

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society Serving the Tri-State over 75 years March 2023 – Vol. LXXVI, No. 3



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 <u>info@w9og.net</u>.

Presidents Corner

We had a great turnout for our banquet at Golden Corral. A lot of certificates were handed out, including one for me because I was the Winter Field Day Fashionista in 2022. Unlike this year, it was really cold and I sat in a huge construction garbage bag to keep warm. The club actually has a 'grammy" or "medal of honor" called the McCutchen Award. It really is our most prestigious award, and you can trust me on this because it's not given for sitting in a garbage bag! This year's winner is Rick Jackson K9EXY – congratulations!

Sadly, Amazon has decided to end the Amazon Smile donation program. Amazon felt it didn't have an impact because the funds were too spread out. However, it was small charities like our club (we are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization) that benefited the most. We averaged about \$100 a year in this program for almost three years we were in it (final tally due soon). Talking about donations, TARS is in me and Wendy's will (not just my shack), please consider doing the same or adding TARS to your charitable giving. I hate talking about money, but it is what allows our organization to do the work of the club to serve the community now, but especially be ready when needed most. There are many things we can do, modernizing or remodeling our Red Cross shack is just one.

Radio is getting really exciting! I think the Air Force shot down a couple Amateur Radio balloons, 10 meters has been open lately, and activity all over the bands. I love the activity we have in our club as well! If YOU (or anyone nearby) need help getting on the air, an antenna, launching a radio balloon target, or with a radio project, please let us know so we can all join in the fun. If you have a radio subject you wish to teach or learn more about, please let us know for a future meeting. Jerry WB9ONU has invited all of us to join him every Saturday this month to activate a POTA station. Don't forget to bring something small to share at the next meeting which will be on local emergency communications and weather spotting.

Our joy is your shared participation, Scott Hibbs KD4SIR President TARS 2023

REMINDER CLUB DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!!

If you haven't renewed your membership this might be your last issue of SPARKS. Check the membership list in this SPARKS if you aren't sure if you have renewed.

March TARS Meeting

The next TARS regular meeting is Thursday March. 9th 7:00 pm at the Red Cross, 29 S Stockwell Rd, Evansville.

The meeting program will be on ARES/RACES communication and SKYWARN.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that would like to join us. We will meet at 5:30, for you to grab a bite to eat, swap stories and whatever else you like, giving us time to make it to the Red Cross for the meeting.

Come out to **Penn Station Subs, 137 N Burkhardt Rd, Evansville** Menu features an array of mouthwatering Grilled Penn Station submarine sandwiches, fresh-cut fries and hand-squeezed lemonade. <u>https://www.penn-station.com/</u>

Pota Operations with WB9ONU

Reminder Jerry is doing POTA ops every Saturday of March and you are invited.

March 4 at 10 AM at Bluegrass Fish & Wildlife in Warrick County March 11 at 10 AM at Audubon State Park in Kentucky

March 18 at 10 AM at Angel Mound State Park in Vanderburgh County

March 25 at 10 AM at Bluegrass Fish & Wildlife in Warrick County The 1st Saturday POTA event was good. We had Walt WB4ZUT, Jeff KD9VON, Chris KE9YK, and Dennis WA2USA. After setting up my station I encourage Walt to get on and make contacts. I think Jeff made a total of 18 contacts and Walt I believe had 14 contacts not bad. All that is needed to activate a park is 10 QSO. Walt used HAMRS for logging and I help him to register on Parks on the Air. Now all Walt needs to do is make an ADIF file then go to Parkontheair.com and upload the file.

Now everyone that didn't make it out next weekend we will be at Audubon State Park in Henderson, Ky.

Come with your rig, computer, logging software, antenna, and some type of power source.

Jerry wb9onu

McCutchan Award

Congratulations to Rick Jackson K9EXY on receiving the McCutchan Award. Rick has been on the TARS board, worked behind the scenes on a number of projects, assisted with layout and setup of the Hamtober Fest. Rick has assisted as station captain for field day, antenna setup and is always willing to offer his ideas or lend a hand to TARS or his fellow amateurs.

