

# SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

**Serving the Tri-State since 1947**

February 2024 – Vol. LXXVII, No. 2



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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:info@w9og.net).

## Presidents Corner

We just got done with Winter Field Day and despite the rain it was a really good turn out. A couple of our newer members, who are studying for their tests, made their first HF contacts. Pretty Exciting! However, I hate to inform you of this, but if you missed out on the bean soup, cornbread and meat balls the loss you have experienced must have been unbearable for you. It was that good. To top it off the coffee and Charlie's birthday cake made the day. Happy Birthday Charlie!

Helping each other get on the air and enjoying the hobby is the backbone of the club. In the last couple of months, I've asked a couple members some questions and received some outstanding generosity. I've mentioned Jerry WB9ONU coming over to look at a possible loop install and how he got my home-made 160M carolina windom up. (btw, 10 Meters has been nuts check it out!) At Winter Field Day I asked Steve KD9VZQ where I could get thicker angle iron for my homemade fold over on my antenna mount. I was expecting him to say which box store, but Sunday morning he came over... took some measurements and by Sunday evening he sent me a video of an antenna hinge he created for me. I'm very appreciative and very proud of our club. So if you need help with something, please let us know.

Our next meeting will be at our Annual Awards Banquet. I hope all of you can join us at Golden Corral.

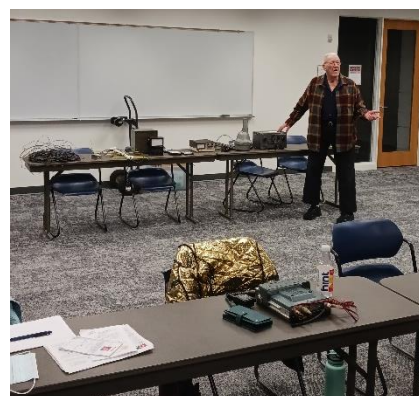
Share the fun!

Sincerely,  
Scott Hibbs KD4SIR  
President TARS 2023-24

## One last reminder

If you have already renewed, **THANK YOU!** If not it's time to renew your dues for 2024!

**Did you miss the January meeting? The auction went well.**



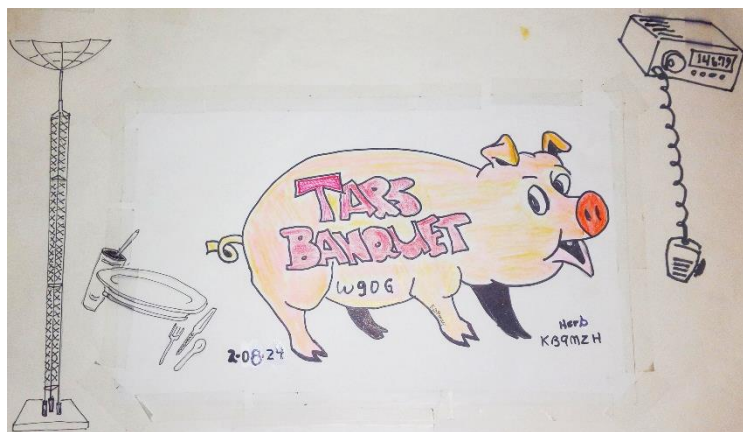
## TARS Banquet Meeting 2/8/23

The February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our annual banquet, to be held at Golden Corral, 130 Cross Pointe Blvd, Evansville. [\[Web Link\]](#)

TARS has the meeting room reserved to start at **5:30 pm**.

***This will be dutch treat, so just pay as you enter*** and come to the meeting room and join us. Prices are listed as \$17.99 per person, seniors over 60 are \$16.99, drinks \$2.99, plus taxes.

