

# SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

November 2020 - Issue No. 11



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](mailto: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](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 contact one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter or email [info@w9og.net](mailto:info@w9og.net).

## Officer Elections

### Congratulations to our Officers elect for 2021.

PRESIDENT	John Van Vorst	N9OL
VICE-PRESIDENT	Dennis Martin	WA2USA
Treasurer	Jeff Holt	AA9WJ
Secretary	Dave Sandine	KC9UVG

### Board Members (2021-2022)

Mike Townsend	W9KXP
Scott Hibbs	KD4SIR
Charlie Martin	WB8LDV

The new officers will take office in January.

TARS is looking for meeting ideas where we can meet and still have social distancing. If you have any ideas you would like to have considered, please let us know.

Or if you have any ideas for a meeting program that would work well on a ZOOM meeting, please share that with us also. Contact us with an email to: [INFO@w9og.net](mailto:INFO@w9og.net)

Would you like to serve YOUR club as a board member?

TARS will be holding a special election to fill the remaining term of Chris N9JCA.

Chris is stepping down because of his current work schedule and his term runs through 2021.

We will be seeking someone to fill this spot and if YOU are interested contact us with an email to: [INFO@w9og.net](mailto:INFO@w9og.net)

Winter Field Day will be here before you know it. January 30/31, 2021 Winter FD has made an aggerate club competition like the ARRL FD do to the covid-19 pandemic.

Now would be the time to start discussing how TARS wants to handle WFD this year.



due

## SKYWARN Recognition Day

December 5, 2020 from 0000z to 2400z



SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that SKYWARN™ volunteers make to the NWS mission, the protection of life and property. Amateur radio operators comprise a large percentage of the SKYWARN™ volunteers across the country. The Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency management if normal communications become inoperative. During the SKYWARN™ Special Event operators will visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

Radio amateurs who wish to participate may sign up for a SKYWARN Recognition Day number by completing the form found on the SRD 2020 website. During the event, operators are encouraged to exchange their name, QTH, SRD number, and current weather conditions with other participating stations. See the event website for the full operating guidelines.

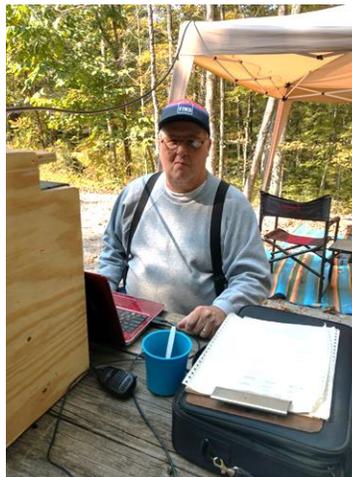
<https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>

## Camp Host and POTA

By Jerry McIntosh - WB9ONU

Camp host job started on September 17, 2020. Being a camp host means you clean firepits, pick up trash around the campgrounds, sometimes restrooms, compliance checks, and greet campers. So is it worth being a camp host? The main thing is I worked 16 hours for free camping, electric, water, and sewer connection. Then there are some weeks I need to do overtime with an extra 10 hours with pay. So that gives me time to do whatever I want like fishing, hiking, and of course amateur radio.

So, I had a Yaesu FT897D, DC power supply, coax, Signalink usb, cables, laptop, and Yaesu Atas 120A. To start with I placed the antenna of top of a 16ft pipe that I have attach to my camper. So the day came where I had time to setup the station outside on a picnic table at the campsite. I started to send CQ and making some contacts. When the camp manager came by and was



wondering what I was doing. This is where it gets interesting. I was at a Hoosier National Forest at Tipsaw Recreational Area. This park is and isn't and is ran by the Forest Ranger. This park and there are many more that are ran by the Concessionaire that hire a park manager which hire the camp host. So, there are rules by the Concessionaire that you have to follow that may not be the same rules as the Forest Ranger.

So, would I be a camp host again yes. What have I learned, it is sometimes better to setup and start operating and ask forgiveness later when confronted by a camp manager or a forest ranger. Also be like a scout try not to disturb nature and the public that are camping or enjoying the park. Then there should be no problem. So be listening on the air because I will be at Ocean Pond Campground in Osceola National Forest K-4472 from middle of November to end of May. It's the best of my hobbies.



