

unused equipment and bring them in Doors will be open at 6:15 PM

In Regard to the Club Banquet; This year we are Having it at The Log Inn in Warrenton (for those of you that haven't been there go North on 41 to the Trucks Stops and turn Right at the Stop Light the Log Inn will be about a mile on your Left side) which is Handicap Accessible through the Front door. The cost of the meal is \$10.00/Person for all Paid Members

ALL Reservations MUST be turned in by February 3rd so we can let The Log Inn know how many are going to be there Please pay the Treasurer at the Club Meeting Jan 12th as a last resort Bring it to the Board Meeting February 2nd or have it mailed to the P.O. Box by same Date All Monies collected for Reservations will be kept in a separate Envelope in case we have to return the Monies due to Bad weather

We are also asking that when you pay your Club Dues; Reservation for The Log Inn; and are expecting to Buy something at the Auction please use 3 Separate Checks this will help the New Treasurer with the Book Keeping Thank you in Advance

See you All at the January Club Meeting

N9JCA Chris President TARS



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One man's opinion

We are entering a new year and of course being an avid dx hound I can hope for sunspot counts to be in triple figures, but that is not going to happen. Not this year, or next year, sometime maybe in the next decade it will happen again.

After 60 years of ham radio I look back on the years and note those who are no longer involved in the hobby, I am not talking about those who have passed. I am referring to those who were licensed maybe a year, two years and then vanished, let their license expire and were never heard from again.

Back when I was first licensed in 1956 you had the entry level of license called the Novice Class, it was good for only a year and not renewable under any circumstances. Your choices were to upgrade to General class, or leave the air totally.

In my qsl card cabinets I have cards from aspiring young Novice class operators, these cards are 60 years old in some instances. But what happened to the holder of these calls, for one thing I attribute the fact that many never got off 75/80 meters, they continued to gather around the local frequency for a couple of years, or in some cases they never got by the Novice class.

The point is these ops became bored with the end results they were obtaining with what they had, same old guys, same old conversation. In time these ops vanished, they had their reasons, some never were cut out to be a ham, others never explored higher bands and just vanished due to boredom.

Keep in mind that in the mid 50's there were no repeaters for two meters, so the local gathering point was 3.960KHZ. Oh there was always someone locally listening, mostly wandering mobiles and occasionally some locally fixed stations. So what happened to some of these fellows? Well, I have been on the air long enough to see some of the old calls reissued to new hams. Take for instance K4IUM in the middle 50's this call belonged to a blind ham in my home town of Louisville. Tom was an accomplished piano player and often gave concerts around town. He upgraded to General

class, but his rig remained at 50 watts, the only band he ever worked was you guessed it 75 during the day time. In a couple of years he vanished totally and that call was reissued to a ham in North Carolina.

There were two known YL ops at that time in Louisville, I worked them both, however they never progressed beyond Novice class, so at the end of the year it was either upgrade, or vanish. You know what direction they took I am sure.

There were at least two XYL ops who held licenses, a Novice class, but beyond the 80 meter Novice Band, they were gone in a year never to be heard again.

At least they got on the air, one Novice made a feeble attempt at one CW contact, the rest of the time he was content to drive up and down my street and tap out CQ on his car horn. Needless to say KN4ZTS is long gone and never returned in any form.

I came to Western Ky in 1967, I joined TARS in the mid 90's during that time, I met a young man at the meetings with the call of N9WAS. I gave him the advice of never let that call go, why? It could have been N9 Working All States, or N9 Worked All states. Rob never did much other then bring up the auto patch to call home, his only activity was two meters. In fact, one comment made on the repeater about ham radio was he thought it was boring.

In about a year this young man vanished, but just a few weeks ago I heard that call go by me on 20 meter CW. The op was located in Wisconsin, the call had been reissued. You guessed it, the op was looking for states to work, at least this time around the new op took advantage of his call and was on the air working hard for contacts.

Some early ops had other things in mind for themselves and perhaps ham radio did not correspond to their ideas? Maybe money was a problem, gee I cut a lot of lawns to earn money for my gear and never regretted it. Perhaps careers, college, or other reasons surfaced that influenced them to drop away and never come back to the

hobby. In some instances ops dropped away because of a demanding wife, or there as just too much family to take care of at that time. There are of course a host of reasons, but in the case of young unmarried ops who knows the reasons?

If I had been limited to just VHF, or forever stuck on 75 I probably would have been one of those who vanished, but I explored every band from 80 through two meters and was I bored? Of course not and after 60 years I still am not bored, there is always some challenge to work for, add another achievement, or climb another mountain.

My advice is be a ham that is active, try for the awards, put some wall paper in the shack, do not be one who looks back and exclaims "What might have Been? In ten years when you renew your license ask your self what have I done with ham radio, yes, there will be those who will move on and those who fall by the wayside.

