

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years



April 2018 - Issue No. 4

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:

As we scrape the snow off our vehicles, we may need to be reminded that Spring has finally arrived! Next month, May 5th, will be the INQSO party and picnic, to be held at the FOP camp on the west side of Evansville. This is a good time to make contacts other counties in Indiana and try an NVIS antenna or two. The club will furnish chicken and drinks. **Please bring a covered dish to share.**

Then, June 23 & 24th is the date for Field Day. Last year, we finished THIRD in the country in our 4F category, a fantastic job by all those who participated! This year our QTH will again be at the Red Cross, although we will be looking a little closer for those sprinkler heads BEFORE we set up. Since we setup on Friday and make contacts on both Saturday and Sunday, we need all the volunteers we can muster to set up antennas and make as many QSOs as we can. Please mark your calendars and join in the fun!

For October, the club will be hosting our 1st Annual Hamtober Fest at the Lynnville Community Center. This will be an excellent opportunity to expose our club and ham radio to the community and have some fun at the same time. Needless to say, this is a big undertaking and we need as many members to help out as possible. More information later in this issue of Sparks.

73

Dave KC9UVG

One man's opinion

I like the survey results seen in QST each month, the league has a web site called Quick stats, and you can answer the questions as I often do.



Later the data is compiled in a survey for each month's QST magazine, makes nice reading and often the topic of various opinions. The results of the January issue caught my eye and I had to make a few comments about it in my monthly column.

In the list of questions one topic was, Do you still exchange QSL cards with other radio amateurs? Sixty- five percent said they still do and I am certainly glad to have such a high response. A much smaller percentage said they do, but only if the station they were working meant credit for some type of award, namely DXCC, WAS or many of the other league sponsored awards.

Another group responded stated they would only qsl direct, and if a self-addressed stamped envelope were included for state side exchanges, for DX contacts sufficient cash for postage or other form of payment.

Lastly, sixteen percent stated they did not qsl at all, the last two are worthy of comment in this month's column. Regarding those only willing to qsl if some green stamps are include are often DX stations who may be flooded with requests, they are individuals and not a DX expedition. In this case some relief is given to the operator, normally two, or three green stamps will help the cause greatly.

Let's take in the group who stated they never qsl, based on the number of license holders the Tech class license represents the most percentage holding a ham license. Roughly about ten percent, they work nothing but the local repeaters and therefore repeater contacts count for nothing towards awards of any kind issued by ARRL, or anyone else.

Rather pointless to spend money for cards if that is all you work, let's take a look at the remaining percentage, about 8% and that is where the frustration begins for a lot of us seeking award credit. The survey failed to mention if any foreign

hams who are members of the league were included in this survey, or just stateside operators that were counted.

My observations over the years I rank two meter sideband as the worst band to exchange cards, followed closely by six meters. Some years ago I did work two meter SSB and found out the percentage of return to confirm grid squares was the poorest. In some annoying cases the station I worked and needed the grid confirmed never responded, even with a self-addressed stamped envelope. In other cases I sent the station I worked a statement form and by his signature would verify the contact this method worked and is accepted by the League.

In another annoying event I had finally confirmed 99 grid squares, of the required 100, I found a station in Southern Illinois for a new one. I sent a card along with an SASE. Never heard from this joker after six requests. What do you suppose he did with all those envelopes?

We also had the same scenario with a mobile station in Alabama I worked for numerous grids, yet when it came time to confirm the contacts this station simply ignored all requests. A big letdown indeed, of course I never heard him again on the airways.

Another pitiful example of a local ham in the tri-state area has 125 card requests from the same ham on EQSL, yet the station receiving the requests has done nothing to help another radio amateur.

An additional example came when I attempting to work all states on six meters, I did not have my own state of Kentucky confirmed on six meters, so I found a local station who worked six meters, we had a contact and I asked for a qsl card.

Off went my card with a self-addressed envelope you want know what happened? Nothing, it has been about 15 years since the contact and no card ever received.

When I first started chasing DX back in the late 50's I was working everyone on 15 meters, one day I zeroed in on a station from Jamaica, big signal so I called and made a contact. The call of the station was VP5BL, thing is he made lots of contacts, but qsl

cards did not exist. I discussed this with other stateside stations and found no one had ever received a card. This station was dubbed VP5 Big Lid and black balled, the call vanished and has not surfaced again. Jamaica has since become independent and the prefix changed to 6Y5, we finally confirmed the entity a few years later.

