

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

May 2019 - Issue No. 5



The SPARKS Newsletter is published monthly by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

Material in this newsletter may be reproduced provided that TARS and the article author is properly credited. Complimentary issues of the SPARKS Newsletter are available to amateur radio clubs on a newsletter exchange by e-mailing your request to sparks@w9og.net.

E-mail subscriptions are provided to all regular TARS members.

News contributions and letters/emails to the editor are always welcome.

TARS regular membership is open to all licensed Amateur Radio operators for \$25.00 a year. An Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but do not currently hold a license.

Associate membership is \$25.00 a year. Student memberships are also available for \$12.50 a year.

Membership information is available at www.w9og.net

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd, Evansville IN, at 7:00 p.m.

Family and visitors are always welcome to attend.

For more information, please call or email one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter.

Presidents Corner:

As I write this we are days away from the Indiana QSO Party (INQP) and the TARS INQP field setup at Harmonie State Park! It should be a great time. That event kicks off a busy and exciting spring and summer for TARS and I hope you are planning to join us for some great times!

We are again going to have our Field Day setup on the grounds of the Red Cross in Evansville. This has worked out very well for us in the past. TARS always scores very high in the Field Day contest and we have a whole lot of fun in the process. We always need more operators especially overnight. Please plan on coming out and getting on the radio as much as you can. We will have 2 sideband stations and 1 setup for CW, plus 1 or 2 digital stations. Plenty for everybody! If you have ideas to make Field Day better please let me know. Remember, Field Day's primary purpose is to get ham operators out of their shacks, setting up portable stations and getting on the air in crowded non-optimal conditions- much like we would experience in a disaster. This is so important and I hope you will participate.

Speaking of disaster preparedness- a big part of the mission of TARS is community service. That is a BIG reason why we exist. We partner with area agencies and stand ready to provide assistance with communications support in the event of a disaster. That's why Field Day, INQP and other remote operating events are so important- we need to practice those skills! If you as a ham are not involved and plugged into your county's EMA and/or other emergency aid organizations such as the Red Cross then I have to ask you 'WHY NOT!?!'. I want to see TARS' commitment to supporting these organizations increase in 2019. Get involved with ARES/RACES in the county where you live. Volunteer with the Red Cross, Salvation Army or others. Look for ways to get other club members and hams involved as well.

73!

John N9oL

TRANSMISSIONS

Cory Davis [KD9MHB](#)

Greetings from the Mothership! Station here is KD9MHB and I'm a technician class operator. We celebrated World Amateur Radio Day a few weeks ago and it reminded me of an old cell phone commercial where the guy says "Can you hear me now?" That was such a catch phrase for the longest time and arguably still is. After joining ARES/RACES last month and recently the Civil Air Patrol, it really makes me wonder how many people can actually operate efficiently in times of an emergency. When taking a personal inventory of all of your COMS gear, ask yourself this: Do I have a plan of action to communicate in a moments notice during an emergency? I feel it's our civic duty as amateur operators to be able to support our communities when called upon. I encourage all of you to attend a local ARES/RACES/CAP meeting and consider volunteering. At the very least, buy a couple Baofeng radios and throw em in a bug out bag with battery packs, a solar charger, paper and pencil to take notes so you can help pass traffic in an emergency net. Lastly, check out and download the app eNIFOG in your app store, it's a huge wealth of information and instructions for us hams.

Until Next Time~

73s de KD9MHB

"There are no strangers in HAM Radio, only friends who haven't met yet"

TARS 2M FM Simplex Contest



TARS
W9OG
TRI-STATE
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
EVANSVILLE

2M FM Simplex Contest



AMATEUR RADIO
EMERGENCY SERVICE

TriState Amateur Radio Society (TARS) is holding a 2M FM Simplex Contest on Sat May 25th from 6-9 pm CDT.

Check our website for all the details
www.w9og.net or
Contact John N9oL
contest@w9og.net



Announcing the 2019 TARS 2M FM simplex contest. This contest helps us all be prepared in a number of ways, gets to know one another, allow for some friendly competition and try out our emergency preparedness skills. Since this contest is limited to the 2M FM band, it does not require any fancy equipment and all can participate. The contest is just a short 3 hour timeframe.

This is a great time for all local area hams to participate and join in the activity!

Saturday, May 25 2019, 6-9 PM CDT (5/25 23:00Z – 5/26 02:00Z)

Objective: To make as many contacts as possible, encouraging the use of 2M simplex mode, and to have fun!

The Hunter vs. the Hunted: Consider operating from a remote location, high point, or perhaps a roving mobile; Mobile stations are able to re-work stations from a different zip code location.