Special Election

Congratulations to Duane Vanderpool K3LWD on his election to the TARS board at the February special election. Duane will be filling the term through December 2023.

TARS Calendar

March

- 1 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA) HF net following Listen for freq on net
- 2 TARS Board meeting 6:30
- 4 POTA 10 AM at Bluegrass Fish & Wildlife in Warrick County
- 8 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 9 TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
- 11 POTA 10 AM at Audubon State Park in Kentucky
- 15 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 18 POTA 10 AM at Angel Mound State Park in Vanderburgh County
- 22 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 25 POTA 10 AM at Bluegrass Fish & Wildlife in Warrick County
- 29 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT) **No VE TESTING in March**

April

	5	Tri-State Emergency Net (Bruce, W9GFS)
	6	TARS Board meeting 6:30
	12	Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
	13	TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
	19	Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)
	26	Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
	29	VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross
	June	
	3-18	Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air
		Field Day
October		
	14	HAMTOBER FEST 7am – Noon, Lynnville

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air

Mark your calendars for 6/3 - 6/18/2023! Info for the LCTOTA this year. TARS will be an Indiana club that will activate LCTOTA stations. Mark your calendars! If you are interested in participating as an activator, please send me an email with your name and email address.



Check out <u>www.LCTOTA.org</u> for more information.

Date: June 3rd, 0000 UTC to June 18th 2400 UTC Operating Hours: 24 hrs/day for duration of the event Simple Rules: Contact one club in each of the 16 states on the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. Operating modes include SSB Phone, FM Phone, CW, and FT8. Any combination of modes towards working all 16 states is allowed. A schedule for planned operations for each state will be posted on this web site.

Friends we'll miss

Terry Brooks AA9MM/SK, 2/10/23

Terry was a former TARS Vice President and member for many years. Terry had suffered numerous cancers from the time he spent at ground zero helping with cleanup and recovery after 9/11.



Steve Doty KA9OKH/SK, 2/17/23

Steve was well known by area hams for being a radio technician at the ham station and helping many set up commercial radios on the ham bands.



https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stephen-dotyobituary?id=47548890

March Meeting - Weather Spotting

March is just around the corner members. That mean severe weather could happen. So what does that have to do with amateurs, except for down antennas and lightning. Well for so amateurs they go and learn to be weather spotters.

The National Weather Service has couple of class about becoming a weather spotter. Also part of the reason we are able to become amateurs is to provide a service. This doesn't mean get in your vehicle and chase a tornado or any other storm system. You can be a spotter by looking out your door or window when safe and reporting on the weather conditions at your present location.

As with weather spotting there is a couple of agencies in the amateur community that you could help.

RACE / ARES are the two agencies that you could help with your hobby. Hopefully tonight you will gain an understanding on how the two agencies work and are supported by amateurs and government agencies.

So I was hoping to have a weather spotting class to night, but was unable to get a class. I was able to get a link to the Weather Service in Paducah where you can create an account and take a class on your time at home. Its a 3 hour class so plan on having nothing to do for 3 hours.

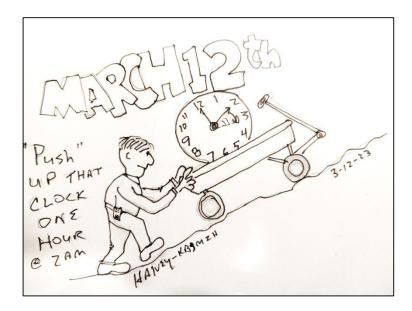
Weather spotters link

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education_training/course/23 Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Jerry - wb9onu

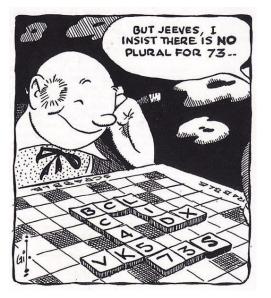
Thank You from Chris Matthews

Jeremy K9EPD (my Son) and I received a Sympathy Card for my Wife's Funeral Jan 6th 2023 from the Members of TARS. For those of you who Attended Sent Flowers, please accept this E Mail as Our Thank You in our time of Need. Christopher Matthews N9JCA Jeremy Matthews K9EPD



New General Test Question Pool 7/1/23

The General - Class Element 3 Question Pool Errata has been released. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, NCVEC, Question Pool Committee has released the latest errata for the 2023 - 2027 Element 3 General question pool, which goes into effect on July 1, 2023. Nine questions were modified (G1B01, G1C01, G1C02, G5C02, G7C10, G9B05, G9C09, G9D09, and G9D10) and two questions (G9C06 and G9D13) were withdrawn from use. The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. These changes are reflected in the new General Pool download file, dated February 1, 2023.



