

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

July 2019 - Issue No. 7



The SPARKS Newsletter is published monthly by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

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E-mail subscriptions are provided to all regular TARS members.

News contributions and letters/emails to the editor are always welcome.

TARS regular membership is open to all licensed Amateur Radio operators for \$25.00 a year. An Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but do not currently hold a license.

Associate membership is \$25.00 a year. Student memberships are also available for \$12.50 a year.

Membership information is available at www.w9og.net

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd, Evansville IN, at 7:00 p.m.

Family and visitors are always welcome to attend.

For more information, please call or email one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter.

Presidents Corner:

I hope everyone got to enjoy Field Day in some fashion, whether from inside the shack or outside in a remote location, or maybe even your back yard. TARS Field Day at the Red Cross was a huge success and we all had a great time. We definitely learned a few things which is really why we do it right? The nasty little storm that blew through in the wee hours of Sunday morning took out our logging server and caused us to move one of our stations inside. One of the digital stations shelter did not weather the storm well either. But it was a great event and we will be more prepared next time!

Speaking of being prepared, in July we will talk with representatives from the Red Cross in Evansville about performing a drill with the Red Cross to practice and learn how TARS could support the Red Cross in an emergency or disaster scenario. I am excited about the club partnering with Red Cross in supporting our community and I hope you will jump in and get involved. That is why the Amateur Radio Service exists- service to our community. The hobby aspect of ham radio comes second to its purpose of service to community. We all need to remember that. So come to the meeting in July and discuss that with us.

If you are not a member or AREA/RACES, I urge you to get involved. Through ARES/RACES we amateur radio operators are better equipped to provide essential support to both the EMA as well as great organizations such as Red Cross and Salvation Army. So get involved. If you want more info on ARES/RACES which out the w9og.net website.

73!

John N9oL



Beyond the Baofeng

Chris Lantaff, [KE9YK](#)

Beginner Radio

I have seen so much misinformation posted on FACEBOOK and YouTube discussing radios and antennas for the beginner that I thought I would try to clear the air so to speak.

A book could be written on this subject and probably has, so this is going to be a pretty concise version.

Your first radio is likely to be something for 2 meters. Since there is not much 440 activity in this area I would invest in a good quality 2m radio whether an HT or mobile. I know some will tell you to get a Baofeng. Well if that is all you can afford go right ahead, just understand there are many drawbacks to the cheap Chinese radios.

You need to decide if you need to start with an HT or mobile, but you **will** eventually need a mobile rig in the house or car if you want reliable communications. An HT in the car is never good and only marginally better if you add an external antenna and hand mike.

Temporary OK, long term not recommended. First an HT is not designed to run full power all the time and if you are long winded it will get HOT, and heat is the nemesis of electronics. Also HT's generally have poor filtering in the front end and are easily overloaded, with the cheap Chinese radios being the worst.

So decide what your needs are, determine your budget and get the best radio you can afford and don't forget to take things like feedline, antenna and power supply into account.

Next month antennas and HF.

TRANSMISSIONS

Cory Davis [KD9MHB](#)

Greetings from the Mothership! Station here is KD9MHB. Over the past 6 months, VHF/UHF has been the modus operandi and now after experiencing Summer Field Day 2019, my world has forever been changed. HAMS truly know how to show up and show out! Aside from running rocks (Meteor Scatter and Moon bouncing) I think you all setup and conducted on almost every mode imaginable! It was nothing short of spectacular, rich with brotherhood and camaraderie. I tip my hat to you all and thank you for sharing the World's greatest hobby with myself and so many others. It was a real class act and definitely had all the magic and razzle dazzle that is commonly known to some as Amateur Radio and to others like ourselves, a way of life.

So in closing, learning that one of the main points of Field Day is to learn new techniques and practice how to become a better operator in the face of an emergency. I hope to share another app that we can utilize together in conjunction with eNIFOG (National Field Interoperability Guide) to help us be better prepared, called eAUXFOG (Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide). Both apps can be found in your respective app store and are provided by the Department of Homeland Security for free.

Until Next Time~

73s de KD9MHB

"There are no strangers in HAM Radio, only friends who haven't met yet"

Eat'n Before the Meet'n



July 11th **Eating Before the Meeting** will be at Jason's Deli 943 N Green River Rd.

