

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

September 2021 - Issue No. 9



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.

Announcements

Officer Elections

It's election time once again and we are looking for volunteers.

We will take nominations during the Sep and Oct meetings and also solicit nominations via e-mail to elections@w9og.net

The Offices open for election are:

President

Vice Pres

Treasurer

Secretary

Board of Directors

3 POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION

The only requirement is that you are a current TARS member in good standing and have been a TARS member for at least 1 full year.

If you are interested in serving or would like to learn more, contact the election committee.



VE-Testing

The next VE-testing will be Sep 25th, 9am.

Hamtober Fest

If you are attending any Hamfest take some fliers and advertise your **Hamtober Fest!**

There are only a limited number of Indoor tables available for \$10 each, and they are going FAST, so get your tables reserved today! www.HamtoberFest.com

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



LOCAL WINLINK GATEWAYS RESPOND TO HURRICANE IDA

Ken, K9KDJ

As Hurricane Ida bore down on the Gulf Coast, Amateur Radio Operators throughout the Southeast and Midwest geared up to respond to communication needs.

Knowing that commercial power would be at a premium and providing information about the status both of people and of property, amateur radio stood in a good position to respond to multiple needs, and Winlink offered many the opportunity for exchanging information that they might otherwise find impossible.

Knowing that, James, KF4LXS, and Ken, K9KDJ, quickly talked on Sunday evening and decided to implement our plan to help make RMS Gateways more available during Ida's move inland and her march across the southeast and into the northeast.

Knowing that most traffic in the affected areas would move on 80m and 40m, James decided to scan only those frequencies to allow less scan time and more opportunity for connecting by other stations. Ken brought up K9KDJ HF on 20m and 30m to provide greater distance capabilities and more opportunities for connections with fewer scanned frequencies. This points to the value of redundancy in our area and how fortunate we are to enjoy two RMS Hybrid Gateways who work in concert with each other. Additionally, Ken monitored and provided his SHARES RMS Gateway on HF.

Of course, currently, we don't know how many used our stations, but we do know that preparation and coordination allowed us to offer capabilities to meet the catastrophic power that Hurricane Ida created.

Ken

Hamshack Hotline Number: 5809



Hamtober Fest

TARS Hamtober Fest is a go for 2021

October 23rd 2021 at the Lynnville community center.

7am – 2pm

RESERVE your tables **NOW!**

www.HamtoberFest.com

There will be a raffle with 2 drawings at noon and you don't need to be present to win. Contact any of the TARS board to purchase raffle tickets, \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

A Hamtober Fest flier was attached with this SPARKS email.

SOTA Operations Dennis - WA2USA/0

The photo is Lincoln Mountain as seen from Mount Democrat. Both Mountains are part of the 14er's in Colorado and listed in the SOTA database as 10-point summits when activated with a minimum of 4 QSOs. I and my Colorado friend Brad (WA6MM) were both on Democrat August 25th. with Jim (NOIPA) on Lincoln Mountain.

It was a gorgeous day, temperatures in the mid 40's to 50's, plenty of sun and mild winds. I netted 40 QSOs on 30, 40 and 20 meters. Brad made several Summit-to-Summit QSO's with stations in New York, Colorado, New Mexico and others.

On the way back to the trailhead an unexpected visitor arrived nonchalantly heading toward the notch between Lincoln and Democrat Mountains. We all gave him a wide berth.



WB9ONU on Facebook

Here we are all setup at Tipsaw Recreational. As you can see we are ruffing it. Got a outside kitchen under a canopy, there is our golf cart that we use to work around the campsites. If you look in the far back there is my hustler 5BTV. It's fun to be hamming and camping.



Brag Rag

This is a fun contest to operate during the winter while there's not much else going on.



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 to have them included in your newsletter.

Route 66 on the Air Special Event

The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club's 22nd [Route 66 on the Air](#) special event September 11 - 19 will deploy 22 stations, including two rovers, with call signs W6A through W6V, from cities along the highway. W6V will be a new station this year, located in Kingman, so there will be two stations in Kingman. Route 66 is famous in American history as the major road from the east to the west coast and is connected with American car culture.