**TARS will cover the tip for our servers.**



## VP Update

By Jerry McIntosh [WB9ONU](#)

March is just around the corner members. That means severe weather could happen. So, what does that have to do with amateurs, except for down antennas and lightning. Well for some 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 public 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 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. It's 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](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/education_training/course/23)

Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

## TARS Calendar

### February

- 1 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 7 Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry WB9ONU)
- 8 **TARS BANQUET Golden Corral 5:30**
- 14 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 21 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 24 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)

### March

- 6 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 7 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 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 (Jerry WB9ONU)

**[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)**

## The Contest Corner

By Mark Holland [KDOEE](#)

February marks the beginning of the Spring contesting season. Even though it is still winter, the bands are heating up as we move towards the Spring Equinox when there is equal sunlight in both the northern and southern hemispheres. This produces excellent Worldwide propagation!

The big contest is the ARRL International Dx contest on February 17-18 (CW) and March 2-3 (SSB). What's fun about this contest is that you are the hunted instead of being the hunter! The world is looking for you! Even though Indiana isn't one of the "rarer" states, there will be plenty of seekers for your call. If you don't have much time, check the DX cluster to locate some of those rarer stations you may want to work.

There are also some fun QSO parties in February. The Vermont QSO Party is February 3-4, Minnesota QSO Party February 3, and North Carolina QSO Party February 25-26. There are also the ARRL school roundup and the CQ WW RTTY WPX in March. Be sure to check the rules for the latest information. Have fun on the bands!

Editor's Note:

[For a full listing of contests, check out WA7BNM Contest Calendar. The site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/> ]



## Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff [KE9YK](#)

Putting up a usable antenna in a HOA can be frustrating. You will always have to use a comprised antenna installation to meet the HOA's standards, or some type of stealth antenna that won't be noticed. Where there is a will there is always a way to get on the air. We have some club members that have resorted to antennas in the attic with reasonable success. If you have a privacy fence another option might be to run a wire along the fence. Below is a link to what one ham did to install a usable antenna at his house. Not exactly what I would call stealth, but it seems to work for him and hasn't riled up the HOA yet.

And remember if you need an antenna installed, TARS has an antenna committee that would be glad to help!

Don't ever give up!

Stealth Ham Radio Antenna the HOA will Never Find - Chameleon  
CHA Porta Mast with CHA Hybrid Mini

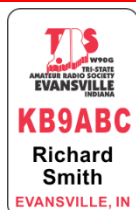
<https://youtu.be/9TlkoeSql8E?si=LHUrXga9HO-zbeJ9>

## TARS Name Badges

John N9OL has set up a TARS member name badge with The Sign Man. Everything is online and ready for you to place an order for your own NAME BADGE with the TARS logo.

The link to order TARS name badges is here:

<https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/tristate-indiana.html>



Check out the link above and the rest of his site for goodies!!!!

***Lastly, whether you buy one of the TARS badges or have one already that you like, please remember to wear them to meetings and club functions so that we can all get to know each other better!!***

73!

John N9oL

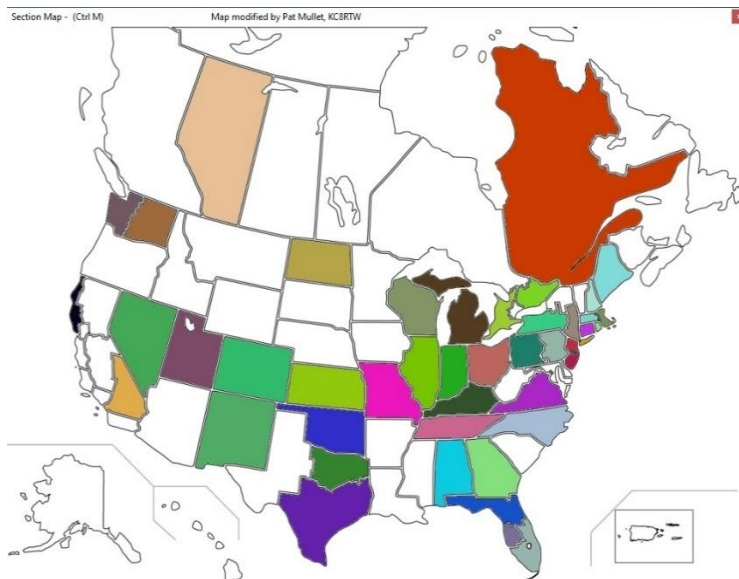
## Winter Field Day Results

If you missed it, you missed it! We just had Winter Field Day with good food a fun time and celebrated Charlie's birthday too.