Portable Operations 68 years of history By John Small W9FHA

by John Shan warna

I just finished W8GG's article in the March QST about his Desert Operation. His article sounded too complicated for me. I started operating in parks in 1954 with a 50 watt Viking Adventurer with one crystal for 7043kHz. My receiver was a Hallicrafters S-38C and the antenna was a 40 meter dipole. All gear was powered using a long extension cord. As technology advanced my operations became simpler. I've operated from the Everglades in the south to remote lakes in Canada, San Juan Islands in



Washington to Acadia National Park in Maine, with many spots in between. I now use a KX2 or KX3 with a small battery or in my trailer using either solar or AC. My antenna system could not be simpler, it consists of four 6' pieces of tubing that telescope to a random height, no radials required. The antenna is mounted on the bumper of our 17' Casita trailer. I simply raise the sections of tubing, hook on the coax and I'm ready to hookup the rig inside the trailer or out. It takes less than ten minutes to get on the air. I find that HAMRS is a great program for many in the field.



2023 Member List Have you renewed your membership?

Have you renewed your membership?			
KB9MZH	Alvey	Herbert E.	
KD9UAZ	Block	Jim	
KD9VZQ	Brewster	Steven	
KC9JOV	Cecil	Ross	
WR9W	Conley	Gordon	
KD9VON	Crawford	Jeff	
KD9RPC	Davis	Don	
KC9YIL	Day	Danielle	
N9PDL	Decamps	Mark	
KF6XA	Donnelly	Dave	
WB4ZUT	Egenmaier	Walter	
N8LF	Ferrell	Lee	
KC9SYL	Flick	Gene R.	
W9GFS	Hatfield	Bruce	
KC9EOU	Hibbs	Wendy	
KD4SIR	Hibbs	Scott	
KD9PFH	Hilgeman	Thomas	
AA9WJ	Holt	Jeffrey	
K9EXY	Jackson	J. Richard (Rick)	
K9KDJ	Johnson	Kenneth	
KB9AXD	Julian	Debbie	
WB9YIG	Julian	Dave	
N9WJ	Kelley	Dan	
WB9ICL	King	Jay	
KB9YWQ	Land	Donald	
KD9COS	Land	Kelli	
KC9VDA	Lantaff	Betty	
КЕ9ҮК	Lantaff	Chris	
W9CFI	Lemon	Chris	
KC9GNM	MaCurdy	Keith L.	
KC9GNM	MaCurdy	Keith (Janice)	
KD9KJG	Martin	Connie	
KD9TFP	Martin	Mark	
WA2USA	Martin	Dennis	
WB8LDV	Martin	Charlie	
K9EPD	Matthews	Jeremy	
N9JCA	Matthews	Chris	
N9XXK	McCormick	John	
WB9KQF	McCrarey	Terry	
WB9ONU	McIntosh	Jerry	
N9AFC	Nolt	Mervin	
K8RAO	Oberst	Robert A, Jr.	
KC9HWQ	Politano	Chris	
KC9BLZ	Schmitt	Susie	
KC9NOY	Schoenbachler		
WB9QAV	Schoenbachler		
W9FHA	Small	John D.	
KD9TFS	Smith	David _	
AB9JK	Stuckey	Terry	

KC9TYA	Thienes	Mark
W9KXP	Townsend	Mike
N9OL	Van Vorst	John
K3LWD	Vanderpool	Duane
KD9NCP	Witherspoon	Rodney

Hamfest Calendar

03/11/2023 - Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. Location: Brazil, IN Sponsor: Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association Inc. Website: <u>http://W9UUU.org</u>

