

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State since 1947

August 2024 – Vol. LXXVII, No. 8



The SPARKS Newsletter is published monthly by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

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

August 2024

At our last meeting we had our July Cricket 40 qrp kit build. We had 15 kits to build at the last meeting and a couple people actually finished before we left the building. Several people have reported getting the kits done at home and a couple have remarked on the good receive audio. If you have made a contact with the kit please let us know at the next meeting. It was a lot of fun to build them, and I want to thank everyone for teaming up and helping.

I am always amazed at how much experience our club has to offer each other and the community. We are only amateurs because we aren't paid, and rightly so because no one can afford to pay for our devotion, experience, and amazing skills we have collectively in the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society.

One of the amazing talents we have will be on display at the next meeting. Kenneth, K9KDJ, will give a talk on UHF/VHF which will include an update on our plans for the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) in the area. I'm looking forward to this presentation. If you have a topic you would like to share or if you have something you would like to learn more about please let Jerry WB9ONU or myself know.

Our picnic is in September so please mark your calendars to attend this event and bring a food item. We will be doing one or more POTA activations at this event among other things so be prepared to get on the air. It should be a lot of fun.

Time to plan your antenna parties for the cooler weather in the fall and before we know it elections will be soon so please consider this as well. Basically, what I'm saying is look through this SPARKS and make notes in your calendar for those 'ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club' moments. Well, at least let us know what the club can do for you. :)

One more thing. TARS is a charitable organization. Please remember TARS in your charitable giving and in your estate planning. Your direct personal sharing into this club is what makes this club so great. It doesn't have to be money, your talents and time are enough, but money does help build a communications infrastructure and the assets needed for future hams and emergencies. Can you imagine getting your tech license and not having a club to support you with meetings, elmering, and repeaters?

Please monitor our 79 repeater system, I usually do. So get on the air, I hope to hear you soon.

73,
Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023-24

TARS August Meeting 8/8/24

General membership meeting 7:00pm Thursday August 8th.
The meeting program will be a on AREDN and MESH networks, by Ken K9KDJ

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 **Mission BBQ**, located at [1530 N Green River Rd](#) Evansville.



TARS PICNIC

That's right coming September 21, 2024, at the Sycamore Shelter, Audubon State Park in Henderson, Ky. Tars will be having their yearly picnic. So, start thinking of what your favorite dish you like to bring. Tars will provide the hamburger, hotdogs, and eating utensils, and **everyone is expected to bring a dish of their favorite picnic food to share.**

Since we are having the picnic this year at a State Park, we will be sitting up a POTA station. This will be a good time to learn what POTA is all about. More details will be coming at the August and September club meetings.

Hamtober Fest

It is time to get into high gear planning for Hamtober Fest 2024! It will be held October 19 2024 at the Lynnville Community Center and we need YOU to help make it happen!

First- equipment donations. Do you have equipment or accessories that you would like to donate to the club? TARS will have a sale table at the hamfest to sell these items you donate. Proceeds of course will help the club with its expenses as well as repeater maintenance. Please consider donations and I will be happy to come pick items up from you!!

Volunteer force- we need folks to help setup on that Friday afternoon, help with assisting vendors and guests during the show, help at the sales table, direct parking, as well as help with tear down and cleanup that Saturday afternoon after the hamfest ends. We have had great support in past years from members and ask that you consider pitching in again, or for the first time! It is alot of fun!

Raffle tickets are available for sale. See me or Tom kd9pfh at our meetings or reach out to me if you want to sell some tickets to family, friends, or other organizations you belong to!!

TARS Calendar

Aug

- 1 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 7 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 8 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 14 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 16 Hugo Gernsback, born 1884
- 21 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry WB9ONU)
- 28 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 31 **VE Testing 9:00am Red Cross**

Sep

- 4 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 5 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 7-15 25th anniversary of Route 66 On the Air
- 11 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 12 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 18 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Herb, KB9MZH)
- 21 **TARS PICNIC - Audubon State Park**
- 25 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

Connect the TARS Google calendar to your calendar!

Lastly- talk it up!! Announce it on nets, send emails, invite other clubs!! I want to see another great Hamtober Fest this year! Please help make that happen.

If you will volunteer to help, or have donations for the club, please email me or call me!!