Thanks to everyone that came out and joined us. We don't do WFD as a hard-core contest but at a more laid-back pace to have fun and a little fellowship. We had bean soup and cornbread, cookies, BBQed mini links, birthday cake and plenty of hot coffee to go around.

The shelter at Scott Park is being nicely renovated and has heat which was welcome this year.

Make plans to join us at our next operating activity, the Indiana QSO Party (INQP), on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more info!



Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
40	60	0	0	60	59
20	0	21	0	21	21
15	19	0	0	19	19
10	0	1	0	1	1
-----					
Total	79	22	0	101	100







## Ask ELMER!

We have a new column for SPARKS! **Ask ELMER!**

If you have radio or electronics related questions you would like an answer to. Send it to [SPARKS.W9OG@gmail.com](mailto:SPARKS.W9OG@gmail.com) and we will have one of our many Elmer's answer it for you. We are blessed to have so many knowledgeable people in your club and will find you an answer and post it in the next column.

## Get Connected:

### Setting Up Your Ham Shack Hotline

By Eric Pfeifer [N1JUR](#)

Hey there, fellow radio enthusiasts! Are you ready to take your ham radio game to the next level? It's time to set up your very own ham shack hotline and open the door to a world of communication wonders. Let's dive in and discover the benefits and steps to get you up and running in no time!

#### Benefits of a Ham Shack Hotline

1. Stay Connected: With your own ham shack hotline, you can easily connect with other amateur radio operators near and far. It's like having a secret line to the coolest club in town, but for radio lovers!

2. Emergency Ready: When the going gets tough, a ham shack hotline can be a lifesaver. During emergencies or natural disasters, traditional communication may go haywire, but your hotline will keep you in touch with the outside world. Understanding that if you have backup and strong internet it can serve to be another mode of communication

3. Tech Support on Speed Dial: Got a tricky technical question or need help troubleshooting? Your hotline is the direct line to experienced operators who can lend a hand when you're in a radio bind.

#### Steps to Setting Up Your Hotline

##### Step 1: Get Your Line

First, you'll need a dedicated phone line for your ham shack. There are several older VOIP Phones you can pick up on the cheap to get set up. You may need to do some digging into how to properly configure it for the service. Y

##### Step 2: Ring Ring! Choose Your Number

You'll need to use the HH Setup service which is outlined on their site to acquiring a extension and if you so choose an external number as well.

##### Step 3: Plug and Play

Install the phone and you'll need to wait for the implementation team to send you the instructions to provisioning your phone for



their network. Once that's done and a few reboots later you'll have access to the Ham Radio Hotline Network.

#### Step 4: Spread the Word

Shout it from the radio waves! Let your local clubs, online forums, and radio nets know about your new hotline. The more, the merrier, right? Get folks in your local club interested as it can help to have a quick way to connect to each other.

#### Step 5: Let the Connections Begin

With your ham shack hotline good to go, get ready to dial in and make some awesome new connections. Whether it's swapping stories, seeking advice, or just sharing some good old radio banter, your hotline is the place to be.

So there you have it, folks! Setting up your ham shack hotline is a fantastic way to supercharge your radio experience. It's all about staying connected, being prepared, and having a blast while you're at it. Now go on and get that hotline humming with the sound of friendly chatter and radio fun!

[HAM RADIO](#) [HOBBYHAMSHACK](#) [HOTLINEHOW TO N1JUR](#)<https://n1jur.com>

Link to original post:

[Get Connected: Setting Up Your Ham Shack Hotline — N1JUR - Amateur Radio](#)

Article Author:

Eric Pfeifer N1JUR Amateur Radio ([n1jur.com](https://n1jur.com))

YT: <https://www.youtube.com/@N1JUR>

## The First Amateur Radio Station on the Moon, JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting

The ARRL Letter for February 1, 2024

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19. The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with [Daniel Estévez's, EA4GPZ, blog](#) introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days, and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks

to aid research about the origin of the moon. SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision -- within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.



