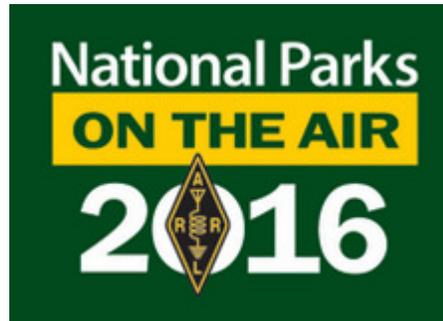


Sparks

W9OG



Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society
May 2016-Issue No. 5

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

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One Man's Opinion

Last month I told you about the monumental project I had undertaken by transferring all my paper log books to QRZ.com and check all of my QSL cards against the log for proper times and dates.

So, what did I learn in the process? For one thing the rest of the world has just as much trouble making handwriting legible of any of us in America. I found glaring mistakes on many QSL cards, just to list a few.

Several cards had only my call letters on them, plus the stamp of the ARRL bureau, no QSO information at all, these cards are considered useless. Another few cards had no time on them as when the contact took place, still another group did not indicate the band used, or the mode.

A Russian ham sent me his card, but all the letters including his call were in Russian, again another useless card. To top that one Russian ham decided a scope pattern would be neat across the card. Only one problem, the scope pattern covered the QSO information. Thus the card was totally useless due to the fact you could not read it.

June Birthdays

KE9YK Chris Lantaff 9th
KC9BLZ Susie Schmitt 30th
KC9SOE Stevan Wells 14th

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Vanderburgh Co. RACES/ARES

The next Vanderburgh county RACES/ARES meeting **June 16th, 7:00 pm** at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](#).



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

Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
(ke9yk @ arrl. Net) H: 812.626.0069 C:
812.453.1972

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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



June Eating Before the Meeting will be at [CiCi's Pizza](#) before the regular TARS club meeting June 9th. 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).



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Chris KE9YK

Vanderburgh Co. RACES/ARES

The next Vanderburgh county RACES/ARES meeting will be **Man 19th** and also announced on the Wednesday night net. Meetings start at **7:00 pm** at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [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

We now have internet access at WEMA and Len N9QVQ will be updating the packet node to get internet access back online as soon as we have a network address assigned. If you have packet capability connect to N9QVQ-1 on 145.010 @1200 or 440.950 @9600.

2016 regular meeting dates:

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

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"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

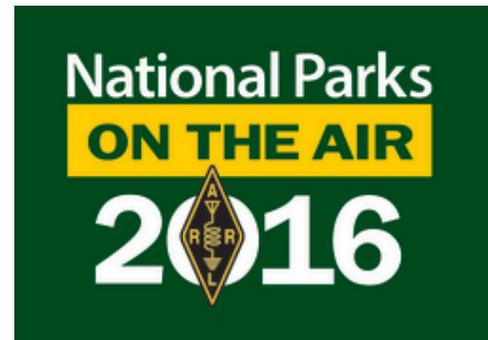
bands or modes. NPOTA will be administered entirely through Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). No paper logs or QSLs will be accepted for NPOTA credit. Each NPS unit will be added to LoTW as a "location."

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.

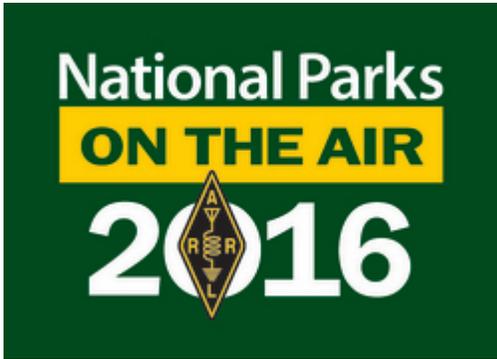
The NPOTA will use the official [list](#) of NPS Administrative Units and Affiliated Areas as defined and maintained by NPS. [Complete details](#) on National Parks on the Air are available on the ARRL website. Read [more](#).



National Parks on the Air Update

[NPOTA](#) statistics through the end of May show that 387,000 contacts have been submitted via Logbook of The World. This comes from nearly 6300 activations by 775 different operators. As of this week, 422 of the 484 eligible NPS units have been activated. Most remaining units are either in Alaska or in urban areas, such as Washington, DC, or New York City. Just as with the DXCC program, the "rarest of the rare" NPS units are showing themselves. It will take considerable planning, logistics, and cooperation with NPS administrators

for crafty Activators to put these remaining units on the air.



Don't forget! National Trails Day is June 4. If you're looking for an activation, put an NPOTA trail

on the air! There will be plenty of trail activations for NPOTA that day, including the big [Light Up the Trail](#) event on the North Country National Scenic Trail. Activations will occur from all seven states along the North Country Trail. Check out the [Light Up the Trail](#) website for complete information and to sign up as an Activator.

