

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for 75 years

February 2022 - Issue No. 2



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TARS

est. February 6, 1947

Attached with the Feb SPARKS email are minutes from the first meeting establishing the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society. As you read the minutes you will see that the core values of TARS are pretty much the same today as they were 75 years ago.

Remember this is YOUR club and YOUR participation is required to make TARS the best it can be.



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@gmail.com.

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.



Photos by Charlie WB8LDV from the WFD operation at Wesselman park.



REMINDER CLUB DUES ARE PAST DUE!!

February TARS Meeting 2/10/22 7pm

The meeting will be held at the West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#).

The program is, YOUR Interests/goals/favorite ham radio activity. With a discussion on what you are doing in the hobby and/or offer questions to the group for assistance/elmer?

Call for member QSL CARDS...

Scott KD4SIR would like for all members to bring one of their personal QSL cards to the meeting. You can do this for the next 2 meetings and Scott will come up with some kind of QSL contest. Don't forget! Bring a card and make sure to give it to Scott!

Special Election

We will hold a special election at the regular Feb club meeting to fill the vacant Board Member spot left by Scott KD4SIR as he moved into the Vice President position.

This will be to fill the remaining term of 2022.

If you are interested in filling this position,

Contact: [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

For those attending, masks are optional but recommended along with distancing as much as possible. As always, if you have or recently had any covid symptoms, not feeling well or have been in contact with anyone with covid or covid symptoms, PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND.

TARS Banquet

Plans are under way for the TARS yearly banquet. Right now, it is tentatively planned for April 14th at the Log Inn. The banquet is open to current TARS members. If you haven't paid your 2022 dues, do it now! Watch for more information on the cost and how to make your reservations.

TARS Operating Events INQP and Field Day

By Brian Esche WB9QVR

Winter Field Day was just a warm-up (yeah, I know it wasn't warm at all but it doesn't seem to make sense to call it a 'cold-up'!) for TARS operating events in 2022!

Mark your calendar now for May 7 for the Indiana QSO Party and June 25-26 for ARRL Field Day! Current plans call for us to operate the **INQP from Scott Township Park** (a new site for us) with Field Day slated to be at the **Grimes Haus cabin and Eicher Barn on the campus of USI**. Both locations provide us with plenty of options for operating positions and antennas so let's get creative!

Given that 2022 is TARS' 75th anniversary, we want to go all out to make both of these events something truly special. I'd like for everyone to think about aspects that you think would make both

of these events even more enjoyable. Are there any special antennas, modes or equipment that you'd like to try? What kinds of food and snacks would you like at these events? Are there any educational opportunities that you would enjoy (or perhaps be willing to teach)? We can certainly be open to new and different ideas so all input is welcome. I can't promise that we'll be able to implement all of the ideas we receive but we'll certainly do our best to make these events enjoyable for everyone!

If you'd like to help plan either or both of these events, please feel free to contact me at brian.esche@gmail.com or via phone/text at 812-455-9797. It takes a village (or in this case, an entire amateur radio club) to put together events like these so your assistance is welcome and encouraged! I look forward to hearing from you - and to seeing lots of smiling faces operating radios on **May 7 and June 25 and 26!**

73 de Brian WB9QVR

2022 TARS WINTER FIELD DAY

By Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU

Tars 2022 Winter Field Day was January 29 this year. It was a cold day this year not much wind so that was good, but the warmth of fellow members kept us all going. If you showed up thank you. I hope everyone had a great time with eyeball ragchewing, eating chili and a birthday cake, and also working the radio's. According to the sign in sheet we had 13 visitors and operators. Old man Chris KE9YK couldn't make it this year we all miss his great cooking, but Charlie WB9LDV and his wife Connie KD9KJG stepped up and made some chili for us and also brought Charlie's birthday cake to share. I saw a few new members that showed up and operate the radios and other members that stepped up and show them the ropes for operating a contest.

List of members that showed up for TARS 2022 Winter Field Day.

