

# SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

December 2019 - Issue No. 12



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.

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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](http://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.

## President's Corner

Wow, 2019 went by in a flash! Here it is December again, with Christmas just around the corner. I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year in 2020.

But 2019 isn't over yet!!! Our next meeting will be a fun one. It is show and tell night for go-kits. If you have put together a go kit, portable station setup, or something along those lines please bring it to the December TARS meeting on December 11 7PM at the Evansville Red Cross. I know some of you have put together some nice portable setups and I'm looking forward to seeing them and stealing some great ideas Hi Hi. So let's close out 2019 with a great meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Winter field day is coming up in January- I hope you are planning to join us as TARS braves the elements again and operates on Winter Field Day! It is always a great time.

Speaking of Field Day, the summer variety, the scores have been tabulated and TARS once again did very well. This past June we operated as class 3F (3 transmitters, and class F is operations at an EOC. The Red Cross qualifies as an EOC). Out of 52 entries in class 3F TARS placed 4<sup>th</sup>! And out of 187 class F entries TARS placed 15<sup>th</sup>. Not bad at all. AND we had a great time, experienced a nice little storm blowing through at 2am, and exchanged lots of stories!

Lastly, I must say a huge THANK YOU to all who came out to Hamtoberfest in October. It was a fantastic success and lots of fun. I want to especially thank Dennis WA2USA Dennis for being chairman of the event and thank you to all who helped pull it off.

Let's start planning for next year!!

Have a great December and fabulous Christmas. See you at the meeting!!

*John N9oL*

## Field Day 2019 Results

Congratulations TARS on a 4<sup>th</sup> place showing for class 3F in the ARRL 2019 Field Day.

Complete results can be found at <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2019/Field-Day-2019-FinalQSTResults.pdf>

As you can see in the results we have a good shot at 1<sup>st</sup> place if we can get more support operators during the event. Everyone at any skill level can contribute in some way.

Let's shoot for 1<sup>st</sup> place in 2020.

**3F**  
Alamance ARC  
K4EG  
(+W4VZ) 1,319 2 30 5,934 NC  
River Bend Wireless Ops Club  
W9XG 1,552 2 44 5,796 IL  
Mansfield-Johnson AR Svc  
KN5TX  
(+WA5JRS) 1,147 2 60 5,360 NTX  
Tri-State ARS  
W9OG  
(+N9OL) 1,263 2 25 5,344 IN  
Williamson Co. (TN) ARES  
N4FR  
(+W4SQD) 1,313 2 101 4,964 TN



## December Go-Box Show and Tell

For the December meeting you are invited to bring your Go-Box, whether finished, in the process or just collecting bits and pieces to assemble. Let's all share ideas on the process of an ultimate go-kit built to meet your needs.

## It's DUES time!

Attached with this issue of SPARKS should have been a 2020 membership application. TARS dues run with the calendar year and come due in January. You may pay at the December or January meeting or mail to the club P.O. Box address on the membership application.

## TARS Annual Banquet Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30

Our annual banquet meeting will be held on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 at Stoll's Country Inn buffet. Stoll's is located at 19820 Castle Creek Drive, off Hwy 41 just south of Interstate 64. [\[MAP\]](#)

Please note the date as this meeting is a week earlier than normal to keep from conflicting with Valentine Day. **Gathering will start at 5:30, eat at 5:45 followed with a short meeting and award presentation.**

*TARS member cost will be \$7.00 if 2020 dues are paid and reservations are made at the December/January membership meeting, or no later than Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>. Full price otherwise.*

**If paying for dues and reservations by check, separate checks should be written for dues and reservations.**

A Reservation Form is attached with this SPARKS mailer.

## TARS GOOGLE Club Calendar

We now have a Google calendar for TARS events. Depending on the calendar app used on your phone or computer you should be able to integrate this calendar into your own personal calendar.

[Google web browser link to TARS calendar](#)

You can add to your calendar by clicking add calendar in the lower right hand corner.

Third-party apps that have access to Google calendars should also be able access the calendar.

## Eat'n Before the Meet'n

**Eat'n Before the Meet'n, Dec 12th** is at Zaxby's 1021 N Burkhardt Rd, Evansville, 5:30 pm.

Come out and join us for good food, fun and fellowship before the meeting. We will leave with plenty of time to make the meeting.



Looking ahead, Jan - CiCi's.

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

## HamtoberFest October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Report

A well-deserved thank you goes out to the club members and non-club members who participated on the day of our successful hamfest. The weather could have been better but regardless we had a good turnout between drizzling rain and occasional downpours. The rough headcount of attendees numbered between 100 and 125.

