

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

November 2023 – Vol. LXXVI, No. 11

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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.

Presidents Corner

November

Fall is here and the leaves are changing! That means Thunderbolts Hockey Season! Wendy and I hardly miss a game! I think Hockey is the best sport on the planet. Let me know if you want to join us for a game. We sit in section 109 if you are there.

I've been really distracted between getting two new puppies (Biggie and Blu) who are beagle/dachshund mixes, hockey, and being in the garage. As many of you know, a week before Hamtober Fest, my mowing company pulled down (folded in half) my Gap Titan antenna while I was restoring my utility trailer. The antenna was up 10 feet and I had guyed it in all four directions with paracord. It was tied with a taut line hitch and several half hitches at eye level, it didn't need to be guyed but by doing so it never swayed in any wind nor would it. I had mowed around it in prior seasons and the mowing company had mowed around it all this year, but this time they picked up one of the guy wires with a zero-turn mower and took off with it. They ended up paying full price for a new Gap Titan, even when I offered that they pay me less since the original antenna was used.

The trailer suddenly became a huge priority because I need the space in my garage to take the new antenna out of the box to assemble it. So I've spent the last couple of weeks restoring a utility trailer, removing the old wood, rewiring, painting and putting on new wood. I was going to have an antenna party when I got done reorganizing my shack to put up a loop, but I will need to have one in a couple weeks just to get this Titan up and get back and get back on the air. So please stay tuned. Would love to beat the cold weather...

I want to thank everyone for such a great Hamtober Fest. It seemed well attended and it was well organized. I am so proud of our club donations that we sell every year. It is such a great way to pick up something to play with and enjoy the hobby. I bought a vhf/uhf swr meter and a Signalink usb, both for half the retail price! I also got a new hat! Hope your experience was just as fun.

See you at the next meeting!

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023

It's time to renew your dues for 2024!

A 2024 membership form was included with this mailing of SPARKS. You may mail the form with your dues payment to the address on the form, or bring it to the meeting. Please fill out the form as it lets us update our records and make sure your information is correct. THANKS!

November TARS Meeting –11/9/23

The next TARS meeting is this Thursday Nov.9th, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross. We will hold officer elections and the meeting program will be on MESH networking, by Brian WB9QVR
Come out and join us for a fun time!

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 meet at 5:30**, for you to grab a bite to eat, swap stories, tell a few lies and whatever else you like, giving us time to make it to the Red Cross for the meeting at 7:00.

Join us at **Fazoli's 899 N Green River Rd.**

Check here for more information: [FAZOLI'S WEBSITE](#)



TARS OFFICER ELECTIONS

2024 Officer elections will be at the November 9th meeting, YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED YOUR ELECTION BALLOT IN A SEPARATE E-MAIL IF YOU ARE A CURRENT PAID 2023 TARS MEMBER.

A big THANK YOU to the members that stepped up to run for office! TARS can't exist without good leadership.



The Contest Corner

By Mark Holland [KD0EE](#)

November is Sweepstakes month in the contest calendar! The CW contest is November 4-6 and the SSB contest is 18-20. The contests begin at 2100 UTC Saturday and end at 0259 UTC on Monday. SS is an ARRL sponsored contest and involves working as many US and Canada stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

There are now 85 sections to work as Canada has changed some sections. Maritime (MAR) has been divided into New Brunswick (NB) and Nova Scotia (NS). Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is now Golden Horseshoe (GH), and Northern Territories is now just Territories (TER). Make sure you update your logging software.

The pain in the SS contest is the exchange. The exchange includes serial number, precedent (power level), your call, year of first license, and section. Get the numbers right! Most logging software includes a Call History file which will help you out. In N1MM+, if you hit the space bar, the fields will be populated with the exchange from the last contest. But always double check with your ears.

40 meters will be your bread-and-butter band, as you will get the nearby states in the day and reach both coasts at night. Have fun and nail that WAS (Worked-All-States) in one weekend!!

TARS Calendar

November

- 1 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 2 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 4 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 8 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 9 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 15 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 22 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 29 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)

December

- 6 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 7 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 9 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 13 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 14 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 20 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 27 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)

Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff [KE9YK](#)

Logbook Of The World - LoTW

There are always **WRONG** comments online about **LoTW**, saying you need to be a member of the ARRL to use LoTW. ***This is absolutely not true and there is no charge obtaining a Callsign Certificate or submitting QSOs to LoTW.*** A charge is levied only when you apply for an award using QSOs confirmed via LoTW. The main caveat here is U.S. Amateurs must be ARRL members in order to apply for DXCC, VUCC, WAS, WAZ, and WPX awards.