## 2020 Field Day – Results Now Posted

Field Day results are published in the December 2020 issue of QST that will be arriving in your mailbox this week. For the complete 2020 Field Day results article, see the December edition of QST view here

<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2020/Field-Day-2020-FinalQSTResults.pdf>

View the line score

<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2020/Field-Day-2020-FinalLineScores.pdf>

## ARRL Urges Members to Join in Strongly Opposing FCC's Application Fees Proposal

ARRL will file comments in firm opposition to an FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees. With the **November 16 comment deadline** fast approaching, ARRL urges members to add their voices to ARRL's by filing opposition comments of their own. The FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) MD Docket 20-270 appeared in the October 15 edition of The Federal Register and sets deadlines of November 16 to comment and November 30 to post reply comments, which are comments on comments already filed.

The NPRM can be found online at, <https://tinyurl.com/yyk8f2yp>.

ARRL has prepared a Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC which includes tips for preparing comments and step-by-step filing instructions. File comments on MD Docket 20-270 using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). The instructions can be found online at, <http://www.arrl.org/FCC-Fees-Proposal>.

**Under the proposal, amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio application for new licenses, license renewals, upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. The FCC also has proposed a \$50 fee to obtain a printed copy of a license.** Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees. Amateur Service licensees have been exempt from application fees for several years.

The FCC proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 - the so-called "Ray Baum's Act." The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its NPRM, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees. The FCC proposal affects all FCC services and does not single out amateur radio.

ARRL is encouraging members to file comments that stress amateur radio's contributions to the country and communities. ARRL's Guide to Filing Comments includes "talking points" that may be helpful in preparing comments. These stress amateur radio's role in volunteering communication support during disasters and emergencies, and inspiring students to pursue education and careers in engineering, radio technology, and communications.

As the FCC explained in its NPRM, Congress, through the Ray Baum's Act, is compelling regulatory agencies such as the FCC to

recover from applicants the costs involved in filing and handling applications.

In its NPRM the FCC encouraged licensees to update their own information online without charge. Many, if not most, Amateur Service applications may be handled via the largely automated Universal License Service (ULS). The Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service, and the FCC stopped assessing fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

See also "FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees," reported by ARRL in August, at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-reinstate-amateur-radio-service-fees>

A summary page of the proceeding can also be found online at, <http://www.arrl.org/FCC-Fees-Proposal>

## ARRL membership benefits

For those of you that are not ARRL members, here is a sampling of what you could be reading. This is only one part of the ARRL membership.

### December QST

#### The Tuna Tin "S" — A Bare-Bones Synthesized QRPP Transmitter

Bob Fontana, AK3Y

This update to a classic design includes tunable frequencies and a digital display.

In the May 1976 issue of QST, Doug DeMaw, W1CER/W1FB (SK), developed a two-transistor QRPP — "p" denotes less than 1 W — transmitter using a pair of 2N2222A transistors. Dubbed the "Tuna Tin 2," the transmitter was crystal controlled and produced a 250 to 350 mW output for a cost of less than \$10. In the March 2000 issue of QST, Ed Hare, W1RFI, provided an updated version of Doug's original design.



Here, we take another step forward. The Tuna Tin "S" (for synthesized) keeps costs below \$20 and is still small enough to fit within the confines of a tuna tin, but has an integral VFO, digital display, and a higher power MOSFET final.

## November/December On the Air

### The Best Antenna for the Job

There is no such thing as a single antenna that's perfect for every station. Choosing an antenna depends on what you want to do with your station, how much money you can spend, and any restrictions you may encounter with your property. This On the Air article will walk you through what antenna types are best for certain types of operating.



## November/December QEX

### Remote Operating with a Raspberry Pi, Fldigi/Flrig, WSJT-X, and NoMachine

Harry Bloomberg, W3YJ

My primary residence is on a small suburban lot where putting up a good HF antenna is a challenge. A few years ago, I inherited five acres of woods and an old Amish farmhouse 85 miles away. I hung some antennas from tall walnut and pine trees on the property and spent weekends and holidays operating from there.



## WINTER WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING COURSES:

Click to register: [December 1, 2020 6:00pm CST](#)

NWS Paducah, KY will host more mini courses over the next few weeks revolving around different weather topics.

These courses will usually last between 1-2 hours and will be taught via webinar.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Registration is required.