A special thank you goes to the Lynnville Fire Department for allowing us to use their office facility for VE license examinations and for the usage of 8 additional 8 foot tables. Of the 8 we sold 7. We were fortunate again this year to use Diana's Cuts, the local beauty salon next door to the Community Center for overflow parking. Having this extra parking space was very beneficial and will be even more important to free up space for a flea market when the weather cooperates!

This year we provided free coffee, biscuits, gravy and donuts, which seemed to work out well. Certainly something to consider doing again!

Another first was our Raffle, the opportunity to win a Yaesu FTM-400dxr radio, which turned out to be a nice money maker.

We had five vendors this year, three more than last year.

Walker Communications – Madisonville Kentucky

Dit&Dash – Near Chicago Illinois

RF Headquarters – Ferdinand Indiana

All Things Electronic – Evansville Indiana

Silver Needle Embroidery – Illinois

Between the vendors and local amateurs we sold a total of 39 tables. The Community Center stores 32 tables so the extra tables we sold was a combination of tables from the Fire Department as stated earlier and the Community Center tables that were freed up when five CLUB tables were brought from our storage shed at the Red Cross Center. The extra tables from the storage shed were used for the club's setup at the main entrance to sell equipment donated to the club, to sell raffle tickets and to sign-in and register attendees for door prizes.

A BIG thank you to the members and nonmembers who donated equipment to sell at the hamfest on behalf of the club. It was a success and something worth considering at a future event. Another BIG thank you to those who were generous with their financial support. With support like this how could we not come away with a successful hamfest?

I'd like to extend a thank you to those who participated in advertising our event. Advertising with the ARRL is only one means to get the word out. We took advantage of our Facebook Page, our W9OG web page in addition to our customized HamtoberFest web page and Flyer to spread the word. Additionally, 30 mailings with our Flyer were sent to local Amateur Radio Clubs within the Tri-State Area and a Flyer was electronically sent to Jimmy Merry KC9RPX, the Indiana Section Manager for inclusion in his Newsletter.

Once again our club was fortunate to have the Warrick County EMA trailer as this year's event. The Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club has done an excellent job renovating their trailer complete with lights, table, shelves and cabinets. Thanks you for being a part of our Hamfest.

A big thank you to those who helped with setup prior to the hamfest and cleanup afterwards. Setting up tables and taking down tables, mopping the floor and taking out the garbage is no small matter. Being good stewards of the Lynnville Community Center guaranteed our club the reimbursement for cleaning fees, if we left the facility the way we found it, CLEAN and an invitation to come back next year.

In conclusion I'd like to ask, did we realize all we set out to do? What did we learn and where do we go from here? Do we want to grow and if so how? What aspects of the hamfest can we improve on? Financially we were a success and I encourage anyone interested to review the Treasurer's Hamfest report in this month's Sparks Newsletter.

Dennis WA2USA, 2019 HamtoberFest Chairman

## Winter Field Day

TARS will be participating in Winter Field Day on January 25th, Wesselman Park 10:00 am set up and contest start at 1pm (1900 UTC). Chris KE9YK will have his almost world famous bean soup and cornbread at NOON. You are welcome to bring any side dish to share for lunch and deserts are always welcome.

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

**Most importantly, come out and enjoy the FUN!**



## 2020 TARS Officers and Board

Congratulations on the election of our Officers and Board members for 2020.

President            John Van Vorst N9OL  
Vice-President    Max Wilkinson KD9ABT  
Treasurer         Jeff Holt AA9WJ  
Secretary         Dave Sandine KC9UVG  
Board Members  
                          Don Land KB9YWQ (2020-2021)  
                          Herby Alvey KB9MZH (2020-2021)

We are still short 1 Board member at this time. If you have been a TARS member for at least 1 full year and would be interested in serving your club in a board member capacity, please contact a club officer for further information.

## ARRL New Online Forums

ARRL's Committee on Communication with ARRL Members has opened new online forums where all radio amateurs — **ARRL members and non-members alike** — can discuss issues and topics in two-way conversation with ARRL leadership. The new groups are aimed at enhancing communication among ARRL leadership, staff, members, and prospective members, in a manner that enables timely updates and collegial discussion.

This project was based on the success over the past several years of the ARRL-LoTW (Logbook of The World) Group in responding to Amateur Radio operators' questions and generating discussion on ways to improve that program. "The LoTW initiative has clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of online Groups as a means of achieving the desired interaction," ARRL said in announcing the new groups.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-creates-new-online-groups-for-members-to-communicate-with-leadership>

## Visual explanation of SWR and matching

Here is a great [video](#) explaining SWR and impedance matching. The visual representation is great in this old teaching video.

