

Sparks

W9OG



Serving the Tri-State for 70 years

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

September 2017-Issue No. 9

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: SPARKS@w9og.net



President's Corner:

It's time again to elect New Officers and Board Members. There are 3 vacancies to be filled for Board Members which last for 2 years. The openings for President and Vice President are also open on the Officers side. A Committee has been formed and they will be asking members to consider filling the vacancies. The Christmas Party is something else to be looked at. It has been suggested to have the Christmas Party in November. How does the membership fell about this? We will further discuss this at the September Meeting

N9JCA Chris TARS President

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Looking for active members

A new e-mail reflector has been set up for any member that wants to have input and be in on discussions for club activities and such.

To sign up, go to http://w9og.net/mailman/listinfo/tars_workgroup_w9og.net and follow the instructions.



One man's opinion

Just in case you missed many special event stations operating a few days before July 4th and several days after that date, you missed a great operation. Each year this event activates states that were the thirteen original colonies on SSB and CW. with this year a few hours of digital operation as well. Working all the colonies, plus the two bonus stations were considered to be a clean sweep and you qualify for a very nice certificate from the sponsors of the event. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested to cover postage, printing of the certificate and a few incidental expenses.

This year I decided I would make an effort to work all the required stations and obtain another piece of wall paper, so off I went in search of all the stations involved. State side stations used a single letter prefix and single letter suffix that readily identified this operation. There were two bonus stations, one was WM3PEN on the air from Philadelphia, the other was GB13COL in England nice call 13 COL and the GB prefix is used for special events in England.

We worked a few stations on twenty SSB, but quickly found out that due to the poor propagation forty meter SSB was a better choice. I had little trouble capturing all the required colonies plus the bonus station of WM3PEN. GB13COL was heard on the East Coast, but very poor signal and reports of 5X2 were often common. Besides that, the operator could not copy call letters and many stations were repeating their call letters numerous times.

However, on July 5th suddenly the signal from GB13COL improved to at least a ten over nine and 5X9 in most transmissions. I think they changed to another operator and station, the first attempt was not successful. So, with that we gained a complete clean sweep and mailed in our logs with the \$5.00



fee. Could be I am the first TARS member to work all the required stations and gain a clean sweep of the event?

Only other station I heard at least trying for the award was KJ4DVR a local in Henderson, not sure if he got them all, but he did work some of the 13 colonies. I did not hear any of our TARS hams at any time, but perhaps we did have some who tried? I would like to think so since this is a good event held every year and has been for several years.

I only heard one instance of hostility toward the special event stations, that was from a well known agitator on the bands who called the operator of K2A a fake and fraud. The agitator thought they should be operating from National landmarks, well a little news for our trouble maker. Most National landmarks as we know them today did not exist in 1776. We had a lot of undeveloped real estate, but no real landmarks. The only one that really did and has any bearing was Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The idea was to work the original 13 colonies by the designated special event stations.

The operator of K2A handled this very well and the agitator went on to cause problems with some else with his verbal tirades and onslaught.

I have another subject to bring up as well this month and that is the operation of 4U1WB, first this is not a DX station the operation is located in D.C. at the World Bank Center. The only credit you get for this one is the 4U1 prefix, a contact with D.C. or you can gain credit for any of the adjoining states for the Worked All States Award. In terms of the DXCC list no credit is given as a separate entity, other than the U.S. there is however credit for working 4U1UN at the United Nations center in N.Y.C. 4U1ITU is located in Geneva, Switzerland and is on now and then along with 4U1UN. Thing is I have read many complaints from stations who worked 4U1WB that they have not received a qsl card from the manager of this station.

Granted the qsl manager is dragging his feet and not keeping up with the demand for the qsl card. Some qsl managers are good ones and others are not so good. It took me three years to obtain a qsl via the manager who was a Canadian for a contact I had in China on 40 meters several years ago. When I contacted the manager about the delay he was in the, I do not care mode, an attitude that was totally unacceptable it does not take three years to answer qsl card requests. In the case of 4U1WB the qsl is not unique, in fact it is rather plain, and other than the uniqueness of the location it counts for nearly nothing. My feelings are it is a lot of fuss over a small return of a worthless card.

