

Sparks

W9OG



Cooler weather, fall colors- great time to operate outdoors

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

October 2015-Issue No. 10

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



President's Corner



N9OL



One Man's Opinion

I often explore the QRZ. forum for comments, or questions some ops might have on various issues. One question caught my eye and it was how long does a contact have to be in order to count?

Ham radio contacts are as long as you want them to be, now you could run a marathon talking to the same station for hours and hours in one steady contact. Or, the contact can last about ten seconds, such as a contest exchange, or a dx expedition.

The op asking the question also included another question as to what was necessary to complete a contact? I replied to the inquiry and informed the new comer that the information needed to be a contact are call letters of the station you worked, log the time, band and signal report. Nothing else is needed, or necessary.

In the case of DX expeditions all the information exchanged is call letters and a signal report, Note the time, band and that is it. Keep in mind a rare entity's objective is to work as many stations as possible, some times rare operations will exceed a 100, 000 contacts and make a lot of people happy.

Of course if DXing is not your cup of tea then you might want a longer contact, get to know the op on the other end and exchange some useful information. That is your choice, you have the capability with your station to do exactly that and talk for a long period of time.

Some have commented on the fact they do not want to talk to foreign stations, or they do not have big antennas and Kilowatt amplifiers. That is no excuse, I had a dipole for 15 in the attic of my mother and Dad's house when I first started chasing DX. I was amazed at what I could work! That was a mighty 65 watts on cw, or 50 watts of phone, no I did not light up the receiving station's s meter, but I was heard. Without a doubt my signal did improve once I started using a three element beam on 15 meters.

For the most part my main interest in ham radio is Dxing and those that know me personally find this is true.

My large lists of dx stations bring back lots of memories, a new country, or a rare entity, some contacts long and others just a signal report. Keep in mind many of the DX stations are not fluent in English, so the conversation needs to be kept simple and to the point.

One big plus with DXing you learn a lot of geography of the world, mention a rare entity and I can tell you where it is and I am sure I have contacted someone in that country, or entity. Regardless, of the length of a qso, you have something to gain, maybe a new country, county, or new state. Perhaps, a new entity, or giving someone contest points, short contacts do count and you just may make someone happy with a contact , or you can make yourself happy by working something new.

If you do not push the transmit button on your mic, you will never make a contact, if you do not tap the key for cw, same result. Or, if you do not hit the keyboard in digital, those contacts will fly by you and you have missed the boat.

If you like to chew the old rag, that is fine, if you are a contest machine, go for it, if you are a dx man, indeed go for it. If you are into digital use the keyboard and make contacts. Thing is once you get to the point of renewing your license and you conclude you have done little to nothing on the ham bands, then what was the point of taking the test for a ham ticket?



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As always my friends this is "One Man's Opinion"
Bill, K4LRX

TOTAL RECALL



Sometimes I enjoy relaxing and reading the Classics. (my past radio log books). They remind me of people, places and events I enjoyed long ago. A lot of times I can even recall the conversations. Thanks to Ham Radio, I have explored the world.

K4LRX

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Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead

Things to look forward to:

Suggestions Needed

For the upcoming Winter Field Day:

Unless someone has a better location, we will probably use Wesselman's Park again this year. The 2015 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 24, 2015 through 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 25, 2015. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: set up emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.

ARRL Field Day 2016

It was suggested that we might want to use a different location next year for Field Day. USI has

been used for several years and a fresh location may liven things up a bit.

If we plan to use a park somewhere we must get reservations in early. Those spots fill up very quickly after January first.

If you have a suggestion, please let us know.

Help Wanted

The club has several nice lap top computers donated from Old National Bank. We have licenses to put Windows 10 on them. We can then use them for Field Day or other club business.

We would like to get together some Saturday morning and program them. If each volunteer took one computer we could have the job done in no time. You need not be a computer whiz to apply. We will discuss this at the October 8th meeting or you can email me to volunteer for details.

ftg2pointer@gmail.com

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Participate to Activate

A club is only as good as its members.

Active participation activates enthusiasm and means more enjoyment from your club. Like any activity, the more you put into it the more you get from it. Help your club. Get involved. Don't be a slacker.

When the club needs help, volunteers, suggestions, or participation in club events, be a joiner. Try not to be one of those who only say:

“Yeah, that sounds like fun, why don't you try it and let me know how it worked out”



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Terry	WB9KQF	Expires	2015
Bob	N9XAW	Expires	2015
Mark	KC9TYA	Expires	2015
Dave	KC9UVG	New	
Jeff	AA9WJ	New	



Mark KC9TYA

Trivia Time.

From the library of things we take for granted we look at our SUN.

- The primary source of fuel for the sun is
 - Gasoline
 - Hydrogen
 - Helium
 - Oxygen
- The sun's age is estimated to be:
 - A relatively new star
 - About half its expected life
 - Almost three fourths of its expected life
 - Almost at the end of its expected life.
- When the sun burns up its supply of hydrogen its primary fuel will be helium. At that point the sun will
 - Explode
 - Increase in size
 - Shrink in size
 - Go out
- The sun changes its magnetic poles every
 - Every other revolution
 - Every 5 years
 - Every 11 years
 - Every 21 years
- What is a solar flare
 - Strong magnetic pulses that burst away from the sun's surface
 - A stream of particles that burst away from the sun
 - A strong burst of ultraviolet rays that can knock out power grids
 - A strong burst of infra-red rays that also causes the northern lights.
- The HF bands seem dead. Calling CQ gets very few results. This could be caused by:
 - Solar wind
 - Sunspots
 - Solar flares
 - northern lights activity
 - Your antenna has blown down
- Solar wind is composed of
 - strong magnetic fields
 - X-rays and gamma rays
 - hydrogen molecules
 - charged particles
- When a solar flare impacts the earth's atmosphere, which layer is charged causing radio waves to be absorbed rather than reflected?
 - F1
 - F2
 - E
 - D
- Normal x-rays and energy from the sun are absorbed by which layers, causing radio waves to be reflected?
 - F1
 - F2
 - E
 - D

10. What event can trigger massive communications failures, disrupt power grids and greatly disturb the earth's magnetic field?
- solar wind
 - solar flare
 - solar storm
 - CME

- solar flares. X-rays and extreme ultraviolet light from solar flares ionize the Earth's atmosphere, causing an enhancement of the lower part of the dayside (Sun-facing) ionosphere which blocks radio signals that normally are reflected off of the ionosphere. Reflection of radio waves off the ionosphere allows long distance radio communication without having clear line-of-sight between the transmitter and receiver. When the enhanced ionosphere absorbs the radio waves, no radio communication is possible. This creates conditions referred to as "Radio Blackouts".
- The solar wind is a stream of charged particles released from the upper atmosphere of the Sun. This plasma consists of mostly electrons, protons and alpha particles
- The lower layer absorbs the X-rays and absorbs, rather than reflects radio waves.
- a, b and c
- CME Coronal mass ejections, CMEs, are another form of disturbance that can affect radio communications. Although much greater than flares in many respects. A large CME impacting earth could wipe out our electrical grid for years.



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

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Trivia Answers: for this month

- b hydrogen is converted to helium through nuclear fission.
- b about half of its expected life.
- b increase in size until it consumes Mercury, Venus and Earth.
- c Approximately every 11 years, the sun reverses its overall magnetic polarity: its north magnetic pole becomes a south pole, and vice versa.
- b Solar flares are jets of particles that burst from the sun and can disrupt satellite communications and knock out electricity on Earth

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

The October Eating Before the Meeting will be at [Jason's Deli](#) 943 N Green River Rd, before the regular TARS club meeting Oct 8th. Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in.



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

Chris KE9YK

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Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting is Oct 15th, 7:00 pm at the west side VC EMA Training Center [1430 Harmony Way](#).

Anyone interested in emergency communications in Vanderburgh Co. is invited.

Oct 24 will be a state wide S.E.T. Vanderburgh Co will be participating from 9 to 11 am.

We need commitments from those interested in participating to create our drill.

If you will participate contact ke9yk@arrrl.net.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

Tri-State Emergency Net Net Operator schedule

October	7	KC9TYA
	14	KE9YK
	21	WB9KQF
	28	KC9YIL
November	4	N9QVQ
	11	KE9YK
	18	KC9TYA
	25	WB9KQF
December	2	KC9YIL
	9	N9QVQ
	16	KC9TYA
	23	KE9YK
	30	WB9KQF

Net operators WANTED Don't be a Chicken!



Be a net control operator!

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@arrrl.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@arrrl.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

Herb Alvey KB9MZH 477-2757

Halvey1813@aol.com

ARRL Indiana Section

Section Manager: Joseph D Lawrence, K9RFZ
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Tars mailing address:

TARS

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Sparks editor Bob Pointer N9XAW

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

2015 Club Officers and Board members

2014 Club Officers and Board members

Board of Directors

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