TOM - KD9PFH, WALT - WB9ZUT, SCOTT - KD4SIR, CHRIS - N9JCA, TERRY - AB9JK, JEFF - AA9WJ, CHARLIE - WB8LDV, CONNIE - KD9KJG, BRIAN - WB9QVR, JEREMY - K9EPD, DAN - N9WJ, also we had 1 visitor Tanner.

Now this is in our past it's time to start planning for our summer field day and also 2023 winter field day.

Jerry -wb9onu

W9OG WFD 2022 Stats

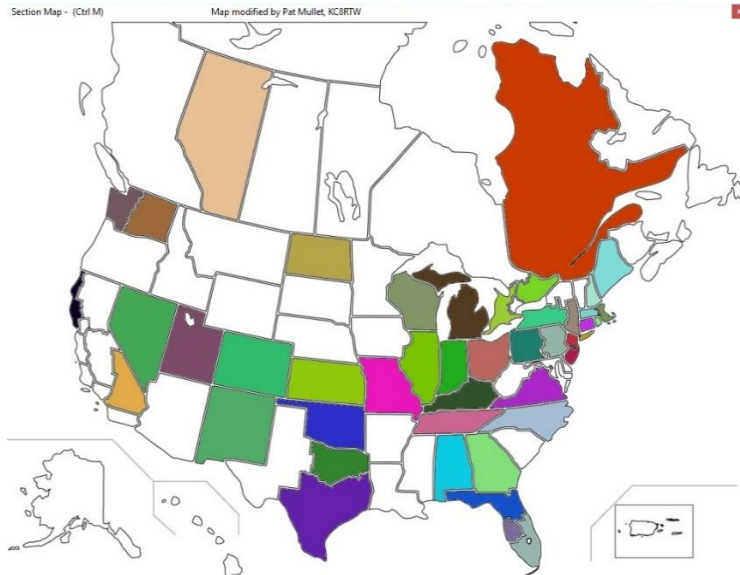
Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	5	0	0	5	4
40	38	0	0	38	30
20	35	50	0	85	66
Total	78	50	0	128	100

Total Contacts by State \ Prov: Total = 34

Total Contacts by Station:

Station	Total	%
SAMSUNG-LAPTOP (CW)	78	61
HPLaptop (SSB)	50	39



The complete stats are attached with this email of SPARKS.

**In Response
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC
SERVICE, OR OUR OWN ENJOYMENT?**

By Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Last month Ken K9KDJ raised some good points on Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications, but in my opinion missed the real point that amateur radio is still a viable communications tool. While the day of the cowboy ham radio operator riding in to save the day is not as likely as it once was, there is still a very real need. Since 911 there have been major upgrades in communication systems at all levels. If you were to look at communications like links in a chain, the links ABOVE us have gotten bigger and tougher to break, but that means that when we are called on the excrement will be fully engaged with the rotary oscillator.

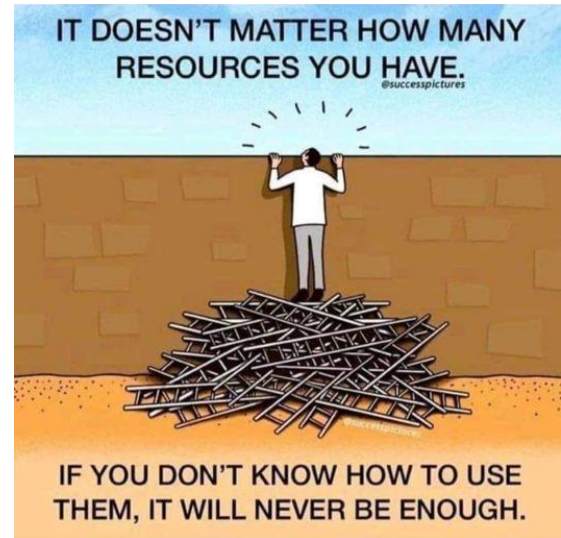
With the devastating tornados to our south, there were apparently a couple of requests for some ham radio operators. I am not sure what services they were providing but even though the damage was over a wide area it was really more of a localized event as far as the emergency services involved. While ham radio could be helpful to agencies as the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Southern Baptist Disaster Org, their communications are generally provided in agency using cell phones or other communications.

