

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State since 1947

March 2024 – Vol. LXXVII, 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 info@w9og.net.

Presidents Corner

March 2024

Recently, we learned about the passing of Rick Jackson, K9EXY SK. He was a great guy and will be sorely missed by myself and many members of TARS. Last year also in the March newsletter, I congratulated Rick on being awarded the McCutchan Award. Rick always had a smile and he always had fun with Amateur Radio. We honor and remember him by doing the same.

For those of you not subscribed to our www.groups.io TARS page, might have missed out on an impromptu class given by Ken Johnson K9KDJ after the TARS ARRL test session on Feb 24th. The subject was an introduction about AREDN. It was attended by a little over 15 people interested in the project. It was suggested that Ken become the chairman of a TARS committee to see about getting an AREDN project going here in Vanderburgh County. We will discuss this some more at the next meeting, and the following meeting after this one we will help get devices programmed for the AREDN mesh. Stay tuned for more info, and subscribe to our groups.io page.

Many thanks to Chris KE9YK for printing out all the pretty certificates for our achievements. I'm impressed every year by how professional they look. It takes a lot of time to get these done as well as the web site and sparks newsletter that you are reading right now. Members like Chris, make the club thrive. Thank you, Chris.

Last but not least, our highest award, the McCutchan Award was won this year by Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH. Tom is currently our Treasurer but his service does not stop there. If you have been at a TARS event, it is often Tom who is doing things to make the event better such as bringing and making the coffee, or organizing food, or planning, set up or take down, etc. If you are enjoying yourself at a TARS event, it was probably Tom's hospitality involved. Thank you, Tom and congratulations!

Don't forget to bring something to share and bring questions for the group to answer at the next meeting. Sharing is caring and also how hams have fun! I think it's antenna party season!

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! Look for the 2024 membership roster in this issue of SPARKS!

TARS March Meeting 3/14/24

General membership meeting 7:00pm March 14th at Red Cross. We will have a special election to replace Rick Finical whom resigned from the board. The meeting program is by Bruce Hatfield W9GFS, on the upcoming Solar Eclipse. This should be a well informed and interesting presentation.

If you would like more information on the eclipse, the Indiana DHS has a website at:

<https://www.in.gov/dhs/solar-eclipse-2024/>

There is also eclipse information from the ARRL Letter in an article on page 5 in this edition of SPARKS.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

Monthly, we have a meetup before the regular TARS general membership 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 7:00pm.



This month, join us at **Zaxby's 1021 N Burkhardt Rd. Evansville.**

Check here for more information: [Zaxby's Burkhardt Rd](#)

INQP

INQP May 4-5, 2024. TARS will be participating from Scott Park again this year, on Saturday May 4th.

Watch for more information in the April SPARKS and check out the INQP website at: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/>

The Contest Corner March 2024

By Mark Holland [KDOEE](#)

Have you ever gone to the lake and had the other fishermen say, "You should have been here yesterday?" That's the feeling I had when I was on vacation during the ARRL CW DX contest last month. Old Timers are saying it was perhaps the best band conditions witnessed during their lifetime. Point is: The bands are hot! Some are saying we are at the peak of the sunspot cycle. It may be another 11 years before we see HF bands this good. It's time to get on the air! As the old saying goes, "You snooze, you lose."

There are many contests during the month of March. It is best to go to a website such as www.contestcalendar.com to get them all. The huge one this month is CQ WW WPX SSB March 30-31, but don't discount the Russian and the Africa All-Mode DX contests March 16-17. There are also several state QSO Parties: Oklahoma and Idaho (March 9-10), Wisconsin (March 10-11), and Virginia (March 16-17). There is something for everyone.

So, get out there and enjoy the bands!

73, Mark KDOEE

TARS Calendar

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)

April

- 3 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 4 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 8 **Total Solar Eclipse North America**
- 10 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 11 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 17 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 24 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

Connect your calendar to the TARS Google calendar!


Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff [KE9YK](#)

Have you ever wondered what all the graphs and numbers on the band conditions banner mean?

You can find out in this great PDF article from NOJI.