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



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Friday Night Simplex

146.430

7 PM

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It's that time of year again

It's dues time again.

A new year is almost upon us. If you haven't yet paid dues for 2017, it's time. We have a new Treasurer starting this year. Be kind to him and mail in your dues. Or make out a separate check for dues and put it in an envelope with your completed membership form. Be sure you include your **email address** and **name/call sign** at least on the form. The form should be attached to SPARKS. I redesigned it so it could be edited to show the correct year. BUT you'll have to print it (or get one from Jeff) and fill this one in by hand. If someone has a professional version of Adobe, they are welcome to change it in so you can type the information in.

The membership form is the **ONLY** sure way we can be sure to get your correct email address in the books **AND** submit any changes to Bob N9XAW and Chris KE9YK so that you will receive your copy of SPARKS.

As I said, be nice to your new Treasurer. It's hard to keep the books straight when someone gives you 1 check for both their dues and auction items. Or for their meal and dues at the TARS banquet. All of it has to be accounted for separately, so give him a separate check for dues.

Thanks,

Len N9QVQ



Len, for all your hard work.

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Discussion Junction

It is that time of year again for bad weather. Storm spotter classes are already forming. You can see the list of classes in your area as well as sign up (registration now required due to high interest in these classes) on the Paducah weather page

<http://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

I remember every time a storm warning was issued calls came in to police dispatch from well-meaning citizens reporting tornados or funnel clouds. In each instance a police car had to be dispatched to the area to verify the report. 90% or more were unfounded. Since the same strange looking cloud could be seen from different parts of the city, this resulted in many reports from different locations. A car had to be sent to each of these locations.

Because of this, if there really was an actual funnel cloud or tornado, time was wasted waiting on the police car to verify it.

When a caller stated "I am a trained weather spotter..." this call took priority over all others. Dispatch would report "A trained weather spotter has reported...." Likely as

not these reports were verified most of the time.

When a weather net is started and net control takes over it becomes a controlled net.

There are guidelines on what needs to be reported. These are covered in the weather spotter classes as well as instructions given at the start of the net.

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ARISS Packet System on Board the ISS Switched to UHF

Due to the recent failure of the Ericsson VHF radio in the ISS *Columbus* module, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) APRS packet system that normally operates 145.825 MHz has not been available. Crew member Shane Kimbrough, KE5HOD, has activated an ARISS UHF radio that had been in storage on the ISS, and it is now operational on 437.550 MHz. The packet system uses the same protocol as the VHF system. Operators using the system should adjust for increased Doppler shift at UHF. The ARISS team is currently working on Kenwood TM-D710GA models to replace all Amateur Radio transceivers on board the ISS. The target date for delivery is late 2017. -- *Thanks to ARISS*



January Birthdays

Raymond Edge	W9KHP	Jan. 17
Kelli-Lynch-Land	KD9COS	Jan. 8
Betty Lantaff	KC9VDA	Jan. 27
Charles Martin	WB9LDV	Jan. 28
Steve Wilzbacher	K4SAW	Jan. 17

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Have you been to a TARS meeting lately?

You never know what might show up of interest.

Raymond W9KHP brought a UHF corner reflector antenna he had built as part of a ham radio class he was helping with.



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Winter Field Day 2017

Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators who believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns.

We believe as do those entities of ARRL Organizations like ARES & RACES that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios. The addition of a Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations. This is why

WFDA is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide.

Winter Field Day runs for 24 hours during the last full weekend in January each year from 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Saturday to 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Sunday. For 2017, the dates are January 28th and 29th.

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.

The official rules can be found at the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) web site.

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



Winter Field Day 2016

This year's event will again be held at Wesselman Park on Saturday, January 28th. We will start set up about 10:30 hrs. The event starts at 13:00 hrs local time.

The exact location depends on the wind and weather. If the wind is out of the South we will use the shelter near the tennis courts, otherwise we will use the main one facing the golf course. We should be easy to find.

Chris (KE9YK) will again bring bean soup and corn bread. (always a big hit). You can bring some side dishes if you desire.

The club will have at least one SSB station and possibly a CW station. Please come by and support your club.

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Hamfest Calendar

www.w9gyg.org

This is not a complete list, more for Indiana can be found on the IN ARRL section website.

<http://www.inarrl.org/hamfest.html>

And all the ARRL hamfests can be found on the ARRL website.