LoTW is relatively easy to set up (you must follow all the steps correctly) and have functioning. It is a great way to have confirmations on your contacts and integrates easy into many logging applications.

For more information go to the LoTW FACTS page:

<https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/frequently-asked-questions/?lang=en#memberdata>



McCreary Gravel Rally

Raymond W9KHP talked about this last month, asking is anyone would be interested in going down and working with the rally.

Dates: April 26th-27th 2024

Website. McCrearyGravelRally.com

Location Whitley City, KY

Distance. 4hr drive.

All Day Event

Book your hotel now in Somerset, KY or try Whitley City but they will fill fast.

YouTube video at 14:00 is me talking back So check in cars.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OnwYmFa2KA>

LCARA HAM Radio: McCreary Gravel Rally 2023!!!!

For more information contact Raymond w9khp@w9khp.com

Hamtober Fest Update

Wow! As a club we can be very proud of the job we did with this year's hamfest. Many hands make for light work certainly applies to our group of dedicated volunteers. My hat goes off to each and every one who helped out. I've said it in the past and I'll say it again, we operate on "Auto" from advertising, word of mouth right up to the event when folks show up to help setup, direct traffic, signup folks for our half pot and raffle to break down and clean up. Lest we forget those members who donated equipment for the club sale and also those members who rented tables and donated cash. Fantastic...

Just so everyone knows, we received kudos from the Community Center for leaving the facility in tip top shape ensuring our return for next year.

If you'all can, show up at next month's club meeting and hear from our treasurer how well we did.

All the best 73, Dennis - WA2USA

A big thanks to Dennis on the success of our Hamfest the last couple years. While Dennis has decided to step down as hamfest chairman, I am certain he will still be assisting front and center, we need to welcome John N9OL as he steps into the role for 2024. John is already well on the way to making our 2024 Hamtober Fest a great success.

BITS of Interest

CBC stops broadcasting official time signal

For more than 80 years the beeps and tones of the time signal have connected Canadians. -CBC

Web based antenna designer and calculator

Tools enabling design and modelling of simple wire antennas for portable use on HF. -Sota Antennas

This and That

Congrats to Walt WB4ZUT on his new radio, a Flex 6600. Now to figure out how to operate it!

Herby is now somewhat back on the air. At his last antenna party, it was found his antenna had water migrated into it and the set screws had vibrated out. That was replaced and he now has a J-pole that is operational and working on something to replace his rig that gave up the electrons.

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.

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day

The ARRL Letter for November 2, 2023

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) are finalizing plans for 2023 SKYWARN™ Recognition

Day. The event is held annually on the first Friday and Saturday of December, so this year it will be on Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2. SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN amateur radio operators make to the NWS. During the event, SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

More details about the event will be posted on the [SKYWARN™ Recognition Day](#) and [ARRL](#) websites.



Deadline Extended for 60-Meter Comments

The deadline to file comments on the 60-meter band proposal has been extended by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to November 28, 2023. Replies to comments will be due December 28, 2023. The public comment period was originally to close October 30, 2023.

The ARRL strongly encourages all amateurs to submit comments expressing support to the FCC for the current 100 W ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 W EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels.

ARRL has assembled a web page with instructions on how to submit your comments, as well as background information on the issue at, <https://www.arrl.org/60-meter-band>.



November Birthdays!!!

KD9TFP	Mark Martin	1
KF5EKG	Bartholomew Stavisky	1
KD9PSX	Tom Fisher	2
KC9NOY	Gerald Schoenbachler	7
K8RAO	Robert A Oberst Jr.	23
KD9YRO	Kenneth Gwin	28
KC9JOV	Ross Cecil	29
AA9WJ	Jeffrey Holt	30

VE Testing 2023

December 9 2023 - 9AM Central time

The 2024 schedule will be available soon.

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](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9OL) c: 812.305.4100

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next regular ARES/RACES meeting is November 16th 6:30 pm at the West Side EMA training center. 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

c: 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 KC9CLO@gmail.com

Secretary Report

TARS Board Meeting 9/7/2023

TARS Board Meeting 10/5/2023

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by Scott KD4SIR

Members present, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Jerry WB9ONU, Walt WB4ZUT, Duane K3LWD, Herb KB9MZH, Brian WB9QVR, Dave KC9UVG, Charlie WB8LDV, John N9OL, Rick KF0TL, Dennis WA2USA and Dave WB9YIG

- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH, with an ending balance of \$7,774.91 Accepted
- Herby, Eat'n before the Meet'n, October, Azzip Pizza
- Shack Committee: discussion, Walt WB4ZUT motion to purchase \$25.00 mat for the shack. Tom KD9PFH second. Motion PASSED.

