

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for 75 years

July 2022 - Issue No. 7



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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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.

TARS July Meeting

The regular TARS meeting will be 7:00pm July 14th at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd. Come out and join us. The meeting program will be on Power Pole connectors by Scott KD4SIR.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a Eat'n Before the Meet'n meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that wants to join us. Come out to Jason's Deli at 5:30 for some storytelling, fellowship and good eats. Jason's Deli is located at 943 N Green River Rd, in the Shoe Carnival Towne Centre next to Joann Fabrics and Crafts.

You can check out their menu and info: <https://www.jasonsdeli.com/restaurants/evansville-deli>

Hamtober Fest 2022

The 4th annual Hamtober Fest **October 15, 2022!**

Location: Lynnville Community Center
416 West RD 68, IN-68 Lynnville, IN 47619

Website: <http://www.hamtoberfest.com>

TALK UP YOUR HAMFEST!



Raffle with 2 drawings

Grand Prize Yaesu Ft-5DR Second Prize Yaesu FT-70DR

Tickets are now on sale.

You can buy them at the July meeting!

TARS 75th Anniversary SHIRTS

Attached with this SPARKS email you will again find the 75th Anniversary shirt order form.

Bring the order form with payment to the July meeting or send to the TARS PO Box to be received by the July 14th meeting.

TARS 75 Anniversary Special Event On The Air

TARS Special Event to celebrate our 75th Anniversary will be held the weekend of August 12-13-14. Dennis WA2USA has scheduled this event with the ARRL and CQ magazine. John N9OL will chair the event and is looking for assistance. The event will work similar to the Lewis and Clark event. We will discuss this more at the meeting this Thursday.

McCutchan Award

Congratulations to Jeff Holt AA9WJ

Jeff was selected for this honor because of his many years of service to TARS and the amateur radio community. Jeff has been instrumental behind the scenes for many functions in advancing TARS, a long-time treasurer and promoting and co-chairing the Hamtober Fest. Jeff has held many demonstrations and invited many new hams to TARS and is always open to answering questions on operating.

Jeff has been traveling [working SOTA & POTA] and finally made it to the June meeting where he was presented with his McCutchan Award certificate.



The McCutchan Award reads:

The strength and progress of Amateur Radio is vested in the hearts and minds of dedicated Amateur Radio Operators who voluntarily give of their time and knowledge.

John McCutchan, a dedicated Amateur Radio Operator was a leader in this respect and is honored by his friend Ellis Carson, who promoted and sponsored this award.

By your dedication and your contributions, you have given inspiration and leadership to others, and have brought honor and dignity to your club and Amateur Radio.

As President of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society, I am proud to present this citation and honor to you. May you continue to enjoy the rich experience of serving

TARS Calendar

July

- 6 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
10m Net following immediately afterword
- 7 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 13 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 14 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
SHIRT ORDERS DUE!
- 20 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 27 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 30 VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross

August

- 3 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
10m Net following immediately afterword
- 4 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 10 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)
- 11 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 12-14 **TARS 75th Special Event On The Air**
- 17 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 24 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 31 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)

October

- 15 **The 4th annual Hamtober Fest**

Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff KE9YK

There was a discussion on Facebook about the Indiana Amateur Radio license plate. Indiana Amateur radio operators are able to obtain a plate with your callsign. I believe you must go through a local license branch to obtain the proper forms and apply the first time. This plate will be just like the current plates with the exception of having your call sign. This option will only cost you an extra \$8.00 for the Amateur Radio fee. You **DO NOT** want to apply for a personalized plate as this will cost you much more. Renewals of an amateur radio plate are the same as renewing your regular plates with the exception of checking the box that you swear to hold the amateur radio license call.



TARS – Field Day 2022 updates

Thanks to everyone who assisted with, operated at or visited with us at our storm-shortened Field Day operation!



We had planned to operate the entire 24 hours; however, about 2:45 or so this morning we became aware of a large thunderstorm with high winds (not severe but still enough to be concerning) and lightning approaching the area. We decided to break down the stations in the barn as we knew they would be vulnerable to the wind and rain. Once they were packed away, we waited in the cabin for the storm to pass. As it turned out, the winds and rain subsided quite a bit before reaching us but there was still some significant lightning nearby. After sitting in the cabin for a couple of hours and realizing that the rain was going to continue for some time, we decided that we wouldn't put the stations in the barn back on the air. That left us with just the CW and GOTA stations and, given that all the downtime in the cabin allowed the lack of sleep to rear its ugly head, we eventually made the decision to shut everything down early and head home. We do apologize to anyone who might have been planning to make the trip back out to the FD site but I think I speak for everyone when I say that heading to bed was a very inviting option at that point!

Below are the stats for the 2022 W9OG Field Day operation at USI. Overall, I think we did well considering band conditions and the storm-shortened operating time. However, the most important thing is that everyone had fun - and I certainly hope that's the case!

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this year's effort. We hope you'll plan to join us for other TARS operating events in 2022 - and Field Day 2023!

Brian – WB9QVR

W9OG's Contest Summary Report for ARRL-FIELD-DAY

Total Contacts = 895

Total Points = 1,500

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	106	66	32	204	23
40	295	194	33	522	58
20	99	26	38	163	18
15	2	1	0	3	0
SAT	0	3	0	3	0
Total	502	290	103	895	100

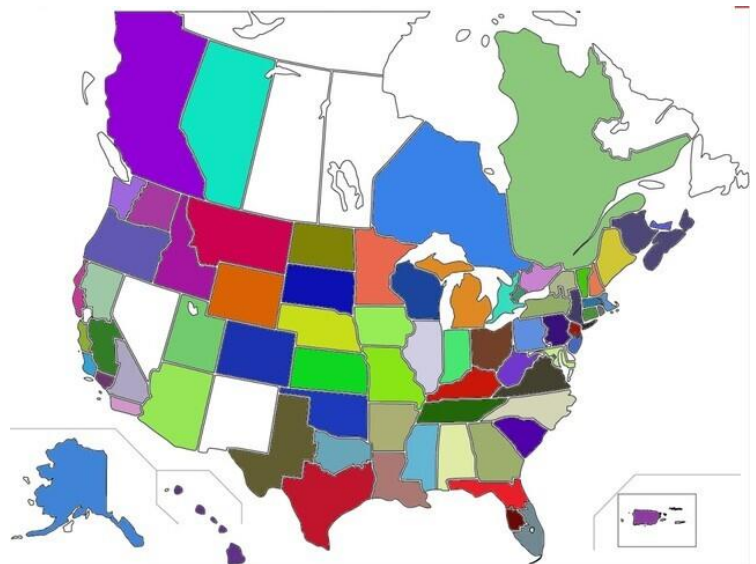
Total Contacts by Country:

Country	Total	%
USA	860	96
Canada	25	3
Puerto Rico	4	0
Hawaii	2	0
Alaska	1	0
Cayman Is.	1	0
Chile	1	0
Croatia	1	0

Total = 8

Total DX Miles (QSOs in USA not counted) = 52,946

Average miles per DX QSO = 1,513



Reverse Beacon Network Launches Updated Website

The ARRL Letter for June 16, 2022

At 0500 UTC (1 AM EDT) on Thursday, June 16, the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) launched their updated website (www.reversebeacon.net). The intent of the revised website was to replace the original and beta websites and to include a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) to enhance security for users of the site.

The RBN is a network of stations that listen to the bands and report what stations they hear, including when and how well. The website's database of past spots allows operators to instantly find what stations (from any given country or zone) have been heard, at what times, and on what frequencies. Operators can also see when they have been spotted, who spotted them, and how loud the contact was.

There is an option to compare your signal with those of friends and competitors, in near real time, or look at historical data of previous transmissions. If you wonder how your signal compared to others' during a previous contest, the website's Signal Comparison Tool will provide real, quantitative data. For an instant report, query what stations you want to compare, based on signals heard by a given reverse beacon on a certain band at a certain time.

In 2009, Pete Smith, N4ZR, and Felipe Ceglia, CT7ANO, worked to get the first version of RBN online. The work of Mark Glenn, K7MJG, on the website and Dave Pascoe, KM3T, on connecting the servers, contributed to RBN as a resource for listening and tracking signals. The new version is the first major upgrade for the site.

A guide to the website's new features is available on the beta site, as well as on the new site under the 'about' tab. -- Thanks to Pete Smith, N4ZR

FCC Legacy CORES System to be Retired

07/07/2022 ARRL

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will retire the Legacy version of its COMmission REGistration System (CORES) on July 15, 2022. CORES is the FCC's public-facing database that enables and tracks certain types of FCC and FCC applicant actions, including amateur radio applications and licenses. Its implementation has enabled routine amateur applications and licenses to be issued overnight instead of over weeks, as was the case with earlier methods. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® advises the amateur radio community to transition to the updated version of CORES as soon as possible.

In essence, CORES is designed to identify those who hold certain types of FCC licenses and FCC authorizations, including amateur licenses, and organize them in an easily accessible manner under a common FCC Registration Number (FRN) regardless of whether one holds a single such authority or thousands. The new CORES, in addition to assigning individual FRNs, allows holders of multiple FRNs to aggregate them under a single account where the licenses and authorization, fees and payments, and related actions can be administered from within the same account.