On an elementary conceptual level, this film reflects the multifaceted scientific hyperthinking that was typical of a Bell Labs approach. Dr. J.N. Shive of Bell Labs demonstrates and discusses the following aspects of wave behavior:

Reflection of waves from free and clamped ends  
Superposition Standing waves and resonance Energy loss by impedance mismatching  
Reduction of energy loss by quarter-wave and tapered-section transformers

Produced at Bell Labs Footage courtesy of AT&T Archives and History Center, Warren, NJ

[Similarities of Wave Behavior \(Bonus Edition\)](#)

## 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

### December

4 KB9YWQ  
11 WB9KQF  
18 KE9YK  
25 KC9TYA

### January

1 KC9UVG  
8 N9QVQ  
15 KB9YWQ  
22 WB9KQF  
29 KE9YK

### February

5 KC9TYA  
12 KC9UVG  
19 N9QVQ  
26 KB9YWQ

If you would like to be a Net Control Operator for the Wednesday Night Net or learn how to run a SKYWARN net.

Contact: [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](#).

## VE Testing

### 2019 Schedule

Jan-26	Feb-23
Mar- <b>No-TEST</b>	Apr-27
May-25	Jun-29
Jul-27	Aug-31
Sep-28	Oct-26 at <b>HAMTOBER Fest*</b>
Nov- <b>No-TEST</b>	Dec-28

### 2020 schedule coming soon!

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 N9QL](#) c: 812.305.4100



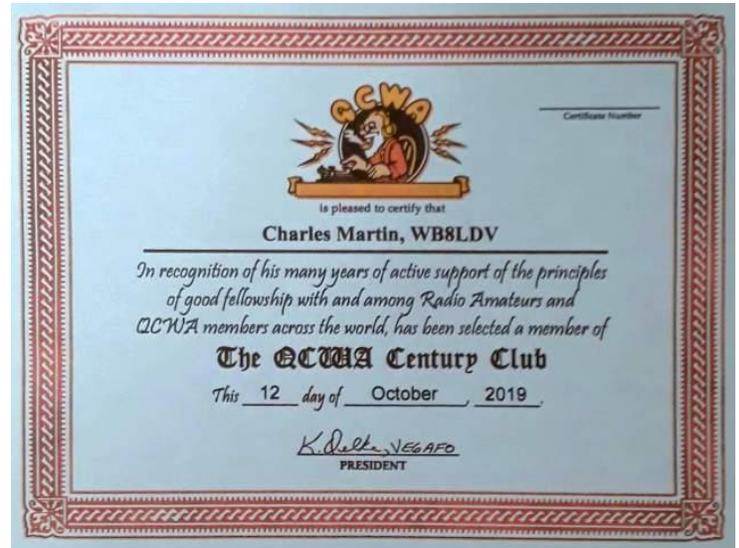
## December Birthdays

Herbert Alvey	KB9MZH	12th
Andy Barnes	W5KZJ	23rd
Allan Dale	W9ZPP	23rd
Gene R. Flick	KC9SYL	25th
Terry Hammers	N9XXH	5th
Robert Kissel	K9BKL	26th
John Marley	WB9EFH	20th
John Van Vorst	N9OL	9th
Don Wade	W9ADE	13th



## Brag Rag

Charlie WB8LDV received his Century Club Certificate - This certificate is issued to QCWA members whose age, when added to their number of years as a QCWA member totals 100 or more.



## What have you been doing?

Do you have something you would like to submit for the Brag Rag? Send your QSLs, special event certificates, awards, interesting photos, projects etc. to [sparks@w9og.net](mailto:sparks@w9og.net) to have them included in **your** newsletter.

## Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting will not be until **January 16th**, 7:00 pm at the Vanderburgh Co. West Side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1440 Harmony Way](#).



At the November meeting we installed a Yaesu FTM 400XDR in the West side EMA radio room. We now have dual band and Yaesu Fusion digital capabilities from that location. Currently we are working on the ARES standardized training plan Individual Task Book and working to update our ICS-217 file to create a recommended radio programming list for Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES members.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK  
 Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer  
[in82races@gmail.com](mailto:in82races@gmail.com) c: 812.453.1972

### ARES Resources

- [Download the ARES Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Field Resources Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Fillable PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Word\]](#)
- [ARES Plan](#)
- [ARES Group Registration](#)
- [Emergency Communications Training](#)

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

How to Get Involved in ARES: Fill out the [ARES Registration form](#) and submit it to your local Emergency Coordinator.