## February Birthdays!!!

KB9KVX	Larry Rudolph	2
<b>W9OG</b>	<b>TARS</b>	<b>6</b>
W9FHA	John Small	14
W9CFI	Chris Lemon	21
-----	Marilyn Ashley	23
AB9JK	Terry Stuckey	24



**2 Heathkit HW101 Transceivers** 1 has been rebuilt and just needs to be reassembled. The other is for parts only. **I have manuals, but there is no power supply.**

Also, I have **several old manuals**. Which are FREE.

**NanoVNA H4**

**Yaesu FT-8900**

**Yaesu Ft-3200DR/DE**

\$300 each on the Yaesu radio's

Jim Turner - AB9JT

**TEXT ONLY 812.480.1266**

## BITS of Interest

**From the groups.io list**

**1st Winter Field Day**

**Marilyn Ashley**

**to TARS**

The first ever Field Day I attended and it was AWESOME! Thank you to all for being so helpful with this wanna-be ham! Special thanks to Scott for programming my first radio and to Walt for teaching me how to actually connect and during a contest no less! The fact that everyone was willing to share educational and encouraging help is a statement for this club to your dedication to growth. And the food and location were perfect!

Thank you again, Marilyn



## This and That

Good morning,

My wife and I arrived on St. George Island in Florida. I had time to set up my station, see picture but not enough time to install my antenna. I'll get that done today between football games. HI.

73,

Dennis - WA2USA



## 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](mailto:sparks.w9og@gmail.com) to have them included in your newsletter.

## VE Testing

Feb 24 Apr 27 May 18 Jun 29 Jul 27 Aug 31  
Sep 28 Nov 23 Dec 28 Jan 25 **2025**

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](http://www.fcc.gov/register).

If you need help or have questions, please let me know at [n9ol@arrrl.net](mailto: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



## Errata to the 2024 - 2028 Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released errata for the new [2024 - 2028 Element 4 Extra Class Question Pool](#), which goes into effect on July 1. The errata includes minor question changes, the removal of one question, and one modified graphic. These updates are reflected in the new downloadable files, dated January 31, 2024. The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <https://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools. [Submit](#) feedback or questions to the Question Pool Committee.

## WANTED - WANTED - WANTED

**The Antenna Committee is getting lazy and fat.**

If you need help with your shack or an antenna install, please reach out to Scott, KD4SIR @ [scotthibbs@gmail.com](mailto:scotthibbs@gmail.com) or Jerry, WB9ONU @ [wb9onu@hotmail.com](mailto:wb9onu@hotmail.com) or speak up at a meeting. A dozen or so hams are ready and waiting to help.

## HAMFEST/CONVENTION

**02/24/2024 - Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**

Location: Dugger, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

**03/02/2024 - Cave City Hamfest**

Location: Cave City, KY

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mammoth Cave ARC

Website: <http://www.ky4x.org>

**03/30/2024 - WVARA Spring 2024 Hamfest**

Location: Brazil, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA, Inc.

Website: [https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest\\_2024.pdf](https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2024.pdf)

**05/17/2024 - 05/19/2024**

Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://hamvention.org>

**08/17/2024 - 08/18/2024**

Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Southeastern Division Convention

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc.

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

### 09/07/2024 - Greater Louisville Hamfest 2024

Location: Shepherdsville, KY

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association

Website: <http://LouisvilleHamfest.com>

### 10/12/2024 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest

Location: Bedford, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

Website: <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/>

### 10/19/2024 - Hamtober Fest

Location: Lynnville, IN



Sponsor: Tri State Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>

For a full listing of ARRL hamfests, go to:

<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

## Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next meeting will be **March 21<sup>st</sup>**.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, 6:30pm. At the West Side EMA Training Center

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

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK [IN82RACES@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:KC9CLO@gmail.com)



1. What is SKYWARN? The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather

spotters. For more than 35 years, the Skywarn program has been helping the National Weather Service gather critical “ground truth” information from the field before, during and even after severe weather events. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled the NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. Countless lives have been saved because of the unique partnership between volunteer storm spotters, emergency management and the NOAA National Weather Service. Just one report from a single Skywarn storm spotter can save thousands of lives. SKYWARN® storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time--seconds and minutes that can help save lives.

