

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for 75 years

August 2022 - Issue No. 8



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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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.

TARS August Meeting

The regular TARS meeting will be 7:00pm August 11th at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd. Come out and join us. The meeting program will be by Jerry WB9ONU on odd antennas he has used.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that wants to join us.

Come out to Mission BBQ at 5:30 for some storytelling, fellowship and good eats.

Mission BBQ is located at 1530 N Green River Rd, just south of Morgan Ave.

You can check out their menu and info at <https://mission-bbq.com>

Presidents Corner

Greetings! I hope you are all well and having a great summer. It is flying by isn't it? TARS has had an exciting summer this year, with the Lewis and Clark special event in early June, and Field Day in late June. Before that we enjoyed a great picnic and INQP day in May. Thanks to everyone who helped with these events and came out to enjoy them.

Next weekend Aug 12-14 TARS will celebrate our 75th anniversary as a club with a special event station of our own! If you would like to activate our special call sign W9OG/75 for part of next weekend please send me an email at n9oljohn@gmail.com. It will be a fun event. AND especially for new hams or folks new to HF, we will open up the TARS radio room at the Red Cross on Saturday from noon-4PM. Come on out and we will operate the station together, give assistance and you can get on the air! Hope to see you then.

This past Saturday was the North American QSO Part (NAQP) contest for CW. I spent just 203 hours operating on Saturday- it was a busy day for me so I didn't have much operating time. But in that short time, I contacted 30 states and 3 DX entities. That just goes to show that these contests are an easy way to get 'Worked All States' and other awards in a short amount of time. All you new hams I strongly suggest considering getting that upgrade to General or extra and checking out some contests. They are a lot of fun. I am not a big contester by any means, but I try to participate in a variety of them to improve my operating skills.

Hope to see you all at the meeting this week. 73!!

John N9oL

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 is the chairman of the event and is looking for your participation. The event will work similar to the Lewis and Clark event. Contact John N9OL if you would like to participate and he will send you the sign-up information or if you would rather join the group Saturday from noon to 4, the Red Cross radio room will be open.

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 on all nets and if you are attending a hamfest take a few fliers!

Raffle tickets are now on sale and will be available at the club meetings.

Winter Field Day Notice

Winter Field Day (WFD) and the Winter Field Day Association has been officially transferred to the New Winter Field Day registered in Tennessee. Marvin Turner is the new chairman and other details will follow.

Myself and the other committee members say thanks to all for your support for this growing event. We ask that you give the new WFDA your full cooperation.

73 de Tom W8WFD

Beyond the Baofeng

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Contests and other operating

Contests, love them or hate them they are here to stay.

Some pour thousands, 10's of thousands or even 100's of dollars into contest stations and work contests all year long. Some of us just like to jump in and have fun for a bit if nothing else is going on. A good place to get the latest contest calendar with links is the WA7BNM Contest Calendar. www.contestcalendar.com

The ARRL Contest Calendar is at www.arrl.org/contest-calendar but only has the ARRL contests.

Another fun thing to participate in is POTA or Parks On The Air.

Get all the info at <https://parksontheair.com> and join in the fun.

Once you are registered you just make the contacts and get the credit when the park activator submits their log. So if you hear someone calling CQ POTA you know what's going on. If you want you too can go out and be an activator instead of a hunter.

TARS Calendar

August

- 3 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
10m Net following on 28.405 +-
- 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)
- 27 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 31 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)

September

- 1 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 7 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
10m Net following on 28.405 +-
- 8 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 14 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 21 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)

October

- 1 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 15 **The 4th annual Hamtober Fest**

Power Pole Connectors

If you were at last month's meeting you know Scott KD4SIR is making a power pole group purchase order. Attached with this SPARKS email you will find the ordering form with instructions.

He will be ordering the week after the August meeting so contact him asap to get your order in.



There have been a few discussions on this on the **TARS@Groups.IO** server. If you haven't joined, now would be a good time to get in on the discussions.

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

Let me know if you have any questions.

73

KD4SIR

Scott Hibbs

812-581-0631

ARRL Field Day 2022 Contacts Rise to Over 1.2 Million

Updated numbers from ARRL Field Day 2022 now show 1,235,265 total reported contacts as of July 26, 2022.

ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, reported that 4,774 Field Day entries have been submitted, and there were 28,250 Field Day participants.

