

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

May 2025 – Vol. LXXVIII, No. 5



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

May 2025

The fifth month is here. As I'm writing this spring has sprung and it is time to get active outdoors. We are preparing for our community service to the World War Museum 5K walk/run. We have around 18 volunteers for that. It will be a learning opportunity for most of us who haven't worked an event before. From what I hear the club hasn't done an event like this in a long time.

Also the same day is our Indiana QSO party which will be held at the Red Cross. As you're reading this the event may have happened already. We are getting pizza and are having a Morse Code and SSB station on the air.

My pick for the most exciting two minutes in sports on the same day as the 5K Run and the Indiana QSO party is Chunk of Gold. He likes the distance and closes at the end and if he can get through the cavalry charge in the stretch, his long shot odds are worth a few dollars for a chunk of gold.

Hamvention in Xenia OH is also in the middle of the month. TARS will have a couple tables at the beginning of the bone yard in a great location. If you are visiting please say hello and if you have anything you want to sell please see me. John N9oL may have space at his campsite so if you need a place you can ask him.

At the end of this month is the Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air event. I would like to see everyone get involved and represent Indiana and our club for this event. It really is a lot of fun to do this on SSB with a voice keyer. People always have something to say about Indiana or Evansville. Plus it is a fantastic certificate for everyone to try and get. Please make an effort to get involved with this event and if you need help reach out to John N9oL or myself.

I actually found the fox last month. I was last to do so, but I found the fox. The fox was found by Jeff AA9WJ in record time. The fox hunts every month have been a great success and they have been a ton of fun!

What an exciting year. Please join us at our events. Invite other hams who are missing out.

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023-25

May TARS Meeting

The next TARS regular meeting is **Thursday May 8th 7:00pm**

The program will cover information on the Lewis and Clark Trail
On the Air special event and a FOXHUNTING roundtable.

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 **Jason's Deli, 943 N Green River Rd**, Evansville.
Located in the north end of the Shoe Carnival Plaza.

Contest Corner for May 2025

After an extended vacation in Europe, it is good to be back home! There are two big events going on for us in the month of May. The first is the Indiana QSO Party. By the time you read this, it will probably be history, but thanks to all who helped make this a special event. Hopefully, you were able to participate. Your participation is necessary to promote and protect our amateur privileges, as well as perpetuate the event. Even if you only have a few moments to make a handful of contacts, please get involved. You matter! The other big event is the CQ World Prefix (CQWPX) contest May 24-25. The fun thing about this contest is that everyone works everyone. It's a great chance to hunt for specific states or countries you need to fill out those band spots. It's hectic, but always fun. A reminder: the severe storm season is upon us. Be sure to check the ropes and guys for all your antennas. Murphy happens! Better to be safe than sorry.
73, Mark KD0EE

Desk of Jerry -WB9ONU

I want to thanks Chris Matthews for presenting a discussion on Windows and Linux last month. So, what is happening in May. To start with May 3 is the INQP contest and we are helping with the Wartime Museum 5k Run.

The Wartime Museum contacted Scott KD4SIR and myself back in February to provide communications. TARS use to do some public service. I remember doing the Freedom Festival parades, Drums on the Ohio, National Night Out, Great Metric Bike race, and Wesselman Woods Haunted Hayride. It's been a while for the club to assist with communication, but maybe this is a start to start doing more. Think why did you get your amateur radio license. Did you get it just to talk to other people around the world. If that is the case you can do that with Facebook. I got mine, yes to talk to people around the world. Then i was wanting to do more. Doing public service is one of the more. So stay tune and volunteer when events like this comes our way. INQP is also happening on May 3rd at the American RedCross.

TARS Calendar

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 **Eat'n Before the Meet'n 5:30 - Jason's Deli**
TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
- 14 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Herb, KB9MZH)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 21 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 24 **FOX HUNT 1:00 pm**
- 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

June

- 4 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 5 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 ZOOM**
- 7 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**
- 11 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry, WB9ONU)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 12 **Eat'n Before the Meet'n 5:30 - Fazoli's**
TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
- 18 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 25 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
- 28-29 **FIELD DAY - Red Cross**

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

Setup will be on Friday evening since some members will be helping with the Wartime Museum 5k Run. All that isn't helping at the 5k run come to the INQP at 9 am with the contest starting at 10 am. The rest of us will join you around 11:30 am to 12 pm. Pizza will arrive afterwards. So if you help with the 5k run come over to the RedCross and get so pizza and operate.

May 16th thru May 18th is the GREAT DAYTON HAMVENTION. If you've never been, you should go at least once in your lifetime. There is a giant Flea Market outdoors with vendors that has just about anything, then there is inside vendors where you can get good deals on amateur radio equipment. If you are going, be advised all motel rooms are already booked near the

Hamvention. John N9OL is going and he also has rented some tables to sell items. Contact John for more info.