Drop by for good 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: 812.431.1037

Club Code Key Contest

This contest is a **just for fun** event and will have certificates awarded for various categories.

Judging will happen in the time between the meeting program and the business meeting.

A code oscillator will be set up to check the operation of the keys.

The fun started in March and the next installment will be at the **July** meeting with **Bug or Cootie Key** competition.

The rules have been kept simple.

- You must have built the key **YOURSELF**.
- It may be a KIT or Homebrewed.
- It must **WORK**.

The schedule is.



July - Bug or Cootie Key

September - MacGyver Key / Rube Goldberg Key

Even if you don't work CW, this can be a fun contest just to get everyone up and doing something. Perhaps we could even get a CW learning net on the air and put them to use.

Winner of the May home brew paddle key was Dennis WA2USA.

Brag Rag

INQP Congratulations TARS First place Multi-Multi 2019



What have you been doing?

Send your QSLs, awards etc. to sparks@w9og.net to have them included in your newsletter.

ARRL Announces “Happy 150!” Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration

07/02/2019 ARRL News

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of ARRL’s first president and cofounder Hiram Percy Maxim (HPM), W1AW, born on September 2, 1869. ARRL will hold an operating event this summer to celebrate HPM’s legacy from 0000 UTC on August 31 and continue until 2359 UTC on September 8. It is open to all radio amateurs.

The event goal is straightforward: Contact as many participating stations as possible. W1AW and *all* ARRL members will append “/150” to their call signs during this event (DX operators who are ARRL members may operate as *<call sign>/150*, if permitted by their country of license.) Participating stations will exchange a signal report and their **ARRL/RAC Section**. DX stations will send a signal report and “DX.” Those taking part may use all Amateur Radio bands, excluding 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters.

The event will recognize three mode groups: CW, phone (any voice modes), and digital. Submit Cabrillo log files. ARRL will calculate all final scores based on participant uploads to the ARRL event web app (link not yet active).

There are 84 multipliers, which only count once. These include the 83 ARRL/RAC Sections (RAC sections include the Canadian Northern Territories, encompassing VE8, VY1, and VY0), and DX. The W1AW operating schedule during this period may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate on-air celebration operating activities. Contacts with W1AW/150 will earn 3 points apiece. Contacts with any ARRL member will earn 2 points each. These stations will also identify as *<call sign>/150*. Contacts with nonmembers will earn 1 point each.

Participants can earn 150 bonus points by:

- Contacting W1AW/150 on each band and mode.
- Uploading entries (ARRL members only).
- Using social media to publicize this event and/or participation before, during, and/or after the event.
- Operating with 5 W PEP output or less throughout the event.
- Making at least 20 contacts while operating portable.
- Completing at least 150 contacts.

Online certificates will be awarded, and available **via download** only. Updates and results will be **publicized**.

This event has no power or operator categories. Participating ARRL members who use Logbook of The World (LoTW) are encouraged to **create a separate LoTW certificate** for uploading *<call sign>/150* contacts. Members should upload their logs for this event using their /150 certificate. This event requires online web app submissions. No email or paper submissions will be accepted.

Historic Amateur Radio Contact Reported via Moon-Orbiting Satellite

07/03/2019 ARRL News

A contact between radio amateurs in Germany and China took place on July 1 via the moon-orbiting LO-94 satellite, DSLWP-B, launched in May 2018. The two-way exchange between Reinhard Kuehn, DK5LA, in Soerup, Germany, and Harbin Institute of Technology club station BY2HIT (operated by Wei Mingchuan, BG2BHC), in Harbin, China, occurred between 0551 and 0728 UTC, according to reports. The GMSK-to-JT4G repeater onboard DSLWP-B was used to make the contact, the first ever made via a lunar-orbiting repeater.