One final disappointment I had worked CO2OJ on six meters for a new one on six, after two attempts of trying to get a qsl card from this station, I found his e mail and asked where my QSL that he so faithfully promised was? The person rambled on in his reply, but never addressed the problem. I asked the operator if Fidel took down all the mail boxes and had banned mail from the U.S.A.? Word got out to save your green stamps with this character and not send any mail to him, less than a year later CO2OJ has vanished and has not been heard on any band.

In my early days of ham radio there was a slogan and that was "The final courtesy of a QSO is a QSL." Many in the past followed that very well for years. Now as to my own patterns of sending cards, if I receive cards for six meters, or stateside request I answer all of them. I also receive cards via the bureau and I answer them as well.

There is virtually no excuse these days for not responding to a request, you have LOTW, EQSL, QRZ.com and of course the paper cards. Be part of the solution and not the problem.

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

"That's not Real Ham Radio!"

by Chris G7DDN ([Network Radios Website - Mar 7th, 2018](http://NetworkRadiosWebsite.com))

A Pioneering Background

I was musing recently on the wonderful history of Amateur Radio, from the early pioneers with spark transmitters and the race to get the first signals across the Atlantic, up to the Microwave enthusiasts who developed the way forward for space communications and satellite technology (and, whisper this, mobile phone technology!) The history of Ham Radio and RF technology is inextricably linked – there was even a time here in

the UK where it was believed, anecdotally, that a Ham Radio callsign would help you to get a job with the BBC!

However change came very quickly, relatively speaking, in the early history of radio. From Marconi's experiments to the first Public Broadcast Stations was only 25 or so years. TV was only another 15 years or so behind that, and so on...

Resistance (or not feeling at "Ohm")

Yet the history of Ham Radio is also one of *resistance* to change – not from the pioneers, they were often instigators of it, but from the "everyday" Hams.

Let me see if I can give you some examples, with my tongue planted very firmly in my cheek...

"That's not Real Ham Radio!"

The early Hams used CW pretty much exclusively. So when AM arrived as one of the first of the voice modes, there was a bit of an uproar... *"It's not real Ham Radio! Real Ham Radio involves using a Morse Key! What in world is the hobby coming to, using voice to communicate over the airwaves? It's sacrilege!"*

But life went on, AM found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then transistor technology arrived in the late 1940s and early 1950s, provoking quite a response. *"Hang on! That's not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radios glow in the dark – we can't be having this miniature technology – they'll never last as long as valves or be as reliable"*

But life went on, solid state devices found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then SSB arrived and there was *more* discontent... *"That's not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radios don't sound like Donald Duck! It's a fad, it will soon fall away once people get fed up of hearing those silly voices"*

But life went on, SSB found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then FM and repeaters arrived and there was polarisation within the hobby (and it wasn't horizontal or vertical either!) *"That's not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radio doesn't need to use that thing on top of the hill to help your signal get somewhere! Real Ham Radio is point to point!"*

But life went on, FM & repeaters found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then Packet Radio arrived and there was *real* trouble... *"That's not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radio doesn't need one of those new-fangled computer things in order to work. Get your key or your mic out and start working other Hams properly!"*

But life went on, Packet Radio found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then Digimodes arrived and there was yet more strife... *"That's not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radio doesn't involve typing messages to other Hams – and those perishing computers again! What on Earth are they doing in the hobby?"*

But life went on, Digimodes found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then Digital Voice modes arrived and there were some *very* serious disagreements... *"That's not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radios don't sound like R2D2! Real radios don't use the Internet to help them get round the world, they ABSOLUTELY HAVE to use atmospheric propagation. What is happening to this hobby???"*

But life went on, D-STAR and other Digital Voice modes found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then we arrive at today and Network Radios come onto the scene and all hell breaks loose! *"That's not real Ham Radio. This is playing at Ham Radio – there's no Amateur RF so it is simply not Ham Radio. What is more, I worked hard for my license, everyone else should have to too! How dare people enjoy communications in an incorrect manner!"*

So will life go on and will all ever be well in Hamland again?

