

Sparks

W9OG



Cooler weather, fall colors- great time to be outdoors
Photo from my fishing trip last Sunday

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



Presidents Corner

Well its been an eventful year. I hope you have been able to join in the many club activities throughout 2015 starting with the auction and Winter Field Day in January, the picnic and Indiana QSO Party in May, a great showing in the June Field Day contest in June, and the informative meeting presentations. It has been a fabulous year. 2016 promises to be another exciting year as well with all the above activities PLUS the special event station during Fall Festival week next year to commemorate Indiana's bicentennial! Mark your calendars and plan to join in that week.

In our club meeting a couple months ago we enjoyed a presentation on Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) by Tony Tolbert from Indianapolis. Tony demonstrated some of the radio equipment available and even demo'ed the system by completing several QSO's with hams in Florida and Colorado. DMR is really catching fire among hams in the U.S. and especially in Indiana. And in case you haven't heard- DMR is coming to Evansville! TARS has been given the opportunity to put a DMR repeater on the air at a location on the northeast side of the city. We are working out the final details and arrangements and will pass all that along as soon as possible. So do some research on DMR-MARC and Hoosier-DMR, and take a look at the reasonably priced radios available for DMR. Stay tuned!

73!

John N9ol



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One Man's Opinion

Ham radio has changed a lot in the nearly six decades I have been licensed, some good changes and others not so good.

For instance back in 1956 you had a separate transmitter and receiver, plus your transmitter power was rated in input power and not actual output. The input power was computed by multiplying plate voltage times plate current, it could not exceed one Kilowatt.

Novices were restricted to CW only and a maximum input power of 75 watts, this translated to about 50 watts output. Novice transmitters had to use crystals for frequency control a VFO was not allowed. The 6L6 tube was often used in low power transmitters and for a medium power class the 6146 was the king. If you wanted high power

the 813 was more often the choice along with the 250TH.

Transmitters were huge, heavy and would require tuning every stage, Oscillator, buffer, grid drive and final tuning. Crystal calibrators were standard part of any shack of the 50's it generated a marker frequency every 100 kHz. There was no such thing as 1 kHz readout, most VFO's of the day had an analog scale and the finest mark on the dial represented 5 kHz.

Heathkit, WRL, plus Harvey Wells were the transmitter choices, Hallicrafter's National, RME and Hamurland were for the most part your choices. If you had money, you made a giant step with Johnson, or Collins for your transmitter. Of course if you had more money the 75A1 Collins was the top choice for a receiver.

On air contacts were somewhat different in those days, you had to transmit the call of the station you were working and your own call as well. The on air exchange of basic information indeed a little different, "Handle" was used for your name. In later years this became Name, and now OP is the more common usage.

If you were operating at a different location other than your home address you had to use the / and then what ever district you were in at the time. Mobiles had to indicate this as well, it became somewhat of a nuisance and I was glad when it was dropped.

You had to keep a logbook of your activities, something I favor today, but it is no longer a requirement. Novices were issued call letters to reflect their license class, they had an "N" after the first letter of the call and before the district number.

Upgrading was mandatory after a year, since the Novice class license was not renewable, you either upgraded to General, or Tech, otherwise you found another hobby.

Amateur testing was done four times a year, one had to appear at a federal building, namely the post office building. You could pass the written exam, but fail the code test and you got no credit for anything.

Instant retakes did not exist if you failed any part of the exam, sorry see you in three months. One had to send and receive 13 WPM for a General class license, the Extra was 20 WPM, but carried no Extra privileges in either phone, or CW.

There were basically three modes, of course none of the digital modes existed, so your three choices were AM Phone, CW and some very primitive RTTY.

The terminology of this era were Kilocycle, Megacycle, Microfarad, plus antennas were not dipoles, but doublets. Since tubes were used in all equipment it was quite common to hear a description of the rig as a pair of 813 tubes, modulating a pair of 813 tubes. Keep in mind that to modulate an AM signal to 100% it required half the power in a modulator. In other words you need about 500 watts to modulate a 1 KW final.

