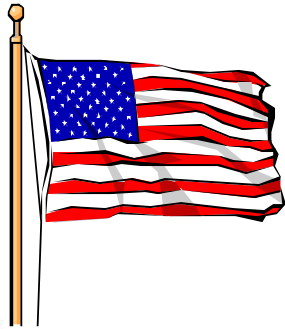


# Sparks

## W9OG



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Celebrate life. We made it to another Spring Time.

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

April 2013--Vol. LVI, No. 4

TARS Website: <http://www.w9og.net> Club repeaters: 146.79 and 147.15

Say "Hello" at the weekly Tri-State Emergency Net, 8:00pm Wednesdays on 146.79

Please feel to submit articles or suggestions to

Editor: [ftg2pointer@gmail.com](mailto:ftg2pointer@gmail.com)



### *Presidents Corner*

Presidents Corner

Hallelujah spring is here! I was so ready to say goodbye to old man winter this year. And spring means lots of ham radio activities with our club. Are you ready to join in?

Steve K9SRC at our last meeting brought up the idea of getting a group to go to Dayton this year. The Dayton Hamvention is held each year on the 3rd weekend in May, and it would be fun to get a group to make the trip, share gas expenses, and have a great time. Interested? Lets talk!

Our club picnic is May 4 so be sure to plan to be there at the Boy Scout Shelter there near the Red Cross. It will be a great time. Be sure to bring a covered dish containing your specialty recipe to share with the group. The club will provide the meats, buns, and drinks. We will also set up a station and participate in the Indiana QSO party.

Speaking of QSO's, how are you doing on the HF Ladder contest? Get those log sheets filled out and bring them to the club meeting to turn in. It will be fun seeing the variety of contacts folks are making. Hopefully this will be a way to get more members using HF and get folks to upgrade their license. If you are a technician class and want someone to help get you on the air, ASK SOMEBODY! I

would be happy to meet you at the Red Cross and get you on the air on the club station.

Lastly, planning is underway for Field Day. Be a part of Field Day this year. It's lots of fun, and everybody has a good time and everybody learns something every year. If you are a new ham, this is a great way to learn more about antennas and operating. It's a great time.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting, and check out the 'eating before the meeting'. It's a great time and a great way to get to know one another.

73s. DE N9oL.



N9OL

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### Last minute update on Bill

**I just learned that Bill has suffered a heart attack and is in the hospital ICU unit. He appears to be doing OK and they have allowed him to have his lap top computer, but no phone. Hopefully,. By the time Sparks comes out he will be in a regular room and doing fine.**

### One Man's Opinion

My long time radio friend Dave Wood, W9AJR sent me a YOU TUBE video the other day and asked me to comment on this, I suspected he wanted me to comment in this column.

The video it self is from a ham in the northeastern part of the country and he appears to be a fellow in his early 50's, or maybe a little younger. The video rambles on for ten minutes about the bones he has to pick with ham radio in general. In some points I have to agree with him and others I think he has just nit picks.

However, I made some notes about his article and this is where I feel he has positive points. He mentions about giving an I.D. on the air, all that is necessary is your call every ten minutes You do not have wear out the ears of your contact with an I.D. at the end of every transmission, or break of statement, or sentence. This becomes annoying and unnecessary, I know of one or two people who persist in doing this and indeed it is an annoyance.

In another point of agreement I question why some hams give their call and then follow up with "For ID" why are you giving your call in the first place? The statement for I.D. is redundant and certainly not necessary. I suppose this is a copy of broadcast stations that make an announcement at the conclusion of programming. "We pause for station identification" well that is fine for broadcasting, but ham radio needs only your station call letters every ten minutes.

Traffic nets were his next topic of discussion and I for one am not a traffic man, years ago when I first got on the air way back in 56 several locals around the Louisville area tried to encourage me to check in to the Kentucky Traffic net. I did so a couple of nights, but quickly found out there was nothing to it, it appears that everyone was like a parrot with the same QRU/QRV statement.

A lengthy roll call of the regular check-ins and then nothing, I vanished and to this day really have no interest in nets that accomplish nothing. Apparently, in the last few years the Kentucky traffic net on 3.960 kHz has terminated due to the fact no one had any traffic a gathering of several stations on frequency was unnecessary. . However, I do think some of the emergency groups still monitor the frequency for any needs.