The class breakdown is as follows:

1,141 Class A (club / non-club portable)

598 Class B (one or two person portable) and Battery (one or two person portable)

56 Class C (mobile)

2,093 Class D (home stations)

735 Class E (home stations using emergency power)

151 Class F (Emergency Operations Centers)

The last day to submit entries was Tuesday, July 26, so the numbers will change in the coming weeks.

Bourque added that 237 entries are missing, either the required dupe sheet (or in lieu of that, a Cabrillo-formatted log) or supporting documentation for claimed bonus points. He encourages all entrants to check the ARRL Field Day Entries Received page at <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescvd.php> to verify that their entry has been accepted, and if it is complete or pending any supporting documentation.

Additional documentation and log files can be added to previously submitted Field Day entries by using the link that was provided in the confirmation email that was received upon submittal. Any questions regarding Field Day entries should be directed to fieldday@arrl.org

Brag Rag CWOps



I recently received a Silver Medal for 325 QTX QSOs for last year.

A QTX QSO is a QSO that is 20 minutes or longer. Repeat ragchews with the same station on the same band are permitted, and QSOs do NOT have to be with members of CWOps.

See: <https://cwops.org/qtx-awards/>

The CWOps club awards medals with the following achievement levels:

- Gold Medal – 400 QTX points
- Silver Medal – 300 QTX points
- Bronze Medal – 200 QTX points

325 QTX QSOs equals a minimum 6500 minutes or 108 hours of ragchewing. I have had a QSO lasting an hour or more.

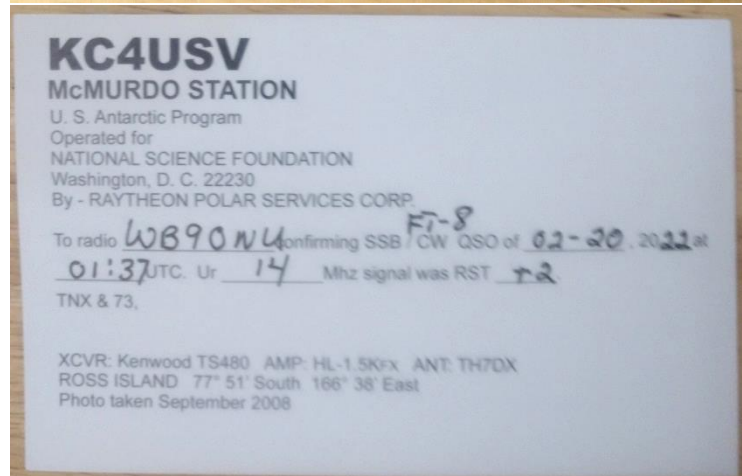
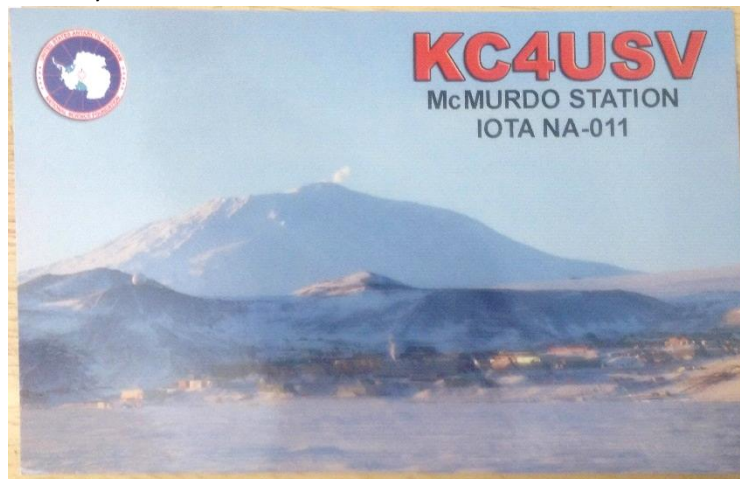
Check it out, it is a great way to make friends while improving your Morse Code.

73, Dennis - WA2USA

Antarctica

My QSL from Antarctica that I work back on Feb. 20, 2022. I have been trying for years to work any station from Antarctica for a long time. So now I am looking for a new challenge. Can't work any station any farther south. So, if anyone is wanting to work Antarctica you have to wait till it is summer down there for the station to be on the air. I got lucky since they were getting ready to come back home.

73, Jerry - WB9ONU



Dennis WA2USA SOTA Adventure

Check out the view from Midland Hill to Mount Princeton
This view was near Buena Vista.



I did okay with many stateside Q's plus one to Norway and my first ever into Japan, all on 20 meters.