Transmitters of the day were plagued with harmonics and many a young Novice was cited by the FCC for a second harmonic. Most common were 80 meter Novices heard in the 7.4MHZ region and the forty meter Novice heard in the 20 meter phone band with very strong harmonics.

One of the best times in that era were ops watched their language, no foul mouths, or people with an attitude. You were fearful of the FCC and its wrath, you had a real danger of losing your license. Yes, things were different in the mid 50's I am glad I was part of it. Many memories, great times, and very good operators.

Still with all the changes I have witnessed, ham radio is still a great hobby!



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

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.From the desk of John N90L:
An interesting article I thought was
worth passing on.

Below is the October article written
by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU offered for
hams consideration

A new Heathkit! So, why am I not excited?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago I got an e-mail
from Heathkit. Yes, the NEW Heathkit.
you might remember that a couple of
years ago, there was all this hype
about a "new" Heathkit and how they
were going to start designing new kits
as well as revive popular old designs.

Then, nothing. They went completely
quiet--until a couple of weeks ago. In
an e-mail sent to their "insiders,"
they say:

"Dear Heathkit Insider,

'What I really hope Heathkit will
produce,' a Silicon Valley colleague
recently told me, 'is a new radio kit
with a beautiful finish, maybe in

rosewood.' Something great to enjoy
building and learn from, and also
visually stunning, so he could put it
in his living room and keep it
forever.

"Today, my friend gets his wish.

They then go on to explain all of the
work they've been doing in relocating
Heathkit to Santa Cruz, CA, acquiring
a second company, and securing all the
intellectual property rights to the
old Heathkit manuals and logos
(meaning no more bootleg copies on the
Internet). The e-mail continues:

"That's a lot, but there's more. We've
designed and developed a wide range of
entirely new kit products. We authored
the manuals for these kits, complete
with the beautiful line art you rely
on, preserving and respecting our
iconic historic Heathkit style. We
developed many new inventions and
filed patents on them.....We built the
back office infrastructure, vendor and
supply chain relationships, systems,
procedures, operations methods, and
well-thought-out corporate structure
that a manufacturing company needs to
support its customers, to allow us to
scale instantly the day we resume
major kit sales. All this effort
enables us to introduce a fleet of new
kits and helps ensure Heathkit can
grow, prosper, and continue to bring
you great new products for a very long
time."

So, what's the exciting news? A new
QRP transceiver? Maybe a shortwave
radio? A new 100-in-1 experimenter kit
for Makers?

Uh-uh. Sorry. The "exciting" news is a tuned radio frequency (TRF) AM band (yes, I said AM band) radio kit that costs \$150 (<https://shop.heathkit.com/shop/product/explorer-jr-trf-am-radio-receiver-kit-black-case-gr-150-bk-16>). Not only is that crazy expensive for an AM radio, it doesn't even come with a speaker. On top of that, there's no soldering. You screw all of the components to the board. I'm speechless (well, figuratively, not literally).

I'm not sure what the target market is for this product. It's certainly not amateur radio operators, who expect a lot more (in terms of both functionality and "fun") for their money. Nor is it the "Maker" folks, who want something more challenging than an AM radio. I think that if I took this to show off at the local Ann Arbor Maker group, they'd laugh me out of the place.

I really hope that they have something better up their sleeves. A strong Heathkit would be good for the Maker movement and for ham radio.

When not thinking about what kit to build next, Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m). His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.Com, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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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.

Winter FD is under new

management <http://www.winterfieldday.com/index.html>

When: The contest runs for 24 hours during the last full weekend in January each year from 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Saturday to 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Sunday. For 2016, the dates are **January 30 and 31, 2016**. Station set up may begin no earlier than 1300 UTC (8:00 AM EST) on January 30, 2016.

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.