I used to check into a DX net, but that has gone many years ago and I have not found a thing similar to it for many years.

Another comment was about contests, granted I do think we have far too many of them and glad we have a couple of bands contest free. For those of us that have no interests in contests we can certainly find non contesters to talk to on those bands.



## From the Vice President's Desk

Southern Indiana Classic Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 8K race. April 6, 2013

Here are some pictures from Scott Township Fire Department House #3 where the SIC Marathon Communications was stationed. The second picture DSCF0020 is my choice showing the 3 temporary antennas with stands that the hams used for 3 separate channels of communications allowing the hams to cover the entire course with just a 2 meter HT.

The corresponding repeaters and antennas were established by Dave, WB9YIG, at the Hornville Tavern parking lot for these three channels as well as a APRS Digipeater. The SIC staff was impressed with our APRS tracking of the Lead and Tail vehicles.

27 hams participated in the event. It is one of the best events that we have had recently that helps us prepare for an emergency with portable/mobile equipment.

**David Vogel WA9C Vice-President**

2166 Maxwell Ave

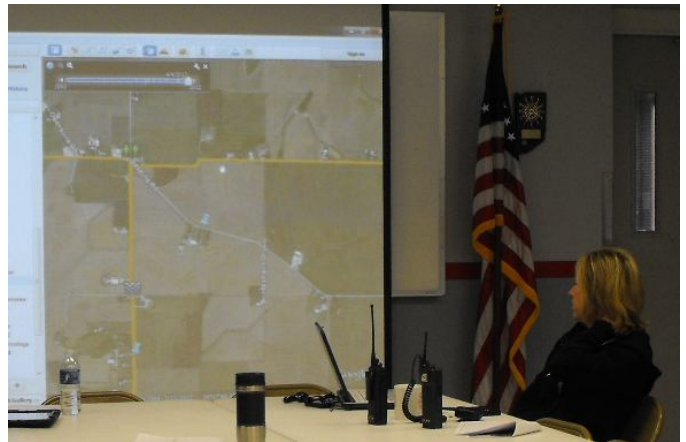
Evansville IN 47711

email: [wa9c@yahoo.com](mailto:wa9c@yahoo.com)

cell: (812) 430-5727



Our antenna farm.



APRS display on the big screen



Net Control

The race this year was a great success. Ham radio provided not only communications but also utilized APRS tracking of race vehicles. An APRS unit was placed in the lead and tail cars of each division. At the command center everyone could monitor their exact position in real time throughout the race.

We were fortunate to have a very nice day for the race. It was cool but not cold. There were no medical emergencies this year thank goodness.

One might wonder why amateur radio was so important, seeing that almost everyone had a cell phone that day? Well, for one thing, with a cell phone only you and the person you call can hear the conversation. With radio everyone involved can hear the traffic and, we don't get a busy signal.

Another factor that makes ham radio trump cell phones is communication skills. Hams are very proficient at passing messages.

We generally remain calm and are able to provide the necessary information needed. As a retired police officer, I can tell you that the average citizen with a cell phone can not do that. If 10 people call 911 in an emergency you will get 10 different versions of what happened, and one of them will be so hysterical that dispatch can not get good information at all from them. Often this causes delays and can even hamper responders.

Congratulations on a great job well done to our amateur radio volunteers. All the hard work paid off and the race committee was impressed.  
bp

### APRS balloon project

While **APRS** was keeping track of race events, it was being used that same day to track a weather balloon launch sponsored by USI students.



The SIC Balloon launch occurred the same day as the marathon race. The balloon was launched in Illinois by the Southern Indiana University students and terminated in Southern Gibson County, W9MOK was the APRS transponder in the balloon which reached at least 107,000 feet before bursting and returning to earth. Our own Chris Mathews N9JCA, helped USI with that launch by being its control operator. You may recall W9MOK as being USI's callsign. You may contact Chris if you are interested in being involved in this exciting project.

**David Vogel WA9C**  
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### Repeater update

Nothing submitted for this issue

### Presentations and demonstrations

None submitted yet

Be thinking about topics for our meeting presentations. Let us know what you want to see or do as a club.

Presentations and demonstrations are a fun part of our meetings. Join us!