Brian WB9QVR said he had a couple of chairs that should work for the shack, he will bring to the meeting next week.

- Herbs' antenna party Oct 21 8 am.
- Herby KB9MZH is working on a calendar and looking at options. Scott will work with Herb on the design.
- HamtoberFest: Dennis WA2USA, Lynnville has spruced up the center and the parking lot is now paved. Dennis also checked with the lady next door and it is still ok to use her lot for extra parking. Just don't let anyone park in front of the building. Keep clear for her customers. Dits and Dash has canceled but Dennis contacted RF Connections and Jody will bring more items. Dennis has quite a few volunteers, Steve will have the Warrick EMA trailer set up. Dennis made a motion that, Half pot tickets will be \$5.00 with drawing at 11am. And must be present to win. Walt WB4ZUT second, motion PASSED.
- Discussed the partial eclipse Saturday.
- WW2 Museum: Scott said he lost a couple of volunteers. Brian WB9QVR and Dave WB9YIG both said they would help with the museum project.
- Election Committee: Walt is looking for a secretary nomination. John N9OL volunteered for secretary. Chris KE9YK will send Walt the election ballot to update for this election.
- Future Tech class discussion
- Inventory: Scott is pretty much finished with it.
- Discussion on making board meetings in person again. Most are in favor of the ZOOM board meetings.
- Discussion on purchase of the Yaesu DRx2 repeater from Dave WB9YIG. Scott made motion to purchase for \$700.00. Walt second, motion PASSED.

- Oct: Nano VNA – Walt & Rick KF0TL
- Nov: Mesh Networking – Brian WB9QVR

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm

Respectfully

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

submitted

TARS General Meeting 10/12/2023

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 7:00 pm. With 23 members present.

- Following introductions, we had a short talk by Raymond Edge W9KHP about the McCreary Gravel Rally. Raymond and a few from Warrick Co helped the Lake Cumberland Amateur Radio Association with the rally last year and is looking to entice a few more to help out for 2024.
- Secretary report: Approved
- Treasurers report: Approved
- Shack Committee report: Scott purchased a rug for the radio room. Brian WB9QVR donated 2 chairs for the shack. The committee is still looking for 2 operator chairs.
- Antenna Party for Herby 10/21/23.
- Steve K9SRC is looking for a couple of people to assist in taking down the tower of KORL(SK). They have several volunteers but could use a couple more for the safety lines, also on 10/21/23.
- WWII museum project: Scott is looking for volunteers to help with a display.
- Election Committee: Walt WB4ZUT accepted a nomination of John N9OL for secretary. Nominations were closed and the election will be next month, November 9th.
- Repeater Committee: Scott talked a bit about reestablishing the repeater committee to assess repeater upgrades.
- The November meeting program will be on MESH Nodes by Brian WB9QVR
- December will be a Show and Tell, Holiday Party.
- The meeting program was on Nano VNA by Walt WB4ZUT

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

Treasurer Report

September 2023 (prepared 10/3/23)

Club Opening Balance	\$7,229.93
Amateur Radio Society Account	
Opening Balance:	\$7,161.62
Receipts:	
Memberships	\$25.00
Donation of Half Pot minus \$10. by John Small	\$82.50
VE Room September	\$14.00
Total Receipts --->>	\$121.50
Expenditures:	
Picnic Supplies Jerry	(\$54.91)
Picnic Meat Tom	(\$114.11)
Total Expenditures--->>	(\$169.02)
Ending Balance	\$7,114.10

TARS IGC Account	
Opening Balance:	\$68.31
Receipts:	
Half Pot - Picnic	\$92.50
Raffel Ticket Sales - Hamtober Fest	\$300.00
Expenditures:	
TARS IGC Balance	\$460.81
Club Ending Balance	\$7,574.91
Red Cross Account	\$940.99
Funds Available to TARS	\$6,633.92

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH – TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

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

INQP May 2024

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 1-2 2024

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 22-23, 2024

13 Colonies Special Event July

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

TARS PICNIC September ???

Route 66 Special Event September 11-19

TARS 6th annual HAMTOBER FEST October XX, 2024

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

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@w9oq.net



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 email list: TARS@Groups.IO

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2023 Club Officers - Board members

President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)

Vice President [Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#)

Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

Secretary [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](#)

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: sparks.w9og@gmail.com