So far recommendations have been:

*Harmonie State Park

*Murphy Park in New Harmony (also a candidate for the Indiana QSO party)

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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”



B Birthdays for November:

N4HJR Ron	
Attinger	27th
AA9WJ Jeff	
Holt	30th
K9JKL Jeanie	
Kissell	9th
K8RAO Robert	
Oberst	23rd
KC9NOY Gerald Schoenbachler	7th
WD9FHA Willie	
Wilson	29th

Another message from N9OL

I am still lining out the details, but a local entity as offered to allow the club to use a 100' tower, an antenna for 70cm at the top of that tower, and a Motorola digital repeater so we can put a DMR repeater on the air. I am pursuing this and would like to be the trustee of this installation- I am very interested in seeing what DMR can do. Of course I want it to be a club project as well. I am working on getting a frequency coordination for

this and want to move forward with this as quickly as we can.

So ask Santa for a new DMR radio for Christmas. The good thing is that Santa wont have to dig too deep into his pockets!

JCVV

A little ham humor.



irthdays

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Attention new (and old) hams.

Many new hams have often reported the reason they do not upgrade from technician class is the cost of HF equipment is prohibitive. To the average ham, this is a fact of life. Many of us cannot afford to lay down a couple grand for a radio.



The good news is that you do not have to mortgage your home to buy a good HF radio. There are many used radios on the market that have plenty of features to get you on the air.

The average new General Class ham really does not need to be overwhelmed by several drop down menus, dozens of buttons (each with multiple functions) and more knobs than an antique dresser. A very small number of hams actually use all those features anyway.

The new HF operator need only to concentrate on making contacts, learning the rules, making friends and enjoying the hobby instead of spending hours trying to understand the half inch thick owner's manual. There is always time later to save up and buy that dream radio while you are enjoying the hobby.

A word of caution, however. Be careful where you buy that used radio. Always try it out before you lay down the cash. This is especially true hamfests and tailgate sales. If you buy before you try and that feller is gone to parts unknown tomorrow, you are out of luck. If you buy it from Ebay you may not get what was advertised. The thing to avoid is a radio for sale that the seller says something like "unit powers up but I have no way of testing it further..." If you do decide to bid on one, make sure the seller has a good return policy.

The local Ham Station always have a few older radios in great shape that will not break your bank yet give you years of satisfactory service. And they stand behind what they sell. (Disclaimer-this is not an endorsement, just a suggestion).

Your TARS club also has a few older radios we are considering selling that are perfectly fine (and at one time the top of the line). Don't put off upgrading just because you think you can't afford a new

radio. And heck, the club also has two complete ham radio stations you are welcome to use while you are learning. Just ask any club officer. 73s and good hamming.

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From the desk of Mark Thienes

Here is the election slate for November.

President	John Vanvorst	N90L
v.Pres	Herb Alvey	KB9MZH
	Chris Matthews	N9JCA
Treasurer	Len Schmitt	N9QVQ
Secretary	Ron Hanes	KC9OUT
Board	(vote for 3)	
	Jeff Holt	AA9WJ
	David Sandine	KC9UVG
	Mark Thienes	KC9TYA
	Bob Pointer	N9XAW



Mark KC9TYA

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I have found a new favorite place. After work tonight I stopped by the Longfellow BBQ place next to the LST 325. They had just taken slabs of ribs off the smoker.

I had to try some along with some pulled pork.

Fall-off-the-bone tender ribs and sweet pulled pork made for a great supper.

They finally made some of the long awaited mustard based sauce this week. I love it.

My favorite (when they have it) is the smoked turkey breast with those thick **baked beans**.

Trivia Time.

Can't we all just get along?

This month I thought we would touch on a subject most don't want to worry about. How can the average ham get along with the neighbors?

Since ham radio was first introduced to the public we have had issues with our neighbors. Some of it justified, much of it preventable and some problems blamed on hams were not their fault. Let's look into some of the problems.