**We have several openings for demonstrations or lectures if you care to give one. It doesn't have to be technical or long winded, just something of general interest**

### Eat'n Before the Meet'n



On April 11th we will be gathering at Firehouse Subs 1031 N Green River Rd, before the monthly TARS club meeting for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, if you need directions or just bored on your drive check in on 146.79 repeater. Everyone is welcome to join us.

### Trivia Time.

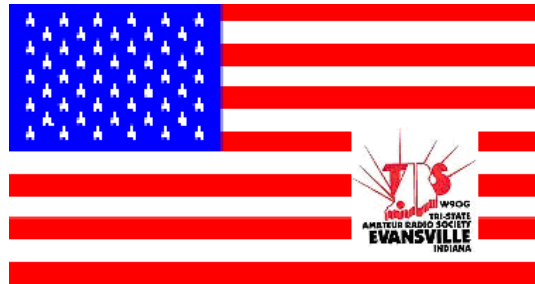
This month we will take a break from all the electronics stuff and take a little test on what you know about part of our club Call Sign W9OG. I am speaking of course about Old Glory.

1. How many stars on our current flag
  - a. 13
  - b. 48
  - c. 50
  - d. 57
2. Each star has how many points?
  - a. Six
  - b. Five
  - c. Three
  - d. Seven
3. How many red stripes are on the flag (without looking)?
  - a. Five
  - b. Six
  - c. Seven
  - d. Eight
4. Is it ok to fly the flag in the rain?
  - a. No

- b. Yes
  - c. Uncertain
5. Worn, damaged or tattered flags are properly disposed of by:
    - a. Throwing it away
    - b. Burning in a fire
    - c. Cut in half and disposed of
    - d. Buried
  6. Normal hours to display the flag are
    - a. 6 AM to 6 PM
    - b. Sunrise to sunset
    - c. One hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset
    - d. One hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset.
  7. You can fly the flag at night
    - a. In good weather
    - b. As long as it is illuminated
    - c. By special order of the Mayor
    - d. When a dignitary dies
  8. The official rules for proper display and handling of the flag come from what?
    - a. Robert's Rules of Order
    - b. The Boy Scout handbook
    - c. The 18<sup>th</sup> amendment
    - d. The United States Flag Code
    - e. The United States rules of order, section 18, Flag regulations...
  9. What animal is represented on the Gadsden Flag and what was the motto?
  10. It is OK to wear the flag as an article of clothing?
  11. If the flag touches the ground it should be:
    - a. Burned and a new one flown
    - b. Cleaned if needed
    - c. Retired from service
    - d. Saluted
  12. The national anthem was written by
    - a. George Bernard Shaw
    - b. George Washington
    - c. Frances Scot Key
    - d. Loretta Lynn
  13. T/F A flag used to cover a coffin can no longer be used for any other display purpose.
  14. The flag code states that no American flag with less than the modern 50 stars can be displayed. T / F
  15. A member of the City Counsel passed away last week. Can the mayor order the flags to

be flown at half staff in front of the court house? Y / N

16. To show our support for the flag, and since our call sign is **W9 Old Glory** I thought it would be nice to display this flag at Field Day and other TARS events. Here is my suggestion for the design. What do you think of the idea?



17. Indiana was the \_\_\_\_ star placed on the flag
  - a. 16<sup>th</sup>
  - b. 19<sup>th</sup>
  - c. 21<sup>st</sup>
  - d. 31<sup>st</sup>
18. There are how many states in the union today?
  - a. 48
  - b. 13
  - c. 50
  - d. 57
19. No other flag should be displayed above the American Flag T/F
20. To render honors as the flag passes by in a parade, only service members in uniform give the hand salute while all other civilians salute by placing the right hand over the heart. T / F
21. The POW/MIA (prisoner of war / missing in action) flag is flown
  - a. Only on flag day
  - b. Only on veteran's holidays
  - c. Any time the US flag can be flown
  - d. In time of war

## **ARES/RACES NEWS**

### **Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES**

The next ARES/RACES meeting will be April 18, 7:00 pm at the Vanderburgh Co. EOC, 708 Stanley Ave Evansville. We will be discussing training and changes to the ARES/RACES program.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK  
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer  
[ke9yk@arrl.net](mailto:ke9yk@arrl.net) 626-0069

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Come join the ARES and RACES groups and see what it is all about.