“Using the GMSK-to-JT4G repeater is not easy, in terms of the signal power needed for the uplink,” **commented** radio amateur and engineer Daniel Estévez, EA4GPZ, whose blog includes images of the lunar surface downloaded via DSLWP-B. “There were plans to make a QSO between BY2HIT and Reinhard since many months ago, but previous attempts didn’t work out. My congratulations to the people at both sides of the QSO, who have achieved it a month before **DSLWP-B crashes against the lunar surface.**” [▶ READ MORE](#)

LightSail 2 Launches, Will Transmit CW Beacon

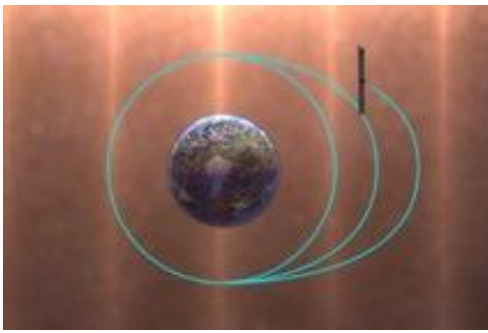
The ARRL Letter for June 27, 2019

The Planetary Society's **LightSail 2** CubeSat, launched on June 25, will transmit Morse code from space on 437.025 MHz, within the Amateur Radio 70-centimeter band. LightSail is a citizen-funded project to send a small spacecraft, propelled solely by sunlight, into Earth's orbit. The innovative satellite is due to be deployed on July 2 from Prox-1, a Georgia Tech student-built



spacecraft. Once deployed, LightSail 2 will automatically transmit a beacon packet every few seconds, which can be decoded into 238 lines of text telemetry describing the spacecraft's health and status, including everything from battery status to solar sail deployment motor state.

LightSail 2 lifted off from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, carried by the SpaceX triple-booster Falcon Heavy rocket. The launcher also carried aloft two dozen US Air Force spacecraft.



"During its ride to orbit, LightSail 2 was tucked safely inside its Prox-1 carrier spacecraft," The Planetary Society said post-launch. "The Falcon Heavy upper stage's payload stack

released Prox-1 about an hour and 20 minutes after liftoff, at an altitude of roughly 720 kilometers (446 miles). Prox-1 will house LightSail 2 for one week, allowing time for other vehicles released into the same orbit to drift apart so each can be identified individually."

LightSail 2 team members will soon converge at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in California, where the spacecraft's mission control is located. Once LightSail 2 is released from Prox-1, the team will spend several days checking out its systems before commanding its dual-sided solar panels to deploy. Following that, the spacecraft's solar sails will be deployed in approximately 2 weeks.

Two US Naval Academy student-built satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads were on the launch. BRICSat-2 (call sign USNAP1) will function as a 1.2/9.6 kB APRS digipeater on 145.825 MHz. Telemetry will be transmitted on 437.975 MHz. PSAT-2 also will operate on 145.825 MHz with APRS to voice and DTMF to voice/APRS, and it will carry a 28.120 MHz up/435.350 MHz down PSK31 transponder. An SSTV camera will transmit on the same downlink. -- Thanks to The Planetary Society, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, and AMSAT News Service



Historic 2-Meter Transatlantic Contact Reported

The ARRL Letter for June 20, 2019

D41CV on Cape Verde Islands and FG8OJ in Guadeloupe spanned the Atlantic Ocean on 2 meters for the first time on June 16, according to reports. The distance was 3,867 kilometers (2,397.5 miles). The historic contact was made on 144.174 MHz using FT8 mode.

"The mode of propagation was most likely marine ducting, with the signal traveling in a layer near the ocean surface," said John Desmond, EI7GL, who was among those [posting](#) information on the contact. Mark De Munck, EA8FF, was at the helm of D41CV, the Monteverde Contest Team club station, off the coast of Africa. He used the beacon antenna at the station, as the so-called



"Pinocchio Yagi" was down for repair. Bert Demarcq, FG8OJ, was on the other end of the contact. "Now that this historic contact has been made, more 144 MHz contacts

across this part of the Atlantic are sure to follow," Desmond said. The initial contact does not qualify for the Brendan Trophies and Brendan Shields awards, because they require a valid contact to be made between Europe and the Americas on 2 meters. The distance covered, however, was greater than the distance between Ireland and Newfoundland.