1. Early in the hobby our neighbors complained that we were wiping out their television reception. What band would be the most likely one to cause problems?
 - a. 2m
 - b. 6m
 - c. 20m
 - d. 80m
2. When ham radio transmissions was interfering with a television one could employ what to help stop the problem?
 - a. placing aluminum foil on the antenna lead in wire.

- b. Placing metal shields on the vacuum tubes on the television's tuner.
 - c. installing a high-pass filter at the antenna terminals of the TV
 - d. Placing a low-pass filter on the ham transmitter.
3. What was one of the first things neighbors observed when they started complaining about a ham's radio station?
 - a. telephone interference
 - b. television interference
 - c. the ham carrying radios into their homes
 - d. the ham antenna
 4. Neighbors often did not like the antenna tower because
 - a. they thought it was ugly
 - b. they thought it would attract lightning
 - c. they thought it would fall on their property
 - d. they feared it would cause health problems
 5. Once your new station is on the air, what is the first mistake hams often make that gets complaints started from the neighbors?
 - a. talk loud with your windows open
 - b. talk about your new radio with the neighbors
 - c. having many ham friends come over and some may park in the neighbors parking spots.
 - d. start pasting QSL cards on the outside of your house for decoration.
 6. A neighbor complains his cable TV signal is poor and thinks your ham gear is responsible. What are your obligations?

- a. make sure you have a clean signal with no harmonics or spurs.
 - b. have your transmitter tested by a licensed facility to insure it is not emitting any harmful signals and get a written report from them.
 - c. Offer to put filters on the neighbor's phones and televisions
 - d. contact the cable company and complain their signal is poor.
7. In the past there have been many police reports about radio operators causing trouble, interference, fights, and illegal actions. What were most of these about?
- a. drunk ham radio operators
 - b. ugly antennas in nice neighborhoods
 - c. high power radio equipment causing thunderstorms
 - d. citizens band radio operators
8. Before moving into a new area it is a good idea to:
- a. make sure there are plenty of trees to hang antennas on
 - b. make sure the perspective new home has an extra bedroom to install your ham equipment
 - c. make sure the home is wired for 220 volts AC to power your amplifier.
 - d. check local antenna restrictions and covenants
9. So, you have moved into a great neighborhood in a very nice home but there are antenna covenants and restrictions all over the place. You can't even put up a small outside 2M antenna without getting in trouble. What next?
- a. put up an antenna anyway and hope they don't notice
 - b. Take them to court and fight it
 - c. Restrict your operating
 - d. consider installing one of the stealth antennas described in the ARRL publications and keep your hobby low profile.
10. You live in a high rise apartment complex. Is ham radio out of the question?
- a. no, you still have VHF capabilities
 - b. no, you still can employ some portable HF antennas made for balconies and restricted locations
 - c. no you can use some of the internet capabilities available to you
 - d. no, you can set up a remote HF ham station somewhere and control it remotely from your apartment.
11. You have tried to get along by putting up a modest small antenna but are threatened with going to court over it. Where can you get assistance?
- a. hire a body guard
 - b. hire a local lawyer
 - c. The Salvation Army
 - d. The ARRL
12. The 20 meter band has recently become almost unusable at your home. A loud grinding noise is S9+ across the band. Your direction finding skills show it may be coming from a neighbor's house.

- a. call the police and complain
 - b. demand the neighbor fix it
 - c. politely explain the problem with the neighbor and ask his help in tracking down the interference.
 - d. put up with it.
13. You see a new ham antenna a few blocks down your street. You don't know the neighbor. Within a few days you begin getting a lot of QRM on your HF rig from that station, making DX almost impossible.
- a. monitor the signal and verify it is indeed that ham (listen for a call sign and look up the ham's info.
 - b. Go right down to his house and tell him something is wrong with his radio
 - c. move your frequency very close to his and begin calling CQ to get even.
 - d. make friendly contact with the ham to discuss the problem.
14. Several hams at the club meeting were discussing a local ham that was causing all of them problems when he was on the air. Several had monitored his signal and agreed his equipment was way out of adjustment. His SSB was 10kc wide and the compression must have been cranked way up causing both interference on the same band he was on and additionally harmonics could be heard on adjacent bands. He seemed to be one of those who thought the louder you yell at your microphone the further your signal goes. Polite suggestions

that he work on the problem have been ignored and he continues to be a problem.

