

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years



October 2018 - 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: SPARKS@w9og.net



President's Corner:

Hamtober Fest is just a few weeks away and the club is really buzzing! It has been a while since there has been a local swap meet and folks are looking forward to some good deals, eats, VE testing and fellowship! If you haven't yet signed up to volunteer, please do so at our October meeting. We could use everyone's help!

In November, we will have an election for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and 3 board positions. Please consider nominating yourself or a member. Remember, it's your club! Please participate in the direction it takes.

See you at the October meeting.

73 Dave KC9UVG

TALK IT UP! IT'S YOUR HAMFEST !!!

IMPORTANT October meeting location and information!

The OCTOBER TARS meeting will be at the **Vanderburgh County EMA** located at the Vanderburgh County jail, 3500 N Harlan Ave, Evansville, IN. [\[MAP LINK\]](#)

We have been asked to meet at the front door at 6:45 so we can enter as a group.

LEAVE any WEAPONS, KNIVES AND PERSONAL EFFECTS LOCKED IN YOUR VEHICLE. YOU WILL BE GOING THROUGH METAL DETECTORS AS YOU ENTER THE JAIL COMPLEX.

One Man's Opinion

It is with great sadness to report Bill Hilyerd is now a silent key. Bill was a great supporter of TARS a great friend and mentor to an untold numbers of hams.



I couldn't put it any better words than that of Bob Pointer N9XAW.

"Bill Hilyerd, K4LRX, long time amateur radio operator with over 63,000 verified contacts from around the world. An Army veteran with honorable discharge who served his country. A long time member and supporter of the Tri State Amateur Radio Society and contributor of his monthly column "One Man's Opinion" In his last email to me he closed with

"...I am looking forward to taking the hand of Jesus and being led to my heavenly home. That my friends as always is "One Man's Opinion" Bill, K4LRX " Bill Hilyerd, 1941-2018, K4LRX SK 73 OM You will be missed.

<https://www.bentonglunt.com/obituaries/William-Louis-Hilyerd/>



List of awards for K4LRX:

DXCC Mixed 362, DXCC Phone 353, DXCC CW 326, DX Challenge, 5BDXCC, Honor Roll, DXCC 40 Meters 250, DX millennium USA CA 2500, WPX Mixed 1784 prefixes, 5BWAS, WAZ mixed and WAZ CW all firsts in Henderson County.

More info is posted on his QRZ page.

KF9RR Silent Key

It is also with great sadness to report another of our members to be a silent key.

Ron Goebel KF9RR my Uncle and friend passed September 18th in his home. Ron was a veteran of the United States Navy, long time TARS member an avid scanner buff and had served as the Vanderburgh Co EC at one time. He was also active with the EMA for a number of years and one of the people behind the push to get the county wide storm sirens in Vanderburgh County.



<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Ronald-Goebel/>



Eat'n Before the Meet'n

The October 11th **Eating Before the Meeting** will be at **El Patron Mexican Restaurant** 943 N Park Dr, Evansville, IN 47710, in the North Park shopping center. [Map link](#) Drop by for food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind. Join the group at 5:30, or whenever you can make it. Check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just get bored on your drive in.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet,

contact: [Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) c:812.499.3729

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting **October 18th**, 7:00 pm at the VC West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way](https://www.vanderburgh.org/1430-Harmony-Way). Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited.



We still have a number of projects in the works. Dave WB9YIG has recently tested out the "ACV" auxiliary communications vehicle, aka "Hambulance" and was able to access the satellite for an internet connection and send a couple of e-mails. We also had a station set up for the EMA exercise at the State Hospital where the TARS meeting was held last month.



The ARES Connect System for ARES members is now active. You can register as an ARES member online by going to <https://arri.volunteerhub.com/lp/in/>. The new ARES Connect volunteer management system provides many valuable features that will truly enhance the experience of emergency communication volunteers. Those features include: a robust event management feature that allows you to create events, register users, log hours; a more automated reporting system based on user input, so that, instead of filing reports, you will be able to generate reports based on the events users register and log hours for; enhanced roster management capabilities; and embedded communications tools that will allow you to send email and text messages to volunteers.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
in82races@gmail.com c: 812.453.1972

WARRICK COUNTY ARES/RACES

Communications Trailer:

The next work date has been scheduled for October 6th. Work will begin at 08:00 and will continue throughout the day.

Major areas of work will include; AC wiring, 12 volt wiring, cabinets and counter tops installed, and wiring for antennas.

The main objective of the work day is to have the trailer operational for the Hamfest in Lynnville during the month of October.

Any members that can volunteer time to work on the wiring in the trailer on days outside the scheduled date should contact Steve and make arrangements.

All volunteers are welcome to come out to help. If you need additional information about the workday or location you can contact Steve Connaughton at sconnaug@gmail.com.

