

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

April 2025 – Vol. LXXVIII, No. 4



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

April 2025

While we held our second monthly fox hunt with about 13 hunters taking on the challenge, I was able to take a really nice ride in the countryside and at one point catching myself in Warrick County. Someone eventually texted me where to meet for lunch, or I would have been lost forever. It is a lot of fun. We will hold a fox hunt round table in a future meeting and I look forward to learning how to avoid driving for so long while supposedly fox hunting. :)

Our 10-meter antenna build went flawless last month. Getting done and packed up by 9:30pm. Big thanks to Mark KDOEE for putting it together. We had an informal 10-meter net last week too. I was surprised since many of us could hear one another a whole lot better than previously. The 10-meter band is hopping. Get your antennas up. A couple of us might build the same antenna during the Indiana QSO Party so bring your parts to assemble.

We have a whole lot going on in the club, so be sure to have your calendars marked. The Indiana QSO Party is coming up next. Then TARS is having a couple tables at Hamvention this year (our ham Christmas). After that is the Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air activation and then Field Day (our ham Thanksgiving). August will be our picnic. All that being said, if you have a topic or activity you would like to cover or want covered, please let us know. Bring something to share for the next meeting. I'll be bringing in a go box that I redesigned/upgraded.

We have a lot of fun without spending money in the club. However, money is what is required to pay bills and provide equipment for our fun. I do radio because it is the only magical power in the universe. Casting my spell and communicating magically through the air is fun, but I think we all do this knowing at some point it might matter. I upgraded and redesigned a go box that wasn't mine for the fun of it. I spent some money and time on it for my fun. But my main justification was also knowing that one day when it matters, this go box will help someone. An Amateur Radio Operator using this go box could save a life.

When communication really matters, our club talent and equipment will be called upon to serve the community. When bad weather hit our area in the middle of the night, around 10 hams participated in a weather net. Not one person mentioned how fun it was, but it sure was needed, and they gladly stepped up to do it. I was grateful to listen and get information first hand.

We are not flush with money, and we are not hurting for money either, so why do I mention all the time that TARS is a registered charity – that we are a 5013c charity? I'm sure you are wondering. You see, TARS is the GO BOX for the Tri-State area. So put TARS in your will, place us in your charitable giving, and use us for that humongous tax deduction. With your help, TARS can be a better go box.

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023-25

ATTENTION-ATTENTION-ATTENTION

April TARS Meeting has moved location

The next TARS regular meeting is Thursday March. 13th 7:00 pm at the **Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, 1440 Harmony Way.**

The meeting program will be April meeting will be presented by Chris Mathews about Windows and Linux. We will also be discussing the INQP that will be May 3rd.

Also, if you have something for show and tell there may be time for that.

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 and whatever else you like, giving us time to make it to the Red Cross for the meeting.

Come join us at El Charro Mexican Restaurant at 720 N Sonntag Ave, Evansville. <https://www.elcharroevv.com/>

The Contest Corner

Mark KDOEE is away this month, so check the links for contests and DXpedition activities.

For a complete list of contests coming up check out:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/fivewkcal.php>

For a list of current and upcoming DXpeditions, check out:

<https://dxnews.com/calendar/>

Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff [KE9YK](#)

The Evansville Tri-State SKYWARN NET

With the current weather conditions, this is a good time to refresh everyone on the local **SKYWARN net**.

Whenever there is a WARNING for Vanderburgh Co. or one of the surrounding counties we try to have a SKYWARN NET running. Generally we will have a **stand-by net** in operation **BEFORE** the storm hits, depending on net control operator availability. While the **stand-by net** is running, **this is the time to CHECK-IN to the net** and be added to the list.