The 21st Century Challenge

This is why the advent of Network Radios represents such a challenge to us as Hams – it is causing us to completely rethink what it means to be a Radio Amateur in 2018 and beyond.

And we will have to start facing up to questions similar to these...

- What exactly defines a Radio Amateur?
- What do we mean by "Amateur RF"?
- Is it RF generated by someone who is an Amateur?

- Or is it RF generated on a particular band allocated to us by the government?
- If so, does it absolutely HAVE to be that?
- Can it be nothing else?
- Does any of this really matter?

What about our bands?

As Hams we are very "attached" to our bands. Whether it be 160m or 2m, we almost have a psychological sense of "ownership" of them. We have "favourite" bands, we have bands we *never* frequent.

We even have "our" spot frequencies and some Hams will get somewhat "assertive" if a fellow amateur who is not in their "group" dares to use "their" frequency!

And yet in the 21st Century, I believe that the whole concept of bands & frequencies is becoming ever more fluid. Why would this be?

An example from Broadcast Radio

Not that long ago, we could tune into broadcast stations on Long Wave (LF), Medium Wave (MF), Short Wave (HF) and FM (VHF Band II). Stations frequently referred to themselves by frequency: "247 metres Radio 1" or "1152 AM" for example. It was seen part of the station's identity – many had the frequency in their station names!

But today, we increasingly hear less of this. When you listen to broadcast stations these days, they seem to be eschewing giving out frequencies, instead they just announce that they are on "FM, DAB and Digital" or something similar to that.

Why? Because radio is something you probably increasingly consume in one of two ways – either digitally (via DAB or Satellite or similar means) or by streaming via the Internet. Frequencies and by extension, bands, are not as relevant as they once were.

Moving Out!

The large broadcasters are also increasingly moving away from "traditional" radio.

On Short Wave – only a few countries & various religious groups seem to operate there now. The big guys are moving out of Long and Medium Wave too. If commercial broadcasters are moving away, we need to ask why.

Do Bands matter?

I have a suspicion that this is, in part at least, because bands and frequencies don't matter so much these days. Domestic radio appliances are more about push buttons and screens that get you to your station instantly, rather than tuning dials with frequencies. It's the end product that is important, not necessarily the manner in which it gets to you. Who tunes a modern broadcast radio in these days with a manual tuning dial? Anyone? It was the main knob on all radios not that many years ago! I can even remember tuning old VHF TV in with a dial in my early days on this planet – that *really* seems odd now!

Going one step further, many broadcast stations are not even using direct RF at all these days! We still refer to them as “radio stations” (or occasionally “Internet radio stations”)

Is there any reason to think Ham Radio as a hobby will not invariably move in a similar kind of direction? One of our strengths historically as Hams has been that we are good at embracing new technologies and adapting them for our own uses.

The point I am leading up to is this – I suspect “bands” and “frequencies” are not really as big an issue in the digital age as we might *like* them to be. In essence, bands only exist because of propagation.

Propagation again

160, 40m, 20m, 10m, 2m etc. are all, in reality, “line-of-sight” bands. To over-simplify the subject, it is the ionospheric or tropospheric layers that enhance this line-of-sight propagation and turn it into something else.

Each band has differing propagation qualities as a result, giving each band its “character” and for some, the study of propagation in itself is a fascinating part of the hobby.

Man-made propagation is just different

When we think of (and use) the *Internet* as a man-made propagating medium (which is what it is – it propagates signals around the world) then the concept of bands becomes redundant.

The Internet is like one, almost infinitely wide, worldwide “band”, constantly open S9+40 to all countries 24/7 with few vagaries – and not just for voice, but for vision and other digital modes as well.

Put like that, who wouldn't want to use it? Would it actually matter what “band” you were (or were not) on, if there even were one?

So the concept of “bands”, by which so many of us define our activities, may be crumbling in front of us in this digital age and we may not even realise it yet! That is not to say our bands don't still exist, by the way – clearly they do. It is just that, to many people these days, bands are a foreign concept.

And then what?

As the hobby starts to come to terms with some of the implications of this, other issues then start to arise, such as...