Rules and details were attached with this issue of SPARKS and will be available for download along with the Logging sheet on the tars web site. [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)

Please pass the word to anyone in the area that would like to participate in this event. Download the rules, log sheet and join us on May 25th 2m simplex.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n



May 9th Eating Before the Meeting will be at [Sonic Drive-In at 881 S Green River Road \[MAP\]](#) in Evansville. Sonic has outdoor tables with seating where we will be.

Drop by for good food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind.

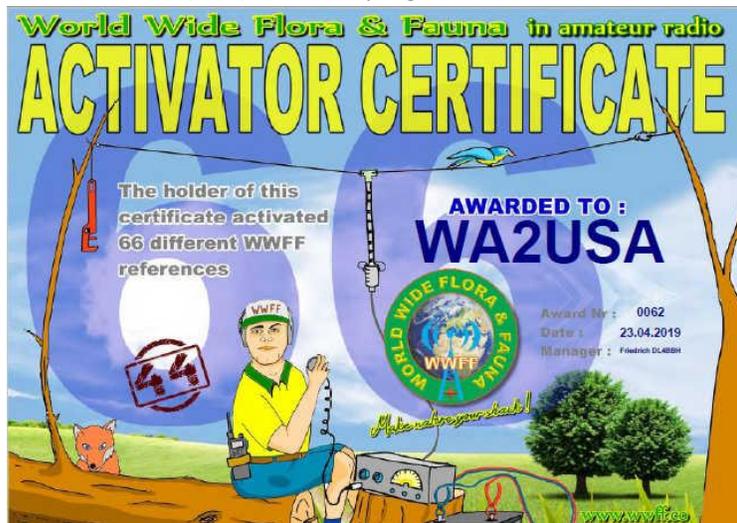
Join the group at **5:30**, or whenever you can make it. Check in on 146.79 if you need directions, or just get bored on your drive in. Everyone is welcome to join us.

If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet, contact: [Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) c: 812.431.1037

Brag Rag

What have you been doing?

Dennis - WA2USA award is for activating 66 parks registered to the WWFF program. WWFF World Wide Fauna and Flora out of Europe however, there are also National Awards available from the KFF branch (USA) of WWFF program.



Cory KB9MHB received the ARISS SSTV Award.



Low Audio for ISS SSTV Transmissions Raises Issue of Crew's Ability to Intervene

04/25/2019

Reception problems owing to low audio levels plagued a recent round of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station-sponsored (ARISS) slow-scan TV transmissions. Some clever operators on the receiving end were able to use software to bump up the deficient audio so the images would decode properly. But the matter raised questions concerning the ISS crew's ability to troubleshoot problems and to make adjustments to the Amateur Radio gear on the fly. ARISS-International Chair and AMSAT Vice President for Human Spaceflight Programs Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, subsequently posted an explanation of how Amateur Radio fits into the operation of the ISS and the astronauts' ability to service and operate it.

"Please remember that ARISS is not the prime activity on ISS," Bauer said. "There are over 300 international experiments currently operational on ISS on this expedition. I just heard in a teleconference last week that that number will go to about 500 experiments in the next 1 – 2 years."

Bauer said the vast array of ongoing experiments means it's only possible to "occasionally get suggestions to the crew" to make changes relative to the Amateur Radio payload. "Any workarounds on any experiment/payload will compete with the crew's already fully booked schedule," Bauer explained. "Several ARISS team members, particularly our teammate in Russia, were out of pocket this past weekend. Our Russian colleague was informed of the [low audio] issue early on and acknowledged the issue. But he also needs to get tied into Mission Control. That is difficult from afar. And even if we ask for a change, it is challenging to get the crew time to make this happen, especially if it is outside the flight planning stage."

Bauer said that once ARISS has its Interoperable Radio System on board, it plans to augment the system with ground-command capability. "We have already developed a concept for this capability," Bauer explained. "Once in place, we will be able to do many things with our radio without crew intervention, including mode changes to support SSTV, APRS, voice repeater, etc. This capability will also be important if we fly ham radio on the Lunar Gateway, which will not have crew on it 24/7."

Bauer pointed out that keeping ARISS afloat and able to implement new Amateur Radio capabilities requires "a great deal of funding."

"As an example, ARISS currently has two individuals on travel to NASA Johnson running tests for the Interoperable Radio System," he said. "This is one of three trips required to get the radio system ready for flight. Each will cost ARISS about \$3,000 in travel — nearly \$10,000 for these three testing events. Also, this past week, we spent \$1,100 to transport the HamTV that was returned from ISS back to Italy to undergo troubleshooting to potentially repair the anomaly we experienced on ISS."

