than one or two net control operators. Many say they would help out in a time of need, but when called upon would have to say "sure I can help, but show me exactly what to do, how to do it and stay with me while I do it".

It comes down to the Boy Scout Motto; BE PREPARED.

Come on and give a hand. You might find it is fun.