- Do we need an exam any more to get a licence?
- Do we even need a licence?
- What form or forms should it take, if so?
- Might we see an influx of new people coming into the hobby because the entry to it is more straightforward?
- How would we cope with that?
- Do we even *want* new people coming in, especially if their views differ from ours?
- What will the hobby even look like in 20 years time?
- What happens to our “traditional” bands?

I expect to see a lot of discussion in the future about this – it's actually quite exciting!

Out of the Comfort Zone...

However it will make many of us feel extremely uncomfortable – the ground is shifting beneath our feet and the traditional *raison d'être* of Ham Radio is waiting to be challenged to change and adapt...

I don't see this as a bad thing – intelligent honest debate is to be welcomed. The most important thing is to keep our minds and our thinking wide open. We shouldn't reject something just because it is new or because it challenges our preconceived ideas of where radio is going in general.

Equally, we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater and reject traditional Ham Radio as it has been for years. The Ionosphere and the Internet are complementary, not in competition.

My own opinion?

If you have read this far and you really want my personal thoughts...

Why can we not have the best of both worlds? Surely we can.

Network radios (at this stage in their development at least) are not contest radios for example, and the Internet is not yet a contest-friendly mode of propagation. (That might change of course!) so contesting is still best on the traditional Ham bands. I'll see you on 80 metres – 59 001 OM...

However, regular reliable high-quality contacts around the world are but one thing Network Radios excel at, so why not just use that when you want to (or when the HF bands are full of noise or are otherwise dead)? I do! I don't see the expansion of choice in the hobby as a bad thing.

Enjoyment is the key

Does the fact that I am transmitting on cellular frequencies at 800MHz, 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz or on Wi-Fi on 2.4GHz or 5GHz matter? Is there something intrinsically evil about that? Is there more virtue in using 21 MHz or 432MHz, for example? They are just "frequencies" after all.

I prefer to see myself following the motto of my local radio club, "Having fun with RF". Whether I choose to use a Network Radio or a Yaecomwood super-duper base station is not as relevant to me.

Enjoyment of the hobby is everything, otherwise why have a hobby?

Whichever way this debate goes and whichever direction this great hobby takes, my line would be to keep *all* the richness of *every* aspect of the hobby.

In other words, to go back to the title of this piece and change but one word, "It's ALL 'real' Ham Radio"

© March 2018 – [Chris Rolinson G7DDN](#)

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ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees 02/28/2018

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various

initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its [Petition](#). "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a "periodic rebalancing" between those two objectives, the League maintains.

"There has not been such a rebalancing in many years," ARRL said in its petition. "It is time to do that now." The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific, data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

"The Committee's analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of

communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago," ARRL said in its petition. Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after 17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it's urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service," ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

"ARRL requests that the Commission become a partner in this effort to promote Amateur Radio as a public benefit by making the very nominal changes proposed herein in the Technician class license operating privileges," the petition concluded.

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

April	4	KC9UVG
	11	N9QVQ
	18	KC9TYA
	25	KB9YWQ
MAY	2	KC9UVG
	9	N9QVQ
	16	KC9TYA
	23	KE9YK
	30	KB9YWQ

SKYWARN Spotter training

Elite Spotter Workshop

Apr 3, 5:00 pm Owensboro

Apr 9, 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, listing of all available classes, latest schedules and to register visit:

www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining

Questions? Email Ricky.Shanklin@noaa.gov

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting **April 19th**, 7:00 pm at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA)

[1430 Harmony Way.](#)

Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

in82races@gmail.com c: 812.453.1972



WARRICK COUNTY ARES/RACES...

Comm Trailer:

This month's meeting concentrated on specific needs regarding wiring and the supplies needed. The topics discussed covered what type of electrical service would be utilized. (Generator, Battery, Grid Service, and at a future time Solar) Decisions were made concerning the placement of radios at each station and how to provide a redundant antenna hook-up system. Antennas will have mounting rails along the roofline of the trailer, and the push-up mast will need to have a mount manufactured for the tongue area on the front of the trailer. The placement and what types of lighting would be needed in the multiple work areas and what would be required to power each of them. With this plan a list of items needed will be compiled and gathered so the wiring can be started. The cabinets continue to be manufactured and painted. This work is being done as weather allows. Again, thanks to everyone that has helped with the work being done.