Bauer used the opportunity to note that ARISS has a fundraising activity under way to get the Interoperable Radio System ready

for launch. "We need \$150,000 by the end of this year and are well short of our goal right now," he pointed out. "If you really want to see improvements in the ISS radio system from where it is today, please strongly consider donating to ARISS. At some donation levels, your call sign and name will be included on the interoperable radio system that will fly to ISS!" — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting **May 17th**, 7:00 pm at the Vanderburgh Co. West Side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#). Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited.



Our next meeting will be a working meeting. We have several projects going and need to work on a few things.

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

Warrick County ARES/RACES

April 2019 Update

Upcoming Events:

Indiana QSO Party	May 4 th
ARRL Sumer Field Day	June 22 nd & 23 rd
Newburgh Fire Works	July 5 th
Warrick County 4-H Fair	July 15 th – 20 th
National Night Out	August 6 th

Other events to be announced.

CradlePoint:

The new cradlepoint system has been installed in the MEOC trailer. With the addition of the Cradlepoint system, the trailer has gained the functionality of internet data connections using the cellular network. Currently the system is operating with a Verison and AT&T First Net sims. The system has been in operation for several weeks and indicates that the capabilities are reliable.

5 Gigahertz Allocation:

Mike Koester (KA9VKO) brought to the group's attention an action in process by the FCC to allocate a portion of the 5 Gigahertz spectrum to the cell phone service. NOAA and NASA have presented several concerns with regards to the FCC. NOAA and NASA both utilize satellites to measure moisture in the air. This is done using passive microwave sensors on satellites that gather data on atmospheric water vapor in the 23.6 to 24 GHz band. The cell phone 5GHz frequencies will be in the range of 24.25 to 25.25 GHz. The concern being saturation and

interference of the 5GHz signals. For more information visit <https://spacenews.com/representatives-urge-fcc-to-postpone-march-14-spectrum-auction/>.

Auxcom Trailer:

A scheduled workday on May 11th has been scheduled for the AuxCom trailer. Several items still need to be completed on the trailer. Most of the work will involve wire terminations and non critical jobs to make the trailer more functional. The exterior of the trailer needs to be buffed and new decals put in place. The solar panel for the trailer needs to be mounted and wired into the trailer. Some of the work will need to be completed during warmer weather. A lot of the smaller items such as wire terminations can be done any time. A list was submitted to the group of items needing to be supplied. If you are interested in providing any of the items you can get a list from Steve Connaughton (K9SRC) or Chris Owen (KC9CLO). If anyone wants to work on the trailer on non scheduled days contact Steve (sconnaug@gmail.com) to make arrangements to get into the trailer.

Warrick County ARES/RACES Webpage:

A webpage for the Warrick County ARES/RACES group is under construction. Raymond Edge (W9KHP) and James McWhorther (KF4LXS) are working on the website and will have it up and running soon. Give it a look and watch the progress... <http://warrickaresraces.org/>.

WinLink:

The monthly presentation was given by Steve Connaughton (K9SRC) and covered the Install, Setup, and use of the WinLink program. The program was via powerpoint and can be downloaded from... [\[HERE\]](#)

Battery Back-up:

The Ohio Valley Amateur Radio club has installed a back-up battery on the Warrick ARES/RACES repeater system. The battery will allow operation for approximately 5 hours at continuous usage during a power outage. Thanks out to OVARC group for the upgrade.

Amateur Radio Testing:

The Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club and WCARS are holding testing at the Warrick County EOC. The testing will be on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The first session of testing took place on April 13th. The testing applicant passed and his upgrade was posted in the ULS by noon on Monday. Congratulations to both the testing team and the new General operator.

Chris L Owen (KC9CLO)
Public Information Officer
Warrick County ARES/RACES group

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

May

1 KB9YWQ
8 WB9KQF
15 KC9TYA
22 KE9YK
29 KC9UVG

June

5 N9QVQ
12 KB9YWQ
19 WB9KQF
26 KC9TYA

Hamfest Calendar

05/17/2019 | [2019 ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention®](#)

06/01/2019 | [Princeton KY Hamfest](#)

07/12/2019 | [Indianapolis Hamfest](#)

08/17/2019 | [Alabama State Convention, Huntsville Hamfest](#)

09/07/2019 | [Greater Louisville Hamfest 2019](#)

10/05/2019 | [8th Annual Vette City Hamfest](#)