Ham Radio Newscast Producer Hap Holly KC9RP and The RAIN Report have retired

Holly has been producing the [The RAIN Report](#) (Radio Amateur Information Network) newscast every week for 30 years, and the farewell edition is now available. "The archives will remain online for those who want to download and/or broadcast them," Holly told ARRL. "My thought is to expand the archive from *RAIN Reports* that have never been archived." A ham since 1969, Holly was a prolific reporter of Dayton Hamvention® news and forum accounts over the years, and in 2002, was named Hamvention's 2002 Amateur of the Year. He produced *The RAIN Report* from his home studio/ham shack in suburban Chicago.

For Sale

Ameritron AL-80B Amp, 1Kw 160 - 17 M
It's wired for 220 but can be changed to 110
\$1000

27" Apple All-in-One \$750.00

500GB Digital HDD 16 GB Memory

*Comment: This Apple **CANNOT** be upgraded to Mohave, but you can put Linux or Windows 7 Pro on it. Then Upgrade 7 Pro to Windows 10*



Contact me at 1-812-205-6490 if you're interested
Chris Matthews N9JCA

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

July

3	KE9YK
10	KC9UVG
17	N9QVQ
24	KB9YWQ
31	WB9KQF

August

7	KC9TYA
14	KE9YK
21	KC9UVG
28	N9QVQ

Hamfest Calendar

07/12/2019 | [Indianapolis Hamfest](#)

08/17/2019 | [Alabama State Convention, Huntsville Hamfest](#)

09/07/2019 | [Greater Louisville Hamfest 2019](#)

10/05/2019 | [8th Annual Vette City Hamfest](#)

10/26/2019 | [Hamtober Fest](#)

Location:

Lynnville Community Center
416 West Street, Road 68, IN-68
Lynnville, IN 47619

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>

Sponsor: Tri-State Amateur Radio Society - TARS

Talk-In: 146.790 (PL 88.5)

Public Contact: Dennis Martin , WA2USA
5577 Victoria Court Newburgh, IN 47630

Phone: 812-598-8333

Email: wa2usa.ham@gmail.com

If you are attending an area Hamfest, fliers are available to distribute.

Contact: [Dennis Martin WA2USA](#)



VE Testing

2019 Schedule

Jan 26	Feb 23
Mar No TEST	Apr 27
May 25	Jun 29
Jul 27	Aug 31
Sep 28	Oct 26
Nov No TEST	Dec 28



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](#) c: 812.305.4100

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting **July 18th**, 7:00 pm at the Vanderburgh Co. West Side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1440 Harmony Way](#). Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

in82races@gmail.com c: 812.453.1972



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

Secretary Report

The secretary reports were attached as separate attachments with this SPARKS mailing.

Amateur Radio Resources

Dave KC9UVG ask everyone at the Aug meeting for ideas on Amateur Radio Resources that we could publish for anyone looking for information.

If you have any suggestions send them to sparks@w9og.net.

Books:

The Man Who Caught the Storm by Brantley Hargrove:

The life of legendary tornado chaser Tim Samaras, 2018. EVPL
Call # 921 SAMAR HARG

Facebook Magazines NASA Tech Briefs – www.techbriefs.com

Nuts & Volts www.nutsvolts.com and at Barnes & Noble

Antennas:

<https://archive.org/details/SimpleLowCostWireAntennasForRadioAmateurs>

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/basicantennas.pdf>

<http://www.antentop.org/w4rnl.001/radio.html>

Podcast:

Neil Rapp WB9VPG – Ham Talk Live!

www.neilrapp.com/hamtalklive

Ham Radio Workbench – www.hamradioworkbench.com

Amateur Radio Newsline – www.arnewslines.org

W5kub Live ham show every Tuesday night 8:00 PM Central Time
(0200 UTC Wed) - www.w5kub.com

Looking Ahead

2019

National Night Out Aug 6

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) Third full weekend of August 16-17

Route 66 Special Event September 7-15

Jamboree-on-the-Air Third full weekend in October

SKYWARN Recognition Day Dec 7 2019

2020

Straight Key Night Jan

ARRL Kids Day Jan

Winter Field Day January

TARS Banquet Feb

INQP May

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June

Field Day June

13 Colonies Special Event July

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

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

2019 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Board of Directors

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

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

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2019)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](#) (2019-2020)

[Dennis Martin WA2USA](#) (2019-2020)

[Mike Townsend W9KXP](#) (2019-2020)

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