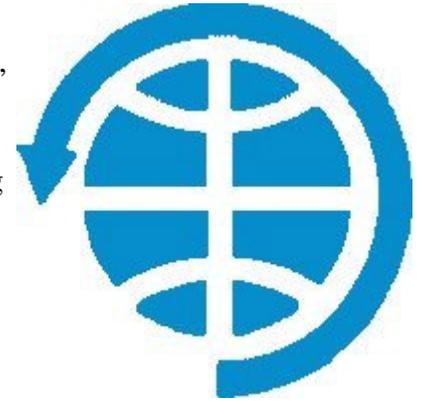
A whopping 79 activations are scheduled for June 2-8, including the Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho, and the Richmond National Battlefield Park in Virginia. [Details](#) about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar. Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on [Facebook](#). Follow NPOTA on [Twitter](#) (@ARRL_NPOTA).

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Argentine Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio Payload Launched from China

The Argentine *ÑuSat-1* carrying the [LUSEX](#) (LU Satellite Experiment) Amateur Radio U/V linear transponder and 436 MHz beacon launched May 30 at 0317 UTC from China. With *ÑuSAT-1* on the launch was sister satellite *ÑuSat-2*, which carries a 437 MHz beacon. Gunter's Space Page [reports](#) that the Argentine ÑuSat Earth-observation satellites form the Aleph-1 constellation developed and operated by [Satellogic](#) S.A.

LUSEX is an [AMSAT-LU](#) project, and AMSAT-LU reports that both satellites are sending strong telemetry on 70 centimeters. Activation of the U/V Amateur Radio transponder will be announced on the [AMSAT Bulletin Board](#).



The transponder, with a 30 kHz bandwidth and transmitting with 250 mW, will have an uplink passband (SSB, CW) at 435.935~435.965 MHz, and a downlink passband at 145.965~145.935 MHz. CW telemetry will be transmitted on 145.900 MHz. The NuSAT-1 GFSK telemetry beacon is at 436.445 MHz, and the NuSAT-2 GFSK telemetry

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Tri-State Emergency Net

I would like to thank [Dave KC9UVG](#) and [Don KB9YWQ](#) for stepping up and volunteering to be net control operators. If we have several ops available the workload is much less and we have more to fall back on if someone has a conflict with their schedule. Thanks Guys.

If you are interested in being a net control op contact Chris (ke9yk @ arrl. Net).

Net Operator schedule

June	1	KC9YIL
	8	N9QVQ
	15	KC9TYA
	22	KE9YK
	29	KC9UVG
July	6	KB9YWQ
	13	N9QVQ
	20	KE9YK
	27	KC9TYA

Net operators WANTED

A microphone is nothing to fear. Millions of people use them and none have been harmed by one. Put on your cowboy pants or cowgirl britches and be a net control operator. You can do it.



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

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

Reports

TARS Regular Meeting 4/14/16

Officers present:

President – John N9OL Vice President Chris N9JCA

Treasurer – Len N9QVQ Secretary – Ron KC9OUT

Board Members: Steve K9SRC, Mark KC9TYA, and Herb KB9MZH were present

The meeting was called to order at the West Side EMA by John (N9OL) at 7:00 pm and started with introductions.

John (N9OL) briefly gave some information about upcoming club events. The TARS annual picnic will be held at Murphy Park in New Harmony, IN on May 7th with setup beginning at 9:30am. It will take the place of the May regular meeting. The club will provide meat, buns, condiments, and drinks. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish if possible. The June meeting topic will be preparations for the ARRL 2016 Summer Field Day which will be held on June 25th and 26th at the American Red Cross property. July 31st is a tentative NPOTA activation at the George Rogers Clark Historic Park in Vincennes, IN.

TARS will be operating a Special Event Station from Wednesday October 5th through Saturday October 8th during the 2016 West Side Nut Club Fall Festival in conjunction with Indiana's Bicentennial from the property of the Simpson United Methodist Church at the corner of 11th Avenue and Illinois. Chris (N9JCA) will be working the INQP from a location on the Vanderburgh/Gibson County line.

At this point John (N9OL) turned the meeting over to the Vanderburgh County EMA director, Cliff Weaver for a presentation followed by a tour of the facility.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Minutes submitted by Ron Hanes (KC9OUT) TARS Secretary

TARS Board Meeting 5/5/16

Officers Present:

Vice President – Chris N9JCA, Treasurer – Len N9QVQ Board Members present: Herb KB9MZH, Mark KC9TYA, Steve K9SRC, and Bob N9XAW

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Mark (KC9TYA) read the minutes of the April board meeting and they were accepted with one correction.