Please give the following information when checking in:

- **Your call sign, Name and current location**
- **If you are at a fixed station or mobile**
- **Please call Net Control before leaving the net.**

At times this could be a very informal net dependent on the net control op's preference and the outlook for severe weather. There may only be someone making any perinate announcements and asking for check-ins. During this type of net,

TARS Calendar

April

- 2 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Herb, KB9MZH)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 3 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 Red Cross**
- 9 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 10 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm**
- 13 **FOX HUNT 1:00 pm**
- 16 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 18 World Amateur Radio Day @ [IARU](#)
- 23 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry, WB9ONU)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 26 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**
- 30 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-

May

- 1 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 ZOOM**
- 3 **INQP at Red Cross 9am**
- 7 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 8 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 14 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 21 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Herb, KB9MZH)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 31 **Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air**
May 31st - June 15th 2025

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

you are still able to use the repeater for general communications, just ask the net control. [E.g.; Net control, this is AB9CDE may I make a call please?]

We only ask you keep your transmissions reasonably short and leave time for someone to break in between your transmissions if need be.

As the storm progresses and it looks like there is a high probability of severe weather [likely storms hitting several counties away] or have been requested to activate, we will move to a formal structured **WEATHER NET**. During this phase you should **LISTEN for INSTRUCTIONS** from net control and any chit chat should be held to a bare minimum.

Once we have a **WARNING** for Vanderburgh or any surrounding counties the net will go into **EMERGENCY MODE!** **Once in EMERGENCY mode you should only call if you have SEVERE WEATHER TO REPORT! Follow the net control op's instructions.**

Net control will give instructions calling for any reports from *TRAINED SPOTTERS* first followed by any other stations with reports. When things are slow the net control will also ask for any check-ins to the net.

When making weather reports on the net, the National Weather Service requests only those reports of severe weather that involve one or more of the following phenomena:

- Tornadoes, funnel clouds, or wall clouds, particularly persistent rotating wall clouds.
- Hail of any size
- Wind Gusts of 40 mph or greater.
- Flooding of streams, creeks, rivers, roads, or streets that would not normally flood.
- Measured precipitation of more than 1 inch per hour
- Any damage by wind or lightning. Downed trees, large branches, or power lines.

When calling net control with a report, be sure to identify yourself and your exact location including city AND state, nearest town, road or intersection and report the following:

- **WHAT** you have seen
- **WHERE** you saw it (the exact or best estimated location of the event)
- **WHEN** you saw it
- **WHAT DIRECTION** the event was traveling

We need this information to make the report to the NWS!

What we DO NOT NEED!!!

Reports from something you saw on TV or overheard on the radio/scanner, or something Larry, down at the bar said!

Pink Flamingo reports! JUST DON'T

- It's not raining at my location.
- We are just getting a little rain.
- The storm sirens are going off here
- My trash cans just blew down the street
- Just saw pictures of hail on Facebook
- My gutters are overflowing
- The sun is shining, why do we have a net going.
- Lastly: the wind just blew my pink flamingos away!



I think you get the idea. We need measurable, accurate and timely reports to pass to the NWS in Paducah. Several of us have access to direct communications with the NWS and are reporting what needs to be passed while also watching for reports from them that could affect our immediate area.

The reason we prioritize trained spotters is untrained weather observers often report incorrect information. They are acting in good faith, but simply do not have the training necessary to make more accurate reports. Not that taking a few spotter classes will make us experts, but accurately identifying tornadoes and storms is no easy task, even for trained observers.

Here are some examples of observations that can fool even trained spotters.

<http://www.stormeyes.org/tornado/faq/notahose.htm>

Watches and Warnings explained with tacos!



INQP

The Indiana QSO Party (INQP) <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/> is an event for amateur radio enthusiasts. Its goal is to encourage communication with Indiana-based amateur radio stations. Participants from outside Indiana aim to connect with Indiana stations, while Indiana stations can connect with anyone, including other Indiana stations. The event typically takes place on the first Saturday in May, and it's part of the broader State QSO Party Challenge.

So, TARS will be doing the INQP this May 3. Setup will begin at 9 a.m. with the INQP starting at 10 a.m. The location will be at the American Red Cross. We will have 1 CW station and 1 SSB station. The radio's will be setup in the club shack and the yard barn at the Red Cross. There will be 2 operators and 2 loggers. Everyone else will be in the meeting room. This way we can have eyeball QSO's while the operators can work station in the shack and yard barn.