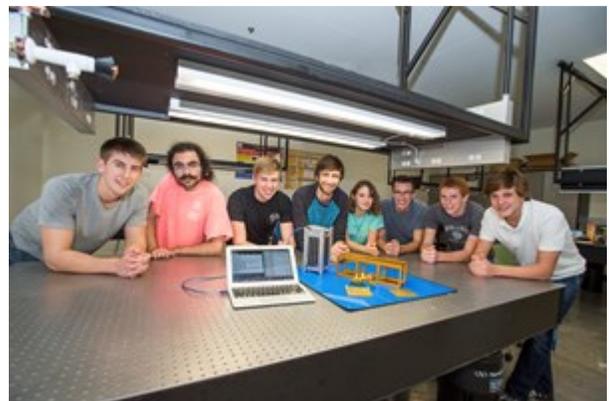
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

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USI engineering and physics team to put spacecraft into orbit.

NASA expected to launch CubeSat unit in 2018

11/18/2016 | John Farless



Engineering and physics students at the University of Southern Indiana have embarked on a mission-of-a-lifetime project designing the University's first spacecraft to be placed into orbit by NASA sometime in 2018. The unit is a CubeSat, a miniaturized satellite known as a U-class spacecraft.

The USI student-led project to design, build and then operate the CubeSat in orbit is funded by NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration's) Undergraduate Student Instrument Project (USIP). USI's project was one of 47 national projects competitively selected and funded by NASA to give undergraduate students a hands-on experience developing and flying research or technology experiments relevant to NASA missions. Twenty three of the 47 projects involve CubeSats.

"How often do you get to send something into space?" said Wyatt Helms, an engineering sophomore from Alfordsville, Indiana. "When I graduated high school, I wanted to go to school for aerospace engineering, but didn't get the scholarships I was able to get here at USI. Now, it turns out I'm doing the same things I wanted to be doing."

Full story at :

<http://www.usi.edu/news/releases/2016/1/1/usi-engineering-and-physics-team-to-put-spacecraft-into-orbit>

Contributing editor: Chris (KE9YK@arrl.net).

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Your input is important

Sparks is YOUR information source for club activities and Amateur radio information of all sorts. In each issue we ask for submissions from club members. Tell us about your station, projects you have made or are making, anything interesting the club might be interested in. So far in the last few years we have minimal submissions. Let's make 2017 an even better year for Sparks. Let us hear from you.

Vanderburgh Co. RACES/ARES



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

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These new hams often are overwhelmed. What radio to buy? What kind of antenna works best for my situation? Stuck on a particular area of the General Class question pool? Would like to try digital modes but don't know where to start?

All this and more is available from the club's Elmers (all you smart people). At one time we had a list of Elmers and their area of expertise published in Sparks. Many of those have moved on and are not available. Now is your chance to help others. Be an Elmer!

The pay is great and the rewards are many.

Send me an email to add you to our list of available Elmers. List any particular areas you can help with (rules, theory, getting on the air etc.) along with contact information.

Be a hero, be an Elmer.

Also, any time you have a question, problem or just need information

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Eat'n Before the Meet'n

January 12th Eating Before the Meeting will be at [CiCi's Pizza 101 North Green River Road](#), located just north of the Lloyd Expressway next to



Burlington Coat Factory before the regular TARS club meeting.

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.

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting will be January 19th 7:00 pm at the west side EMA training center,



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

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Tri-State Emergency Net

8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights on 146.79 pl 88.5

If you haven't checked into the **Tri-State Emergency Net**, please take a few minutes at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening, the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time to time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Net Operator schedule

Jan	4	WB9KQF
	11	N9QVQ
	18	KE9YK
	25	KC9TYA
Feb	1	KB9YWQ
	8	KC9UVG
	15	WB9KQF
	22	N9QVQ

Tri-State Emergency Net

A big thank you to Don KB9YWQ for running several SKYWARN nets and for everyone who checked in during the latest weather events. Remember to tune into the 146.79 repeater during severe weather to make your SKYWARN reports and follow what is happening with the weather.

If you are not SKYWARN trained we will have training opportunities available in the spring.

Or for those wishing to take some basic spotter classes online, or take refresher courses on the material presented by the NWS, MetEd offers an alternate way to achieve your training.

[Role of Skywarn Spotter](#)

[Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics](#)

Once you have completed this training, you may

VE Test information



Schedule not posted yet

TARS
P.O. Box 4521
Evansville, IN 47724
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

2016 Club Officers and Board members

President [Chris Matthews N9JCA](#) 812.205.6490

Vice President Dave Sandine KC9UVG

Treasurer Jeff Holt AA9WJ

Secretary Herb Alvey KB9MZH

Board of Directors

Don Land KB9YWG

Max Wilkinson KD9ABT

Reymond Edge W9KHP

Mark Thiens KC9TYA

Steve Connaughton K9SRC 812 480-1395

Bob Pointer N9XAW 812 425-2118

TARS is an **ARRL** affiliated club

ARRL Indiana Section

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

Tars mailing address: