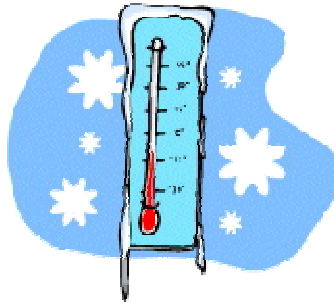
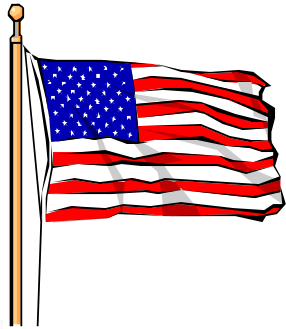


Sparks

W9OG



Good weather to stay inside and do some
Rag chewing on the radio.

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society
January 2015-Issue No. 1

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



Presidents Corner

This year was pretty exciting. Our club did some really fun and meaningful things this year. I hope you were able to participate and have some fun. If you were not we would love to get you involved this next year. TARS is planning for 2015 and we really want to hear from you. Please pass along any ideas for events or activities that you would like to do as a club.

We start off with a BANG in January! Our January club meeting is our annual TARS auction, and this

year we have lots of items and gadgets up for auction! The club has some nice older radios for sale, plus a large number of scanner radios. Of course members are welcome to bring items to the auction to sell. So don't miss that!

Then on January 24 at Wesselmans Park shelter we will set up some stations and participate in Winter Field Day! You don't want to miss it!

So January will be exciting and we hope you join us then and for the whole year! If you know a new Ham, or one that has not been coming to our meetings and events please encourage them to come, offer a ride or buy his/her dinner at "eating

before the meeting”! I would love to see our club grow in 2015.

Speaking of growth, I want to thank Mark kc9tya and Steve k9src for their work to put on the Technician license class in November. It was a great success and we had 6 new hams by the end of the day. That is exciting. Thank you Mark and Steve.

The only way we can thrive as a club is together. Get involved, and we’ll see you at the meeting!

73! De N9oL

John C VanVorst Manager of Systems
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73s. DE N9oL.



N9OL



One Man’s Opinion

One Man’s Opinion:

As we bring 2014 to a close we look back on the activities for this year, there was lots of dx, although some lulls due to poor propagation. We had extended periods of time with poor band conditions, then a rebirth and good dx was once again on the bands. We ended the year with a rather poor December due to conditions of the bands.

The ARRL Centennial occurred this year with W1AW operating from each state twice and from most U.S. possessions. The activity generated lots of interest and I also operate as an operator who holds an official appointment. Often I was mobbed by callers and worked over 200 stations in one sitting, I finally had to take a break with the promise of returning another day.

For those of you that are avid DXers, my year end review appears on the W9OG forum and it is quite a list of operations worked during 2014. In other words there was something for everyone and hope you had the opportunity to participate to the fullest.

We had our share of contacts this year, although nothing new overall, we did add a lot of ten and 15 meter band countries to our DXCC Challenge.

I spent a lot of time this year converting my paper logs to the logging program on QRZ.com, that was a long over due project and I suspect I will be entering contacts this time next year. At least I got a bite on it, but did not realize how many contacts with DX stations I have made over the last 50 years!

Going through my paper logs brought back a few memories namely the rare ones, or in some cases new ones, or what band I was on at the time. Keeping a log book is very important and one should keep fine details about his, or her station operation.

During the course of the Centennial there was only one gripe I had and that was stateside stations spotting themselves on a DX web site. Personally, I found the practice to be a little tacky, putting your own inflated ego out there for everyone to see. The practice of self spotting is a poor one and I wish who ever started it would find some way to drop it.

Now that the Centennial is nearing a close perhaps these offenders will vanish from view and have the time to rethink their logic? Granted, I am all for the ARRL to celebrate, but not on a DX web site with lots of self spotting.

It seems we had our share of good ops and those with filthy mouths on the bands at the same time, we just have to sort out the good ones and the bad ones. Hopefully, you fit in the good ops, or FCC turns the other way when it comes to enforcing the No Profanity clause. Fear of violation of First Amendment rights does enter the picture, thing is we should have respect for the air waves and some do not.

Overall, ham radio was a good hobby to pursue this year and hope you will find your niche in 2015, be it DX, award hunting, rag chewing, traffic handling, or just having fun. With that my friends we wish you a Happy New Year and hope Santa brought you the rig you wanted.

Ham radio is a great hobby, just enjoy it, as always my friend’s this is One Man’s Opinion, K4LRX



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The Soap Box



Well here we are at the start of yet another new year. For the younger set it is a chance face new challenges, new beginnings and projects. To improve things, build things, learn more, grow and prosper. To make life changing decisions, learn more, do more, and always look forward.