Come out and enjoy the day with the club. Operators are needed also. If you have never operated a contest before this is your chance to learn. Consider this as Pre Field Day.

The club will provide some food (pizza) and water, so bring your own drinks and snacks if you wish. Come out and operate and meet your friends.

73' Jerry WB9ONU

AMATEUR RADIO DAY

What is Amateur Radio Day?

Every April 18, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on this day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short-wave spectrum — far from being a wasteland — could support worldwide propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was “in grave danger of being pushed aside,” the IARU’s history has noted. Amateur Radio pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to support Amateur Radio worldwide.

Just two years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum. From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

Today, Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with more than 3,000,000 licensed operators!

World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.

We are going to open the TARS shack and invite members of the Red Cross to come in and be educated and informed about amateur radio. So, if you want to drop by feel free to drop by.

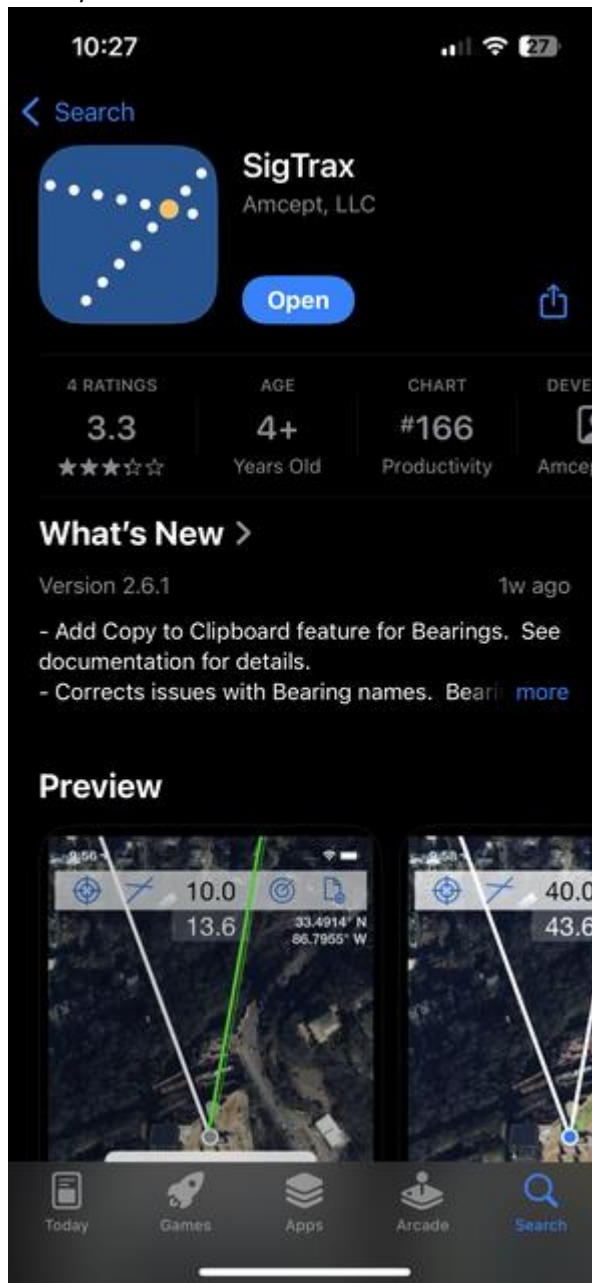
73

Jerry WB9ONU



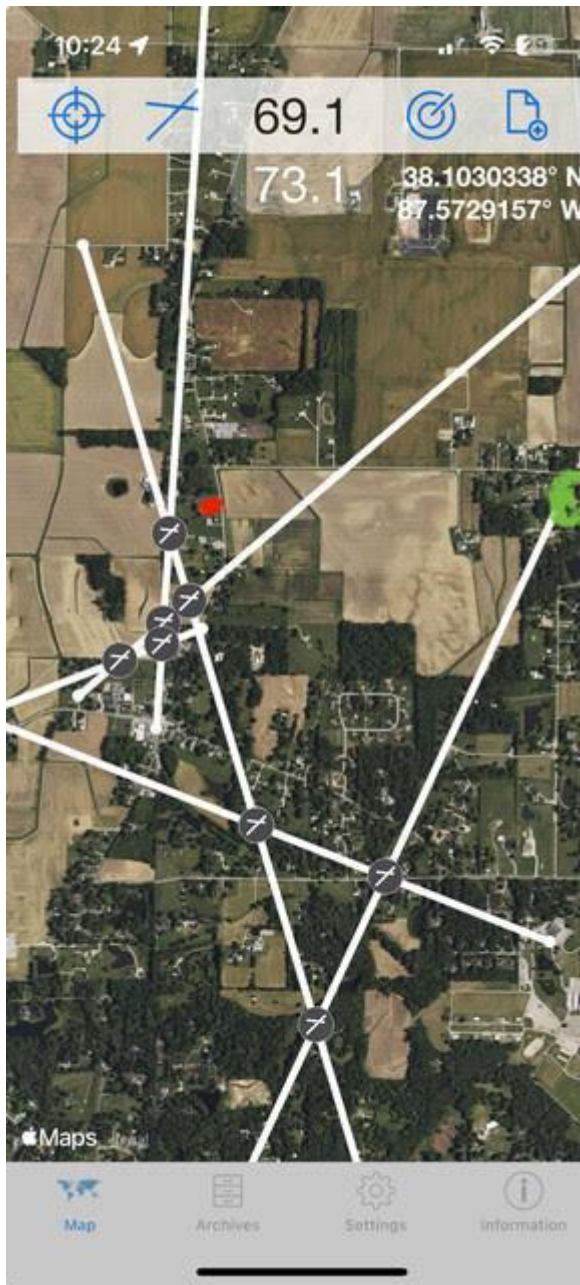
TARSan Fox Hunt

After hunt report. A lot of guys were asking what technique I used today and here are some details. I used the SigTrax app, see pic below. I would suggest starting the app early and making sure the compass is sync'd.