- a. call the police
 - b. file an official complaint with the F.C.C
 - c. picket his home and alert the news media
 - d. Work with your area Official Observer
15. Who got blamed for the Superbowl 2013 power blackout in the stadium?
- a. The power company
 - b. the stadium maintenance people
 - c. Beyoncé and all her half time show equipment taking too much power
 - d. ham radio

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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

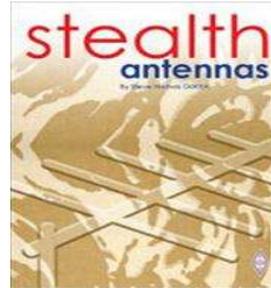
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Trivia Answers: for this month

1. b the 6 meter band was close to vhf television channels. That is one reason there was no VHF channel 1
2. c or d filters did help eliminate most of the problems
3. d. the antenna. As soon as neighbors saw that ham antenna go up they blamed ham radio for every problem in their homes, the majority of which had nothing to do with the ham radio. Even today you can find stories on the internet where ham radio was blamed for something even before any facts were found.
4. all the above, and then some. Hams are still fighting antenna restrictions and regulations designed to limit or prohibit them putting up a tower or any antenna for that matter.
5. b. Just talking about your new station with the neighbors will put them on guard so that any problems that crop up will be blamed on the ham radio first.
6. a and b. Never C and doing d only if you are experiencing the same problem as the neighbor even though your radio is turned off. Never offer to fix the neighbor's equipment because if it fails or quits he will remember you were the last one to touch it.
7. d. when CB was first introduced it was a wonderful and useful thing. Later, when the FCC dropped licensing requirements anyone could have one and rules and regulations went out the window. There was always the few who started fights, ran illegal harmful equipment, ignored any common sense of rules or regulations and were a general nuisance. When the police were called neighbors were upset that the police had no jurisdiction over the CB nuts. The FCC had washed their hands of the whole mess and refused to do anything so irritated neighbors started actually pulling down towers and antennas of the offenders. Often violence was employed and people got hurt. To this

day people often thing ham radio and CB radio are the same thing.

8. d. check local city and county ordinances concerning antennas as well as local codes, restrictions and covenants. This can save you a lot of trouble
9. d. stealth antennas will allow you to keep enjoying your hobby low profile.



10. All of the above answers are correct.

11. d. Hiring a local lawyer may help but they may not be familiar with these kind of cases. The ARRL does offer information on what you can do and also has a list of attorneys that are educated in these kind of cases.

12. Depending on how well you get along with the neighbor, C is the right approach. First ask if he has bought or installed anything new recently. It could be that new plasma TV causing the problem. If so he may be able to get a filter for it. (if you offer to pay for it) but under no circumstances offer to fix the problem to his equipment yourself. D if all else fails.

13. Make friendly contact with the ham and ask if your station is causing any QRM to him since you are close together. Politely bring it up that his is causing problems at your end but don't demand he have his radio checked. It could be that you two are just too close together. Many ham neighbors have worked out this problem by gentleman's agreement. work different bands or different times

14. d. work with your area Official Observer to see what he can do about the problem If all else fails file an official complaint with the F.C.C, (but don't expect fast results)

15. you guessed it D. ham radio. Before any investigation was completed, and since a ham radio station was nearby it was assumed that was the cause. The Bayou Bishop Amateur Radio Club was excited to promote Super Bowl activities for the week with a “special event station,” a common activity in the amateur radio community. Operating as “Whiskey Five Bowl” They assumed the battery powered station knocked out the power grid. As a result, also before any official cause was found the radio club was banned from the grounds. Later it was determined officially that a relay had been set incorrectly when installed – human error that had nothing to do with ham radio.