Then May 31 to June 15th. The Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air begins. This is a special event that you can operate from you QTH. You set the mode, band, days, and times to operate. Come to the May meeting to find out more info. I have operated this event several years and planning on operate again this year.

So, everyone that is what is happening in May. There are events going on for everyone to have fun.

73's Jerry - WB9ONU

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air!

TARS is an activating club again this year for the [Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air](#) special event, to be held May 31-June 15, 2025. This will be the fourth year for this annual special event! It is lots of fun. If you have never operated a special event station, I am sure you will want to sign up to participate this year. We had a great group last year of ops and much fun was had! It is not a big commitment – you sign up to operate for as long as you have time for. Watch for more info at meetings and on the TARS@groups.io mail group. If you request, I will add you to the operator list this year- watch for the registration email. If you didn't operate this event last year and want to give it a try- even for an hour or two- please let me know at n9ol@arrl.net.

73!

John N9oL

FOX HUNT

From Josh KE9BAH

Thanks to everyone that came out to hunt the fox today. The bar has been set. I was found in 33 mins by Jeff, AA9WJ.

Jeff also found the two micro foxes as well and took home a nice Icom prize pack.

AA9WJ -Jeff

N9OL - John/WB8LDV - Charlie

KD9PFH - Tom

KD4SIR - Scott

W2USA - Dennis/KC9TYA - Mark

Update from Jeff AA9WJ

Seems that slippery fox TARSan has escaped again! Word has it that he will be lurking somewhere in Vanderburgh County starting a **1:00 pm on Saturday May 24th**. Stay tuned for further details and reminders and get those antennas and attenuators ready! Jeff AA9WJ

**The next Fox Hunt will be
Saturday May 24th, 1:00 pm.**

10 Meter Rag chew Net

I know there is more of you that has 10 meters antenna, because you built them at the March meeting. I been getting about 6 to 7 check-ins each Wednesday night. So remember after the TARS net at 8 p.m. Starting at 8:30 pm change bands to 10 meters and turn your dial to 25.350 mhz. Check-in to the Tri State Amateur Radio Ragchew net. If you a radio problem speak in the net there maybe one or more on with a answer. Will be looking for all of you with the 10-meter vertical antenna that you built.

Thanks

Jerry wb9onu

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.

Brag Rag

KE9BAH goes for Extra

I have been wanting to activate POTA out of the country for quite some time. Well, I am headed to Turkey for a work trip on May 11th. In doing research for out of country operation, Turkey does have reciprocity with the United States through CEPT, but this does require an Extra class license. Well lets study. I listened to the entire "Fast Track to your Extra Class Ham Radio License" series on audible while traveling. I then used the Ham Study app on iphone to study and take practice tests. I studied for a total of 12 days and wow its a large question pool at 603 questions. Well on day 12 I was at 88% aptitude on the app and went for it. I passed!

Congrats Josh!!!



Scott Hibbs KD4SIR

I found this shelf at goodwill and I knew right away it was made to have my flex sit on it.



Bits of Interest

From Dan N9APA

Remembering the '37 flood.

A clipping from the Evansville Courier.

Ham radio operators helped, too

To the Editor of The Courier:

One aspect of the '37 flood which was omitted in your Jan. 11 coverage was the role of amateur radio in handling emergency traffic.

Amateur radio station W9YJH was operated by Max Pemberton out of his home on South Elliott Street until he was flooded out and moved by authorities, first to the U.S. Post Office headquarters of the Naval Reserve, and then to a permanent location, Office of the Dean of Girls, Reitz High School, for the duration of the flood emergency. By order of Col. L.L. Roberts, station W9YJH was given exclusive authority to operate on the "160" amateur band and all other amateur stations were prohibited from operating on that band to prevent interference.

Four additional operators were sent to Reitz to assist amateur radio station W9YJH — they were: Darwin "Lefty" Covert, W9KVE; Morty Silverman, W9GZB; Al Schoettlin, W9UMS; and Ed Carpenter, W9OMS. All emergency traffic was handled on around-the-clock shifts, such as, dispatching Coast

telephone input, regular contact with Illinois State Police handling offers for food, water, clothing, bedding, etc., dispatched from hundreds of miles away. Radio station W9YJH also acted as liaison between Evansville police, Indiana State Police, Naval Reserve, Coast Guard and the Red Cross, as necessary.

In one instance, a call was made on an aircraft frequency warning the pilot not to land at Evansville airport, contrary to his instructions, because it was under several inches of water.

Another time, broadcast station WHAS, Louisville, was called to assist in getting the message out to rescue two men who were marooned atop a crane.

The operators lived on ham, eggs and coffee three times a day for several weeks. Some of their experiences were written up in the three Evansville newspapers, and a dinner was given in their honor. In addition, their use of "ham radio" was nationally recognized in amateur radio publications.