If you are interested in emergency communications your interest should be in JOINING and PARTICIPATING in dedicated emergency groups such as RACES, ARES, EMA and Red Cross etc. and working directly within the agency.

I don't know how many times I have heard; I don't want to join ARES/RACES but in an emergency I'll be there.

If you don't JOIN and PARTICIPATE you won't know what to do or how to do it during an emergency. The time to learn isn't during an event but during the practice and participation in the group. While you may have the equipment and resources without the proper training you will be mostly useless.

When all else fails amateur radio will be there, but will you have the skills needed to make it work?



**The simplest easiest cheapest QSL Cards.
- Are yours white collar or blue collar?**

By Scott Hibbs KD4SIR

I have always been a frugal ham. I'm not sure if this is a good or bad thing really. For example, I didn't join the ARRL for 29 years but then I missed out on all the benefits of membership too. So I debate if being a frugal ham is the right thing to do or not, but I guess it works out eventually.

I think one of the beauties of Amateur Radio is the QSLs we send one another to forever commemorate the achievement of a one minute conversation over the radio. I'll probably see a physical QSL card, or an entry in my log software, far more than it took for the contact on the radio. It's frozen in time. Especially when we use an electronic log like EqsL, QRZ or LoTW. The post card might survive our lifetimes briefly, but the electronic log will be archived in perpetuity much much longer.

For this reason, I advocate setting up and using all three electronic logs. If you are needing a logging software, I highly recommend DXLog Suite (this includes DXKeeper) which is free and makes updating these electronic logs like EqsL and LoTW easy with a button. Currently I have to create an ADIF file to upload to QRZ which is pretty painless.

I love QSL cards. The physical ones. Especially with cool artwork. The plain white state with a star for the location of the city works, but why not make this a small square and add a photo?

Make it more personable. A pic of your shack for example or the antenna. Nearby landmarks work well. A couple years ago, I was lucky to find this mural downtown and had my picture taken with it. When searching for photos for my QSL card, I discovered this picture. It was perfect. Well let's face it, most pictures of me are perfect. Hi,Hi!

Now some hams will send a card and use an envelope. The pro is that the QSL card is pristine – no postal marks – usually not bent or dirtied. The con to these cards is the added cost of postage (18 cents) and the lack of a stamp on them. For example, I got a card from Christopher, K7CDZ, in an envelope. His card is a beautiful picture of Billings Montana and handwritten info of our QSL on the back with a really nice note. Great card. The envelope was even better. He used a Star Wars forever stamp of the L3-37 droid which is reflective. (Even used, these stamps are worth almost a dollar online.) Plus, he addressed the envelope upside down so I wouldn't ruin the stamp. I had no choice, I had to keep the card in the envelope. How nice would it have been to over postage the card so I wouldn't have a bulky envelope in my card collection? But I'll take it. Great stamp – great card!

I like the postcard sent through the mail. It's the white-collar card vs the working blue collar card. The mailed QSL card fought its way to you to save the 18 cents with the forever post card stamp (40 cents). Some even use the higher 58 cent letter postage. When they do, you wonder if they knew there was a difference, or if they did, maybe they didn't bother with it. Yeah, they get smudges. They got postal ink all over them. It's like they got war stories to tell. I like the blue-collar cards – they got stamps on them and they got character.

This debate still wages with me on the white-collar cards vs the blue collar cards. Recently, I created a digital photo frame using an old desktop monitor. I scan all my QSL cards to display on this in my shack now. Obviously, the white-collar cards look better on screen. Anyway, more on this project later.