04/01/2023 - Columbus Indiana Hamfest Location: Columbus, IN Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club Website: <u>http://carcnet.net</u>

05/19/2023 - 05/21/2023

Dayton Hamvention, ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention Location: Xenia, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association Website: http://Hamvention.org

06/17/2023 - Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention -ARRL Tennessee State Convention Location: Knoxville, TN Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville Website: http://WWW.W4BBB.ORG

08/19/2023 - 08/20/2023 Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Alabama State Convention Location: Huntsville, AL Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Association Website: http://hamfest.org

09/09/2023 - Greater Louisville Hamfest 2023 Location: Shepherdsville, KY Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association Website: http://LouisvilleHamfest.com

10/14/2023 - Hamtober Fest

Location: Lynnville, IN Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Tri State Amateur Radio Society Website: <u>http://hamtoberfest.com</u>



For a complete ARRL hamfest list, go to: http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar



March Birthdays!!!

N8LF	Lee Ferrell	4
KZ9C	Rob Ferguson	4
WR9W	Gordon Conley	14
K9MOE	Steve Mohler	15
N9WJ	Dan Kelley	24
WB9ICL	Jay King	26

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.net to have them included in your newsletter.

VE Testing 2023

No Testing in March

April 29 2023 - 9AM Central time May 27 2023 - 9AM Central time June 17 2023 - 9AM Central time July 29 2023 - 9AM Central time August 26 2023 - 9AM Central time September 30 2023 - 9AM Central time November 4 2023 - 9AM Central time December 9 2023 - 9AM Central time



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

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

Examinations will start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time. We have no pre-registration, and examinations are administered on a walk-in basis. Details can be found at:

http://w9og.net/ve-testing

For more info contact: John VanVorst N9OL c: 812.305.4100



BASIC SPOTTER TRAINING

THURSDAY MAR 9, 2023 - 6:00 pm CST:

Henderson, KY (Henderson County) Henderson County EOC 1990 Barret Court Suite A

BASIC SPOTTER TRAINING: WEBINARS

THURSDAY MAR 30, 2023 - 6:00 pm CDT Click here to register

ELITE SPOTTER TRAINING (ADVANCED SPOTTER)

IMPORTANT: The basic spotter training is a prerequisite to taking the Elite Spotter Training Class. These classes last between 3 and 4 hours.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 2023 - 6:00 pm CDT

Evansville, IN (Vanderburgh County) American Red Cross 29 S. Stockwell Rd.

TUESDAY APRIL 18, 2023 - 6:00 pm CDT Owensboro, KY (Daviess County) EOC 221 Allen St

ELITE SPOTTER TRAINING - WEBINARS

TUESDAY APRIL 11 - 6:00 pm CDT: Click here to register

Other Classes are available!

For more Information, full list of classes and registration: https://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining

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.

If you would like to be a Net Control Operator for the Wednesday Night Net or learn how to run a SKYWARN net, Contact: <u>Chris Lantaff KE9YK</u>.

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

We have held off on any regular meetings for a bit and will be devoting more time to working on the many projects that we have going. We are always looking for new operators interested in joining and participating.



Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited to contact us for more details.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer 812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline 12604 WinLink KE9YK

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 <u>KC9CLO@gmail.com</u>

Secretary Report

TARS Board Meeting 2/2/2023

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by Scott KD4SIR Members present, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Charlie WB8LDV, Jerry WB9ONU, Dennis WA2USA, Walt WB4ZUT, Brian WB9QVR and Herby KB9MZH

- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH ending balance of \$8,218.95 Accepted
- Motion by Chris KE9YK to pay for the winter Field Day supplies. Second by Tom KD9PFH. Motion Passed
- Welcoming committee is the TARS Board. Scott has made some brochures for new people and we discussed more options.
- Winter Field Day, Thanks to Brian WB9QVR for heading things up and thanks to all for participating. Discussed WFD at Red Cross for next year.
- Nomination Committee: 3 Nominations, Don KB9YWQ, Duane K3LWD and Dennis WA2USA. Will have election at Feb. meeting.
- Shack Committee: John N9OL starting to make plans. Discussed idea with Brandon from Red Cross.