So for two separate items this month, this is "One Man's Opinion" Bill, K4LRX



Eat'n Before the Meet'n

September 14th Eating Before the Meeting will be 5:30 at Fazoli's 899 North Green River Rd in Evansville.

Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, or whenever you can make it. 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: Herby KB9MZH 812.589.5235 Herbalvey@gmail.com



September Meeting Program

For September, Kevin Zanjani with Bioenno Power will be giving a Skype presentation on their line of LiFEPO4 batteries, including information on how to size a battery for your application. The Bioenno batteries offer light weight and a more constant voltage curve than many other batteries. I'm looking forward to this presentation and hope you will attend.

For the future, I'm looking for suggestions on what club members are interested in for presentations at the monthly meetings. I will be passing out a form in September for you to jot down a few topics you would be interested in, so come prepared. If you can't wait till the meeting or can't join us that night, you can email me at drsandine@roadrunner.com.

Some possible topics are:

- Digital modes
- Contact log
 - How to log
 - What to log
 - What software to use
 - QSL cards
- SDR – Software defined radio
 - Flex Radio
 - Cheap dongles
 - Flight Aware
- Fusion
 - New repeater
 - How to operate
- Arduino vs Raspberry Pi in the shack

Did you attend a forum at a ham fest and thought the presentation was one that you would like to see if the presenter would be willing to Skype at a future meeting?

I'm also looking for volunteers who may wish to give a presentation to the club. Do you have a special interest in the digital modes, especially the new FT8 mode that you could share with the group? Or would you like to share with the members some information about a new

radio/antenna/hardware that you just purchased, or an old standby that you have had for years. For your presentation, if you have a PowerPoint, that's great! If you would like to create one but don't know how, we have folks who can help. If you would rather just use the chalk board, that's fine too. Handouts are also great and we can help with that.

Remember, it's your club. Let me or a board member know what topics interest you.

Dave KC9UVG

A Call for Candidates

It's time to be thinking about who will be officers of TARS in 2018. Members in good standing for at least one year are encouraged to step forward and place your name into consideration for one of the Club's offices for the year. You can contact the Nominating Committee or submit your name from the floor during the Sept. or Oct. club meetings.

The committee:

Herb Alvey KB9MZH c: 812.589.5235 (Chairman)

Mark Thienes KC9TYA c: 812.453.0317

Len Schmitt N9QVQ 812.963.0027

will be contacting members and encourage you to place your names on the ballot.

Offices up for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Board of Director positions. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the Sept. and Oct. meetings and the election committee will prepare ballots to be included with November SPARKS, with the election taking place at the November meeting.



Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

In an emergency would you know what to do? If communications are out where would you tune? Have you had any training in assisting with EMA, Red Cross or Salvation Army? The way to learn is by joining and participating in your local ARES/RACES group.



The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting September 21st, 7:00 pm at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#). Anyone interested in emergency communications is invited.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
in82races@gmail.com C: 812.453.1972



Interested in helping our community?

If you are not SKYWARN trained we will have training opportunities available in the spring.

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

http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=817#.VQrsP3sYEsl

Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics

http://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=816#.VQrsZXsYEsl

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>

The "ELECTRO" STATIC MACHINE

 An illustration of a vintage electrostatic generator. It features a large circular metal frame with a central vertical axis. Two horizontal arms extend from the sides, each ending in a metal plate. A small circular dial or meter is mounted on the front. The device is labeled with various letters (D, L, S, T) and numbers (11", 14", 8 lbs., \$3.75).

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

September

6th	KC9TYA
13th	KC9UVG
20th	N9QVQ
27th	KB9YWQ

October

4	KC9UVG
11	KE9YK
18	KC9TYA
25	KB9YWQ

VE Testing



Test dates: 2017

1/28	2/25	3/25
4/29	5/27	6-none
7/29	8/26	9/30
10/28	11-none	12/30

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.

