

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

June 2021 - 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.

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 contact one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter or email info@w9og.net.

Presidents Corner

Well June is finally here, and that means it's time for Field Day!! I am so looking forward to this year's TARS Field Day event- we will be setting up some stations at the Evansville FOP Camp on the west side of Evansville just off Diamond Ave. So, mark your calendar June 26 and 27 and plan on coming out and having some fun. Field Day is tons of fun, and if you are a new ham or new to HF, antennas, setting up a station, or operating a station then you don't want to miss it. Come out and help/watch/learn about setting up antennas and stations and then get on the air!! We may be setting up Friday evening June 25 for a couple hours, and then on Saturday June 26 we will be at the FOP Camp by 9am to finish setup. Please plan on joining us there! And after the event officially starts at 1PM local time we will operate the stations for 24 hours so plan on staying around, coming back, or whatever and help operate the stations. If you want more info, give me a call or email!!

So as COVID begins to get behind us (and hopefully continues to do so) the TARS club wants to get active again. We are planning several events for the rest of the year and we want YOU to be involved! We also want to hear from you about what you want the club to do or to focus on. What activities/seminars/etc. would interest you in the coming months? Please send an email to info@w9og.net and let us know your thoughts and ideas!

Are you getting geared up for Hamtober Fest?? October 23 at the Lynnville Community Center! Plan on getting involved and attending. We are reserving flea market tables NOW so check out the website at www.hamtoberfest.com and submit your reservation for a table or two to sell that gear or supplies that have accumulated in your garage or shack! Spread the word about Hamtober Fest!!

I hope to see you at Field Day! 73!

John Van Vorst, N9oL

Amazon Smile

To set up your Amazon Smile account to donate to TARS with every Amazon purchase you make, click our unique link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-6042852>.

Now when making an Amazon purchase from your browser online, login via smile.amazon.com



Election Results

Welcome our newest board member **Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH**. Tom will be filling the board seat for the remaining 2021 term. Thanks to everyone for stepping up and running to fill the remaining term on the vacant board seat.

Field Day this WEEKEND!

Field Day will be held at the FOP Camp, 5417 N Happe Rd, Evansville, IN 47720.

Google map : <https://goo.gl/maps/g4gwuTMhtjCd4pA16>

Go west on Diamond Ave (66) to Happe Rd and the FOP camp is just N on Happe Rd.

Antenna pre-setup 5pm Fri, 6/25.

Station setup 9am Sat 6/26, operation 1pm to 1pm Sun -24 hours.

Come out operate and join in the fun. Bring a lawn chair and your own drinks and snacks if you wish. We will have pizza Sat evening.

Hope to see you all there!



Hamtober Fest

TARS Hamtober Fest is a go for 2021

October 23rd 2021 at the Lynnville community center.

7am – 2pm

RESERVE your tables **NOW!**

Watch for raffle information coming soon!

www.HamtoberFest.com

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

There has been some discussion on setting up a Special Event station for the 100th anniversary of the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. In order to hold this event, we will need someone to step up and coordinate the event. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions contact [John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9OL) c: 812.305.4100

Wooden Satellite to Launch by Year's End

The WISA Woodsat project, being sponsored by plywood supplier WISA in an unconventional PR initiative, is poised to place a wooden satellite into orbit by the end of the year. The idea is to test the suitability of treated wood as a low-cost and widely



available material for space applications. The [IARU posting](https://www.iaaru.org/posting) for Woodsat indicates that several amateur radio experiments will be on board as well as photo downlinking, including selfies.

The wooden satellite is based on a basic, versatile CubeSat format, Kitsat, which is designed with educational use in mind. It retails for just \$1,500. Based in Finland, the Woodsat project began with students across the country contributing parts to a CubeSat launched by balloon. The satellite will be a 10-centimeter cube weighing 1 kilogram, covered on all sides by coated birch plywood from WISA Plywood. Nine small solar cells will power the satellite, which will orbit at an altitude of 500 - 550 kilometers.