### Interested in helping our community?

All ARES/RACES members and any Amateur interested in emergency communications are encouraged to participate  
For ARES/RACES announcements you can join the Emergency Comms yahoo group at  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency\\_comms/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/emergency_comms/join)  
Contact Chris KE9YK or John WB9EFH for more information on how you can help out.

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### Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead

### ELITE SPOTTER TRAINING



On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am the National Weather Service Paducah will offer Elite Spotter Training for those who have had the Basic Spotter Training and would like more advanced training. The training will be held at the American Red Cross, 29 South Stockwell Road

### Things to look forward to:

May 4, TARS picnic  
June – Field Day

### Birthdays

April Birthdays:  
Norm King W9AU 21st  
Dennis Martin WA2USA 28th

## Tri State Emergency Net

### March Net Report

DATE	Stations	Traffic	Minutes	Net OP
3/6	12	0	18	WB9KQF
3/13	11	1	18	KE9YK
3/20	10	0	15	N9QVQ
3/27	11	0	17	KC9TYA
Total	44	1	68	

### Net Operator schedules

April 3 WB9KQF  
10 KE9YK  
17 N9QVQ  
24 KC9TYA

May 1 WB9KQF  
8 KE9YK  
15 N9QVQ  
22 KC9TYA  
29 WB9KQF

June 5 N9JCA (new op)  
12 KE9YK  
19 N9QVQ  
26 WB9KQF

### Net operators WANTED

TARS is in need of volunteers for net control operators. While we could use a couple more for the regular Wed night nets we desperately need volunteers for Skywarn/Weather nets. We have not recently had consistent weather nets I am working to change that. Weather nets are not only good for local hams to find out what coming their way but the National Weather Service depends on Hams via Skywarn to be their eyes and ears to confirm what the radar data is telling them and find out what they may be missing.

If you are interested in being a control operator contact Chris [KE9YK@arrl.net](mailto:KE9YK@arrl.net) 626-0069. Next time there is a weather event check in on the TARS 146.79 repeater and see what is going on.

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11. b if necessary. It is an old urban legend that the flag should be burned if it touches the ground.. The flag code does say that the flag should never be touched by anything beneath it when flown.
12. c. Frances Scot Key. If you answered d. you are a die- hard country red neck.
13. False. The flag can be used again for any proper display purpose. It is often given to the spouse, family or relatives of the deceased but they can use it as they see fit. One such flag, for example, was donated to the City of Evansville to fly above the court house for all to see in remembrance of the fallen hero.
14. False. Any officially approved American Flag, irrespective of the number of stars and stripes may be displayed.
15. False. The flag code says the President or the governor of the state can order the flag to be flown at half staff to show the nation or state is in mourning. “Those individuals and agencies who usurp authority and display the flag at half staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act”.
16. Not a good idea. Flag code “The American flag should not be embroidered upon; printed upon; or otherwise have placed upon it, any items or markings for any reason.”
17. b, the 19<sup>th</sup> state.
18. c. 50 stars for 50 states, unless you are the president in which case the answer is d.
19. False. However it is a very limited and specific reason. On a Navy ship the Christian Flag may be flown above the American Flag while the Chaplain is conducting religious services.
20. False. With a recent decision veterans may give the hand salute even though not in uniform as a respect to the flag they served.
21. c The POW/ MIA flag can be flown any time the American Flag is displayed or it can be flown or displayed by itself.



\* To properly dispose of a flag, you don't just set fire to it. There is a certain recommended ceremony to accomplish the task. Often several retired flags are burned at such ceremonies by organizations such as the American Legion and VFW.

1. The Flag should be folded in its customary manner.
2. It is important that the fire be sizeable and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the Flag.
3. Place the Flag on the fire.
4. The individual (s) can come to attention, salute the Flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.

LEARN MORE AT:

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagcode.htm>

<http://www.legion.org/flag/code>

## ***2013 Club Officers and Board members***

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**Vice President** [Dave Vogel WA9C](#) 812-430-5727

**Treasurer** [Leonard Schmitt N9QVO](#) 812-963-0027

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[Chris Matthews N9JCA](#) 812-867-7456 (2013-14)

[Stevan Wells KC9SOE](#) 812-473-5918 (2013-14)

[Ron Hanes KC9OUT](#) 812-568-1168 (2013-14)

Bob Pointer N9XAW 812-425-2118

**Don't forget to check out our web page**  
**[www.w9og.net](http://www.w9og.net)**

See you at the meeting !!!!