<https://noji.com/hamradio/pdf-ppt/noji/Noji-Article-Band-Conditions-Banner.pdf>

Solar-Terrestrial Data - http://www.n0nbh.com				
2011 Apr 22 1518 UTC	Current Solar	HF Conditions		
SFI 113 SN 100		Band	Day	Night
A-Index 5		80m-40m	Fair	Good
K-Index 2 / 12 nT		30m-20m	Good	Good
X-Ray C1.2		17m-15m	Fair	Fair
304A 146.0 @ SEM		12m-10m	Poor	Poor
Ptn Flx 1.54e-01		Geomag Field QUIET		
Etc Flx 8.03e+01		Sig Noise Lvl S1-S2		
Aurora 4 / n=1.11		(C) Paul L Herrman 2010		

For even more in-depth information or getting your own banner go to: <https://www.hamqsl.com/solar2.html#usingdata>



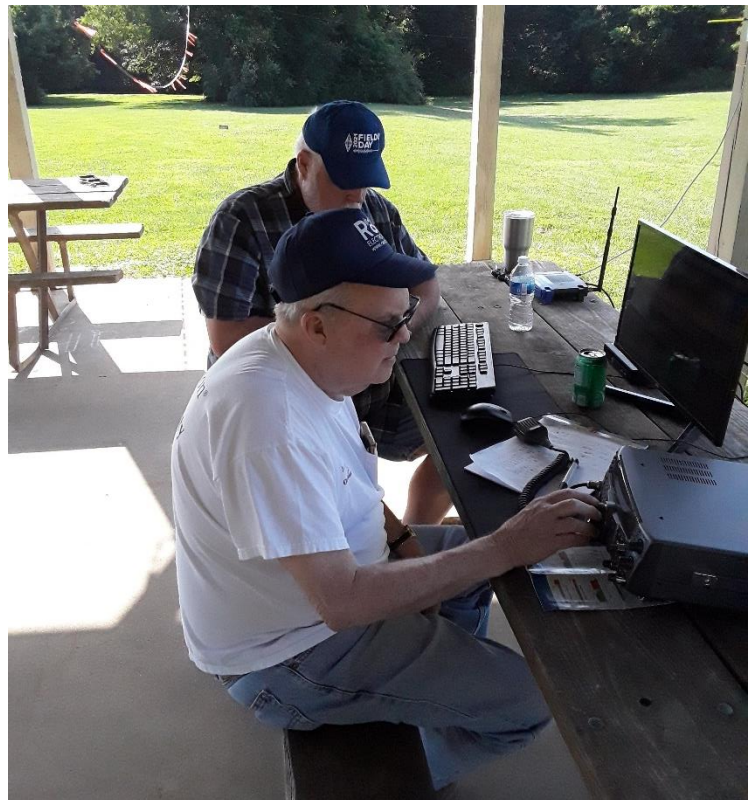
Rick Jackson K9EXY Silent Key

It is with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Rick K9EXY. Rick always had a welcoming smile and positive attitude. Rick had served on the TARS board for several terms and worked behind the scenes on several projects along with helping at Field Day, INQP and Winter FD operations. Rick was always ready to lend a hand when needed and was humbled yet tickled to be a recipient of the McCutchan award.

Link to Rick's obituary:

<https://www.jenkinsfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/James-Jackson-177/#!/Obituary>

73 OM and GB SK



McCutchan Award

Congratulations to Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH on being presented with the McCutchan Award at the TARS banquet. Tom is always working behind the scenes to keep TARS running like a well-oiled machine. He has served several terms as club treasurer, which is really a thankless job with lousy pay. While committee chairman get the accolades Tom was probably the one making reservations filling out forms and coordinating anything from picnic food, tax forms, shelter reservations and raffle permits. For some most importantly, Tom always makes sure there is a hot pot of coffee brewing or thermos full for the station operators and workers. Congratulations Tom, well deserved!



TARS President Scott Hibbs presenting Tom his McCutchan Award

AREDN

Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network



If you missed it, we had a nice presentation on AREDN by Ken K9KDJ on Sat. 2/24/24 at Red Cross. Ken discussed what AREDN is and how we could utilize it locally. AREDN uses off the shelf WiFi equipment to establish a ham radio mesh network. A number of club members are purchasing a router that can be easily adapted to the network and connecting to Ken and his Indiana super node. Once connected to Ken you can connect to a number of services offered on the network. There will be more discussion at the club meeting to see who might be interested on learning more.

McCreary Gravel Rally

It's that time of year again. As you all know we have been invited down to help with communications for the McCreary Gravel Rally in Whitley City, Ky with the Lake Cumberland Amateur Radio Association (LCARA).