Mesh/AREDN:

Planning of the Mesh/AREDN system is ongoing at each monthly meeting. A second trial was scheduled at Friedman Park in Newburgh for March 21, 2018. Mother Nature didn't cooperate on this date by delivering freezing temperatures, snow, and rain. Persons directly involved with the project continue to work with equipment to verify that everything is performing as it should. As weather allows, another date will be arranged to continue the test on a larger scale.

Summer Field Day:

Summer Field Day will be June 23rd and 24th. The Warrick County A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S. group will again team up with the members of the Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club. The site chosen for the gathering will be at the Boonville City Lake. If last year was any indication, there will be plenty of fellowship among Radio Operators, lots of QSO's, and more than enough good food to go around.

73's

Chris L Owen (KC9CLO)

Public Information Officer

Warrick County ARES/RACES group

April Birthdays

Zachary Crawford	KJ4TKJ	20th
Robert G Hudson	KC9UPJ	23rd
James "Al" Letcher	KA9PHZ	5th
Dennis Martin	WA2USA	28th
Mary Sandine	KD9CHH	28th
Daniel B. Weil	KB9GNI	20th

Eat'n Before the Meet'n



April 12th Eating Before the Meeting will be at Cici's Pizza, 101 North Green River Road, just North of the Lloyd Expressway next to the Burlington Coat Factory.

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: [Herb Alvey KB9MZH](mailto:HerbAlvey@KB9MZH) c:812.499.3729

VE Testing

2018 Schedule

January 27

February 24

March **No testing**

April 28

May 26

June 30

July 28

August 25

September 29

October 20

November **No testing**

December 29



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

1. **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.**
6. **You "must" have your Social Security number, TIN or FRN with you.**

No pre-registration is required for our sessions.

All examinations will be administered at the American Red Cross, Evansville Chapter, located at 29 S. Stockwell Road, Evansville Indiana 47714.

Examinations will start at 9:00 AM Central time.

We have no pre-registration, and examinations are administered on a walk-in basis.

Candidates are asked to **report promptly, 9:00AM**, to the Red Cross, as we need to vacate the meeting room by noon.

For more info contact:

[John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@ARRL.org) c: 812.305.4100



What have you missed?

March Presentation on FT8 by Raymond W9KHP



Winter Field Day 2018 Wesselman Park



Upcoming

Indiana QSO Party / Picnic May 5th FOP Camp

Field Day June 23-24 Red Cross

Hamtober Fest October 27 Lynnville

Hamfest Calendar 2018

Upcoming Hamfest from the ARRL website.
This is only a list of Hamfest within a close driving distance. For more info go to:
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

35th Annual Columbus Indiana Hamfest

04/07/2018
Location: Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds
Community Building
750 West 200 South
Columbus, IN 47201
Website: <http://carcnet.net>

40th Annual Elizabethtown Hamfest

04/07/2018
Location: State Fire & Rescue Facility Area 5
630 College Street Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Website: <http://www.qsl.net/ltarc>

April Fools' Fest

04/07/2018
Location: West Richland Center
320 East North Avenue
Noble, IL 62868
Website: <http://ccaarc2.webs.com/hamfest>

Great Lakes Division Convention (Dayton Hamvention)

Start Date: 05/18/2018
End Date: 05/20/2018
Location: Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center
120 Fairground Road
Xenia, OH 45385
Website: <http://hamvention.org>

Princeton, KY Hamfest

06/02/2018
Location: Princeton Fire and Rescue Training Center
2001 Highway 62 West
Princeton, KY 42445
Website: <http://www.w4kbl.org>

Indiana State Convention

Start Date: 07/13/2018
End Date: 07/14/2018
Location: Marion County Fairgrounds
7300 East Troy Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46201
Website: <http://indyhamfest.com>

Southeastern Division Convention (Huntsville Hamfest)

Start Date: 08/18/2018
End Date: 08/19/2018
Location: Von Braun Civic Center
700 Monroe Street
Huntsville, AL 35801
Website: <http://www.hamfest.org>

Kentucky State Convention (Greater Louisville Hamfest)

09/08/2018
Location: Paroquet Springs Conference Centre
395 Paroquet Springs Drive
Shepherdsville, KY 40165
Website: <http://LouisvilleHamfest.com>