The second pic shows my starting position in Green and the fox location in Red. I picked a good spot (Center St. and Martin Rd, just south of E Inglefield Rd) and ended up only 0.8 miles from the fox. The first transmission pegged my signal meter and I could not get a good bearing. I had to wait for the second transmission and I put my attenuator on. I don't do a good job and that bearing was pretty off. I then headed south from there and went to the top of the 4H hill for a second bearing. This one sent me NE and I looked on my way but needed up at Darmstadt square. I got a good bearing here that was almost right on. I headed to the area of my intersecting line and got a bad bearing at the Bauerhaus. This sent me slightly southwest and looking in every lot along the way. I

stopped on Giles Lane off Boonville New Harmony and got a decent bearing headed NE. I actually passed right by the fox at this next move and didn't see John or the Fox. I'm not sure why I didn't drive through that parking lot. At this point I was a little confused as I knew it was close. I was having to use at least -30db of attenuation. I went to an open field on Nuebling Rd. And got another good bearing to the south. I knew at this point the had to be in that church parking lot. And he was. It took me 6 bearings and about 40 mins to locate the fox.



Something I picked up on was making sure I stepped away from my vehicle a good 15-20ft. I think I was getting reflections of my truck that was throwing my readings off.

I had a great time and can't wait till next month.

Josh - KE9BAH

MARCH FOX HUNT

The Fox Hunt winner for March was Josh KE9BAH



From Facebook: John Van Vorst N9OL

Congrats to Josh KE9BAH for finding the Fox, followed close behind by Chris KE9YK!

We had a great time with 12 or 13 hunters! Thanks for a great afternoon guys!