As the sponsor explained, "WISA Woodsat will go where no wood has gone before. With a mission to gather data on the behavior and durability of plywood over an extended period in the harsh temperatures, vacuum, and radiation of space in order to assess the use of wood materials in space structures."

Once in orbit, Woodsat will be able to extend a selfie stick to capture photographs of the wooden box as it hurtles through space at 40,000 kilometers (24,800 miles) per hour. This will allow the mission leaders to monitor the impact of the environment on the plywood.

The satellite would downlink its telemetry and images from two cameras using amateur radio frequencies.

"The wooden satellite with a selfie stick will surely bring laughter and goodwill," added mission manager Jari Mäkinen of Arctic Astronautics. "Essentially, this is a serious science and technology endeavor. In addition to testing plywood, the satellite will demonstrate accessible radio amateur satellite communication; host several secondary technology experiments; validate the Kitsat platform in orbit, and popularize space technology."

An April 23 [Engineering and Technology article](#) has more information. -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service via JoAnne Maenpaa, K9JKM; E&T, and the IARU

Amateurs' Email Addresses Will Continue to Be Kept Private

Starting on June 29, all applications filed with the FCC must include an email address for FCC correspondence. After receipt of the initial announcement that all future applications would require an email address, the ARRL out of concern for the privacy of its Members, requested that Amateur email addresses not be made public. This week the FCC agreed, stating in an email to the ARRL counsel that it will continue to "mask" Amateurs' email addresses from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will use the email address supplied by Amateurs to correspond with applicants, including to send a link to the official electronic copy of the license when an application is granted.

The FCC is transitioning to fully electronic correspondence and no longer mails hard-copy licenses. Amateurs are able to view, download, and print their official license grant using the ULS. When a license is first granted, each applicant will receive an email with a direct link to the license. Although the link expires in 30 days, the license itself will remain available in the ULS and may be downloaded at any time by signing into the licensee's account using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password.

On or after June 29, a valid email address must be provided with each application, and must be kept current by filing a modification application as necessary. Under the amended Section 97.23, "The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address."

Applicants lacking an email address should consider using the email address of a friend or family member on their FCC applications.

Reminder: Due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system, starting on May 20, all Amateur exam applicants must provide their FRN to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an Amateur exam. Prospective new FCC licensees will be required to obtain an FRN before the examination and provide that number to the VEs on the Form 605 license application. An FCC instructional video provides step-by-step instructions on how to obtain an FRN through the FCC's COMmission REgistration System (CORES).

The FRN is used afterward by the applicant to download the official license document from the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), to upgrade a license, apply for a vanity call sign, and to submit administrative updates (such as address and email changes) and renewal applications.

Tri-State Emergency Net

8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights on 146.79 pl 88.5

Welcome our newest Net Control Walt WB4ZUT.

Thanks, Walt, for volunteering to help in the net control rotation.

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

June	2	KB9YWQ
	9	WB9KQF
	16	WB4ZUT
	23	KC9TYA
	30	KE9YK
July	7	KC9UVG
	14	N9QVQ
	21	WB9KQF
	28	WB4ZUT

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

2021 Ham Radio VE Test Sessions

Feb 27

Apr 24

May 29

June 26

Location: FOP Camp (Field Day Site)

9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

July 31

Aug 28

Sep 25

Dec 18



ATTENTION!!!

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society VE Team is currently holding all VE test sessions at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, 1440 Harmony Way in Evansville. This is the building behind the old school building. Look for the tower and antennas and enter the side door by the tower.

You will need to know your FRN number. If you have a license currently you have an FRN number. If you do not yet have a license you can register with the FCC and obtain an FRN number. Go to www.fcc.gov/register.

If you need help or have questions please let me know at n9ol@arrl.net.

Examinations will start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.