2018 Bloomington Indiana Hamfest

09/22/2018
Location: Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building
5700 West Airport Road
Bloomington, IN 47401
Website: <http://www.bloomingtonradio.org>

7th Annual Vette City Hamfest

10/06/2018
Location: WKU Knicely Conference Center
2355 Nashville Road
Bowling Green, KY 42101
Website: <http://kcarconline.com>

Hamtober Fest

10/27/2018

Location: Lynnville Community Center
416 West State Road 68
Lynnville, IN 47619

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>

Sponsor: Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Talk-In: 146.790 (PL 88.5)

Public Contact: Raymond Edge , W9KHP
6888 Yankeetown Road Newburgh, IN 47630

Phone: 812-746-5884

Email: hamfest@w9og.net



Chinese Lunar-Orbit Amateur Radio Payload Could Launch this Spring

The ARRL Letter for March 15, 2018

China's twin-launch Chang'e 4 mission to the far side of the moon will place a pair of microsattellites in lunar orbit this spring "to test low-frequency radio astronomy and space-based interferometry." The two satellites, unofficially called *DSLWP-A1* and *DSLWP-A2* (DSLWP = Discovering the Sky at Longest Wavelengths Pathfinder), could launch this spring.

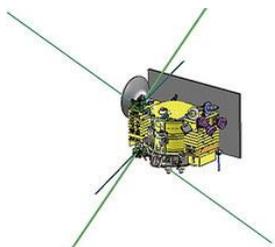
The pair represent the first phase of the Chang'e 4 mission, which involves placing a relay satellite in a halo orbit to facilitate communication with the Chang'e 4 lander and rover, which will be sent to the far side of the moon in



December. Because the moon's far side never faces Earth, the satellite is needed to serve as an Earth-moon relay. The Chang'e 4 mission will be the first-ever attempt at a soft-landing on the far side of the moon.

The two spacecraft also will carry Amateur Radio and educational payloads, but not a transponder. Developed by students at the Harbin Institute of Technology, the Amateur Radio payload on *DSLWP-A1* will provide a telecommand uplink and a telemetry and digital image downlink. Radio amateurs will be able to transmit commands that allow them to send commands to take and download an image.

The satellites will piggyback on the Chang'e 4 relay package and will deploy themselves into a 200 × 9,000 kilometer lunar orbits. The Harbin



Institute of Technology team has proposed downlinks in the 435 and 436 MHz range.

Equipped with low-frequency antennas and receivers, the astronomy objectives of *DSLWP-A1* and *-A2* will be to observe the sky at the lower end of the electromagnetic spectrum -- 1 MHz to 30 MHz -- with the aim of learning about energetic phenomena from celestial sources. The launch is anticipated for May or June. Read [more](#).

Secretary Report

Board meeting from March 1, 2018

Introductions were made. Board Members in attendance were: Rick, Raymond, Dennis, Jeff, Mark, Dave, Chris, Terry, Don, Len, and Max.

Secretary report was accepted and approved. The treasurer report was approved and the suggestion of an audit was raised.

The new vice president was reminded that he needs to sign the paperwork for the bank. The idea of changing the name of the tars party to another name. It was approved to remain the tars banquet.

The fusion repeater has been installed at Deaconess Hospital. The pl tone for the analog is 107.2

The board was informed that the club insurance policy is for 4000 dollars at the Red Cross and 300 dollars at the ema.

The extra t shirts are going to be used for prizes and sale.

The idea of a conference call for absent board members would be talked about during the regular meeting.

Help with the disposition of a silent keys radio equipment will be Len, Mark and Chris and possibly at the ham fest.

October 27, 2018 will be held at Lynnville Community Center. Cost will be 250 dollars and 50 dollars for setup the day before. Raymond has lined up a food vendor

Summer field days will be on June 23 and 24, 2018.

The place chosen was the FOP camp. On May 5 it will be the club picnic and Indiana qso party

Raymond has the program for the March general meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned.

Donald Land KB9YWQ

Secretary

TRI-STATE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY CLUB MEETING
MARCH 8 2018

Meeting started 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm

Officers present: Dave kc9uvg pres., Max kd9abt vice pres., Jeff aa9wj treasurer,

Don kb9ywq secretary was absent.