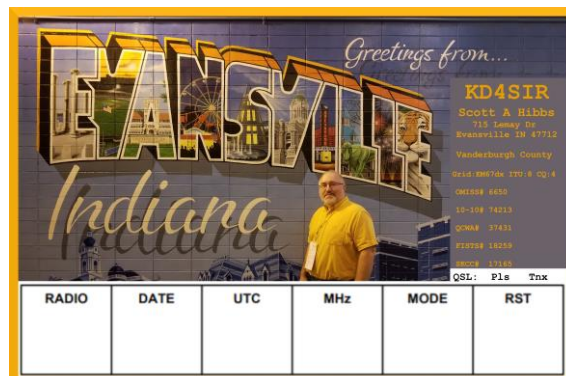
For my own blue collar direct QSL post cards, I again use DXKeeper. At a previous location DXKeeper was set up to actually print my cards (my picture) with the QSL info added onto 4x6 photo paper with my printer. All I had to do was address them with address labels which DXKeeper also prints out.

However, I discovered a cheaper source for photo paper, not to mention the pricey ink it took to print my extra high-quality photos. I don't skimp printing quality on the likes of myself. Oh, my new print outs are way faster now. I have Walmart print them. I created a photo – or QSL Card – that I send to Walmart to have print out at 9 cents per photo. I print 100 4x6 photos for \$9.63 including tax. I do not create post cards which cost way more – I print photos.

I know it may be possible to find a cheap QSL card for a dime per card. However, these are limited to one color ink or they may be limited to only one design. I prefer a picture of me. I'm partial like that.

There are some drawbacks. The back of the photo has a water mark as well as digital printing on the back stating the print job that was ran. Plus, the photos are pretty flimsy. I need DXKeeper to print out labels for the addresses and the QSL information anyway. The labels not only cover up the back printing but also makes the card a little thicker. I use 3 column labels (Avery 8160 1"x2 5/8") of the QSL details and the same labels for the address of the addressee. My return address is a bigger 2 column label sheet (Avery 5163 2"x4" black out labels). The bigger label is for my return address and it covers up that print job mark. The addressee label is on the right bottom of the card under the postage. The water marks aren't as noticeable with the stickers. The qsl info is on the front left bottom of the card. Stickers near every corner if you include the stamp. This card is ready for some postal character.

I made the QSL image with a free program called GIMP. In my second printing you can notice that I removed the white QSL info area. I thought I would hand write the information but I'd rather print it from DXKeeper. I also forgot to add a yellow border like I did with my first printing. This was a mistake. When printed, the photos seem cut too closely on the right. The border allows for the cutting area. Only printing a hundred at a time allows me the flexibility to change my card too. My third printing will definitely have this border.



My cards cost a dime to print (9.63 cents), the 8160 labels are three cents apiece (quantity 2), the 5163 return address labels are also three cents which makes my card a total cost of nineteen cents. 59 cents a card with postage (\$59 per 100 cards sent). Now you can see why using the right postage can save \$18 per 100 cards sent.

As an added bonus, for those of you sending QSL cards through a borough, (such as for the OMISS.net HF nets) you can use #10 envelopes and send 3 folded SASE #10 envelopes for one forever stamp. You can send 6 QSL cards in one #10 envelope with one forever stamp. If you want to buy additional ounce stamps, which are 20 cents, you can put 11 QSL cards in a #10 envelope with this stamp and a regular one (78 cents total). Or better yet, put a postcard stamp on it for 40 cents and see if it survives the trip.

The point is, have fun with QSL cards.
73, Scott

A YouTube of this article can be found here:
<https://youtu.be/NGcoWADjH1U>

Thank You!

"I would like to welcome Tom, KD9PFH, as the 2022 TARS Treasurer and thank all the officers, directors and members for your great support during my tenure as TARS Treasurer.

Together we make a great team! I would especially like to thank Dennis Martin, WA2USA, Charlie Martin WB8LDV and Tom for dedicating their time to the 2016 - 2021 financial audits.

Jeff Holt, AA9WJ
2017 - 2021 TARS Treasurer"

TARS @ Groups.IO



Have you heard about the new TARS Groups.io email list?

You can subscribe at <https://groups.io/g/TARS> or by sending an email to TARS+subscribe@groups.io directly.

The mail list is an area where you can ask questions or get the latest information on club happenings.