For the older set, our first thoughts are mainly, “Well, I managed to make it another year.” A lot of our thoughts are of looking back and reflecting on how we made it this far. We take stock in ourselves, our decisions, our goals that succeeded and those that did not. We think often of “what if I had not made that decision, or if only I had done this instead of that.” We chastise ourselves for not listening to the advice of older folks back when it might have made a difference. We thought we knew it all and could take care of ourselves without their help.

There comes a time in our lives where we realize we have more past than future on this planet. We start to notice we recognize more names in the obituaries than in the names on the birthday lists. We look down the roads we have traveled and reflect on the good times and try not to think of the bad ones.

Remember when Christmas was only a few weeks away and we were young, the days went by very slowly. Life is like a train going downhill. The

longer it runs the faster it gets. Don't be in such a hurry on life's journey that you miss all the pretty scenery along the way. Especially with growing older, it is the joy of the trip, not the final destination that is important.

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Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead Things to look forward to:

Annual TARS Auction

Once again the TARS auction will be held at our regular meeting on January 8th.

Hosted by Auctioneer Extraordinary Little Ed K9HVI.



Bring lots of money as there will be all kinds of treasures you will want to bid on. All proceeds to go to the Club. You may also bring items you want to sell on consignment.

This year we have several scanners to auction off. Many are programmable and others require crystals. They have been well cared for and several are still in the box. I saw one with the price tag still on it for over \$300. We have pocket sized portable ones to desk top fancy ones. We even have a few business band handy-talkies on the license free UHF band for sale. I even saw one that listed five band coverage.

Here is just a partial list of what we have to sell and we have many more we haven't inventoried yet.

- Realistic Pro40 8ch crystal
- Kraco CCB 4006 CB
- 3 Handheld scanner BC46TS (Crystal ctrl)
- Bearcat BC12 Crystal
- Bearcat 3 Electra Crystal

Bearcat BC12 Crystal
 Bearcat BC12 Crystal
 Realistic Pro 2021 (200ch Programmable)
 Bearcat BC 9000 xlt (programable- 500 ch)
 Realistic COMP-100 (programmable)
 Realistic PRO 24 (crystal handheld
 Bearcat BC70XLT handheld w/case
 (programmable)
 Regency ACT-E8 (8ch Crystal
 Realistic Pro- 2002 Programmable
 Regency R1040 (programmable)
 Bearcat BC101 (crystal ctrl)
 Handheld scanners Recency H604 (5 units- crystal
 ctrl
 Realistic Pro 21A dualband Crystal ctrl handheld
 Bearcat BC5 Crystal
 Realistic Pro16a Crystal
 Business band HT's 2 units GE,brown dot
 Business band HT's 2 units - Uniden
 3 units Realistic Hi/LO pocket scanners Crystal ctrl
 4ch
 Bearcat Electra Parts only
 Realistic 20-110 Programmable 5 band
 Regency R806 crystal scanner
 Tennenrac IV crystal scanner

We will add a lot more so come early and bring cash. Who knows what other surprises we will have?

February meeting will be our annual TARS banquet. This year we will again be hosted at the Tempan

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Birthdays

Members with a January birthday:

KB9LXZ Joanne Alexandrovich	14th
K4LRX Bill Hilyerd	11th
WB9LDV Charles Martin	28th
N9QVQ Len Schmitt	12th
K4SAW Steve Wilzbacher	17th

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HF Ladder Contest

Chris N9JCA

Presentations and demonstrations

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

Built something new? Have a neat item to share? Working on a project? Bring it to the meeting; we would love to see it.



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

Trivia Time.

Over the last few months I have been putting up with contest after special event on all bands. We can not escape to 17 meters to get away from it because you can "special event" there all you want. Every contact ended with QRZ?

Often it means throw the rules and manners out the window if I can get one more contact.

I was having a very nice QSO with a man in Colorado operating from a campsite with a portable station on 18.145 Mc when a centennial station started calling CQ on 18.143. He must have had everything cranked up because he wiped out the station I was talking with. I could hear his signal from 18.146 to 18.141 and he was in Florida. He was S9+ at my location.

I realize that not all hams act this way but the few that do make it difficult for the rest of us.

I thought we could start the New Year out with a review of some basic rules and operating procedures.

1. We are required to identify our station:
 - a. Every 10 minutes
 - b. At the start of the contact and every 10 minutes
 - c. Every 10 minutes and at the end of the contact
 - d. At the start of the contact and at the end of the contact with station ID every 10 minutes in between.
2. Before saying "over" we might give the call sign of the station we are working followed by our call sign as well. This is a
 - a. F.C.C. rule
 - b. Guideline
 - c. Courtesy
 - d. Optional
3. Your sideband signal should be no wider than:
 - a. 2.5 KHz
 - b. 6 KHz
 - c. 9 KHz
 - d. the station transmission shall occupy no more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted,
4. The amount of Peak Envelope Power you can use during a normal HF contact is:
 - a. 100 watts
 - b. 1000 watts
 - c. 1500 watts
 - d. 2000 watts
5. When a net is in operation and you want to call someone on that frequency:
 - a. Call "Break" then make your call
 - b. Give your call sign between transmissions then request permission from net control to call your station
 - c. Make your call over the top of the station talking
 - d. Announce "Contact" then make your call when given permission.
6. You have a schedule with a friend in Canada on 14.315 MHz at 19:00 Z. A few minutes before that a ham starts a conversation on that frequency.
 - a. Ask him to move to another frequency
 - b. Move up or down a few KHz and make your call.
 - c. Announce your call sign and request to make a contact then move to another freq. with your party.
 - d. Wait until they are finished then ask if the frequency is in use.
 - e. Crank up the amplifier and talk over the stations.
7. You hear a ham operating CW in the phone portion of the band. Do you:
 - a. Politely inform him he is operating in the wrong portion of the band
 - b. Tell him to move down to the CW portion of the band.
 - c. Do nothing
 - d. Notify the Official Observer of his conduct.
8. In the middle of your conversation another ham starts calling CQ on the frequency. Is he being rude?
9. You are tuning around listening for a CQ so you can have a rag chew. At the top of the band you hear someone calling CQ on 14.350. His signal is OK at 2.4 KHz wide but this puts him out of the ham bands. Should you
 - a. Move on and find someone else to talk to
 - b. Tell him he is out of band and breaking the rules
 - c. Contact your official observer and report him
 - d. Go ahead and work the station.
10. You just finished making contact with a rare DX station and received an S9 report. The DX station moves on to another contact but his having difficulty copying that station and keeps asking for a repeat. You can copy the other station. Should you:
 - a. Offer to give the DX station the information so he can move on
 - b. Keep quiet and let the two stations work it out
 - c. Tell the other station to quit trying so others can make contact
 - d. Log on to the TARS web page and catch up on the latest news.
11. On 24.950 MHz you hear someone calling CQ Field Day. Should you
 - a. Ignore him and move on
 - b. Make the contact for your log

- c. Report him to the Official Observer
 - d. Find another frequency to use.
12. Jeff has been trying to reach this rare DX station and finally made contact. The operator repeats his call sign, gives him a 5-9 and immediately says QRZ. Conditions are bad and he can not clearly hear the station give his name before the station moves on to other contacts. He should:
- a. Keep listening and try to copy the information as the signal improves
 - b. Keep asking for the information until he gives it
 - c. Go to QRZ.com and get the information
 - d. Just make up a name. They don't check that close anyway.



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

Contact Chris KE9YK or John WB9EFH for more information on how you can help out.

Chris KE9YK

Trivia Answers: for this month

1. Every 10 minutes and at the end of the contact
 1. c and d. Although not a rule or guideline many hams prefer to do it this way. It is also more common in a net or roundtable where many hams are in the group. It lets everyone know who is to follow the current operator.
 2. d. The FCC does not set minimum bandwidth for amateur sideband transmissions, only good engineering practice and courtesy to use "accepted limits" prevail. Although the suggested good practice is 2.5 KHz
 3. c. 1500 watts PEP. However FCC part 97.313(a) states: (a) An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications. If the station you are working is giving you a S9+10 you probably don't need that amplifier.
 4. b and d will work. Net control will let you in if you give your call sign and wait your

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Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting is January 15th, 7:00 pm at the VC EMA Training Center [1430 Harmony Way](http://www.vcema.net). We will be covering Net control procedures and associated ICS forms.

Anyone interested in emergency communications in Vanderburgh Co. is invited. We have a workday at the west side radio room on Jan 10th, starting at 7:00 am. We would like to finish up all the radio installations and a couple other projects that day.

On Jan. 31 we will participate in the Formidable Footprint flood exercise. More information and registration is available at <http://www.drc-group.com/project/footprint.html> Everyone wanting to participate will need to register at the link on this page.

Reminder to mark your calendar for Fri March 27th. EMA will be holding a large exercise and we **need your participation**.

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

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turn. If you need to get in right away “contact” is a common way and the next station in turn may give you the frequency. This is also the accepted method if you want to contact one of the members of the net. Never use BREAK unless it is really important or urgent.

5. b, c or d will work. No one “owns” a frequency so never ask someone to move so you can make a contact. An exception might be if a regular net meets on a certain frequency daily and it is in use, you may politely ask the other parties if they mind moving so the net can take place. Most hams will gladly do so.
6. do nothing. CW is allowed anywhere on the ham bands unless specifically excluded. Resist the temptation to be the “moral police” on the ham bands.
7. Not necessarily. He may not hear the station you are working and assume the frequency is open, however he did show poor operating practice in not asking “is the frequency in use?”.
8. Of course the proper answer is (a). move on. (b) is inappropriate because no one died and left you as the frequency police. Each ham is responsible for proper operation of his station and band limits are taught right away in the Technician license class. If you go ahead and make contact and stay on that frequency you too are out of band and that makes you a poor operator.
9. b. is always correct. To make a legitimate contact the two stations must exchange call sign, signal report and location without assistance. I know you want to help but in this case just listen and hope they work it out. And of course (d) is always correct.
10. a. and d. are correct. He is operating in the WARC band where no contesting is allowed. You may report him if you wish to your OO, however don’t worry about his contest as the ARRL will not accept contacts
11. a is correct. Just keep listening and you may eventually hear it. Other methods may

work but the purists insist on getting the information first hand. It is also noted that many DX stations get in such a hurry they go for long periods of time without giving anything other than “59 QRZ” and never give a name.

Good manners and good engineering practice are always correct. Those who ignore the rules make it less enjoyable for others.

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Eat'n Before the Meet'n

The January Eating Before the Meeting January 8th, is at **Mo's Southwest Grill** 6401 E Lloyd Expressway, in the plaza directly in front of Target. Moe's offers a variety of build your own Southwest/Mexican foods at reasonable prices. Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. We will be able to finish up and get to the TARS meeting to check out the items in the annual TARS Auction. Join the group at 5:30, check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in.

Everyone is welcome to join us.



Chris KE9YK

If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet, contact Chris (KE9YK@arrl.net).

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Tri-State Emergency Net

Please take a few minutes at **8:00 p.m. Wednesday** evenings on 146.79 and get updated on the latest information.

On the Tri-State Emergency net you can hear the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Remember to monitor the weather net on 146.79

anytime there is a severe weather watch issued from the Paducah NWS for Vanderburgh or surrounding counties. Once a warning or severe weather is reported we will go into a SKYWARN net and relay weather reports to the NWS in Paducah.

Net Operator schedule

Jan.	7	KE9YK
	14	WB9KQF
	21	KC9YIL
	28	N9QVQ
Feb.	4	KE9YK
	11	KC9TYA
	18	WB9KQF
	25	KC9YIL
Mar.	4	N9QVQ
	11	KC9TYA
	18	KE9YK
	25	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 626-0069. Next time there is a weather event check in on the TARS 146.79 repeater and see what is going on.

Many thanks to our award winning Net Control operators.



You provide a valuable service to the club and the community. We often fail to thank you

enough for your service. Keep up the good work.

On the Wednesday night net you can hear the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and good old-fashioned rag chewing.

If you would like to help run the net please Help is always appreciated and it is fun.

Net controls: Please forward a list of your check-ins to KE9YK@arrl.net thanks.

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VE Test information



Test dates:

1/31/2015	7/25/2015
2/28/2015	8/29/2015
3 none	9/26/2015
4/25/2015	10 none
5/30/2015	11/28/2015
6/27/2015	12/26/2015

All ARRL examination sessions will be held at the Evansville Chapter of the American Red Cross. The ARC is located at 29 S. Stockwell Road, at the intersection of Stockwell Road and Lloyd Expressway. Sessions start promptly at 9:00 AM, Evansville time.

Those candidates wishing to earn their first Amateur Radio License, or upgrade their present valid license, need to bring the following:

1. Their original signed and valid FCC Amateur Radio License.
2. Any previously earned CSCE.
3. One copy of the license *and* CSCE.
4. Two forms of Identification, one bearing a recent photograph.
5. The current ARRL testing fee of \$15.00.

You **“must”** have your Social Security number or EIN with you

Don't forget to check out our web page www.w9og.net

2013 Club Officers and Board members

2014 Club Officers and Board members

Board of Directors

[Bob Pointer N9XAW](#) 425-2118 (2014-2015)

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) 812-963-6455 (2014-2015)

[Terry McCraey WB9KQF](#) 812-760-8007 (2014-2015)

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

[Dave Vogel WA9C](#) 812-430-5727 (2014)

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Sparks editor Bob Pointer N9XAW