### Treasurer Report

October 2019 (prepared 10/31/19)

Opening Balance:	\$3,626.27
Receipts:	
Indiana Farmers insurance refund	\$26.00
Hamtoberfest income	\$2,041.96

Total Receipts --->>	\$2,067.96
Expenditures:	
Pd Jeff AA9WJ for picnic chicken	(\$61.55)
Total Expenditures---->>	(\$61.55)
Ending Balance	\$5,632.68
Red Cross balance	\$1,255.82
TARS Treasurer	
Jeff AA9WJ	

### 2019 Hamtoberfest Profit/Loss Statement

#### INCOME

Food donation total.....	\$180.96
Registration donation total.....	\$241.00
Table rental total.....	\$380.00
Raffle ticket sales total.....	\$730.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$1,531.96</b>

#### EXPENSES

FTM-400xdr raffle radio.....	\$395.00
Community Center rental.....	\$225.00
Flyer postage.....	\$18.70
Hamtoberfest web domains...	\$24.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>(\$662.70)</b>

**TOTAL PROFIT..... \$869.26**

TARS EQUIPMENT SALES.....	\$575.00
<b>TOTAL EVENT PROFIT.....</b>	<b>\$1,444.26</b>

Notes:

Report assumes no income or expenses from VE testing.

#### ESTIMATED NON-CASH DONATIONS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES

Food, water, donuts and coffee.....	\$70.00
Flyer paper.....	\$10.00
Ticket stock and printing.....	\$40.00
Gift certificates.....	\$140.00

**Thanks to everyone who donated time, money and items!!** TARS Treasurer  
 Jeff AA9WJ

### Secretary Report

The secretary reports were attached as separate attachments with this SPARKS mailing.  
 Dave Sandine KC9UVG

## Amateur Radio Resources

Dave KC9UVG ask everyone at the Aug 2018 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](mailto: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](http://www.techbriefs.com)

Nuts & Volts [www.nutsvolts.com](http://www.nutsvolts.com) and at Barnes & Noble

### Antennas:

<https://archive.org/details/SimpleLowCostWireAntennasForRadioAmateurs>

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/basicantennas.pdf>

<http://www.antentop.org/w4rnl.001/radio.html>

### Podcast:

Neil Rapp WB9VPG – Ham Talk Live!

[www.neilrapp.com/hamtalklive](http://www.neilrapp.com/hamtalklive)

Ham Radio Workbench – [www.hamradioworkbench.com](http://www.hamradioworkbench.com)

Amateur Radio Newslines – [www.arnewslines.org](http://www.arnewslines.org)

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

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**Most any document format is acceptable.**

**Photos or graphics of your subject are welcome.**

**Send your article to: [sparks@w9og.net](mailto:sparks@w9og.net)**

## Looking Ahead

### 2019

SKYWARN Recognition Day, Dec 7 2019

### 2020

Straight Key Night Jan

**TARS AUCTION January 9th**

ARRL Kids Day Jan

**Winter Field Day January 25/26 2020**

**TARS Banquet Feb 6<sup>th</sup> [pending]**

**INQP 1600Z, May 2 to 0400Z, May 3, 2020**

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June

**Field Day June**

13 Colonies Special Event July

National Night Out first Tuesday of August

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) third full weekend of August

Route 66 Special Event September

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

**TARS 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Hamtober Fest Oct 2020**

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

TARS is an [ARRL](http://www.arrl.org) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](http://www.arrl.org)

Section Manager: **Jimmy Merry KC9RPX**

[kc9rpx@arrl.net](mailto: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](http://www.w9og.net)**

**Facebook Group**

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

**TARS E-mail: [info@w9og.net](mailto:info@w9og.net)**

## 2019 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9QL](mailto:John.VanVorst@n9ql.com)

Vice President [Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](mailto:Max.Wilkinson@kd9abt.com)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](mailto:Jeff.Holt@aa9wj.com)

Secretary [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](mailto:Dave.Sandine@kc9uvg.com)

**Board of Directors**

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](mailto:Mark.Thienes@kc9tya.com) (2018-2019)

[Len Schmitt N9QVQ](mailto:Len.Schmitt@n9qvq.com) (2018-2019)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](mailto:Herb.Alvey@kb9mzh.com) (2019)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](mailto:Rick.Jackson@k9exy.com) (2019-2020)

[Dennis Martin WA2USA](mailto:Dennis.Martin@wa2usa.com) (2019-2020)

[Mike Townsend W9KXP](mailto:Mike.Townsend@w9kxp.com) (2019-2020)

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