

Sparks

W9OG



Don't miss the club auction Thursday
Lots of fun. Lots of bargains.

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

January 2016-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



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Years holidays. As we look back on 2015, I think we as a club had a great year, did some fun stuff, and had some great meetings. 2016 looks like it is shaping up to be even more exciting and I hope you plan to plug into what we have going on and get involved. We have several operating events including an INPOTA operating activity, an special event station in the fall, Field Day, Winter Field Day, and more! So I urge you to come to the meetings and get involved. And if you have an idea for a club event or operating opportunity please speak up!

January 14 meeting will be the TARS Annual Auction night. The club has some equipment that we will be selling, including some HF rigs! If you have items that you would like to auction off, you are more than welcome to bring them. A donation to the club is requested for personal sales. So see you all next week on January 14.

The Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) repeater is up and operating on the Hoosier-DMR network. DMR radios are available at very reasonable prices too! So check it out. If you have questions about DMR feel free to ask me. There are several other club members getting active on DMR that can help also.

I am excited about our club in 2016, and I hope you are too!

73, and hope to see you at the meeting!

!John N9oL

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Welcome to a brand new year. We are looking forward to great times in the club with many activities planned.

Come join us . To get the year started off right, here are some important dates to mark your calendar with.

6/9/2016
7/14/2016
8/11/2016
9/8/2016
10/13/2016
11/10/2016
12/8/2016

TARS board meetings

Room: The Red Cross board room.
7-9PM on following dates
(first Thursday of each month):

1/7/2016 7/7/2016
2/4/2016 8/4/2016
3/3/2016 9/1/2016
4/7/2016 10/6/2016
5/5/2016 11/3/2016
6/2/2016 12/1/2016

Ham radio testing sessions

Room: The using the Red Cross board room

8:30-11AM on following Saturday mornings:

1/30/2016 6/25/2016
2/27/2016 7/30/2016
3/26/2016 8/27/2016
4/30/2016 9/24/2016
5/28/2016 10/29/2016
12/31/2016

TARS membership meetings

Room: ½ of the large classroom space
7-10PM on the following dates (2nd Thursday of each month except Feb):

1/14/2016
3/10/2016
4/14/2016- Board Room
5/12/2016

In addition, don't forget:
Club Auction 1-14-16

Winter Field Day 1-30-16
Club dinner 2-11-16
TARS Picnic and
Indiana QSO party 5-7-16
ARRL Field Day 6-(24-26)-2016

Indiana Parks on the Air
Sept 16, at Murphy park in New Harmony

We will be operating a Special Event
Station from Wednesday October 5th
through Saturday October 8th during

One Man's Opinion

The other day I was tuning around on twenty meters
phone, now those of you that know me well may
wonder why I was in the phone band? To be
honest about it I had a dx station I wanted to work
on SSB so decided to venture up to 14.200KHZ.

After working the station I wanted I decided to tune
downward to around 14.178 KHZ and see what
discussions were in progress on the channel. This
frequency is known for a number of fellows
gathering and adjusting their radios for the best
sound, or the highest audio quality.

One station checked in and was proud of the fact
that his signal was taking up 4 KHZ in over all
width. I verified this on my spectrum scope and
indeed it was four KHZ wide. The question is this,
WHY? The normal width of an SSB signal is 2.8khz
beyond that it is indeed a bad venture.

SSB came about to save spectrum space, I recall the
days of AM when signals occupied about five or six
Khz. In those days you had to look around the band
for a clear space, even then it was not a sure fired
method.

If you recall I had written an article of review on the
Yaesu FT 5 and the fact it had a normal and wide
selection of your SSB signal. I quite frankly feel it
should have never been included, My new Kenwood
does not have this and I do not miss it. Transmitted

the 2016 West Side Nut Club Fall
Festival in conjunction with Indiana's
Bicentennial

The club would also like to
participate in National Parks on the
Air. We have Lincoln State Park and
Harmonie State Park close enough to
operate the event. We have operated
from both in the past. Let us know
which one you would like to hold the
event at.