Courthouse Renovations:

Due to renovations taking place at the Warrick County Courthouse, the September meeting was held at the Alcoa Clubhouse. Thanks to the persons that made this happen. At this time it is not determined where the October meeting will be held. Watch your email for the location of the next meeting.

FCC Emcomm Forum:

During the meeting this month the members of the group watched a video from the 2018 Hamvention regarding the " FCC Emcomm Forum". The video is almost an hour long but a lot of questions are addressed and discussed. The link to the video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaBMLiits8gA&feature=youtu.be>. During the monthly meeting the discussion centered around "SHARES" & "MARS" which were brought up during the video.

Meetings:

For anyone interested in attending the Warrick County ARES-RACES meetings they are held at the Old Courthouse on the 3rd floor in Boonville, Indiana. The meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30pm. If you need additional information contact me at KC9CLO@gmail.com.

Chris L Owen (KC9CLO)
Public Information Officer
Warrick County ARES/RACES group

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

October

3	KC9UVG
10	N9QVQ
17	KC9TYA
24	KE9YK
31	KB9YWQ

November

7	KC9UVG
14	N9QVQ
21	KE9YK
28	KB9YWQ

December

5	KC9UVG
12	KC9TYA
19	N9QVQ
26	KB9YWQ



Reminder we are still in thunderstorm/tornado season, remember to monitor the weather net on the TARS 146.79 repeater anytime there is a severe weather watch/warning issued from the Paducah NWS for Vanderburgh or surrounding counties.

Anytime severe weather is anticipated we try to have a stand-by net up and once a warning or severe weather is reported we go into a SKYWARN net and relay weather reports to the NWS in Paducah.

Winter Weather Workshops 2018

NWS Paducah, KY

Each of these 4 workshops will include a variety of winter weather topics. Please see preliminary agenda below. All workshops will run from 900 a.m. until Noon CST.

***** Online registration is required. *****

<https://www.weather.gov/pah/winterweatherworks-hop2018>

November 8, 2018 - **Cape Girardeau MO**: Glen Convocation Center Southeast Missouri State University River Campus 518 S Fountain St.

November 13, 2018 - **Mt. Vernon IL**: Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau 200 Potomac Blvd

November 15, 2018 - Evansville IN: American Red Cross 29 South Stockwell Rd

November 20, 2018 - **Grand Rivers KY**: Community Center 155 W. Cumberland Ave

If attending Grand Rivers KY Workshop, do you plan on staying for a buffet lunch afterwards (at the Community Center)? Cost per person TBD.

Hamfest Calendar

Upcoming Hamfest from the ARRL website.

This is only a list of Hamfest within a close driving distance. For more info go to:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

Hamtober Fest

10/27/2018

Location: Lynnville Community Center

416 West State Road 68

Lynnville, IN 47619

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>

Sponsor: Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Talk-In: 146.790 (PL 88.5)

Public Contact: Raymond Edge, W9KHP

6888 Yankeetown Road Newburgh, IN 47630

Phone: 812-746-5884

Email: hamfest@w9og.net

VE Testing

2018 Schedule

October 20

November **No testing**

December 29

All examinations will be administered at the American Red Cross, Evansville Chapter, located at 29 S. Stockwell Road, Evansville Indiana 47714. Examinations will start at 9:00 AM Central time. We have no pre-registration, and examinations are administered on a walk-in basis. All the details can be found at: <http://w9og.net/ve-testing>
Or for more info contact:
[John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9OL) c: 812.305.4100



October Birthdays

Steve Connaughton	K9SRC	13th
Monie Owsley	KC9HSG	17th
Earl Pfettscher	WN9HRB	9th
Bernie Schmitt	KC9BMA	30th

If your birthday isn't listed please make sure we have it on file by filling out the membership application when renewing.

This also helps to make sure we have your current contact information.

"Get Your Park ON"

Operating Event Set for October

The ARRL Letter for September 20, 2018

What is hoped will be the first annual "Get Your Park ON" operating event will take place October 14 - 20, in celebration of Earth Science Week. The event is open to Amateur Radio operators around the world and is sponsored by the national affiliates of World Wide Flora and Fauna ([WWFF](http://www.wwff.org)), which encourages radio amateurs to operate outdoors in protected nature parks. During this on-the-air celebration, hams can participate in one of two ways. North American hams can opt to be Activators, setting up and operating in geological and nature centers, such as national and state parks and forests, national monuments, and protected nature habitats. They also may decide to be Hunters, operating from home and searching out and making contact with the Activators. "We are trying to have parks activated in all states of the USA and Mexico and all Provinces of Canada," the sponsor's Facebook page notes. "Let's have some fun." The week-long special event is reminiscent of ARRL's popular National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016, but extends to a larger set of national treasures beyond those managed by the National Parks Service.

In October 1998, the American Geosciences Institute organized Earth Science Week, a national and international event to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth, a common goal shared by WWFF. Both programs encourage participants to get outside and enjoy nature.

"Get Your Park ON" begins at 0000 UTC on October 14 and continues through 2359 UTC on October 20. [Visit](#) the "Get Your Park ON" Facebook page for more.

[Earth Science Week 2018](#) engages young people and others with learning resources and activities exploring the relationship between the arts and the Earth systems. This year's theme of "Earth as Inspiration" promotes public understanding and stewardship of the planet. Of special interest to the Amateur Radio community and their families is an "Inspired by Earth" photo contest and an essay contest for students in grades 6 through 9. -- *Thanks to Norm Meyers, N9MM*

Needed! 10X12 Storage Barn for Club Equipment

As you may know, TARS has invested much time and a few shekels to improve our radio station here at the Red Cross enabling the radio room to be usable for members' enjoyment as well as making it accommodating for use during an emergency.

If you haven't visited the radio room lately you need to stop by and take a look, or take the time before or after a club meeting to see the progress that has been made. We also have a new HF antenna at the Red Cross that was installed in June that performs very well and is a lot of fun. The issue that remains is the radio room is also the only secure place to store club equipment and supplies and these items take up a lot of room.

Additionally, TARS has equipment and supplies in a number of locations, some secure and some not secure, and over the years club equipment has been lost track of due to a lack of control and management. A big benefit of being a member of a club is to have access to equipment and supplies on a shared basis, but that requires that we know where the equipment is and that it is stored in a secure location. A major part of the club's mission is to be ready to provide assistance in emergencies, and to do that we have to know where club equipment and supplies are and have quick access to it.

TARS has gotten approval from the Red Cross to place a yard barn on the back lot of the Red Cross facility. A 10X12 yard barn will provide much needed space to store club items and supplies, freeing up space in our crowded radio room, and will enable us to get all club equipment and supplies under lock and key in one central location. This is so important to the club's purpose and mission, and will enhance the value of club membership for all of us.

However as you may know, yard barns can be expensive and our current budget does not have the reserves to purchase one. Therefore, we are looking for anyone who may have a yard barn in decent shape and willing to donate it to the club. Do you have contacts with area businesses or individuals that would be willing to donate one to the club? We can move it, paint it, repair it, etc. Remember, we are a non-profit organization and any donations are tax deductible. So please help us find a 10X12 yard barn, and consider donating some money toward the

purchase, move, paint/repairs, whatever will be needed to get this done.

John N9ol

New Beta Version WSJT-X 2.0 Boasts Major Changes

As [promised](#), the WSJT-X Development Group has announced a new "candidate release," *WSJT-X 2.0 rc1*. This beta version of the popular digital mode suite incorporates many new FT8 and MSK144 features that will be of particular interest to the Amateur Radio contesting community. It includes all FT8 DXpedition Mode changes already developed in *WSJT-X 1.9.1*.

"Enhancements to the FT8 decoder ensure that in most situations decoding sensitivity is slightly better than for the old protocol. Symbol rates and occupied bandwidths are the same as before, and false-decode rates are significantly lower," the user notes explain. "The decoding threshold for MSK144 is a fraction of a decibel higher than before, owing to the slightly larger message payload and higher code rate." *WSJT-X 2.0* introduces no significant changes to the JT4, JT9, JT65, QRA64, ISCAT, Echo, or FreqCal protocols.

The new features are [summarized](#) on the *WSJT-X* website and in the [Quick-Start Guide to WSJT-X 2.0](#). Contest-related changes include:

- Support for standard ARRL Field Day exchanges, such as 6A SNJ.
- Better support for North American VHF contests, with improved handling of grids and /r rover call sign designators.
- Six-character locators and call sign suffix support for portable operators, focused on EU VHF contesting.
- Support for standard contest exchanges in the ARRL RTTY Roundup, such as 579 MA or 559 0071.
- Support for call signs of up to 11 alphanumeric characters, to accommodate non-standard and compound call signs.

Support for new exchanges should expand the ability of contesters to use FT8 and other *WSJT-X* protocols during contests that allow digital contacts and where the exchange is a traditional signal report and state/province/country.

According to the release notes, *WSJT-X 2.0* also offers "significantly better sensitivity" (about 1 dB) for the *WSPR* decoder. In addition, color highlighting of

decoded messages provides worked-before status for call signs, grid locators, and DXCC entities on a by-band basis. Color highlighting can also identify stations that have -- or have not -- uploaded their logs to "Logbook of The World" (LoTW) within the past year.

Those participating in *WSJT-X* beta tests are expected to [report](#) their experiences to the developers and upgrade to the general availability release when it becomes available. [Visit](#) the *WSJT-X* web page for more information.

ARRL president suggests that we “re-brand” amateur radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson’s Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

“Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let’s see: We’re world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do....I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio

Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

ARRL -- Your One-Stop Resource for Amateur Radio News and Information

Join or Renew Today!

Contact [Jeff AA9WJ](#) TARS Treasurer for information on how your new membership or renewal could help the club.

ARRL membership includes [QST](#), Amateur Radio's most popular and informative journal, delivered to your mailbox each month.

Subscribe to [NCJ -- the National Contest Journal](#). Published bi-monthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint and QSO Parties.

Subscribe to [QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters](#). Published bi-monthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns and

other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members: [Subscribe](#) to the *ARES E-Letter* (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the *ARRL Contest Update* (bi-weekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts -- and much more!

Find us on [Facebook](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

ARRL offers a wide array of [products](#) to enhance your enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

[Donate](#) to the fund of your choice -- support programs not funded by member dues!

It's ELECTION Time

The November meeting will have the election of your TARS Officers and board members for the 2019 year. If you have a desire to serve **YOUR CLUB** contact anyone of the nomination committee: Jeff AA9WJ, Chris KE9YK or John N9OL.



Please watch your November SPARKS for the election ballot and instructions on voting if you will not be attending the November meeting.



Secretary Report

Tri-State Amateur Radio Society Board Meeting Minutes September 6, 2018

Board Members Present: Dave KC9UVG, Max KD9ABT, Raymond W9KHP, Mark KC9TYA, Jeff AA9WJ

Club Members Present: Chris KE9YK, John N9OL, Herb KB9MZH

Meeting Started: 7:03pm

Dave KC9UVG read the August Board Meeting Minutes No changes made Raymond W9KHP motion to approve Mark KC9TYA 2nd majority approved

Jeff AA9WJ read the Treasurers report Starting balance starting in was August \$2,838.95 ending balance is \$2828.45 Red Cross portion is \$975.82 majority approved

Dave KC9UVG asked if there were any volunteers for Secretary, no one stepped forward.

Old Business

Hamtoberfest update by Raymond W9KHP waiting on insurance from food vendor, ARRL Packet received, RF Adapter sent a \$10.00 gift certificate. Walker Communications requested 3 tables, still have approximately 21 tables available.

Raymond W9KHP requested that someone take over the Hamtoberfest, due to work related issues.

John N9OL volunteered to accept position

Jeff AA9WG has donated a Wi-Fi router

September Programs

EMA has set up a Training exercise on the State Hospital grounds. The MEOC as well as several tents will be set up for next week. They are having meetings there next week, along with training and requested that the club come on Thursday for dinner and view the area. This will be a good opportunity for the club and many members to showcase and learn more about Emergency Communications. The logistics are being worked out by Chris KE9YK. No meeting will be held.

October Program

We will be meeting at the EOC where the club will have an opportunity to view the EMA offices and have an opportunity to learn more about Emergency Communications. Max KD9ABT to contact Nick.

Nomination Committee

Jeff AA9WJ, Chris KE9YK and John N9OL agreed to head this up. We will be asking Members in good standing with the club to consider running for Officer and Board positions.

John N9OL received approval from the Red Cross for a storage building to be put on the NW corner of the paved lot at the Red Cross. This would be inside the fence. Their request is that it match what there other units look like. Wood, white with a gable roof and approximately 10' x 12'

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm

Minutes submitted by Mark KC9TYA

Treasurer Report

August 2018 (prepared 9/2/2018)

Opening Balance: \$2,838.95

Receipts:

Memberships \$12.50
VE Room Rental \$14.00
Total Receipts --->> \$26.50

Expenditures:

Indiana Busuness Entity Report (\$22.00)
Hamtoberfest Flyer mailing postage (\$15.00)
Total Expenditures--->> (\$37.00)

Ending Balance \$2,828.45
Red Cross Funds \$975.82

Jeff Holt AA9WJ
TARS Treasurer

Your input is important.

Sparks is **YOUR** information source for club activities and local Amateur radio information.

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 TARS membership might be interested in.

Submission deadline is the 25th of the month.

Most any document format is acceptable.

Photos or graphics of your subject are welcome.

Send your article to: sparks@w9og.net

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club
ARRL [Indiana Section](#)
Section Manager: **Jimmy Merry KC9RPX**
kc9rpx@arrl.net



TARS mailing address:

TARS
P.O. Box 4521
Evansville, IN 47724

Don't forget to check out our web page

www.w9og.net

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TARSw9og>

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2018 Club Officers and Board members

President [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Vice President [Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary **OPEN**

Board of Directors

[Raymond Edge W9KHP](#) (2017-2018)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](#) (2017-2018)

[Dennis Martin WA2USA](#) (2018)

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) (2018-2019)

[Len Schmitt N9QVQ](#) (2018-2019)

[Terry McCraey WB9KQF](#) (2018-2019)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

E-mail: sparks@w9og.net