2. Who can be a spotter? Anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication can join the Skywarn program. Volunteers include amateur radio operators, law enforcement and fire personnel, emergency medical services workers, dispatchers, postal workers, public utility workers, city or county workers, farmers, and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are encouraged to become a spotter.

3. Why does the NWS need storm spotters? The National Weather Service is responsible for issuing severe weather warnings that alert people when a potential threat will affect their area. To do this, we study the environment leading up to a severe weather event in great detail and monitor technologically advanced Doppler Radar data. This technology does have limitations though. By adding in real-time reports from what the storm is actually doing makes our warnings that much more accurate, credible, and timely. We also use spotter reports to help verify if severe weather is or did occur during the official warning. The NWS will ALWAYS need storm spotters.

While the NWS doesn't currently have any SKYWARN classes scheduled in Evansville, there are some online webinars scheduled.

For the full schedule and more information check out the PAH spotter training page at:

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

Secretary Report
TARS Board Meeting 1/4/2024

TARS Board Meeting 1/4/2024
Zoom meeting called to order at 6:38PM by Scott KD4SIR
Members Present indicated with X below:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Role. Rows include Scott Hibbs (President), John VanVorst (Secretary), Charlie Martin (2024), Brian Esche (2024), Walt Egenmaier (2024), Chris Lantaff (Secretary), Herb Alvey (2024), Duane Vanderpool (2024), and Dave Sandine (2024).

Other attendees: None
Meeting Notes:

- Treasurer report read by Tom KD9PFH with ending balance in General fund account \$7,769.41. Report accepted.
- Secretary report read by John N9oL. Report accepted.
- Scott KD4SIR reminded all board members and officers that we are the welcoming committee at club meetings and functions. Make everyone feel welcome.
- Scott presented the need to renew the Zoom account in the amount of \$159.90. Motion to pay that amount made by Walt WB4ZUT; and seconded by John N9oL. Motion passed.
- Shack improvement- John N9oL presented recommendation to purchase from Sams club, qty 2 office chairs at a cost of \$199.99 plus tax each. These chairs have a 10-year warranty and are a more comfortable and durable chair. Motion to approve this purchase made by Charlie WB8LDV, seconded by Mark KD0EE. Motion passed.
- Repeater committee reported:
  - The receive site at St Vincent hospital is back online for the 146.79 system.
  - Dave WB9YIG will contact Cliff Weaver of the EMA to begin discussions about improving the quality and restoring failed equipment on the 146.79 system.
  - John N9oL mentioned the plan to move the remote Wires-X node for the EVV-West 146.835 repeater. This is currently at Mike Townsends home, and it needs to be moved. We are planning to move this node to the home QTH of Scott KD4SIR. This will be further discussed and finalized at the next Repeater Committee meeting.
  - Next repeater committee meeting scheduled for 1/31/2024 at 6:30PM over Zoom.
- Scott mentioned that he has received some code oscillators and decoders from China. He will devise a volume control for them. Brian WB9QVR offered his assistance.
- Winter Field Day will be held Jan 27, 2024 at the Scott Township Park.
  - Brian WB9QVR will set up networked computers for the event.
  - Setup will start around 9am CST that morning and we will operate until late afternoon or whenever everyone decides to pack it in.
  - There was a discussion of what rigs to use and it was the desire of the board to use the club radios.
  - There was a discussion of what antennas will be used.
- TARS banquet to be held on Feb 8 2024 at 5:30PM at the Golden Corral restaurant in Evansville. Walt is chairperson for the event. Costs will be \$16.99 per person plus drinks are \$3.99 each. Members will pay for their tab and TARS will pay the tip.