<http://hamhijinks.com/breaking-ham-radio-shuts-down-super-bowl/>



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

Chris KE9YK

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

The November Eating Before the Meeting will be at [Tom+Chee](#) 2121 N Green River Rd, before the regular TARS club meeting Nov 12th. Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, or when you can make it, check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just bored on your drive in.

Everyone is welcome to join us.



Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting is Nov 19th, 7:00 pm at the west side VC EMA Training Center [1430 Harmony Way](#). Anyone interested in emergency communications in Vanderburgh Co. is invited.

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

Tri-State Emergency Net

Net Operator schedule

November	4	N9QVQ
	11	KE9YK
	18	KC9TYA
	25	WB9KQF
December	2	KC9YIL
	9	N9QVQ
	16	KC9TYA
	23	KE9YK
	30	WB9KQF

SKYWARN Recognition Day Saturday, December 5

The 17th SKYWARN Recognition ([SRD](#)) on-event is set Saturday,



annual
Day
the-air
for

December 5, from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC. Cosponsored by ARRL and the National Weather Service, SKYWARN Recognition Day pays tribute to Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform. Registration is now open for stations planning to participate from a National Weather Service (NW) Forecast Office; a [list](#) of NWS participating offices is on the NWS SKYWARN Recognition Day web page. During the 24 hour event, Amateur Radio operators set up at NWS offices contact other hams across the country. This event is also aimed at strengthening the bond between Amateur Radio operators and local NWS offices.

SKYWARN Recognition Day is not a contest. During SKYWARN Recognition Day amateur stations exchange contact information with as many National Weather Service-based stations as possible on SSB, FM, CW, RTTY, and AM on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus 70 centimeters. Repeater contacts are permitted.

Stations exchange call signs, signal reports, location, and a one or two-word description of the weather (eg, sunny, partly cloudy, windy, rainy). [Procedures](#) are detailed on the NOAA SRD web page.

The volunteer SKYWARN program comprises nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters -- many of them radio amateurs -- who identify severe storms and provide NWS forecasters with reports of local weather conditions during severe weather events.

To learn [more](#), visit the SKYWARN Recognition Day website.

Winter Field Day Jan 30-31

After a year of uncertainty over the future of the old SPARs Winter Field Day event and ill health of SPAR's Board of Directors, it would appear that IT's BACK!!! A NEW group has now taken over the reins and is actively promoting this fun event. Do you like the ARRL's Field Day?? If you do, you'll likely LOVE Winter Field Day as a welcome break and fun event in the middle of the cold winter months. It's an event that you can participate in alone, with a buddy, or with a group. You can operate from home or remotely, QRP or QRO, ANY mode, your choice. **Winter Field Day 2016 will fall on Jan 30-31.**

TARS has plans to work Winter Field Day from Wesselman Park (tentatively) on Saturday Jan 30th. Chris KE9YK will provide bean soup and cornbread at Noon for lunch and you are welcome but not obligated to bring anything to pitch in as well. **This is an easy event to organize but TARS still needs a chairperson to coordinate the details. If interested contact any of the officers.**

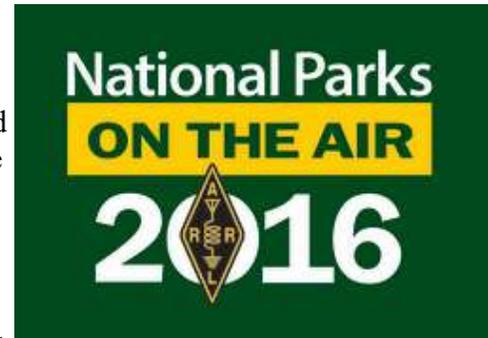
WFD has a webpage up now, as well as a Facebook Group page you can follow for updates...