For HELP on the Groups.IO site, send an email to:

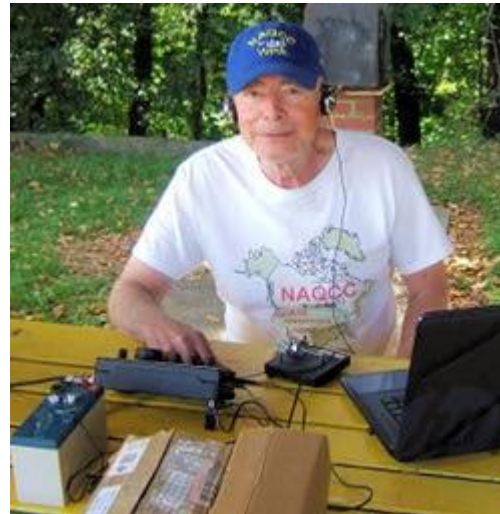
TARS+help@groups.io

QRP Operator Logs One Contact per Day for Nearly 30 Years

The ARRL Letter for January 27, 2022

From August 5, 1994, through December 20, 2021 -- a span of nearly 10,000 days -- ARRL member John Shannon, K3WWP, of Kittanning, Pennsylvania, made at least one CW contact while running 5 W or less to simple wire antennas. That includes one that's in his attic.

Over the course of said 10,000 days, Shannon made 72,190 contacts with 20,098 unique stations. For at least 2,099 of his contacts, his signal traveled 1,000 or more miles per W, while



another 24,098 were DX (non-W/VE) contacts made in 224 DXCC entities. He contacted all 50 states "many times over" -- he made 3,819 contacts with stations in Pennsylvania and 63 contacts with stations in Wyoming.

Shannon reports that the DX country he contacted most often was Germany, with 1,934 contacts. By continent, his contact totals ranged from 52,639 with stations in North America to 325 with stations in Oceania, plus 18 with stations in Antarctica. The number of contacts he made on each band used includes 19,279 on 40 meters; 15,459 on 20 meters; 28 on 60 meters, and 39 on 6 meters.

Within his first UTC hour of operation each day, Shannon logged nearly 73% of his daily contacts.

He also experienced a DX streak from March 1, 2013 through August 1, 2018, which was a total of 1,980 days. During this time, he contacted at least one DX station per day.

Shannon said that the greatest satisfaction he's derived from his operating streak is that other hams express that he inspired their interest in, and enjoyment of, CW and/or QRP operating. Shannon said that his greatest satisfaction derived from his lengthy operating streak was having other hams express that he inspired their interest in operating CW and/or QRP, and that they really enjoyed it.

In the early 2000s, he wrote for the "QRP with John Shannon, K3WWP" column in *The Key Note*, the [FISTS](#) CW Club's newsletter. Additionally, his article, "The Streak: 23 Years of Daily Contacts," was published in the August 2017 issue of *QST*.

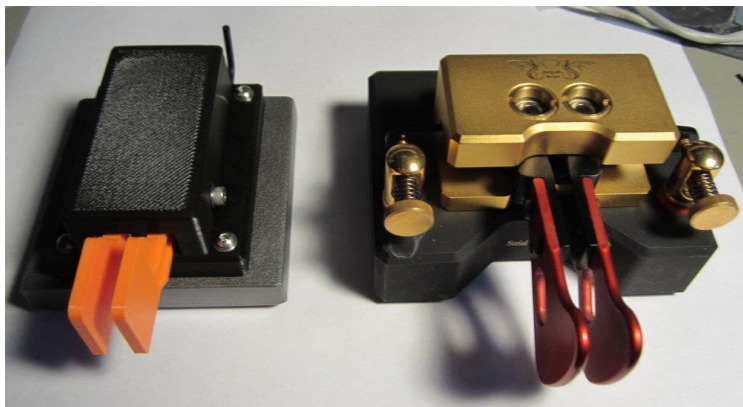
Shannon said his streak is not over. He intends to continue making daily contacts for 11,000 or 12,000 days. View his website for [more information](#).

It's not a Begali, but....

By Dan Romanchik, [KB6NU](#)

One of the questions I'm most frequently asked is, "What is a good paddle for a beginner?" My usual answer to this question is to look for a used Bencher BY-1 at a hamfest or on one of the online venues. You used to be able to get them for \$60 or less. Now, however, there are few hamfests and the price has gone up. Now, used Benchers are close to \$80.

Another option that newcomers might consider is the [CW Morse](#) paddle (shown in photo below). They cost \$60 with a steel base (\$43 without), and are available from [3rd Planet Solar](#) and [Gigaparts](#). I purchased one recently, and used it for a couple of days. To be honest, I was prepared to hate it, but it actually works pretty well. It's not a Begali, but it's good enough that I'd recommend it as a starter key.



It's not a Begali Magnetic Pro (right), but the CW Morse dual-lever paddle (left) is worth considering as a first key.

These keys are mostly made from 3D-printed plastic parts. You can tell this from the finish. While not as bad as some 3D-printed parts, they do look a little rough. I wouldn't be surprised if they go to molded parts, though, at some point. In high volumes, it has to be cheaper to mold the parts rather than print them.

The key does have metal parts where it counts, though. The contacts are all brass, the base is made from 1/2-in. cold-rolled steel, and the levers pivot on sealed ball bearings. My key weighed 22.5 oz (1.4 lbs.), and was quite stationary on the silicone mat that I use for my keys. The Begali is, of course, a lot heavier at nearly 60 oz. (3.75 lbs.).

A spring between the levers provides the tension. Two screws allow you to adjust the contact spacing. Unlike the Begali, whose adjustment screws have a very fine thread to give you plenty of adjustability, these screws are standard thread screws. What this means is that it can be a bit tricky to set the contact spacing. The screws are spring-loaded to prevent the adjustment from changing, but the springs don't seem to be very beefy, and I can see where the adjustment might change after a lot of use.

The ball bearings give the key a nice action. During my tests, I had the speed cranked up to 23 wpm, and this key performed well at that speed. One thing I didn't like very much is that the arms tend to flex more than I like, but I actually have the same problem with

the plastic Begali finger pieces. That's why I use the aluminum finger pieces on the Begali.

Overall, though, I'm quite happy with this key. And, for sixty bucks, which is about one-fifth of the price of a new Begali Magnetic Pro, I can certainly recommend this key to newcomers getting started in CW.

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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 testing new keys, he teaches online ham radio classes and likes to work special event stations and state QSO parties.

The CW-only Maritime Radio Day 2022

The ARRL Letter for January 27, 2022



The CW-only Maritime Radio Day 2022 is set for 1200 UTC on April 14 until 2200 UTC on April 15. Bands will include 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Certificate and QSL. This will mark the 11th anniversary of the event, held to commemorate the many

years of CW wireless service for seafarers. Former US Merchant Marine wireless operators, fisheries, and coastal stations may register and participate. Radio amateurs and shortwave listeners are welcome. Former maritime radio officers should [register](#) in advance by April 1. Operating frequencies will focus on 1824 kHz; 3520 kHz; 7020 kHz; 10,118 kHz; 14,052 kHz; 21,052 kHz, and 28,052 kHz. The primary working frequency is 14,052 kHz. There is no power limit.

Research on Ancient Massive Solar Storms Suggests a Need to Prepare for the Next Ones

The ARRL Letter for February 3, 2022

Numerous powerful X-class solar flares occurred last fall as Solar Cycle 25 activity picked up. Jon Jones, NOJK, covered the event in his *QST* column, "The World Above 50 MHz," in the February issue, and he pointed out, "More powerful flares than these have taken place, such as the Carrington Event of 1859, during which aurora was seen in the South Pacific and in Cuba, and it sparked electrical fires."

Similar events took place in the 20th century, but, as Jones notes, scientists are researching spectacular solar storms that took place as early as 7176 BC and in 5259 BC. The huge solar flare some 9,200 years ago has convinced researchers that we are not ready for the next one, and our modern technology would take a major hit.