I have been in contact with Brian KY4BDP and he would like to get a count on how many of us are planning to make the trek so they have a good idea on the count of volunteers for the event. I know myself and Leslie are planning to go again this year. We will most likely be getting a hotel in Somerset, Ky which is about an hour away from Whitley City because to be honest there is probably nothing closer at this point.

Here is the website about the event as well as the sign-up sheet to volunteer.

Event: <https://www.mccrearygravelrally.com>

SignUp: <https://nasarallysport.com/main/event/2024/McCreary-Gravel-Rally>

6 of us went down last year from Warrick County, Myself and Leslie, Tom(W9TPJ) and Cyndi(KD9OLB), Erik(KD9OFX) and Mike(K9GPV).

LCARA and I would love it if we could bring more down to help this year. This event can not happen without volunteering. Now this is not saying you will be on the radio taking traffic all day or sitting down being bored either. There are a lot of places that we can help them have another great event.

So, if interested please let me know ASAP or just go sign up on the website. If you have question about the event, you can email me or if a number of you would like to talk as a group, I can be available to discuss it over Discord, conf call or at a meeting.

Thanks all for your support

Raymond – W9KHP

raymond@w9khp.com

You can watch some highlights from last year on the LCRARA YouTube page here:

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

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 or Jerry, WB9ONU@ wb9onu@hotmail.com or speak up at a meeting. A dozen or so hams are ready and waiting to help.

TARS 2024 Membership Roster

KB9MZH	Herbert E.	Alvey
	Marylin	Ashley
	James	Beavin
KD9UAZ	Jim	Block
KD9VZQ	Steven	Brewster
KC9JOV	Ross	Cecil
WR9W	Gordon	Conley
K9SRC	Steve	Connaughton
KC9YIL	Danielle	Day
N9PDL	Mark	Decamps
N9EMH	Rick	Dennis
KF6XA	Dave	Donnelly
WB4ZUT	Walter	Egenmaier O.D.
WB9QVR	Brian	Esche
N8LF	Lee	Ferrell
KC9SYL	Gene R.	Flick
AF9F	Robert L.	Futrell
KN9DXD	Kenneth	Gwin
W9GFS	Bruce	Hatfield
KC9EOU	Wendy	Hibbs
KD4SIR	Scott	Hibbs
KD9PFH	Thomas	Hilgeman
KD0EE	Mark	Holland
NOTEE	Jan	Holland
AA9WJ	Jeffrey	Holt
K9KDJ	Kenneth	Johnson
KB9AXD	Debbie	Julian
WB9YIG	Dave	Julian
N9WJ	Dan	Kelley
N9TQR	Mischler	Kevin
KC9VDA	Betty	Lantaff
KE9YK	Chris	Lantaff
W9CFI	Chris	Lemon
KC9GNM	Keith	MaCurdy
WB8LDV	Charlie	Martin
KD9KJG	Connie	Martin
WA2USA	Dennis	Martin
N9XXK	John	McCormick
WB9KQF	Terry	McCrarey
WB9ONU	Jerry	McIntosh
AB3F	James	Munsell
K8RAO	Robert A, Jr.	Oberst
KC9EP	Eric	Plikuhn
KC9HWQ	Chris	Politano
K9LMK	Richard	Robb
KB9KVX	Larry	Rudolph
KC9UVG	David	Sandine
KD9CHH	Mary	Sandine
KC9BLZ	Susan	Schmitt
KC9NOY	Gerald	Schoenbachler

WB9QAV	Randal	Schoenbachler
W9FHA	John D.	Small
KF5EKG	Bartholomew	Stavisky
AB9JK	Terry	Stuckey
KC9TYA	Mark	Thienes
W9KXP	Mike	Townsend
N9OL	John	Van Vorst
K3LWD	Duane	Vanderpool
K4SAW	Steve	Wilzbacher
KD9NCP	Rodney	Witherspoon

Solar Eclipse One Month Away

From The ARRL Letter for March 7, 2024

A total solar eclipse that will be seen across North America will occur on Monday, April 8th. It will be the last of its kind in the US for the next 20 years.

Hams across North America are asked to participate in a study about how the ionosphere functions by getting on the air to help scientists in a series of ionospheric experiments.



The 2017 Great American Eclipse. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo.]

Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) has presentations for hams interested in participating on Wednesday, March 27 at 8:00 PM (Eastern) - 5:00 PM (Pacific)*, and that same day at 10:00 PM (Eastern) - 7:00 PM (Pacific)*. Both 30-minute presentations will held on Zoom and they will feature HamSCI's Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science (FoEIS). The presenters will take your questions during the presentations.

