

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

June 2020 - Issue No. 6



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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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.

Field Day 2020, the Covid Edition

This year, due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 virus, the board has voted for all members to operate separately. ARRL has recently issued rule changes that allow operators to individually as 1B, 1C, 1D or 1E and input their club affiliation when sending in their scores. For this year, ARRL will have a new category whereby all the individual scores will be lumped under a club total and, just like in the past, we can see how our club ranks with other clubs.

For those members who would still like to go to a park or other location with other hams, you can. Under the new rules, each ham would just log their individual scores, then, when filling out the data for submission, just make sure that " **TARS W9OG** " is listed as your club affiliation. Under that category, each participant would be operating as 1B.

Other categories include:

1C – Mobile operation

1D – Home QTH. This year a temporary change has been made so that 1D stations may contact as many other 1D stations as they can

1E – Home QTH under emergency power.

I believe that this is a good change that will allow members to participate in Field Day without the concern of social distancing. It also opens the door for more members to participate. Many club members already have limited mobility and this way they can participate in Field Day without leaving home. Others have commitments on the weekend but may be able to squeeze in one or more contacts sometime during the day.

Every contact counts! No worries about duplicate contacts! No need to wear a mask or wander around looking for the bathroom! You can even match your snacks with your favorite beverage!

Remember, every point that your station earns is added to the club's cumulative score, so everyone is pulling together to reach a common goal.

To make things more interesting, this year the club will be awarding prizes for the following categories:

- ARRL 2020 Handbook paperback edition for the highest overall score –
- ARRL Field Day 2020 Hat & Pin combos to the most contacts for
 - SSB
 - Digital
 - CW

Note, only one prize/member, i.e. if the top scorer also had the most SSB contacts, then the prize for SSB would go the second highest total.

For those of you who are new to logging, here are a couple of easy programs.

N3FJP – Scott has a suite of software logging programs to choose from, the package for Field Day is \$8.99 for those who don't already own the entire suite(\$49.00).

N1MM – Free software, a lot of features

Both packages have demonstrations on YouTube for comparison. Whichever program you choose, just remember to include the club name “**TARS W9OG**” in the submission.

This year for Field Day, let's make the best of a difficult situation, make a lot of contacts and have fun!

Dave KC9UVG Field Day Chairman

FD entry info from Scott N3FJP

You will each operate under your own call. You will **NOT** combine your logs. Aside from agreeing on a club name, there is no need to coordinate your submission with the rest of your club. Just submit your entry as detailed here:

<http://www.n3fjp.com/faq.html#q68>

When you go to <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php> to submit your log, you will see a Club or Group Name field. Enter your club's name **exactly** as your club has specified. ARRL will combine everyone's score within your club and report your grand total when they publish the 2020 Field Day results.

Let's get creative this year on Field Day

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Since many of us are still hunkering down, and that doesn't look like it's going to change much by the end of June, Field Day is going to be a lot different this year. Our club has cancelled our club event, and I'm really going to miss helping newcomers operate the GOTA station, the food, and all the camaraderie. That doesn't mean that Field Day can't still be fun, though. Let's get creative! First, note that the ARRL has modified the Field Day rules for this year. The biggest change is that Class D stations, that is home stations using commercial power, can now work other Class D stations for points. Previously, this wasn't allowed.

The second change is that the ARRL will publish aggregate club scores this year. In previous years, this was only done for Class A and Class F entries. Remember, though, Field Day isn't a contest (yeah, right!).

Personally, I plan to operate 1B-Battery. I'm going to set up my KX3 on the front deck and power it with a LiFePo battery charged by a recently-acquired solar panel to get the 100 point bonus for alternate power. For an antenna, I plan to set up my 20m/40m fan inverted-V "GOTA antenna" in the front yard.



I'm going to shoot for other bonus points, too:

- copy the bulletin—no brainer.
- promote my location on social media—I am going to get on NextDoor and invite neighbors over to watch from an acceptable “social distance.”
- put some literature down at the bottom of the hill near the street and claim a public information table.
- send a press release to the local online paper and claim a media publicity credit.
- perhaps get someone under 20 to come and operate while I coach from an acceptable “social distance.”