"Also worrisome is that Earth may have narrowly dodged a 'Carrington-level event' in 2012," Jones said. Daniel Baker of the University of Colorado -- speaking at a NOAA Space Weather Workshop -- said, "If it had hit, we would still be picking up the pieces."

Jones said his reading has led him to conclude that these solar superstorms occur more frequently than people think. "As more ice cores and tree rings are sampled, scientists are finding there have been more of these [major solar storms]," he said.



In his February column, Jones cited a 2013 Royal Academy of Engineering [report](#) that discussed the risks of a Carrington-level event.

"An extreme space weather event, or solar superstorm, is one of a number of potentially high-impact, but low-probability natural hazards," said Paul Cannon, a Royal Academy of Engineering fellow and chair of the study working group that developed the report. "Extreme space weather [can have] impacts on engineered systems and infrastructure."

Cannon said the hazard and risks of extreme space weather on the electricity grid, satellites, and air passenger safety had not previously been critically assessed. His group's report attempts to address that omission.

The *Live Science* article, "Ancient solar storm smashed Earth at the wrong part of the sun's cycle -- and scientists are concerned," cites a study, "[Cosmogenic radionuclides reveal an extreme solar particle storm near a solar minimum 9125 years BP.](#)" Study co-author Raimund Muscheler, a geology researcher at Lund University in Sweden, said, "These enormous storms are currently not sufficiently included in risk assessments. It is of the utmost importance to analyze what these events could mean for today's technology and how we can protect ourselves."

"A Carrington Event taking place today could destroy orbiting satellites, disrupt GPS, and damage undersea cables and internet infrastructure on the ground," Jones said in his *QST* column. "An event in 775 AD was believed to have been 100 times stronger than the Carrington Event."

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@gmail.com to have them included in your newsletter.



Happy Birthday!

February Birthdays!!!

KB9KVX	Larry Rudolph	2
KG9AQ	Rick Dennis	8
KB9YWQ	Donald Land	10
KC9GNM	Keith MaCurdy	10
W9FHA	John Small	14
W9CFI	Chris Lemon	21
AB9JK	Terry Stuckey	24

VE Testing

Watch for announcement of the dates for 2022!

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@arrrl.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



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, upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time-to-time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Net Operator schedule

Feb	2	KC9TYA
	9	KC9UVG
	16	WB9KQF
	23	WB4ZUT
Mar	2	KB9MZH
	9	KB9YWQ
	16	KC9TYA
	23	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).



2022 Spring Spotter Training Season Classes

Questions about webinars or on-site classes can be directed to: Christine.Wielgos@noaa.gov

SPOTTER TRAINING WEBINARS (VIRTUAL CLASSES):

Click link below to register

Tuesday February 15, 2022 - 6:00 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2291426632927344912>

Monday March 21, 2022 - 6:00 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3300815690621103630>

SPOTTER TRAINING ON SITE CLASSES:

Registration is REQUIRED to attend on site classes:

Thursday February 24, 2022 - 6:00 PM CST: Chrisney, IN (Spencer County) Chrisney Youth & Community Center

Saturday February 26, 2022 - 10:00 AM CST: Mt. Vernon, IN (Posey County) Posey EMA Annex 311 Mill St.

More Information, full list of classes and registration:

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

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting February 17th, 6:30pm 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

Secretary Report

TARS Board meeting 1/6/22

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by John N9OL

Members present, John N9OL, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Dave KC9UVG, Jerry WB9ONU, Mike W9KXP, Herb KB9MZH, Charlie WB8LDV, Jeff AA9WJ, Dennis WA2USA and Jeremy K9EPD

Secretary Report Chris KE9YK

Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH

Request for reimbursement for certificate paper from Chris KE9YK. Motion made and passed.

Request to pay domain name renewal for hamtoberfest.org and hamtoberfest.com. Motion made to pay up to \$30 for renewal. Motion passed

Winter Field Day:

Discussion on equipment. John N9OL will meet with Jerry WB9ONU at red cross 9am to pick up TARS equipment. Set up will start at 10am Wesselman park.