My husband, now operator of Amateur Radio Station K4HAX, is still active in amateur radio and serves as net control station three times per week on an intercontinental amateur traffic net on 14.31 megahertz to assist ships at sea and deployed U.S. personnel in third-party traffic, where permitted by international treaty. He also works half-days as city electrical inspector in Henderson.

Ruth Pemberton
Henderson, Ky.

Brian Esche WB9QVR via groups.io wrote:

Here is a link to the Ham Nation episode in which our Dry Tortugas DXpedition is featured:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bX15zk3qD8E&list=PL1KAjn5rGhiz78lmXZa1ds10jxAwAd3Aq&index=1>

Dennis Martin WA2USA via groups.io wrote:

To all TARS Members,

I know I'm a bit late with this, but I want to thank the TARS club for presenting me with my Achievement Certificate for DXCC CW Honor Roll. It means a lot to me coming from our club. I will have it framed and hang it in my shack.

Again thanks.....

Dennis - WA2USA

CW FOREVER!



On the Air LIVE

Live training for ARRL members. Join us for the next *On the Air Live* session -- an interactive, live training event hosted by ARRL Education Specialist **Wayne Greene, KB4DSF**. These sessions take a deeper dive into practical topics designed to help you get the most out of

your amateur radio experience.

Up Next: FT8 and FT4 for ARRL Field Day

Discover how to setup WSJT-X for FT8 and FT4 along with homebrew 10 and 15 meter antennas to participate in this year's ARRL Field Day.

We'll cover:

- WSJT-X installation and setup
- How to operate FT8 and FT4
- Demonstration of each with a homebrew 10 meter antenna as featured in the May/June *On the Air* magazine
- WSJT-X specific setup for ARRL Field Day



Date: May 27, 2025



Time: 8 PM Eastern / 5 PM Pacific



[Register Now](#)

Radio Connects is 2025 ARRL Field Day Theme

03/14/2025

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has released the logo and theme for this year's [ARRL Field Day](#), June 28 – 29, 2025.

The theme for 2025 Field Day is "Radio Connects" —

highlighting the many ways that wireless technology connects people across distances near and far. The event is part picnic, campout, practice for emergencies, informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 31,000 hams get together with their radio clubs, schools, or friends to operate from remote locations.

Ham radio provides a connection — both for practical communications and to form relationships with fellow radio amateurs. No matter who you are, or what your background or interests are, if you have an interest in radio and wireless technology, radio connects you with others. [➡ READ MORE](#)



May Birthday's

KE9BBK	Timothy Fisher	4
N9OPS	Richard Hockensmith	11
N9PDL	Mark Decamps	14
K9EPD	Jeremy Matthews	20
KC9YIL	Danielle Day	26

Hamfest Calendar

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: Lynnvillle Community Center, Lynnvillle, 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>

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next meeting will be May 15th,
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

FREE ONLINE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND HAM RADIO TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS!

Saturday & Sunday, May 24-25, 2025.

Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pacific (11am to 6pm Central)

Sunday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Pacific (11am to 3pm Central)

Where: Zoom

Price: Free

Book: Free

TO REGISTER, email the...

NAME, EMAIL ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER

of EVERY REGISTRANT

to: ars.n7ji@gmail.com

Scott N7JI

VE Testing 2025

No testing in May

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@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



Secretary Report

Tri-State Amateur radio Society

Not available at time of publishing.

Treasurer Report

Tri-state Amateur Radio Society				
Financial Report for				
March 2025				
Amateur Radio Society Primary Account				
Opening Balance:				\$12,059.80
TARS sub-accounts				
General Fund sub-account				
Opening Bal		\$4,071.51		
Receipts:				
Membership		\$137.50		
Antenna Build		\$270.00		
Total Receipts --->>		\$407.50		
Expenditures:				
Antenna Build Reimbursement to Mark Holland		(\$402.34)		
Tech Soup for ZOOM Reimbursement to Scott Hibbs		(\$18.00)		
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$420.34)		
Ending Balance General Fund				\$4,058.67
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		\$1,346.99		
Receipts:				
Total Receipts --->>		\$0.00		
Expenditures:				
none				
Total Expenditures--->>		\$0.00		
Ending Balance of Red Cross Restrictd sub-account				\$1,346.99
Ending Balance - TARS primary Checiking Account				\$12,046.96
TARS IGC (IN Gaming Commission) restricted checking account:				
Opening Balance		\$1,407.38		
Receipts:				
none		\$0.00		
Total Receipts --->>		\$0.00		
Expenditures:				
Lynnville Community Center for 10/18/2025 Hamfest		(\$550.00)		
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$550.00)		
Ending Balance of IGC Restrictd checking account				\$857.38

Tom KD9PFH TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2025

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

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 7-8 2025

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 28-29 2025

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 18 , 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??

INQP May

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 N9QL](#)

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 KD0EE](#) (2024-2025)

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

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