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signal is 2.8khz and that is where it will stay,
Pushing the button for wide only makes enemies
and in reality accomplishes nothing.

This brings me to FM transceivers, for the most part
the FM deviation is 5 KHZ plenty for voice work
only. After all we are not VOA or the local
broadcast station, however in a misguided effort to
gain more audio some have started to adjust the
modulation level control in their radios. But unless
you really know what you are doing and have the
proper gear to measure deviation, leave it alone.
Five KHZ deviation is plenty for voice work as
mentioned, turning up the modulation will cause
more deviation, thus you are louder to the station
you are communicating. If everyone else is using
five KHZ, then the rest of the group will be
constantly turning their audio control on the receiver
up and down each time you transmit and someone
else does.

Granted, there are some rigs using 2.5 kHZ
deviation, little cut off in the high end, but still
readable and good quality.

Best way to adjust is use a spectrum analyzer of
some sort, or a modulation meter capable of
detecting your transmit frequency.

In one instance I heard a tri-state local bragging
about he fact he ran a signal on 440 mhz with 100
kHz of deviation. Again, WHY? a poor practice,
even on the sparsely used 70CM band.

Your transmissions of SSB and FM should take up the minimum amount of frequency needed. If you want another good reason, try engineering practice of good quality, recheck your rules and regulations regarding this statement. No, there are no rules about the actual width of a signal, but we rely on "Gentlemen" agreement" therefore a good op will not take up unnecessary space on the bands when it is not needed for communication.

Keep your signal in proper width and the audio sounding good, you will make friends and not enemies.

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



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Bill, K4LRX

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Point well taken Sir William of Kentucky. Wide-banders have been a constant point of irritation to many of us. I have heard them splattering other QSOs near their frequency many times. In the older days a ham was proud of a clean signal. No hums, chirps, spurious or harmonic signals and within recognized band width for the modes. If you want a studio quality audio signal, why not just go to AM or FM mode in the appropriate band segments? With your signal taking up valuable frequency space and adding an amplifier to that, you are really irritating people, not just locally but internationally.
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Upcoming Events -- Plan Ahead Things to look forward to:

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. 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/>

Note: The club will provide one operating station at WFD, you are certainly invited to bring your equipment to operate if you wish. A good way to test it under winter conditions. After all, disasters do not keep a schedule and can happen in any weather any time of year. Be Prepaid

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

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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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Eat'n Before the Meet'n

January Eating Before the Meeting will be at [CiCi's Pizza](#) before the regular TARS club meeting January 14th. 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.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

[CiCi's Pizza](#) is located at [101 North Green River Road](#), just north of the Lloyd Expressway next to Burlington Coat Factory.

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

Vanderburgh Co. RACES/ARES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting is January 21st, 7:00 pm at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#). We will be covering message handling and associated ICS forms.



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

We may be scheduling a workday at WEMA soon, so please watch for that announcement. WEMA has had a new HVAC system installed and will most likely have a new roof before you read this. The classrooms need painting with misc. installations and repairs. We also have a flat screen monitor to install in the radio room.

2016 regular meeting dates:

- Jan 21 Feb 18
- Mar 17 Apr 21
- May 19 Jun 16
- Jul 21 Aug 18
- Sep 15 Oct 20
- Nov 17 Dec 15

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



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

Chris KE9YK

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."

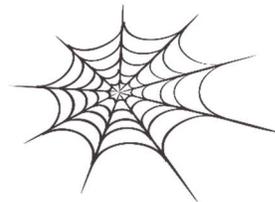
Chaser Award and Activator Award certificates will be available to any radio amateur who has at least one confirmed contact with an NPS unit or who activates at least one unit, respectively. A station's total number of confirmed or activated units will be printed on the certificate. The National Parks 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](#).

Net operators WANTED

Don't be a Chicken! Be a net control operator



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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.

It can happen !

Unless you live in a cave or in an isolated part of the county, you have to know that we live on a major earthquake fault zone.

In minutes, and without warning your area may be a disaster zone.

You may be the only one in your area equipped to provide emergency communications. Are you up to the task? Is your field day equipment up to the task? Practice makes perfect.