In effect, new CORES can be conceptualized as an electronic interactive file folder. The updated version of CORES has been available since 2016, and now its use will be mandatory for all amateur licensees when submitting amateur-related applications.

Starting on July 15, 2022, the Legacy CORES website will re-direct users to the Commission's updated CORES site. Although some functionalities in the old system will continue to work for a short time, the FCC has urged all users to transition to the updated

CORES system to take advantage of its enhanced security and functionality.

Register with the FCC

Licensees that do not already have an FCC CORES Username Account must create one with a unique username (a valid email address) and password.

<https://apps2.fcc.gov/fccUserReg/pages/createAccount.htm>

After creating the account, when logged in, users should associate their existing FRN or FRNs with this account. Instructions for doing so are on the FCC Registration Help page. One's FRN is printed on all current amateur applications and licenses, and will not change. FRNs can also be found by looking up one's call sign in the Commission's ULS

<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/ULsApp/ULsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

or by using the FCC's advanced search page.

The FCC has posted Tutorial Videos to assist with the transition. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, recommends viewing the videos "Getting Started With the New CORES," which explains how to register for a CORES Username Account, and "Associating an FRN to a Username," which instructs Legacy CORES users on how to link one or more existing FRNs to a username. FCC CORES Registration Instructions can also be found on the ARRL website.

Additional information is available on the FCC website or by calling the FCC Licensing Support Center at (877) 480-3201, Option 4, and on the FCC's e-support page.

ARRL News

The ARRL Letter for July 7, 2022

The ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) recently appointed John Sweeney, K9EL, as the new Central Division representative. Sweeney replaces Jim O'Connell, W9WU, who served for over 20 years on the Committee. The committee also appointed Central Division Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, to Board Liaison, who replaces Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ. The ARRL DXAC addresses and advises the ARRL Board on issues concerning the DXCC program, amateur radio's premier award that hams can earn by confirming on-the-air contacts with a minimum of 100 countries. The DXAC is composed of a representative from each ARRL Division, a representative from Radio Amateurs of Canada, an ARRL Board Liaison, a Staff Liaison, and an Administrative Liaison. To learn more about the DXAC and representatives in each Division, visit <http://www.arrl.org/dx-advisory-committee> and click the Contact Us button.



ARRL -- Your One-Stop Resource for Amateur Radio News and Information

Join or Renew Today!

- Eligible US-based members can elect to receive QST or On the Air magazine in print when they join ARRL or when they renew their membership. All members can access digital editions of all four ARRL magazines: QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ.
- Listen to ARRL Audio News, available every Friday.
- The ARRL Letter is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the Blind-hams Groups.io email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.



Subscribe to...

- NCJ -- National Contest Journal. Published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.
- QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters. Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members...

- Subscribe to the ARES Letter (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Contest Update (biweekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts, and much more!

July Birthdays!!!

KF6XA	Dave Donnelly	2
N9XXK	John McCormick	7



Special Event: VX30TW

I am not sure who worked this special event during the Lewis and Clark event but W9OG received a nice pdf certificate.

Hello Tri State Amateur Radio Society,
Thank you for contacting Special Event Station VX30TW commemorating the Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II.
Please accept this certificate as a sign of gratitude for your contact and for your future success in amateur radio.
73, Jonathan VX30TW



VE Testing

The next VE Testing session will be July 30th.

Examinations start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.

Testing location is the Evansville Red Cross at 29S Stockwell Rd Evansville IN

2022 Ham Radio Test Sessions

July 30th 9AM

August 27th 9AM

October 1st 9AM

November 5th 9AM

December 3 9AM

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.

We are currently holding a 10m net immediately following the 2m net on the **FIRST WED OF THE MONTH** as part of our 75th anniversary celebration.

Look for us on or about 28.405.

All of you techs out there with HF give us a try.

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting July 21st, 6:30pm at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, [1440 Harmony Way](#).

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

Treasurer Report

Financial Report

May 2022 (prepared 6/2/22)

(Updated 6/8/2022)

Opening Balance: \$5,999.83

Receipts:

Memberships \$55.00

VE Room Rental \$21.00

Refund deposit Scott Township Park (INQP) \$50.00

Total Receipts --->> \$126.00

Expenditures:

Scott Township 2023 Winter Field Day Deposit (\$25.00)

INQP food (\$123.54)

Hamfest Raffel Radios (\$668.64)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$817.18)

Ending Balance \$5,308.65

Red Cross Account (\$1,304.82)

Funds Available to TARS \$4,003.83

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

TARS Treasurer

Secretary Report

TARS Board Meeting 6/2/2022

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

Members present, John N9OL, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Mike W9KXP, Charlie WB8LDV, Jerry WB9ONU, Dave KC9UVG, Herb KB9MZ, Jeff AA9WJ and Brian WB9QVR

Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted

Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH accepted

Discussion on Repeaters; 147.15 discussion making it digital only and linked to the other repeaters.

Mike has a FT100 he would sell for \$300.00 for the project.

John made motion to execute the switch to digital only at a cost of \$300.00. Second by Herby. Motion passed.

John will talk to Jeremy K9EPD about transferring his call to the DMR repeater.

Mike needs some help with the Burnt Prairie repeater. Need new cooling fans installed and rodents evicted patched and cleaned up.

May Picnic Debrief: Everything went well.

June Field Day - Brian WB9QVR FD chairman, still need SSB 2 Captain and a battery coordinator.

Discussion on FD food. Decided to go with ordering pizza. Will do a site survey a week or so ahead of time to determine setup. Will setup on Friday evening 6pm.

Motion made to set a FD budget at \$150.00 by Herby. Second Mike. Motion passed.

Herby announced we will be holding Eat'n before the Meet'n once again. This month at CiCi's pizza 5:30.

Lewis and Clark Trail OTA - John N9OL discussed operations and signing up.

75th Anniversary Special Event. Date set for Aug 12-14. Need chairman to organize.

Shirts - Discussion John N9OL, need to email order form out. Must have payment with order. Orders due by July meeting.

Hamtober Fest – Things are moving forward.

Discussion on the club archive. What do we want to do with all the information Scott is compiling?

We should probably not post all info for public viewing but have a way for members to see it.

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

2022 06 09 TARS General Meeting

Meeting called to order by John N9OL, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross

We had introductions from everyone with 20 in attendance

Treasurer Report - Tom KD9PFH

Secretary Report - Chris KE9YK

Tom KD9PFH said he had filed the entity report for TARS

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air – John N9OL, Over 500 contacts and still a week to participate.

Dave WB9YIG ask to please send ADIF in with your grid square so the location will be accurate.

75th Special Event Operation- W9OG/75 will be August 12-13-14, still looking for coordinator.

Hamtober Fest – October 15th. A lot of fun! FREE admission. Raffle for Yaesu FT-5 and FT-70 ht's.

In the previous years the club sold lots of donated equipment and we are looking for donations for TARS to sell at the club table. Dennis WA2USA will pick up items if you have anything to donate. Dennis will also be contacting people looking for volunteers to help at the Hamtober Fest. We need to help out the vendors during set up to keep them happy.

Need member feedback on meeting ideas. Send any ideas you might have to info@w9og.net.

This Saturday Jerry WB9ONU will have training on setting up FT8 for anyone interested.

John W9FHA and Dennis WA2USA have keys on display if you want to take a look.

Scott KD4SIR had the club QSL contest.

1st place had a tie with WA2USA/P and WB4ZUT, 7 votes each

2nd place had a tie with W9GFS and WA2USA, 5 votes each

Field Day – at USI Brian WB9QVR chairman, June 25-26. Brian went over list of volunteers

CW captain, John N9OL

SSB1 Dave KC9UVG

SSB2 Walt WB4ZUT

VHF / Satellite Dave WB9YIG, Brian will have a 6m beam

Digital Jerry WB9ONU

GOTA Scott KD4SIR

Will meet 6pm Monday the 20th to decide antenna placement

Will need batteries for stations

Food – Pizza Sat night.

Need help - Antenna set up Fri night 6pm / Sat starting at 8am and Sunday for tear down.

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

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

Amazon Smile

If you notice the treasurer report, TARS has had another \$58.77 added to our account because of 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

[this is important: it's only via smile we will receive a donation] then make your purchases as usual and TARS will get a donation.

If you use your mobile app, just turn on AmazonSmile and it will connect you automatically.

Turn on AmazonSmile in your mobile app.

Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

IT IS THAT EASY!



Looking Ahead

2022

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

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

[Great SHAKEOUT](#) third Thursday of October : October 20th
Jamboree-on-the-Air third full weekend in October

TARS 4th annual Hamtober Fest 2022

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

2023

TARS AUCTION Regular January meeting?

Winter Field Day January xx 2023

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

TARS Banquet

INQP 2023

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND 0000Z June 4, to 2359Z June 5, 2022

[Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air](#) June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 26-27

[13 Colonies Special Event](#) July

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

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: Bob Burns [AK9R](#)

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 Groups.IO <https://groups.io/g/TARS>

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)

[Don Land KB9YWQ](#) (2022)

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

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

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

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