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

Details can be found at: <http://w9og.net/ve-testing>

For more info contact: [John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst.N9OL) c: 812.305.4100



Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

All Vanderburgh Co ARES/RACES in person meetings are canceled until this COVID-19 emergency has passed and currently using ZOOM.

Our meetings are the third Thursday of the month starting at 6:00pm.

Watch your email for the ZOOM meeting login details.

If you would like to participate and are not currently a Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES member contact us for the login information.

Feel free to check in to the Vanderburgh Co ARES net **each Tuesday at 8:00pm** on the 146.790 repeater.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
812.453.1972

Len N9QVQ len.n9qvq@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co ARES EC
812-963-0027



Warrick Co ARES/RACES

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.



June Birthdays!!!

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



Indiana Hamfest & Tailgate Schedule

(As of 14 April 2021)

July 9 & 10

Indianapolis Hamfest
2021 - ARRL – Indiana Section Convention
Marion County Fairgrounds
7300 E Troy Ave – Indianapolis
<http://indyhamfest.com>

July 10

Auburn Hamfest
Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
1600 S. Wayne Street – Auburn <http://W9OU.ORG>

July 31

East Central Indiana Hamfest
Randolph County Fairgrounds
1885 S US Highway 27 - Winchester, IN
<https://sites.google.com/view/ecindianahamfest>

August 7

Elkhart Hamfest Northern Indiana Event Center
21565 Executive Parkway - Elkhart
<https://elkhartesthamfest.com/>

August 14
Hendricks County Tailgate Fest
Avon United Methodist Church
6850 E. Highway 36 – Avon

September 11
Greater Louisville Hamfest 2021
8am - 2pm
Paroquet Springs Conference Centre
Celebrating 60 Years of Kentuckiana Hamfests!
Whatever the Weather We'll Hamfest Together
Tickets \$7 Advance, \$8 (Cash Only) Day of Show, Under 13 Free
Talk-In: 146.700 MHz (CTCSS 79.7 Hz) and 443.700 MHz (CTCSS 79.7 HZ)

October 2
Hoosier Hills Ham Club Hamfest
Lawrence Co. 4H Fairgrounds
11265 US Hwy 50 W – Bedford, IN
http://www.w9qyq.org/pdf/2021_Hamfest_Flyer.pdf

October 16
Shelbyville Tailgate Hamfest
Blue River Valley ARS
8 AM - 12 PM
Shelby Co Fairgrounds
500 Frank St
Shelbyville, IN
<http://www.brvars.com>



OCTOBER 23
Hamtober Fest
7 AM - 2 PM
Lynnville Community Center
416 W ST RD IN-68 - Lynnville, IN
<http://www.hamtoberfest.com>

November 13 & 14
Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo
2021 - ARRL - Central Division Convention
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
4000 Parnell Ave – Fort Wayne
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

Secretary Report

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

Treasurer Report

Budget:
April 2021 (prepared 5/1/2021)

Opening Balance: \$4,047.76

Receipts:
Memberships \$55.00
Total Receipts --->> \$55.00

Expenditures:
Pd Chris KE9YK for
Hamtoberfest web domains (\$19.90)
Total Expenditures--->> (\$19.90)

Ending Balance \$4,082.86

Red Cross funds \$1,283.82
Funds Available to TARS \$2,799.04

Jeff Holt AA9WJ
TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2021

Field Day June 26-27

[13 Colonies Special Event](#)

TARS Banquet August

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 TBD

Route 66 Special Event September

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

TARS 3rd annual Hamtober Fest Oct 23, 2021

SKYWARN Recognition Day, Saturday, December

TARS AUCTION January ?

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

Winter Field Day January 2022

INQP 2022

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

[Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024](#)

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

2021 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Dennis Martin WA2USA](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Board of Directors

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

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

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH (2021)

[Mike Townsend W9KXP](#) (2021-2022)

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR (2021-2022)

Charlie Martin WB8LDV (2021-2022)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

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