Here is the [link to the presentations](#).

The program will start by covering HamSCI's basis and purpose, and quickly move into why they are conducting experiments, how hams and shortwave listeners (SWLS) can participate, and what they hope to learn from the event. Along the way, they will discuss why the science behind the event is important to users of the high-frequency radio spectrum - including amateur radio operators!

Learn about the HamSCI's eclipse-focused operating events:

- [Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#) (SEQP)
- [Gladstone Signal Spotting Challenge](#) (GSSC)
- [Medium Wave Recording Event](#)
- [Time Delay of Arrival \(TDOA\) Event](#)
- [Grape 1 Doppler Receiver Project](#)

Maritime Mobile Planned

During the solar eclipse, John Landrigan, KA4RXP, will be operating in the SEQP as a maritime mobile off the coast of Mazatlán, Mexico, at the beginning of the total solar eclipse as it transits the Maritime provinces of Canada. Look for KA4RXP/MM around 14.265 MHz.

Bob Heil K9EID SK

Heil Ham Radio

Our beloved founder, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, is now a Silent Key. Bob fought a valiant, year-long battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family. Bob's lifelong passion for amateur radio was clear to everyone involved in the hobby. Everything Bob did for the betterment and growth of amateur radio - from his instructional handbooks and countless presentations to his support of the ARRL and youth programs - was based on the foundation and spirit of service. Bob was an Elmer to all of us. While Bob's presence will dearly be missed, his impact on the hobby and everyone in it will forever be felt. On behalf of Bob to all ham radio operators worldwide, 73.



Senate Bill S.3690 Introduced to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT February 15, 2024

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced S.3690, the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, introduced last June. Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by the ARRL to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

The text of bill S.3690 can be found at,

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3690/text> .

Amateur Radio Operators repeatedly are relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."

In a similar announcement, Senator Blumenthal stated: "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications. In the face of emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allow listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.



March Birthdays!!!

N8LF	Lee Ferrell	4
WR9W	Gordon Conley	14
N9WJ	Dan Kelley	24
AB3F	James Munsell	29

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.

BITS of Interest

The results from HamSCI's first Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science event have been released. [HamSCI](#) has announced the results from the inaugural running of the [Gladstone Signal Spotting Challenge](#). Held during the October 14, 2023, North American annular solar eclipse, the challenge was designed to recognize operators of digital mode stations who contribute valuable data to ionospheric research. Receiving stations uploaded their records to sites such as [PSKreporter.info](#),

[WSPRnet.org](#), and [reversebeacon.net](#).

Transmitting stations were received by stations worldwide who uploaded their results to the same databases, creating records of the transmitting stations' activities. Here is the [link to the full results](#), including participant scores and a sampling of station design details and station photographs. The next event will be held on April 8, 2024, during the North American total solar eclipse.

Amateur radio operators have the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of the launch of the USS Midway. On March 9, 2024, from 1700Z - 2359Z, the ship's radio station will operate as NI6IW on 7.250, 14.320, and 14.070 MHz, as well as on PSK31, D-STAR, and the [PAPA](#) repeater system. The USS Midway is located in San Diego, California, at the USS Midway Museum. It was launched on March 20, 1945, and decommissioned on April 11, 1992. Commissioned 8 days after the end of World War II, Midway was the largest warship in the world until 1955. A QSL card is available for the special event by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with your QSL card to USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. A complete history of the ship can be found at [USS Midway: A Navy Battle 'Aircraft Carrier' with An Armored Flight Deck | The National Interest](#).

VE Testing

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](#).

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

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

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

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: Lynnvile, 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 21st**, 6:30pm on ZOOM.