<http://www.winterfieldday.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/winterfieldday/>

"ARRL National Parks on the Air" Event to Mark National Park Service Centennial From ARRL Letter October 15, 2015

In 2016, the National Park Service ([NPS](#)) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air ([NPOTA](#)) event. The event kicks off at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016.



"As ARRL just celebrated our own Centennial, and Amateur Radio is often enjoyed in the great outdoors, it seemed fitting to devise a program to help NPS celebrate their own 100th birthday," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. NPOTA will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US. This includes all 59 National Parks as well as National Battlefields, Historic Sites, Memorials, Preserves, Reserves, Rivers, Seashores, National Scenic Trails, and other units.

The program will have two participation tracks -- Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply attempt to make contact with operators in as many of the NPS units as possible. Activators will attempt to activate as many of the units as possible. NPOTA participants may serve in both roles. Chaser and Activator totals will be tracked via an online [Leader Board](#) based on LoTW data, just as was done during the Centennial QSO Party. Access the NPOTA Leader Board directly at <http://npota.arrl.org>.

Modeled after the Mixed DXCC award, only one contact with any given NPS unit will be required, and no tally will be kept of NPS units based on bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). No paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit will be added to LoTW as a "location."

Chaser Award and Activator Award certificates will be available to any radio amateur who has at least one confirmed contact with an NPS unit or who activates at least one unit, respectively. A station's total number of confirmed or activated units will be printed on the certificate. The National Parks Honor Roll certificate will be available to any station confirming contact with at least 75 percent of the 59 National Parks *activated* in 2016.

While there is no formal partnership between NPS and ARRL for this event, the League has been in discussions with the NPS over the past year, and the National Park Service is aware that increased Amateur Radio activity in their parks is likely during 2016.

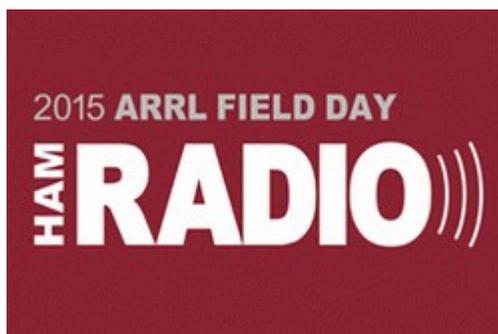
The NPOTA will use the official [list](#) of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. [Complete details](#) on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website. Read [more](#).

ARRL Field Day 2015 Results Now Available

From ARRL Letter October 29, 2015

Congratulations to TARS for placing 2nd in Indiana 3A this year.

Results of ARRL [Field Day](#) 2015 are now available. These include the [searchable scores database](#), the [soapbox](#), and the [QST results article](#) (PDF). A total of 2720 stations submitted entries for the ever-popular June 27-28 event.



While propagation was on the sorry side for Field Day 2015, the number of contacts for this year's event

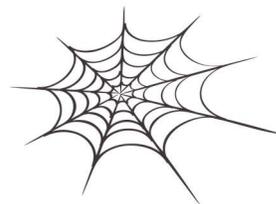
rose slightly over 2014 -- a modest 1.1 percent -- and CW contacts account for all of that increase; phone and digital contact numbers dipped slightly in 2015. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015.

The number of logs received appears to be an all-time ARRL Field Day record. This year saw 35,369

participants, down slightly from 2014.

A total of 1247 entries claimed the broad classification of "A" (which includes generator, commercial, and alternate/battery-powered entries). Joining that core group operating in temporary setups were an additional 315 Class B entries (one- or two-person entries). This indicates that 58 percent of all Field Day 2015 participants in some way took to the field.

Net operators WANTED Don't be a Chicken! Be a net control operator



!

The spider web is because this plea for help has been in Sparks a long time and no one new has come forward lately to volunteer

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.