**The next Fox Hunt will be
Sunday April 13th, 1:00 pm.**

Josh KE9BAH is going to have 2 additional low power foxes to hunt after the main one is found, within walking distance. First to find all 3 gets a cool prize pack from Icom.

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.

10 meter net

We have had a couple of 10-meter net. There were 6 check-ins at each net session. I am thinking about having a topic each week that we can discuss. If you have a radio, antenna, or some other problems let talk about it.

Also, this last net we had a relay. If you hear someone relay what they are saying if some of us doesn't hear them with the way propagation is on 10 meters. We have also moved the net to 28.350 MHZ. The frequency I picked was the calling frequency on 10 meters.

I hope to see more members on the TARS 10 meters net.

Wednesdays at 8:30 after the regular 2m net!

Thanks

Jerry WB9ONU

Bits of Interest

Facebook post by Bob Pointer N9XAW

On a beautiful day with nothing planned, try a mini field day. Get your grab-it-and-go kit, head to a park or nice spot away from noise and set up a portable station. Operate a few hours just for fun. The kicker is, once you get to your spot, no going back home to get things you forgot. No spending time going through your stuff to make sure it is all there, just "grab it and go."

It is a good exercise to see how well planned your kit is stocked and maintained. Take a notebook along each time. Record things like location, set up time and especially notes on what did and did not work.

Your battery was not fully charged? Portable generator out of gas or old gas made it run poorly? You forgot to replace that damaged PL259? The wire on the solar panel came loose, no portable soldering kit? That new portable antenna you made won't get a signal across the road? This is the time to learn and correct, not an actual emergency you are called to assist with.

Share your results with others in the club.

The GERATOL NET's 52nd anniversary will be held

April 6 – 13, 2025. Special event station W1G will operate on 3.668 MHz each evening starting at 0100 UTC. In addition, W1G will be operating from the West Coast at 0300 UTC, also on 3.668 MHz. Officially, the GERATOL (Greeting Extra Radio Amateurs Tired of Operating Lately) Net is a worked all states (WAS) net and all contacts must be made in the Extra Class portion of the 80-meter band. All Extra Class operators are invited to participate and there will be a certificate and QSL card available. For more information, visit geratol.net.

The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting, in conjunction with the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, announces expanded hours for the museum during 2025 Dayton Hamvention®.

The museum will be open Thursday May 15, 12:00 to 9:00 PM; Friday May 16, 12:00 to 9:00 PM; Saturday May 17, 12:00 to 9:00 PM, and Sunday May 18, 12:00 to 5:00 PM. Admission is \$10.00 at the door. Amateur radio station WC8VOA will be on the air to operate. The museum is a short drive from Hamvention, down either Interstate 75 or Route 42 from Xenia. GPS use Crosley Blvd. The address is 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069. Phone number is 513-777-0027.



KD4SIR	Scott	Hibbs	1
N9TQR	Kevin	Mischler	1
KE9BIK	Dean	Grimes	6
KD9UAZ	Jim	Block	11
WB4ZUT	Walter	Egenmaier O.D.	22
KD9CHH	Mary	Sandine	28

Hamfest Calendar

04/05/2025 - **Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**

Location: Columbus, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://carcnet.net>

04/05/2025 - **E-town Hamfest (The Lincoln Trail Amateur Radio Club's 47th Annual Hamfest)**

Location: Elizabethtown, KY

05/16/2025 - 05/18/2025

Dayton Hamvention

Location: Xenia, OH

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://Hamvention.org>

08/16/2025 - 08/17/2025

Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Alabama State Convention

Location: Huntsville, AL
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc
Website: <http://hamfest.org>

09/06/2025 - **Greater Louisville Hamfest 2025**

Location: Shepherdsville, KY
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association, Inc.
Website: <http://LouisvilleHamfest.com>

10/18/25 – **7th annual Southern Indiana - Hamtober Fest**

Location: Lynnville Community Center, Lynnville, Indiana
Sponsor: TARS [Tri-State Amateur Radio Society]
Website: <https://hamtoberfest.com>