Banquet:

Discussion to have banquet in March. Mike W9KXP will chair committee. Will check on prices and reservations. Proposed date Mar 10.

Meetings:

January - Go kits, portable operation set ups.

John also shared some early club info and will have more to discuss at next week's meeting.

Scott also shared some early club info and what he is doing to scan club documents.

February – Discussion on what YOU are doing in the hobby.

Offer questions to the group for assistance or elmer.

Mar Banquet

Apr???

May Picnic/INQP need chairman

June Field Day 25-26

Discussion and need chairman. Dennis WA2USA requested to wait for the meeting next week and he hopes to have more information on a chairman and ideas for field day.

DMR Repeater: Jeremy K9EPD shared info on the current condition of the TARS DMR repeater. Had discussions on how we could improve the repeater and a possible location move being investigated.

Hamtober Fest: Dennis WA2USA updated us on reserving the Lynnville community center for Oct 15th for our Hamtober Fest. Will get the paperwork started.

Name Tags: A request was made to remind everyone to wear name tags to let people place a face with the call. Jeff AA9WJ said we have some name tag stickers and markers that will be available.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – Secretary

TARS General meeting Jan 13 2022

Meeting called to order with 14 in attendance

We had welcome and introductions

Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted

Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH, accepted

Report from Scott KD9SIR on some early TARS history and a few stories from Bruce W9GFS whose father Phillip (W9GFS) was the first President of TARS.

Scott KD9SIR announced to keep track of your contacts in in a log for a possible contest this year. Not sure how it will work right now, but will have something covering the year of contacts.

Winter Field Day update Jerry WB9ONU, 2 stations poss 3. Brian WB9QVR will have logging computers and mesh network.

Banquet discussion. March 10th? Most likely Log Inn this year. Watch for more info.

Future presentations discussion. Feb Group discussion, Interests/goals/favorite ham radio activity.

March Banquet, April History of TARS. May Picnic and IN QSO party

Brian WB9QVR volunteered to chair the INQP/Picnic and Field Day with assistance from Dennis WA2USA.

Discussion on INQP and Field Day sites.

Discussion on Hamtober Fest, chairman Dennis WA2USA.

Motion made to pay for reservation for the Hamtober Fest at the Lynnville Community Center. Second and PASSED.

Discussion on the upcoming W9OG.net domain and web hosting fee.

Motion made to pay for 2 years web hosting and domain at \$127.78. Second and PASSED

Following the business meeting we had many presentations on what set-ups and go kits members use for portable operations.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

TARS Secretary

Treasurer Report

Budget:

December 2021 (prepared 1/1/2022)

Opening Balance: \$6,106.02

Receipts:

Memberships \$200.00

"Lynnville Community Center deposit refund" \$150.00

Total Receipts --->> \$350.00

Expenditures:

USPS Post Office box (\$146.00)

Pd John Van Vorst N9oL for December meeting refreshments (\$37.26)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$183.26)

Ending Balance \$6,272.76

Red Cross fund \$1,283.82

Funds Available to TARS \$4,988.94

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2022

TARS AUCTION TBD once we get back into the Red Cross or find a suitable place to hold an auction

TARS Banquet April

TARS PICNIC / INQP 2022 May 7th

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 26-27

[13 Colonies Special Event](#)

National Night Out Tuesday of August

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

Light Up 2 Meters Night August

[Route 66 Special Event](#) September 11-19

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

TARS 4th annual Hamtober Fest 2022

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December 2023

Winter Field Day January xx 2023

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First 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@gmail.com

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: **Jimmy Merry KC9RPX**

kc9rpx@arrl.net

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TARS

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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

2022 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)

Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

Secretary [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](#)

Board of Directors

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

[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2021-2022)

OPEN (2022)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2022-2023)

[Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#) (2022-2023)

[Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#) (2022-2023)

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Chris Lantaff KE9YK

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