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

Sep

| | |
|----|--------|
| 1 | WB4ZUT |
| 8 | KB9MZH |
| 15 | KC9TYA |
| 22 | KE9YK |
| 29 | KC9UVG |

Oct

| | |
|----|--------|
| 6 | WB9KQF |
| 13 | WB4ZUT |
| 20 | KB9MZH |
| 27 | KC9TYA |

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](#).

Net Control Practice and Exercises Keep Wyoming Amateurs Sharp

The ARES Letter for August 18, 2021

Wyoming's Cloud Peak Radio and Electronics Group, CPREG, holds a weekly 2 meter training net that also serves as the county ARES net. Participation has been good this year, helped by the introduction of interesting exercises. Each month different volunteers are assigned to serve as net control, creating a group of trained operators with experience at controlling a net. If a net control misses a session, any member with a net script and net roll is invited to jump in and run the net.

Following the PACE model (Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency) plans for the net, the club repeater serves as the

Primary repeater, another local repeater is the Alternate, and the Contingency frequency is 146.52 simplex.

One night it was announced, "the repeaters are out, go to the Contingency option." We had a centrally located member on alert to act as net control -- a luxury we might not have for real, but a good idea for an exercise, to keep it functioning. Interest was piqued.

Recently we completed another exercise, this time without surprise because the idea was to create a tool we could all use. After calling the net on the repeater, we went to simplex following a publicized plan. The net control then called the roll. Each station was asked to note the calls of the check-ins they could copy. After the exercise, we combined the data to create a "contact matrix" indicating which receiving stations could copy which transmitting stations. The contact matrix should help in planning future 2-meter simplex operations.

Keeping the nets varied with different control operators and different exercises is one way to keep interest high. -- *Chris Smith, NX0E, Dayton, Wyoming*

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting August 23rd, 6:00 on ZOOM.

Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited to participate.

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 Hamshack Hotline 12604



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 .

Radio Operators Wanted

Radio operators are officers aboard ships. Well paid, pleasant work, travel. You can qualify in a short time in our well-equipped school under expert instructors.



Write now for free booklet on "Opportunities in Radio."

WEST SIDE YMCA RADIO INSTITUTE
111 West 64th Street, New York *Established 1910*

September Birthdays!!!

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|------|
| William Cunnane | KK7XT | 6th |
| Donald Davis | KD9RPC | 26th |
| Bruce Hatfield | W9GFS | 5th |
| Earl Pfettscher | WN9HRB | 9th |
| Bernie Schmitt | KC9BMA | 30th |



Happy Birthday!

VE Testing

2021 Ham Radio VE Test Sessions

Feb-27

Apr-24

May-29

June-26

July-31 ~~rescheduled Aug-7th~~

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 N9QL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9QL) c: 812.305.4100



Hamfest & Tailgate Schedule

For the latest ARRL Hamfest list go to

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

September 11

Greater Louisville Hamfest 2021

8am - 2pm

Paroquet Springs Conference Centre

Celebrating 60 Years of Kentuckiana Hamfests!

<https://louisvillehamfest.wixsite.com/louisvillehamfest>

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:

July 2021 (prepared 8/2/21)

Open balance \$3,692.97

Receipts:

Banquet reservations \$192.00

Memberships \$50.00

Total Receipts --->> \$242.00

Expenditures

Field day expenses (\$92.96)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$92.96)

Ending Balance \$3,842.01

Red Cross Fund Balance \$1,283.82

Funds Available to TARS \$2,558.19

Jeff Holt AA9WJ

TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2021

TARS PICNIC Sep TBD

Route 66 Special Event September 11-19

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

TARS 3rd annual Hamtober Fest Oct 23, 2021

SKYWARN Recognition Day, Saturday, December

2022

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

TARS Banquet

INQP 2022

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 26-27

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

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

E-mail: sparks@w9og.net