Click image to register or go to:

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

# NWS MINI COURSE:

## A GUIDE TO BASIC RADAR PRODUCTS USING RADAR APPS

TUESDAY NOV 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm CST

*(If postponed due to severe weather – makeup date is Dec 3rd)*

Offered by the National Weather Service Paducah KY

# NWS MINI COURSE:

## STAYING SAFE THIS WINTER SEASON

Monday November 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm CDT

*(If postponed due to severe weather – makeup date is December 2nd)*

Offered by the National Weather Service Paducah KY

## VE Testing

Next test session:

12/5/2020 at 9AM **HAS BEEN CANCELED**

Watch for the 2021 schedule to be posted.



## 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 have discontinued the Covid-19 edition net at this time. Feel free to check in to the Vanderburgh Co. ARES net Tuesdays at 8:00pm.**

## Net Operator schedule

### November

4	KB9YWQ
11	WB9KQF
18	KE9YK
25	KC9TYA

### December

2	KC9UVG
9	N9QVQ
16	KB9YWQ
23	WB9KQF
30	KE9YK

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](mailto:Chris.Lantaff@KE9YK).

## Brag Rag

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.

## Monthly TAILGATE

### COMPLETE DMR SETUP for sale

1 - Radioddity GD-77 running the OpenGD77 software (much better than stock software) (Programmed and including the codeplug)

1 - External Microphone

1 - External drop-in charger

4 - Batteries

1 - Hotspot

This is all about 5 months old. Pristine condition and works with no issues. From non-smoking home.

TOTAL: \$195.00

I'll gladly program call sign, DMR ID, and other info to make it plug and play, if desired.

Ken [K9KDJ.HAM@gmail.com](mailto:K9KDJ.HAM@gmail.com)

## Titan Gap DX antenna for sale

Here's a link to what they look like –

<https://images.app.goo.gl/NFvgiVorH9J9aVLx8>

Antenna is complete and was working, but not as well on some bands as others. I strongly recommend that this antenna be well guyed since it has a tendency to bow in a strong wind.

I have printed a clean copy of the assembly manual and an original user manual.

Price is \$100 firm

Len Schmitt [N9QVQ](mailto:N9QVQ)

If you have something you would like to list for sale in the Monthly TAILGATE, send an e-mail to [sparks@w9og.net](mailto:sparks@w9og.net) with all information on the item, pictures are helpful and your contact info.

## Brag Rag

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

All Vanderburgh Co ARES/RACES in person meetings are canceled until this COVID-19 emergency has passed and are currently using ZOOM. Our meetings are the third Thursday of the month starting at **6:00pm**.

Watch your email for details. If you would like to participate and are not

currently a Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES member contact us for the log-in information.



We are also starting an ARES/RACES net at **8:00pm every Tuesday** on the 146.790 repeater.

### Vanderburgh County Auxcomm continues preparation for the

November 14th Red Cross Drill, which will double as our Fall SET.

The exercise is based on a severe winter weather event known as a Polar Vortex that could have significant impacts on large parts of the country. Over 600 hams from all over the country have signed up for this event. Once again, I will be acting as Divisional Clearinghouse for the North Central division of the Red Cross. Messages will be passed on both the national and local level using Red Cross ARC-213 forms. There have been weekly practice messages to get folks to at least a minimum proficiency using Winlink Express and its forms.

Our own K9KDJ Kenneth Johnson has set up an HF RMS for Winlink as well as a 2m VARA FM/Packet RMS for Winlink, giving us more options locally to send Winlink messages. Mark Thienes KC9TYA is getting close to having a portable RMS setup that could be used to bring Packet/VARA FM capabilities right into or next to

a disaster area. This device could be deployed with our mobile communications vehicle, which has satellite internet capabilities, to give us a Winlink connection even in the direst circumstances. Speaking of VARA FM, those who've tried it locally are very impressed with its speed which is much faster than 9600b packet. VARA FM (as well as packet) can be set up by anyone with a 2m radio, computer and an external soundcard like the Tigertronics Signalink or Master's communications DRA series external soundcards. We're blessed to have folks like Mark and Ken who are working to make this new mode available in our area.