- January meeting is the TARS auction night. Ed K9VHI will be auctioneer. There was a discussion on whether to videotape the auction and it was decided no.
- Chris KE9YK presented that the fees for the 2 websites – hamtoberfest.com and hamtoberfest.org – are due for renewal. Last year the cost was \$40.98 and this year’s fee was not exactly known. Motion was made by Rick KF0TL to pay this up to amount up to \$50 to renew the sites, and motion was seconded by Walt WB4ZUT. Motion passed.
- Discussed using Zoom to host and record TARS regular meetings going forward. No decision was made at this time although the general feeling was in favor.
- Future meetings: Feb is the banquet, and March is ham shack accessory show-and-tell.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24PM CST
Respectfully submitted:
John C Van Vorst, TARS Secretary

TARS General Meeting 1/11/2024

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 7:00 pm. With 26 members present.

- Secretary report: Chris, KE9YK - Approved
- Scott still has a few calendars by Herby and Scott, so far \$18.00 has been raised. If you want one they are up front and you are welcome to make a donation or not.
- Winter Field Day: Scott twp. park shelter, Jan 27th. Info is in SPARKS
- Feb Banquet: Feb 11th, Golden Coral 5:30. Eating and awards.
- Chris KE9YK announced a new column for SPARKS, ASK ELMER!

If you have a question you would like to ask, send it to the SPARKS editor, sparks.w9og@gmail.com and we will get the question answered in the next newsletter. We won't post the name of the person asking unless you want us to.

- Jerry WB9ONU announced that he would like to make videos of peoples shacks and set-ups to make a presentation at a club meeting or post on line for members to get ideas what others are doing.

Respectfully submitted
By Chris Lantaff KE9YK in absence of the secretary.

Treasurer Report

Financial Report
December 2023 (prepared 12/28/23)

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Club Opening Balance (\$8,768.72), Amateur Radio Society Checking Account Opening Balance (\$7,867.91), Receipts (Memberships \$175.50, VE Room \$63.00, Donation Eating Before the Meeting Book \$32.00, Total Receipts --->> \$270.50), Expenditures (Post Office Box (\$194.00), Scott Township Trustee Winter Field Day (\$175.00), Total Expenditures---->> (\$369.00), and Ending Balance \$7,769.41.



TARS IGC Checking Account	
Opening Balance:	\$900.81
Receipts:	
Expenditures:	
TARS IGC Balance	\$900.81
Club Ending Balance	\$8,670.22
Red Cross Account	\$1,038.99
Funds Available to TARS	\$7,631.23

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH – TARS Treasurer

## Looking Ahead

2024

**TARS Banquet February 8<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024**

**INQP May 4-5 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 6<sup>th</sup> annual HAMTOBER FEST October 19, 2024**

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

**SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December**

2025

**Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC**

**ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday**

**Winter Field Day January**

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sparks.w9og@gmail.com)**

## TARS @ Groups.IO



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

You can subscribe at <https://groups.io/g/TARS> or by sending an email to [TARS+subscribe@groups.io](mailto: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](mailto:TARS+help@groups.io)

TARS is an **ARRL** affiliated club

ARRL **Central Division**

Division Director: Carl Luetzelschwab **K9LA**

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](http://www.w9og.net)**

**Facebook Group**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TARSw9og>

**TARS Groups.io email list: [TARS@Groups.IO](mailto:TARS@Groups.IO)**

**TARS E-mail: [info@w9og.net](mailto:info@w9og.net)**

## 2024 Club Officers - Board members

**President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)**

**Vice President [Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#)**

**Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)**

**Secretary [John VanVorst N9OL](#)**

### Board of Directors

**[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2023-2024)**

**[Brian Esche WB9QVR](#) (2023-2024)**

**[Walter Egenmaier WB4ZUT](#) (2023-2024)**

**[Ross Cecil KC9JOV](#) (2024-2025)**

**[Mark Holland KD0EE](#) (2024-2025)**

**[Rick Finical KF0TL](#) (2024-2025)**

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