10/26/2019 | [Hamtober Fest](#)

Location:

Lynnville Community Center
416 West Street, Road 68, IN-68
Lynnville, IN 47619

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>

Sponsor: Tri-State Amateur Radio Society - TARS

Talk-In: 146.790 (PL 88.5)

Public Contact: Dennis Martin , WA2USA

5577 Victoria Court Newburgh, IN 47630

Phone: 812-598-8333

Email: wa2usa.ham@gmail.com



If you are attending an area Hamfest, fliers are available to distribute. Contact: Dennis WA2USA

VE Testing

2019 Schedule

Jan-26	Feb-23
Mar No TEST	Apr-27
May 25	Jun 29
Jul 27	Aug 31
Sep 28	Oct 26
Nov No TEST	Dec 28



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.

All the details can be found at:

<http://w9og.net/ve-testing>

Or for more info contact:

[John VanVorst N9OL](#) c: 812.305.4100



Club Code Key Contest

This contest is a **just for fun** event and will have certificates awarded for various categories.

Judging will happen in the time between the meeting program and the business meeting.

A code oscillator will be set up to check the operation of the keys.

The fun started in March and the next installment will be at the **May 9th** meeting with **PADDLE KEY** competition.

The rules have been kept simple.

- You must have built the key **YOURSELF**.
- It may be a KIT or Homebrewed.
- It must **WORK**.

The schedule is.

May - Paddle Key

July - Bug or Cootie Key

September - MacGyver Key / Rube Goldberg Key



Even if you don't work CW, this can be a fun contest just to get everyone up and doing something. Perhaps we could even get a CW learning net on the air and put them to use.

Winner of the March home brew straight key was Dennis WA2USA for his key made out of a hacksaw blade.

The Most unique key went to John N9oL for his key made from a microphone!

Best MacGyver key went to Jeff AA9WJ for his key made from a staple remover.

May Birthdays

Michael Brewster	KC9BUH	29th
Danielle Day	KC9YIL	26th
Richard Hockensmith	N9OPS	11th
Rick Neukam	KD9MY	19th

Secretary Report

The secretary reports were attached as separate attachments with this SPARKS mailing.

Treasurer Report

Budget:

March 2019 (prepared 4/1/19)

Opening Balance: \$4,452.28

Receipts:

VE Room Rental \$35.00

Memberships and extra donations \$157.50

Total Receipts --->> \$192.50

Expenditures:

Pd KC9TYA for banquet plaque, gavel and INQP park reservations (\$147.40)

Pd KC9TYA for yardbarn shelves (\$66.11)

Pd W9KHP for Hamtoberfest web domains (\$24.00)

Banquet reservations and dues refunds (\$51.50)

NIDXA QSL Bureau envelopes for W9OG (\$10.56)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$299.57)

Ending Balance \$4,345.21

Red Cross Account \$1,122.82

Jeff Holt AA9WJ

TARS Treasurer

Amateur Radio Resources

Dave KC9UVG ask everyone at the Aug meeting for ideas on Amateur Radio Resources that we could publish for anyone looking for information.

If you have any suggestions send them to sparks@w9og.net.

Books:

The Man Who Caught the Storm by Brantley Hargrove:

The life of legendary tornado chaser Tim Samaras, 2018. EVPL Call # 921 SAMAR HARG

Facebook Magazines NASA Tech Briefs – www.techbriefs.com

Nuts & Volts www.nutsvolts.com and at Barnes & Noble

Podcast:

Neil Rapp WB9VPG – Ham Talk Live!

www.neilrapp.com/hamtalklive

Ham Radio Workbench – www.hamradioworkbench.com

Amateur Radio Newsline – www.arnewsline.org

W5kub Live ham show every Tuesday night 8:00 PM Central Time (0200 UTC Wed) - www.w5kub.com

Looking Ahead

2019

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June

Field Day June 22-23

13 Colonies Special Event Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z

National Night Out Aug 6

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) Third full weekend of August 16-17

Route 66 Special Event September 7-15

Jamboree-on-the-Air Third full weekend in October

SKYWARN Recognition Day Dec 7 2019

2020

Straight Key Night Jan

ARRL Kids Day Jan

Winter Field Day January

TARS Banquet Feb

INQP May

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club
ARRL [Indiana Section](#)
Section Manager: **Jimmy Merry KC9RPX**
kc9rpx@arrl.net



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

2019 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Board of Directors

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

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

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2019)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](#) (2019-2020)

[Dennis Martin WA2USA](#) (2019-2020)

[Mike Townsend W9KXP](#) (2019-2020)

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