For more info contact:

[John VanVorst N9OL](#) c: 812.305.4100



Club Shirts

I'm asking if there is anyone who would be interested in having a club t-shirt/s made. The shirts would probably be a 50/50 material with the club logo, your call sign and name on the front. The color is still being discussed at the time and will cost approximately \$15/ shirt. We would need a minimum number ordered to get them at this price and must be pre-paid when ordering. If you are interested please let me know and how many and what size you'd like. If there is enough interest we'll proceed. Please send me an email at:

Steve Wilzbacher K4SAW@tvc.com

HAMFEST Calendar

09/09/2017 | [Greater Louisville Hamfest 2017](#)

Location: Shepherdsville, KY

Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association

Website: <http://louisvillehamfest.com>

[Learn More](#)

09/23/2017 | [Bloomington IN - 2017 Hamfest and Tailgate](#)

Location: Bloomington, IN

Sponsor: Bloomington Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.BloomingtonRadio.org>

[Learn More](#)

09/23/2017 | [Dugger ARC Tailgate Party](#)

Location: Dugger, IN

Sponsor: Dugger Amateur Radio Club

[Learn More](#)

10/07/2017 | [56th Hoosier Hills Hamfest](#)

Location: Mitchell, IN

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

Website: <http://www.w9qyq.org/hamfest>

[Learn More](#)

10/07/2017 | [Vette City Hamfest](#)

Location: Bowling Green, KY

Sponsor: Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://kcarconline.com>

[Learn More](#)

Word Search

R Y S L O Y E J P J M O R S E
G I J E N O C A F Q G J E G D
V T C O E M I A H R P C J Q O
X R J T R Y V W O K L J I H C
R A D E I X O U E I R R N G A
E N Z X W U N M O B T E S O B
M S Y Q O D F C W Z U T U G T
L I N A I C I N H C E T L E E
E S J C O A X V L W H I A X L
W T Z Z G R Y T W Y A M T T A
A O R I G V J P P J X S O R R
R R O T I C A P A C H N R A E
R I Q O S A N N E T N A O K N
L S W B A J L Q V I S R A T E
L R L Q W T R E S I S T O R G

ARRL	COAX
QSL	XYL
ANTENNA	NOVICE
TRANSMITTER	EXTRA
TARS	GENERAL
WAS	TECHNICIAN
GROUND	MORSE
COIL	CODE
CAPACITOR	RIG
TUBE	
TRANSISTOR	
ELMER	
RESISTOR	
WIRE	
INSULATOR	

ARISS Cross-Band Repeater Not Available for General Communication

From The ARRL Letter for August 31, 2017

The cross-band FM voice repeater aboard the International Space Station (ISS) has not officially been activated for general amateur use, although some stations have reported successful contacts. The system is being used in an effort to detect telemetry from three recently deployed CubeSats.



Russian ISS crew members last week released three satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads -- TOMSK TPU-120 (RS04S), with FM voice announcements on 437.025 MHz; Tanusha-SWSU-1 (RS-6S) with FM voice announcements and AX.25 9,600 bps packet on 437.050 MHz, and Tanusha-SWSU-2 (RS-7S) with FM voice announcements and on AX.25 9,600 bps packet on 437.050 MHz.

They set up the ISS repeater as a cross-band relay between 437.050 MHz and 145.800 MHz at the last minute, because they were concerned about getting telemetry from their satellites, which might be spinning more than expected. They are hoping that the nearby receiver on the ISS might be able to capture and retransmit telemetry not being received up on the ground.

ARISS has advised that using the voice repeater for general contacts can interfere with this mission. ARISS Ham Project Coordinator Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, noted that the FM cross band repeater has been a capability of the onboard Kenwood D-700 transceiver since it was first flown to the ISS in 2004.



"It has been utilized very little during that time, due to concerns by the Russians that the unit might overheat," he said.

When the ARISS voice repeater is active and authorized for general amateur voice contacts, the uplink is 437.800 MHz, and the downlink is 145.800 MHz. -- *Thanks to ARISS and AMSAT News Service*

ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Fall Classic Set for First Weekend in October

The main weekend for the 2017 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is only a little more than a month away -- Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8. This primary League-sponsored national emergency exercise is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of ARES® and other organizations involved with emergency and disaster response.