Discussed new radio for radio room, possible fundraiser to fund the project.

- Herby KB9MZH, new banner discussion might just add Est 1947, will discuss it next month.
- Hamtober Fest discussion: October 14th, 7am to Noon. Dennis has sent info to ARRL. John will look into a door prize from Alpha Antennas. Discussion on raffle: FT891 or similar,

need a discussion on ticket prices. Dennis would like to push Hamtober fest info out sooner. Brian WB9QVR made a motion to raffle an FT891, Second by Charlie WB8LDV. Motion PASSED

Chris made a motion to pay for the Hamtober fest domain renewal. Second by Herb KB9MZH. Motion PASSES

- Activities discussion: WFD, Antenna Parties. "Open House"
 Saturdays after test sessions, near-pota activation or Hamshack visits, fox hunt, informal get togethers at park etc.
- Field Day discussion: At Red Cross, have a real committee and do the planning, get station captains etc.
- INQP in May: Locations? Garvin Park, Wesselman Park, FOP, Mesker Park
- Picnic discussion: Jerry WB9ONU chairman. Check on Sep 16 Mesker park shelter, #14?
- Future Meetings
- Feb: Banquet

March 9th meeting, ARES/RACES Weather Spotting

- Mar: ARES/RACES intro and intro to weather spotting https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education training/course/23
- Apr: round table cool programs/apps Scott will start
- May: INQP

Meeting: Lewis & Clark Trail OTA – John

- June: LCTOTA June 3rd, 2023 to June 18th, 2023 Field Day Plan Presentation – captain
- July: 2M Quad Antenna Project Mark KD0EE
- Aug: Basics of Foxhunting coincide with foxhunt?
- Sep: Shack renovation plan presentation? Picnic/Tailgate Saturday in September 9 or 16 (mesker #14?) Oct: LST Radio Room?
- Nov: Packet overview -aprs/VARA-C/varafm modes?
- Dec:

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

TARS Regular meeting 2/9/2023

The February meeting was the annual banquet attended by around 21 people. We gathered at the eastside Golden Corral at 5:30 and enjoyed the buffet followed by a few announcements and certificate presentations.

Respectfully submitted Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

Treasurer Report

Financial Report for January 2023 (prepared 2/1/2023)

Opening Balance: \$8,013.35

Receipts:

Memberships\$355.00Donation\$0.50Total Receipts --->>\$355.50

Expenditures:

TARS Zoom Account, Scott Hibbs (check #1119) (\$149.90)

Total Expenditures>>	(\$149.90)
Ending Balance	\$8,218.95
Red Cross Fund	\$1,395.82
Funds Available to TARS	\$6,823.13

Looking Ahead

INQP 2023 May

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air June 3-18 2023 Field Day June 26-27 **13 Colonies Special Event** International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) third full weekend of August Light Up 2 Meters Night August **TARS PICNIC September 16th** 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 2024 Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday Winter Field Day January **TARS Banquet February** Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

TARS @ Groups.IO

Groups.io

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

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

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: <u>sparks@w9og.net</u> **TARS** is an <u>ARRL</u> affiliated club ARRL <u>Indiana Section</u> Section Manager: Bob Burns <u>AK9R</u>

TARS mailing address: TARS P.O. Box 4521 Evansville, IN 47724



Don't forget to check out our web page <u>www.w9og.net</u> Facebook Group <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/TARSw9og</u> TARS E-mail: <u>info@w9og.net</u>

2023 Club Officers - Board members

President <u>Scott Hibbs KD4SIR</u> Vice President <u>Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU</u> Treasurer <u>Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH</u> Secretary <u>Chris Lantaff KE9YK</u>

Board of Directors

Herb Alvey KB9MZH (2022-2023) Dave Sandine KC9UVG (2022-2023) Duane Vanderpool K3LWD (2023) Charlie Martin WB8LDV (2023-2024) Brian Esche WB9QVR (2023-2024) Walter Egenmaier WB4ZUT (2023-2024)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK E-mail: <u>sparks.w9og@gmail.com</u>