Len N9QVQ  
Vanderburgh County EC

**Vanderburgh County Auxcomm**  
Chris KE9YK [IN82RACES@gmail.com](mailto:IN82RACES@gmail.com)  
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer  
812.453.1972  
Len N9QVQ [len.n9qvq@gmail.com](mailto:len.n9qvq@gmail.com)  
Vanderburgh Co ARES EC  
812-963-0027

### Warrick Co ARES/RACES

Meetings...  
The Warrick County ARES/RACES group meets on the second Monday of each month. The meeting begins at 6:30pm and generally is completed by 9:00pm. The meetings are held on the third floor of the Court House in the EMA Conference room. Anyone needing additional information concerning meetings or location contact: Chris L. Owen at [KC9CLO@gmail.com](mailto:KC9CLO@gmail.com).

### November Birthdays!!!

Ross Cecil	KC9JOV	29th
Michael Dassell	KD9LAM	10th
Jeffrey Holt	AA9WJ	30th
Marc R (Dick) Meikle	W9XQ	22nd
C.L. Mitchell	K9PNP	18th
Robert A, Jr. Oberst	K8RAO	23rd
Gerald Schoenbachler	KC9NOY	7th
Garlan (Willie) Wilson	WD9FHA	29th
Tom Fisher	KD9PSX	2nd



### Secretary Report

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

### Treasurer Report

Budget:  
September 2020 (prepared 9/30/2020 )

Opening Balance:		\$4,285.26
Receipts:		
Mesker Park shelter refund	\$107.00	
Memberships	\$25.00	
Total Receipts --->>		\$132.00
Expenditures:		
None	\$0.00	
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00
Ending Balance		\$4,417.26
Red Cross Fund		\$1,283.82
Funds Available to TARS		\$3,133.44
Jeff Holt AA9WJ		
TARS Treasurer		

**GET HIGH FIDELITY, BI-DIRECTIONAL ADVANTAGES**  
with *Electro-Voice*  
**Velocity Microphones**

*Flat Frequency Response  
Insures True Reproduction  
Dead or Sides, Top, Bottom—  
To Reduce Unwanted Sounds*

*Wide-Angle Pick-up—  
Greater Pick-up Range  
Usable Front and Back  
at the Same Time*

*Model V-1*

Years of special E.V. "know-how" make possible the full utilization of the ribbon velocity's high fidelity characteristic.

In Model V-1, you get true reproduction without imposed peaks and dips. Built pieces are designed to insure adequate high frequency reproduction and provide ample output. One-piece frame and internal mounting structure is exclusively E.V.—jars and mechanical shocks cannot shift parts.

Bi-directional polar pattern provides equal front and back pick-up, zero pick-up at sides, top, and bottom. Proper tilting reduces feedback and unwanted sounds.

Excellent for solo or orchestra—for individual or chorus—for single speaker or groups . . . in public address, broadcasting, and recording.

Substantially flat from 40-9000 cps. May be used with any modern amplifier designed for crystal or dynamic microphones. Handy size. Easily tilted. Standard 5/8"-27 thread. "On-Off" switch.

Model V-1, HI-Z (direct-to-grid), 50, 250, or 500 ohms. List Price . . . . . \$3285

Model V-1A, list price \$34.75      Model V-2A, list price \$46.00  
Model V-2, list price \$41.05      Model V-2, list price \$54.75

**NO FINER CHOICE THAN**  
**Electro-Voice**  
**MICROPHONES**

ELECTRO-VOICE, INC., BUCHANAN, MICH.  
Export Division, 12 East 45th St., New York 17, N.Y., U.S.A.      Cables Attch

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS EVERYWHERE

Send for Catalog 101  
Give valuable data on today's most complete microphone line for all types of application.

## Looking Ahead

### 2020

SKYWARN Recognition Day, Saturday, December 5th, 2020

### 2021

Straight Key Night Jan

**TARS AUCTION January**

ARRL Kids Day Jan

**Winter Field Day January 30-31 2021**

**TARS Banquet**

**INQP 2021**

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June

**Field Day June**

[13 Colonies Special Event](#)

National Night Out first Tuesday of August

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

Light Up 2 Meters Night August

TARS PICNIC Sep

Route 66 Special Event September

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

**TARS 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Hamtober Fest 2021**

[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](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)

## **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

E-mail: [sparks@w9og.net](mailto:sparks@w9og.net)