Len (N9QVQ) read the treasurer's report and it was accepted. Ending balance was \$3,017.01

Murphy Park Tars Picnic INQP. Len (N9QVQ) will pick up the hamburgers and hot dogs. Jeff (AA9WJ) will bring condiments. Len will bring the drinks from the radio room. Bob N9XAW will pick up the ice. There will not be a TARS regular meeting in May in lieu of the picnic.

2016 Sumer Field Day is June 25th and 26th. We will operate from west end of the Red Cross property by the trees this year. There was discussion about testing a generator for proof of emergency power in order to earn 100 points. We still do not have a PIO. There was discussion about insurance on the equipment for field day. Our radio equipment is covered as long as it is kept on Red Cross property. If we go anywhere else, we are not covered. If we have public officials show up, we can earn extra points. Tom Washburn was one suggestion and Herb KB9MZH said that he will contact Missy Mosby to ask if she, any other council members, or the mayor might be able to stop by during operations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Minutes submitted by Herb (KB9MZH)

TARS Board Meeting 6/2/16

Officers: John N9OL, Chris N9JCA, Len N9QVQ, and Ron KC9OUT were present

Board Members: Jeff AA9WJ, Herb KB9MZH, Mark KC9TYA, and Steve K9SRC were present.

John (N9OL) called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Ron (KC9OUT) read the minutes and they were accepted. Len (N9QVQ) read the treasurer's report and it was accepted with a closing balance of \$2,997.68

There was a wrap up discussion about this year's picnic at Murphy Park. It was agreed by those that

attended that this was a nice location with ample room for antennas at an affordable cost. It was noted that one of the club's laptops and a G5RV might need some repairs.

Ron (KC9OUT) reported that he received an email from the superintendent of the George Rogers Clark Historic Park granting permission to operate a club NPOTA station on July 31st and referring us the park's Chief of Interpretation to work out the actual location logistics. John (N9OL) suggested also reaching out to any local amateur groups to make sure they did not already have plans to operate on that day so as not to step on any toes. It was decided that if there are no conflicts with any local clubs that we would setup at 10:00 am with one radio using battery power and plan to have a couple of different antenna choices available. The club call sign does now have an LOTW account. Other upcoming events mentioned were the Boy Scout Jamboree-on-the-air (JOTA) occurring on the 3rd full weekend in October and the special event station we will be operating during the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. We will need to speak with Dennis (AC9KQ), who had generously offered space at the church he pastors, about the logistics for setting up an antenna and an operating station position for the Indiana Bicentennial special event station. Steve (K9SRC) reported back that the cost for a daily rental at the Lynnville Community Center is \$225.00 a day. This was one of the locations being considered for an informal ham tailgating event to be called Trade or Treat tentatively planned for the Saturday before Halloween. We will continue to look for a more affordable location preferably in the I-69 corridor to allow for easy access to the greatest number of hams from the surrounding area.

Len (N9QVQ) said he will send out reminders to those individuals who have not yet renewed their TARS membership for 2016. There was discussion about recently donated radios and other related equipment. A fair minimum value will be determined for the radios and they will be offered up for sale. Some of the smaller tools might be kept in the radio room for club use. We talked about how to move forward with the archival of financial records and meeting minutes and it was decided to use several different forms of media to save that information to best insure its chances for future access.

2016 ARRL Summer Field Day will be June 26th & 27th at the American Red Cross Evansville grounds. There are power outlets around the outside of the building and at the base of some of the light poles. The club has two EZ-Ups and various tarps, but more will be needed along with tables and long heavy extension cords. The GOTA station is Jeff (AA9WJ) David (WA9C) will be the PIO. We will check for proper power output at the various outdoor outlets next Thursday during the regular meeting as part of our field day preparations and discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Report submitted by Ron Hanes (KC9OUT) TARS Secretary

Budget:
May 2016 (prepared 6/2/16)
)

Opening Balance: **\$3,017.01**

Receipts:
Memberships \$12.50
VE room rental \$14.00
Total Receipts --->> **\$26.50**

Expenditures:

Farm Boy Meats (Meat for TARS picnic) (\$45.83)

Total Expenditures--->> **(\$45.83)**

Ending Balance \$2,997.68

**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

President: John Vanvorst jcvanvorst@wowway.com
812-305-4100 cell

Vice Pres: Chris Mathiews N9JCA

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

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

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

Herb Alvey KB9MZH 477-2757

Halvey1813@aol.com

Steve Connaughton sconnaug@gmail.com 812 480
1395

ARRL Indiana Section

Section Manager: Joseph D Lawrence, K9RFZ
k9rfz@arrl.org

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Sparks editor Bob Pointer N9XAW