76 more points and I'll be a Colorado SOTA mountain Goat. Baa.

August Birthdays!!!

KD9KJG	Connie Martin	2
W9KXP	Mike Townsend	5
KA9AZS	Darlene Pfettscher	15
KC9UVG	David Sandine	17
WB9QAV	Randal Schoenbachler	27



Happy Birthday!

VE Testing

The next VE Testing session will be Aug 27th.

Examinations start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.

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



2022 Ham Radio Test Sessions

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 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. AUXCOM

The next Vanderburgh county
ARES/RACES meeting August 18th,
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 for

June 2022 (prepared 7/4/2022)

Opening Balance: \$5,308.65

Receipts:

Memberships plus donations

VE Room Rental \$21.00

Tee Shirt Sales \$391.75

Amazon Smile \$28.70

Total Receipts --->> \$441.45

Expenditures:

Pd Tom Hilgeman for Business Entity Report (\$22.00)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$22.00)

Ending Balance \$5,728.10

Red Cross Fund Balance \$1,304.82

Funds Available to TARS \$4,423.28

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

TARS Treasurer

Secretary Report

TARS Board Meeting 7/7/2022

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 KB9MZH, Don KB9YWQ and Dave WB9YIG

- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH accepted
Motion made by Tom to pay for the Field Day Pizzas, 161.54. Second by Scott. Passed
- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Repeaters: No new updates at this time. Dave WB9YIG will switch the 147.15 to digital only.
John N9OL has the computer and HRI 200 for project.
Not sure of the status on the Burnt Prairie repeater.
- DMR repeater has been transferred to Jeremy K9EPD.
- Field Day went well, more formal debriefing at meeting.
- CQ magazine has the TARS special event posted.
- Lewis and Clark Trail OTA - John N9OL looking for more info from them on how things went.

- 75th Anniversary Special Event. Date set for Aug 12-14. John N9OL will chair the event. It will work similar to the Lewis and Clark Trail OTA event.
- Shirt orders are coming in.
- Hamtoberfest raffle tickets will be at the meeting. Dit and Dash have pulled out of the hamfest. Need ideas on other vendors.
- Discussion – Have someone at the Red Cross door to greet people and point them to where to go. Also have name tags for anyone that needs them. Tom KD9PFH volunteered for this coming meeting.
Herb had a name tag suggestion and we had a club badge discussion.
- Scott discussed his power pole presentation for the July meeting.
- Had a discussion on meeting ideas that were talked about on the lo group email server.
- Mike discussed the Burnt Prairie repeater repairs with Dave WB9YIG.
- Jerry WB9ONU discussed using an HF multiplexer for field day.
- Discussion on Red Cross key card access for the VP and possibly the trustee, John will look into this.

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

TARS General Meeting Minutes

Red Cross

7/14/2022

Attendance 23

Meeting was brought to order by President John N9oL, introductions were made and new attendees were acknowledged. The treasurer's report was presented by Tom KD9PFH and accepted. June minutes were read by Dave KC9UVG and accepted.

Business

1. John N9oL reminded us of the W9OG/75th special event is slated for August 12 thru the 14th. If you want to be an activator, please email John and he will get you on the list and send out a schedule for activation times available.
2. T shirt orders are due tonight

3. Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air Special Event – The LCTOTA is in the process of compiling all the data and will let us know how we did.
4. VE Testing will be 9:00 AM Saturday, July 30th at the Red Cross.
5. Elections – Elections for TARS Officers and open Board positions will be held in November with nominations being accepted in September. Please consider someone you would like to see on the board/officer or if you wish to nominate yourself. The requirement is one year of TARS membership and that dues are up to date.
6. Hamtoberfest – Hamtoberfest is fast approaching October 15th! Raffle tickets will be available soon for the Yaesu FT5 and FT 70D HTs, one for \$5 and 3 for \$10. Please talk up the Hamtoberfest and the raffle with your fellow hams on the nets.
7. Field Day - Brian WB9QVR led the discussion on the experiences of field day and will create email threads to capture that data. Please be thinking about Good/Bad issues and what we can take forward to next year. Thinking about the possibility of setting up a committee 6 months before the next field day to plan for 2023.
8. Presentation – 7:30 PM Scott KC4SIR gave an excellent presentation on Anderson power poles and was looking for any and all amateurs interested in purchasing some at bulk rates to get with Scott by the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14PM

Submitted by Dave KC9UVG filling in for Chris KE9YK

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

[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)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

E-mail: sparks.w9og@gmail.com