If Class B isn't your cup of tea, check out the presentation, "Field Day and Social Distancing," [Click here for link](#) by Anthony, K8ZT. It has a lot of great ideas, including ideas on how to operate mobile (Class C).

Field Day doesn't have to be a downer this year. Get creative and have some fun.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to enjoy Field Day, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

Sweet Offer

The LST325 has a vintage 1920's era Atwater-Kent receiver.

It is of no value to the ship.

We would be glad to donate it to a club member that might be into restoring things like this.

That doesn't mean we donate it and they turn around and sell it for profit.

Let me know if interested.

Bob Pointer N9XAW

lst325radio@gmail.com

Researching info on Blanche Elpers KA9EIV

First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is Sandra Herr and I am currently researching and writing a book about a group of women all from the St. Theresa Parish in Evansville, Indiana. All of the 8 women that I am featuring in my book have died, the most recent was in 2012.

One of the women that I am writing about is Blanche Elpers. According to my research, Blanche was an active member of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society. According to her obituary, Blanche held various offices in this organization and was recognized for her many achievements. I actually lived down the street from Blanche when I lived in Indiana. I remember her having her amateur radio setup in her basement.

The reason that I am writing to your organization is to request assistance in my research on Blanche Elpers. If any of your current members remember Blanche, could they send me an email and any words that they would like to share about her. I don't know when Blanche was a member but she was born in 1919 and died in 2010. I would guess that maybe she was involved in the group from the 1950's - 1980's.

Thanks you in advance for any assistance or information that you can provide.

Sincerely,
Sandra Herr
1007 S. Butte Crest Circle
Payson, AZ 85541
602-524-4957

Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin Section Manager Election Results Announced

QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 15 ARLB015

Three incumbent ARRL Section Managers were returned to office, while one challenger outpolled an incumbent Section Manager (SM) in contested elections this spring. Section Manager ballots were counted on Monday, June 1, at ARRL Headquarters. Three other incumbent Section Managers were unopposed and will continue with new terms of office, while one candidate was declared elected as the only nominee for the volunteer position.

In Indiana, incumbent SM Jimmy Merry, KC9RPX, was re-elected with 515 votes to 384 for his challenger Brian Jenks, W9BGJ, of Fort Wayne. Merry, of Ellettsville, has been Section Manager since July 2018.

In Illinois, incumbent SM Ron Morgan, AD9I, edged out a win over two challengers. Morgan received 605 votes, while Thomas Beebe, W9RY, garnered 600 votes, and Scott DeSantis, KB9VRW, of Crystal Lake, picked up 288 votes. Morgan, of East Peoria, has been Illinois Section Manager since February 2017.

All new terms of office begin on July 1.

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.

We are currently running the net on Mon-Wed-Fri night at 8pm due to the Covid-19 Lockdown. This net will run till the end of June and will be reevaluated at that time.

Net Operator schedule

June

3	KE9YK
10	KC9TYA
17	KC9UVG
24	N9QVQ

July

1	KB9YWQ
8	WB9KQF
15	KE9YK
24	KC9TYA
29	KC9UVG

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](#).



The SKYWARN Spotter classes for spring have all been completed but the NWS is currently offering MiniCourses.

You can check out the current listing at this link:

<https://www.weather.gov/pah/NWSMiniCourses>



NWS MINI COURSE:
A GUIDE TO BASIC RADAR PRODUCTS USING RADAR APPS
MONDAY JUNE 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm CDT
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
(If postponed due to severe weather – makeup date is June 22nd)

Offered by the National Weather Service Paducah KY

VE Testing 2020 schedule

ATTENTION!!!

Since it will be some time before we are able to resume testing at the Red Cross facility, we are currently working on finalizing a location for the June 27th testing.

Check the TARS website www.w9og.net for info coming soon.

~~Apr 25, May 30, Jun 27, Jul 25,~~
~~Aug 29, Sep 26, Dec 5~~

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



Reminder the current Extra class (Element 4) **Question Pool** is valid until **June 30, 2020**. After that date you will need to update your study material.



Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

All Vanderburgh Co ARES/RACES in person meetings are canceled until this COVID-19 emergency has passed. Next Thursday 6/18 we will hold a ZOOM meeting. Watch your email for details.