Board members present: Raymond w9khp, Len n9qvq, Dennis wa2usa, Rick k9exy, Terry wb9kqf, Mark kc9tya

Presentation for the evening was presented by Raymond w9khp and was on the new mode ft8.

The secretary report was not read. It had been posted in sparks. But it was approved. To save time during the meetings and due to the secretary's report being published in sparks we are only asking for any changes then voting yea or nay.

The treasurer's report was read and approved.

There was a vote regarding the reading of the report in the meeting and it was a tie. So the report was read in detail.

All paperwork is up to date at the Evansville Teacher's federal credit union

Dave wb9yig said the repeater at deaconess hospital was up and running good and that the voice module is for the dr-1 repeater. 147.150 pl 107.2

The insurance rider has been updated to \$4,300.00 due to work obligations, Chris n9jca requested someone take over the club equipment and inventory that needs to be done, Rick k9exy has agreed to work on this

There are still shirts available to purchase, these only have the tars logo. Several sizes are available.

Raymond w9khp filled us in on all the latest updates with the Hamtober fest to be held at the Lynnville community center in Lynnville, in on October 27, 2018. We are still looking for volunteers to help with several areas. There is a food vendor lined up for Saturday. The flyer was sent out with the February sparks newsletter. The ARRL has been updated and our Hamtober fest is on their website. Chris n9jca agreed to print 200 flyers. Jeff aa9wj will give the insurance company a copy of our agreement and make sure we have some kind of rider for the Hamtober fest. Hopefully they can give us some direction. The club needs to come up with door prizes for this event.

Summer field day June 23 and 24th 2018 will be held at the Red Cross. Antenna set up will be on Friday evening and we will have pizza for those who help out. Max kd9abt is working on publicity, with various outlets. Terry wb9kqf and max kd9abt are working on a video for the club to use for any advertising before our events. Anyone interested in participating please contact terry or max. We are

still looking for team captains for the individual stations.

IN qso party may 5, 2018 will be held at the fop camp on the westside of Evansville, this is a nice location and has been used several times over the years. The club agreed to have the annual club picnic on this day also. Please bring a covered dish. The club will furnish the chicken and drinks. Chris n9jca will contact.

Dave wb9yig to look into the Red Cross generator and see if it can be fixed.

August meeting presentation will be by James Utley from J&S on fox hunting.

Max kd9abt won the attendance door prize for the evening. He chose a radio.

All attendees were requested to go thru the left over merchandise from the January tars auction. Anything left over would go to the trash.

Minutes submitted by Mark Thienes

Treasurer Report

February 2018 (prepared 3/1/18)

Opening Balance:	\$4,884.65
Receipts:	
Memberships plus extra donations	\$67.50
Banquet Reservations	\$60.00
Over-run T-Shirts purchases	\$8.00
T-shirt refund donations	\$42.00
Total Receipts ---	\$177.50
Expenditures:	
Log Inn fee for banquet plus tax and tips (\$432 Reservations+\$267.77	
TARS subsidy)	(\$699.77)
Pd KB9YWQ for 2ea. HT cases door prize	(\$15.00)
Pd KE9YK for web hosting invoice	(\$96.00)
Pd WB9YIG for Old Fusion repeater return shipping costs	(\$73.33)
Reimburse pd recpt - KE9YK (Certificates and frames)	(\$29.89)
Pd SouthWest Grafix	

for extra over-run T-shirts (\$73.03)
1 banquet cancellation refund (\$12.00)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$999.02)

Ending Balance: \$4,063.13
Red Cross Funds \$1,064.07

Jeff Holt AA9WJ
TARS Treasurer

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

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

Your input is important.

Sparks is **YOUR** information source for club activities and local Amateur radio information.

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 TARS membership might be interested in.

Submission deadline is the 25th of the month.

Most any document format is acceptable.

Photos or graphics of your subject are welcome.

Send your article to: sparks@w9og.net

2018 Club Officers and Board members

President [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Vice President [Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary [Don Land KB9YWQ](#)

Board of Directors

[Raymond Edge W9KHP](#) (2017-2018)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](#) (2017-2018)

[Dennis Martin WA2USA](#) (2018)

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) (2018-2019)

[Len Schmitt N9QVQ](#) (2018-2019)

[Terry McCraey WB9KQF](#) (2018-2019)

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