"Every local ARES team and/or ARRL Section will come up with their own scenarios and work with served agencies and partner organizations during the SET," said ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, who pointed out that not all SETs will take place on the first full weekend of October.

"SETs can be scheduled at the local and Section levels and conducted throughout the fall season to help maximize participation," Ewald said, "and ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting their SETs on another weekend if October 7 and 8 are not convenient."

ARRL Field Organization Leaders -- Section Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, Section Traffic Managers, District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and all of their Assistants and Net Managers -- are among those tasked with developing plans and scenarios for this year's SET, Ewald explained.

"The SET invites all radio amateurs to become aware of emergency preparedness and available training," Ewald said. "ARES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Traffic System™, SKYWARN, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are encouraged to participate."

The object of the annual nationwide exercise is to test training and skills and to try out new methods. "It's a time to work with partner organizations and served agencies to get to know them better and to determine their needs *before* an emergency or disaster strikes," Ewald said. "Knowing who to contact within partner

groups with the planned procedures will help everyone accomplish their goals and succeed in their missions."

For Sale

Station Equipment for Sale!

I am listing the station equipment of a local Silent Key Dave Wood W9AJR. Many of you knew Dave, he was a long time member of our Ham Radio community. His widow would like to sell his equipment. I have listed the items below and posted a few pics. This equipment has been sitting unused for a while so the pics show a little dust, but the gear is in good shape. Please get with me if you are interested, and pass this info along to others. Let me know if you have questions or want to make an offer! John VanVorst N9OL 812.305.4100.



MFJ-495 Memory Keyer \$90

Icom IC-756ProII Transceiver \$900

Tokyo Hi-Power legal limit amp model HL-1.5KFX
\$1,900

PalStar AT4K Antenna Tuner \$500

Icom IC-271H 2-meter all mode transceiver \$500

Icom SP-20 External Speaker \$140

GHD GD-507 Telegraph Key Iambic Paddles \$90

Vibroplex Original Standard CW Bug \$90

Straight Key on a nice brass base \$75

September Birthdays

AA9MG	Mike Gunderloy	9/2
WN9HRB	Earl Pfettscher	9/09
K9SRC	Steve Connaughton	9/13
WB9ZFN	Tom Washburne	9/20
KC9BMA	Bernie Schmitt	9/30

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: Brent Walls N9BA bwalls@arrl.org

Tars mailing address:

TARS

P.O. Box 4521

Evansville, IN 47724

Sparks editor: Chris Lantaff KE9YK sparks@w9og.net

TARS Regular Meeting 8/20/17

Chris n9jca called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made. Chris called for the secretary's report to be read. It was accepted as read. Then the treasurers report was read. It too was accepted as read.

Since n9xaw, bob cannot further work as editor of the club newsletter Chris, ke9yk volunteer to take over the responsibility. Chris asked for all entries to sparks be given to him by the 25th of the month so he could compile them.

The election committee was chosen and Herb kb9mzh was chosen to be chairman for the committee.

Don was asked to order 2 or 3 more boafeng radios for door prizes. The radios will cost the club 25 dollars a piece.

Chris, ke9yk, notified the club that he had started an email reflector for the club.

Discussion then went to the club Christmas party. It was tabled until the next meeting.

The McCutchan award was discussed and a committee was chosen to award this years recipient.

Discussion then went to the subject of dmr radio and the club. The topic was tabled until john, n9ol, can be brought in to the discussion.

The door prize went to dick meikle, w9xq. The name for the raffle was drawn and terry mccrary wb9kqf won the alinco 185ht radio.

Steve k9src gave a demonstration on Arduino and the various kits you can build.

The meeting was adjourned.

Don't forget to check out our web page www.w9og.net

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TARSw9og>

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2017 Club Officers and Board members

President [Chris Matthews N9JCA](#) 812.205.6490

Vice President [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#) 812.858.2968

Secretary [Don Land KB9YWQ](#)

Board of Directors

[Bob Pointer N9XAW](#) 812.425.2118 (2016-2017)

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) 812.963.6455 (2016-2017)

[Dave Julian WB9YIG](#) (2016-2017)

[Raymond Edge W9KHP](#) (2017-18)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](#) (2017-18)

[Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#) (2017-18)