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



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

Board meeting minutes 2024-02-01

Scott called tom order at 6:35PM

- Scott announced that Rick Finecal has resigned from TARS and the TARS Board and Repeater Committee. He gave no specific reason but indicated that he had no choice.
- Secretary's report read by John N9oL. Report accepted.
- Treasurers report read by Tom kd9pfh. Ending genj fund bal \$7446.97. IGC acct \$900.81. RC acct \$1066.99. Report was accepted.
- Tom KD9PFH proposed to purchase a cash box for 26.99 plus tax to use at Hamtoberfest. Motion made Walt, seconded by Markkd0ee. Motion passed
- Past business
 - o Scott asked about the domain renewals for Hamtoberfest sites. Chris indicated those renewals have not been made yet.
 - o Chris ke9yk indicated he received the renewals for w9og.net domain and website. \$127.78. Walt motioned to pay this fee. John N9oL seconded. Motion approved.
- New Business
 - o Hamtoberfest- discussed what the raffle prize will be. It was announced that anyone with suggestions for a raffle prize please send to n9ol and we will discuss at next board meeting.
 - o Shack committee- N9ol shared that the chairs are in the shack.
 - o INQP – Event chairman will be Mark KD0EE. Discussion ensued on location for the event. Decision to use Scott Township Park, motion made by Walt wb4zut and seconded by Charlie wb8ldv. Motion passed.
 - o Summer Field Day. John N9oL will be chairman. Walt made motion to hold summer FD at the Red Cross facility, John N9oL seconded. Motion passed.
 - o Repeater committee.
- ☐ Wires-x node for 835 is going to be moved to Mark n9pdl.
- ☐ Replace node computers for both evv west evv ne.

- ☐ Dave has a call into Cliff Weaver to set up a meeting to discuss the 146.79 improvements.
- ☐ We set a time to visit the state police post to review the site.
- ☐ Proposed to the board purchase of a mini-tower computer for \$225. Mark kd0ee made motion to purchase that, Dave wb9yig seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- ☐ Non-licensed individuals using repeater freqs. Scott is sending a personal letter to one individual.
- ☐ Mark kd0ee suggested that we should look for ways to improve the key-up latency of the receive/voter of the repeater.
- ☐ Discussed how to react to unlicensed users we hear on the repeater.
 - o WW2 museum- Scott is still working on the oscillators. Discussed other options for CW oscillators.
 - o Banquet- All set for Feb 8. Price for food plus drink \$22.66 plus tax with drink. \$19.43 without a drink. These are a little higher than we originally thought. Christ ke9yk working on award certificates.
 - o Discussed Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air. Decided to do it again this year.
 - Meetings
 - o March meeting – Bruce Hatfield wants to present on astronomy
 - o April - Jeremy Mathews will do presentation on distracted driving and Ham Radio as well as talk about his DMR repeater.
 - o May- Brian Esche to present on IP Addressing.
 - o June meeting- field day prep
 - o July- kit build night, possibly CW oscillator?
 - o Club picnic- Jerry to get with Jeremy Mathews to reserve the FOP camp for one of these- Sep 7, 14, or 21.
 - o September – revisit the ISS contact of 10 years ago.
 - Discussed Hamshack Hotline
 - Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

John C Van Vorst, TARS Secretary

TARS General Meeting 1/11/2024

Tri-State Amateur radio Society

General Membership Meeting - Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/08/2024

Pre-meeting- All present enjoyed good food and fellowship at this our annual TARS Banquet meeting.

Meeting called to order by __Scott Hibbs KD4SIR__ at 6:05PM CST

Reading of officer reports:

Treasurers Report read by Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH – report was accepted.

Secretary's Report – Minutes from 01/11/2024 meeting read by John Van Vorst, N9oL – Report was accepted.

Vacant Board Position due to the resignation of Rick Finecal from the board. Nominations were requested.

Future Meetings – March meeting will be presentation of the eclipse, April meeting will be a presentation by Jeremy Mathews on DMR, September meeting will be a presentation and video of the ISS contact with EDS 10 years ago.

Discussed the new name tags that are available from Sign Man of Baton Rouge

Awards ceremony – Chris KE9YK gave out certificates for members leadership and participation throughout the past year.

Presentation of the McCutchen Award to Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30PM.

John C Van Vorst, TARS Secretary

Treasurer Report

Financial Report for

January 2024 (prepared 1/31/24)

Club Opening Balance \$8,670.22

Amateur Radio Society Account

Opening Balance: \$7,769.41

Receipts:

Memberships \$200.00

VE Room \$28.00

Auction \$37.00

Total Receipts --->> \$265.00

Expenditures:

Zoom (\$159.48)

Office chairs for Radio Room (\$427.96)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$587.44)

Ending Balance \$7,446.97

TARS IGC Account

Opening Balance: \$900.81

Receipts:

Expenditures:

TARS IGC Balance \$900.81

Club Ending Balance \$8,347.78

Red Cross Account \$1,066.99

Funds Available to TARS \$7,280.79

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH – TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

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 6th 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](#)

[TARS Banquet February 2025](#)

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 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

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

Facebook Group

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

TARS Groups.io email list: TARS@Groups.IO

TARS E-mail: 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 KFOTL](#) (2024-2025)

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