John N9oL

Route 66 On the Air

Get ready for the 25th anniversary of Route 66 On the Air. The 2024 event will start Saturday, September 7 and run until Sunday, September 15. The event, sponsored by the [Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club](#), celebrates the "Mother Road," U.S. Highway 66, which was established in 1926 and was the first major roadway improvement to link the West Coast with the nation's heartland. Joining the celebration for the 18th year will be the [Barstow Amateur Radio Club](#) with special event station W6E. There will be 21 (1x1) special event stations along the route from Santa Monica, California, to Chicago, Illinois. In 2023, there were 77 such stations, making a total of 623 contacts during the 9-day event. Email route66ota@yahoo.com with questions or for additional information.

The Contest Corner

By Mark Holland [KDOEE](#)

August 2024

For those interested in contests, August is a bleak month. There are no major activities, but there are several QSO Parties. Kansas, Ohio, and Hawaii are the weekend of August 24-25, and Colorado and Tennessee are the last weekend of the month, August 31-September 1.

In this transition period between the summer and fall, there are still things for the contester to do. Now is the time to examine and repair those antennas. Now is the time to upgrade the shack. And now is the time to think about getting ready for the winter season on the low bands. August marks the beginning of the move from the noisy summertime qrn on the low bands to the quieter fall conditions. My 160 meter antenna will go up the end of August! And I'm planning on a new low-noise receive antenna. What about you?

You may want to check out some informative videos on qrz.com from some of the best contest operators in the world. You will find them interesting. And for the cw ops, do an internet search and download the latest MorseRunner program. It is excellent training and great entertainment. See you on the bands!

KDOEE

Tech Class

The OVARC currently trying to get a list of interest individuals. Once we have a few interested we will then schedule the class. Depending on interest we may follow up with a general class. Anyone interested can contact [Steve K9SRC](#) or Mike AE9OZ.



Happy Birthday!

August Birthdays!!!

KD9KJG	Connie Martin	2
K9SRC	Steve Connaughton	5
KC9UVG	David Sandine	17
WB9QAV	Randal Schoenbachler	27

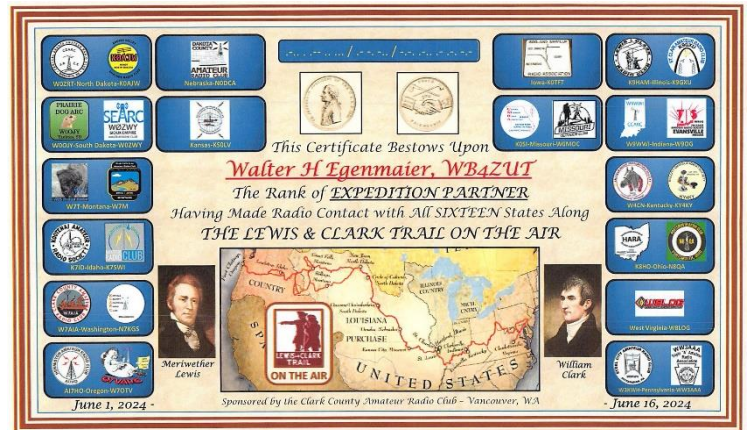
Brag Rag

01Jun2024 was a special day for Josh Hill. After passing his Tech Exam, he helped Charlie WB8LDV, John N9oL and Walt WB4ZUT open up the new FT-DX10 radio for the club shack. Walt WB4ZUT was control operator and helped Josh make his first HF contact activating Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air on 14.244 SSB. His first contact was with KE8VOP. **Congratulations Josh!**
73, KD4SIR



L-R Walt WB4ZUT, Charlie WB8LDV and Josh now KQ4TCA

Congratulations to Walt WB4ZUT on a clean sweep of the Louis and Clark Trail On The Air. Walt not only worked as a W9OG special event operator for LCTOTA but hunted them as well.



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.

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.

BITS of Interest

The Rich History of Ham Radio Culture

Drawing on a wealth of personal accounts found in magazines, newsletters, and trade journals, historian Kristen Haring provides an inside look at ham radio culture and its impact on hobbyists' lives. [▶ READ MORE](#)

What is the difference between a counterpoise and a radial in a vertical antenna?