On May 30th, Vanderburgh County Auxcomm participated in a nationwide communications drill with the Red Cross. The scenario was a partially successful cyber terrorist attack on the national power grid combined with the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the drill we simulated setting up voice and packet stations to pass traffic and Red Cross forms using tactical call signs to signify each participant's location.

We want to thank those Vanderburgh County Auxcomm members and Warrick County ARES/RACES folks who contributed many hours preparing for and participating in this drill. As always, each drill is a chance to learn, and we found out a few things in the process.

Thanks again to our volunteers who participated - WB9YIG, KE9YK, KC9TYA, K9EXY, N9OL, K9SRC, KC9JOV, KF4LXS and to N9WJ who trained but couldn't participate. Special thanks to KC9TYA Mark and Dave WB9YIG, who helped run the voice nets and assist with data collection after the national part of the drill where we acted as the Divisional Clearinghouse, with over 55 hams from 9 states and about 70 Red Cross forms transmitted to the national team putting on the event.

Interest in using packet radio for EMCOMMs continues to grow, with at least 4 more people joining in the fun since the exercise.

Next Thursday night June 18th our Vanderburgh County Auxcomm group will be holding a virtual "Zoom" meeting at 7pm. If you are interested in Emergency Communications and would like to participate, contact Len N9QVQ

len.n9qvq@gmail.com or Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Len N9QVQ

Vanderburgh Co ARES EC

812-963-0027

HAMFEST Calendar

2020 Indiana Hamfest Schedule:

Updated May 12, 2020

August 8 – Angola Hamfest

Gateway Community Church – Angola, IN

August 15 - East Central Indiana Hamfest

Randolph County Fairgrounds - Winchester, IN

TARS Hamfest

Plans are still a go for Hamtober Fest 2020



John N9OL is the chairman this year and will be soon looking for commitments to help with this club event.

October 17 – Hamtober Fest
Lynnville, IN

<http://hamtoberfest.com/>

November 7, 2020 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest
Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds - Bedford, IN
just off of US-50, west of SR-37

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

ARRL Central Division Convention

November 14 - 15, 2020 – Ft Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo
Allen Co War Memorial Coliseum

Ft. Wayne, IN

<http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

November 28 - Wabash Valley ARA Turkey Fest
Clay Co. Fairgrounds - Brazil, IN

www.w9uuu.org

Search the ARRL hamfest calendar for upcoming hamfests :

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

The 2020 Huntsville Hamfest has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event's Board of Directors has announced. The Huntsville Hamfest was sanctioned as the 2020 ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. Full refunds to prepaid commercial and flea market vendors will be processed via the mode in which payment was made. Online ticket purchases will be credited to PayPal accounts. Embassy Suite Hotel reservations only will be automatically canceled. -- *Thanks to Hamfest Chairman Mark Brown, N4BCD*

June Birthdays!!!

Wendy Hibbs	KC9EOU	12th
Rick Jackson	K9EXY	13th
Debbie Julian	KB9AXD	1st
Dave Julian	WB9YIG	10th
Chris Lantaff	KE9YK	9th
Jerry McIntosh	WB9ONU	5th
Mervin Nolt	N9AFC	13th
Susie Schmitt	KC9BLZ	30th



Secretary Report

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

Dave Sandine KC9UVG

Treasurer Report

Budget:

April 2020 (prepared 5/4/2020)

Opening Balance: \$6,137.99

Receipts:

Memberships \$25.00

Total Receipts --->> \$25.00

Expenditures:

Lynnville repeater project (\$1,717.00)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$1,717.00)

Ending Balance \$4,445.99

Red Cross funds \$1,283.82

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

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

Looking Ahead

2020

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June

Field Day June 27, 28

13 Colonies Special Event July

National Night Out first Tuesday of August

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

TARS PICNIC Sep 12

Route 66 Special Event September

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

TARS 3rd annual Hamtober Fest Oct 17th 2020

SKYWARN Recognition Day, Dec

2021

Straight Key Night Jan

TARS AUCTION January

ARRL Kids Day Jan

Winter Field Day January

TARS Banquet Feb 6th

INQP 2021

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

2020 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Board of Directors

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

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

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

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2020-2021)

[Don Land KB9YWQ](#) (2020-2021)

[Chris Matthews N9JCA](#) (2020-2021)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

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