11/08/2025 - **Hoosier Hills Hamfest**

Location: Bedford, IN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
Website: <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com>

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

VE Testing 2025

April 26 2025 - 9AM Central time

June 7 2025 - 9AM Central time

July 26 2025 - 9AM Central time

August 23 2025 - 9AM Central time

September 27 2025 - 9AM Central time

November 22 2025 - 9AM Central time

December 27 2025 - 9AM Central time

January 31 2026 - 9AM Central time

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

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

Examinations will start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time. We have no pre-registration, and examinations are administered on a walk-in basis. Details can be found at: <http://w9og.net/ve-testing>
For more info contact: [John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@arrl.net) c: 812.305.4100



ELITE SPOTTER TRAINING (ADVANCED SPOTTER)

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

MONDAY APRIL 14, 2025 6:00 pm CDT: Evansville, IN
(Vanderburgh County) American Red Cross 29 S. Stockwell Rd.
Registration is required ([CLICK HERE](#)) for on-site classes

ELITE SPOTTER TRAINING - WEBINARS
MONDAY APRIL 14, 2025 6:00 PM CDT: [Click here to register](#)

For a FULL LIST go to the PAH website:
<https://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next meeting will be April 17th, 6:30pm on ZOOM
Our meetings are usually the third Thursday of the month.
Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited!



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 Auxcomm

The Warrick County Auxcomm 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

Tri-State Amateur radio Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: 03/06/2025

Meeting called to order by __Scott KD4SIR__ at 06:33PM CST.

Board Members/Officers Present:

Board Members/Officers Present:

- Scott Hibbs KD4SIR, President
- Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH Treasurer
- Mark Holland KD0EE, Dir (2024-25)
- Terry WB9KQF, Dir (2024-25)
- Herb KB9MZH, Dir (2025-26)
- Dave KC9UVG
- Jerry McCintosh WB9ONU, Vice President
- John Van Vorst N9oL, Secretary
- Ross Cecil KC9JOV, Dir (2024-25)
- Charlie Martin WB8LDV Dir (2025-26)
- Bruce Hatfield, Dir (2025-26)
- Dave wb9yig
- Chris ke9yk

Reading of officer reports:

Treasurers Report Report ending 2/28/2025 read by Tom kd9pffh – Motion to accept by seconded by John N9oL, seconded by Terry wb9kqf .Report was accepted.

Secretary's Report – Minutes from 3/06/2025 meeting read by John Van Vorst, N9oL – Motion to accept by Mark kd0ee seconded by Charlie wb8ldv . Report was accepted.

Zoom renewal was done.

Shack committee-

- Nothing to report.

Hamtober fest –

- discussed venue options. John recommended staying with the Lynnville Comm Center this year
 - cost is \$400 + \$150 returnable deposit
 - includes 2 or 3 hours on Friday afternoon/evening
 - John N9oL has the rental agreement and will fill it out and return to the person managing the center.
 - Motion made by John N9oL to stay at Lynnville and write check for \$550 to secure the venue for 10/18. Terry wb9kqf seconded. Motion passed.

Discussed recognition awards for members achieving DXCC Honor Roll or other awards

- Agreement was there that it would be a nice incentive to give these recognitions
- John N9oL raised issue that we have never done this before, where do we draw lines around that
- Discussed other recognition options
- No motion to proceed was made

March antenna build

- Parts have been purchased
- Wire was cut by Mark, Charlie, and Scott
- Mark prepped
- Will need 4-6 soldering irons/stations solder, tools, etc
- If we don't have enough kits we can schedule another build on a Saturday sometime, possibly at the INQP event.

TARSan Fox Hunt

- The first FOXhunt was a good success
- 6 hunters seeked the TARSan, John N9oL captured it.
- Feb 22 will be the first monthly fox hunt
- Next hunt will be 3/22 1PM

Repeater committee- –

- No updates

INQP May 3-4

- Discussed location. Discussed the Red Cross or FOP Camp.
- Jerry to investigate further.
- N9oL to check availability of Red Cross.

10-meter net

- Jerry sent article to Chris ke9yk for inclusion in Sparks
- Net will start on 3/19 and will be a rag chew net.
- Frequency 28.350MHz

April 3 board meeting will be at CiCis Pizza in person only.

Discussed the Hamvention fleamarket tables. Need to talk it up at meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 CST.

Tri-State Amateur radio Society

General Membership Meeting - Meeting Minutes

Date: 03/13/2025

Meeting called to order by _Scott kd4sir__ at 6:55PM

Intros. And show and tell. Scott introduced and welcomed new folks!!

- Discussed the topic for next months meeting- Windows and Linux operating systems..
- Scott talked about the club's 501C3 tax exempt status and asked for everyone to remember TARS in their charitable giving, donations and wills.
- Talked about upcoming calendar for TARS:
 - 3-19 the ten-meter net starts right after the Wednesday night 2-meter net;
 - 3/22- the next TARS Fox Hunt
 - 5/3 will be INQP held this year at the Red Cross
 - 5/16-18 Hamvention in Xenia OH;
 - 5/31 5 the Lewis and Clark special event begins and runs to 2 weeks;
 - 6/28-29 Field Day, will be on the Red Cross grounds again this year;
 - 8/16 TARS Picnic at Audobon State Bark Sycamore Shelter;
 - 10/18 Hamtober Fest at the Lynnville Community Center
- Discussed need for additional members to run for office or board position this year.
- Announced that the next board meeting in April will be held at the Red Cross.
- Ended the formal meeting and began the antenna assembly project.

John N9OL TARS Secretary

Treasurer Report

Financial Report for February 2025			
Amateur Radio Society Primary Account			
Opening Balance:			\$12,143.75
TARS sub-accounts			
General Fund sub-account			
Opening Bal		\$4,183.46	
Receipts:			
Membership	\$130.00		
Antenna Build	\$120.00		
Total Receipts ---->>		\$250.00	
Expenditures:			
Zoom	(\$79.95)		
Picnic Shelter House	(\$159.00)		
Banquet Tip	(\$123.00)		
Total Expenditures---->>		(\$361.95)	
Ending Balance General Fund			\$4,071.51
Repeater Maint & investment - Restricted acct			
Opening Balance		\$6,641.30	
Receipts:			
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
None	\$0.00		
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of Repeater Restrictd sub-account			\$6,641.30
Red Cross Fund - Restricted Acct			
Opening Balance		\$1,318.99	
Receipts:			
2/21/2025	\$28.00		
Total Receipts ---->>		\$28.00	
Expenditures:			
none			
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of Red Cross Restrictd sub-account			\$1,346.99
Ending Balance - TARS primary Checiking Account			
			\$12,059.80
TARS IGC (IN Gaming Commission) restricted checking account:			
Opening Balance		\$1,458.36	
Receipts:			
none	\$0.00		
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
Ham Fest Hosting	(\$50.98)		
Total Expenditures---->>		(\$50.98)	
Ending Balance of IGC Restrictd checking account			\$1,407.38

Tom KD9PFH TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2025

INQP May 3rd

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 7-8 2025

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air May 31st - June 15th 2025

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June

13 Colonies Special Event July

TARS PICNIC August 16th, Audubon Sycamore Shelter

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

Route 66 Special Event September

TARS 7th annual HAMTOBER FEST October , 2025

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

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

2026

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

Winter Field Day January

TARS Banquet February 2026

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

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.w9og@gmail.com

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club
ARRL [Indiana Section](#)
Section Manager: Bob Burns [AK9R](#)
ARRL [Central Division](#)
Division Director: Brent Walls [N9BA](#)



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

2025 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](#) (2025-2026)

[Bruce Hatfield W9GFS](#) (2025-2026)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2025-2026)

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

[Mark Holland KDOEE](#) (2024-2025)

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

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

E-mail: sparks.w9og@gmail.com