In the context of vertical antennas, both counterpoises and radials are used to improve the efficiency and radiation pattern of the antenna by providing a ground system. However, they have different configurations and can be used differently depending on the antenna design and installation environment. Here's a breakdown of the differences: [▶ READ MORE](#)

WBCQ: A One-of-a-Kind Shortwave Radio Station

A brokered programming business model has kept the station on the air for 26 years. [▶ READ MORE](#)



VE Testing

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

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next meeting will be on ZOOM, August 18, 6:30pm. ARES/RACES members watch for login info email. Others interested in participating, contact KE9YK for info.

Next in person meeting will be Sep 19th, **6:30pm at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, 1440 Harmony Way.**

Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited to 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

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/17/2024 - 08/18/2024

Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Southeastern Division Convention

Location: Huntsville, AL

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc.

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

09/07/2024 - Greater Louisville Hamfest 2024

Location: Shepherdsville, KY

Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association

Website: <http://LouisvilleHamfest.com>

10/12/2024 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest

Location: Bedford, IN

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

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

10/19/2024 - Hamtober Fest

Location: Lynnville, IN

Raffle for Yaesu FT891

Door prizes

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>

Secretary Report

TARS Board meeting 7/10/24

Meeting called to order at 6:35

Members present: Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Charlie WB8LDV, Terry WB9KQF, Mark KD0EE, Walt WB4ZUT, Ross KC9JOV, Herb KB9MZH and Dave KC9UVG.

Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH with an ending balance of \$6490.70

Discussion on Hamshack Hotline for Red Cross radio room. Scott will set it up. Walt made motion to purchase phone for \$30. Charlie second. MOTION PASSED

Discussion on replacing the B&W antenna on Red Cross. Need to check out the antenna at the meeting tomorrow and see if it is really bad. Walt will bring his VNA to check the antenna.

Herby will bring a roof vent to see if it could be used on the club shed.

Discussed painting the shed. Will need to wait for cooler weather.

Kits for the meeting build tomorrow. Scott has the parts separated and ready to go. We will need soldering irons and misc. tools for soldering.

Repeaters: Deaconess node ready to go. Burnt Prairie PC is ready. Discussed looking for funds for the 6.79 repeater and upgrades that need to be done.

Scott thanked the board and everyone that helped out with Field Day.

TARS Picnic: Picnic will start at 9:30 and we will eat at Noon. TARS to provide hamburgers, hot dogs and tableware. Will ask members to bring a side dish to share.

Meeting adjourned 7:27pm

Minutes submitted by Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Treasurer Report

Tri-state Amateur Radio Society

Financial Report for

July 2024 (prepared 7/27/24)

Amateur Radio Society Primary Account

Opening Balance:	\$6,490.70
TARS sub-accounts	
General Fund sub-account	
Opening Bal	\$3,195.41
Receipts:	
Memberships	\$75.00
FTDX10 Donation	\$310.00

Total Receipts --->>	\$385.00
Expenditures:	
Aluminum Paint, Herb Alvey	(\$10.00)
Indiana Business Entity Report	(\$22.50)
Total Expenditures---->>	(\$32.50)
Ending Balance General Fund	\$3,547.91
Repeater Maint & investment - Restricted acct	

Opening Balance	\$2,137.30
Receipts:	
Adjustment	\$4.00
Total Receipts --->>	\$4.00
Expenditures:	
None	\$0.00
Total Expenditures---->>	\$0.00
Ending Balance of Repeater Restricted sub-account	\$2,141.30

Red Cross Fund - Restricted Acct	
Opening Balance	\$1,157.99
Receipts:	
Total Receipts --->>	\$0.00
Expenditures:	
none	
Total Expenditures---->>	\$0.00
Ending Balance of Red Cross Restricted sub-account	\$1,157.99
Ending Balance - TARS primary Checking Account	\$6,847.20

TARS IGC (IN Gaming Commission) restricted checking account:

Opening Balance	\$203.97
Receipts:	
Raffle Ticket Sales	\$115.00
Total Receipts --->>	\$115.00
Expenditures:	
Purchasr Raffle Tickets	(\$70.61)
Total Expenditures---->>	(\$70.61)
Ending Balance of IGC Restircted checking account	\$248.36

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH – TARS Treasurer

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@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

2024

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

[Route 66 Special Event](#) September 7-15

[TARS PICNIC September 21](#)

[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](#)

[INQP May](#)

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

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)

[Terry McCraey WB9KQF](#) (2024-2025)

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