

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years

April 2021 - Issue No. 4



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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Complimentary issues of the SPARKS Newsletter are available to amateur radio clubs on a newsletter exchange by e-mailing your request to sparks@w9og.net.

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 contact one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter or email info@w9og.net.

President's Corner

Hello Ham Radio Friends!! I hope and pray that you all are healthy and ready to get out and enjoy ham radio this spring and summer!! I don't want to look back on the last year- it surely was a dark time for everyone- darker for some than others. The one bright spot for me was my first grandchild!! Born last June, he is doing great and he managed to brighten our life at a time when we really needed it!

But now, the outlook for 2021 is improving (unless you are inside the DC Beltway) and we are planning some great club activities! I hope you will come out and join in the fun and fellowship.

Saturday May 1 is the Indiana QSO Party, or INQP! TARS will set up some stations at the Interlake park just east of Lynnville IN starting around 9am. ALL ARE WELCOME, MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS ALIKE!! For you new hams, this is a great way to learn about setting up HF stations and antennas, and everyone will have a good time. It will be great to get back together with you all again.

We are also planning an event for Field Day, a club picnic, club auction, and our own hamfest, Hamtober Fest on October 23! But to make this all happen, we need YOU!! Get involved with your club, get involved with these activities and I guarantee you will have a good time!

See you on May 1!

John Van Vorst, N9oL

Amazon Smile

To set up your Amazon Smile account to donate to TARS with every Amazon purchase you make, click our unique link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-6042852>.

Now when making an Amazon purchase

from your browser **online**, login via **smile.amazon.com**

[this is important as it's only via smile we will receive a donation] then make your purchases as usual and TARS will get a donation. If you use your mobile app, just turn on AmazonSmile and it will connect you automatically.

Turn on AmazonSmile in your mobile app.

Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

IT IS THAT EASY!



Beyond the Baofeng

Chris Lantaff, KE9YK

ANTENNAS

Last month I said we would be discussing antennas for the next few months. The first antenna on the list to discuss is the End fed Zepp antenna.

This antenna is more commonly known as the J-pole for 2m and 440, is a great performer and easy to build using 450-ohm window line or copper pipe. I could talk about this antenna but why when there are such good videos on how they work.

David Casler KE0OG is a regular on the W5KUB Amateur Radio Roundtable and has a nice You Tube channel.

Watch Daves' video on,

How does a J-pole antenna work?

<https://youtu.be/GRJw3SCBGfA>

More on the J-pole Antenna

<https://youtu.be/iVigUBSP9DE>

How to build a J-pole with twin-lead

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZD55Uvc7mY>

HF WINLINK HYBRID GATEWAY CHANGES

Ken Johnson, K9KDJ

As many know by now, we recently implemented some HF Winlink Hybrid Gateway changes for several reasons.

To start, James, KF4LXS, brought up a HF Hybrid Gateway on 80m and 20m. The K9KDJ HF Gateway ceased scanning 80m and 20m and now scans 40m and 30m. Doing this allowed another interested Sysop to join the Winlink community while bringing about redundancy should either system go down. Both KF4LXS and K9KDJ operate as HF Hybrid Gateways, so we both auto forward traffic via HF when/if our Internet connections fail. Additionally, either of us could assume scanning on the other's guarded frequencies in case of equipment failure.

With 2 Hybrid HF Gateways now in Southern Indiana, Winlink remains well represented and growing in capabilities. Both stations run VARA HF and ADROP.

K9KDJ-10 remains the VARA FM/Packet gateway on 145.09, but should the need arise, KF4LXS could press into service bringing about redundancy for VARA FM, too.

Feel free to use either/both HF Hybrid Gateways and enjoy them in our area. The same goes for K9KDJ-10 on VHF.

KF4LXS, K9KDJ, and K9KDJ-10 all look forward to seeing your call in our logs!

Hamtober Fest

TARS Hamtober Fest is a go for 2021

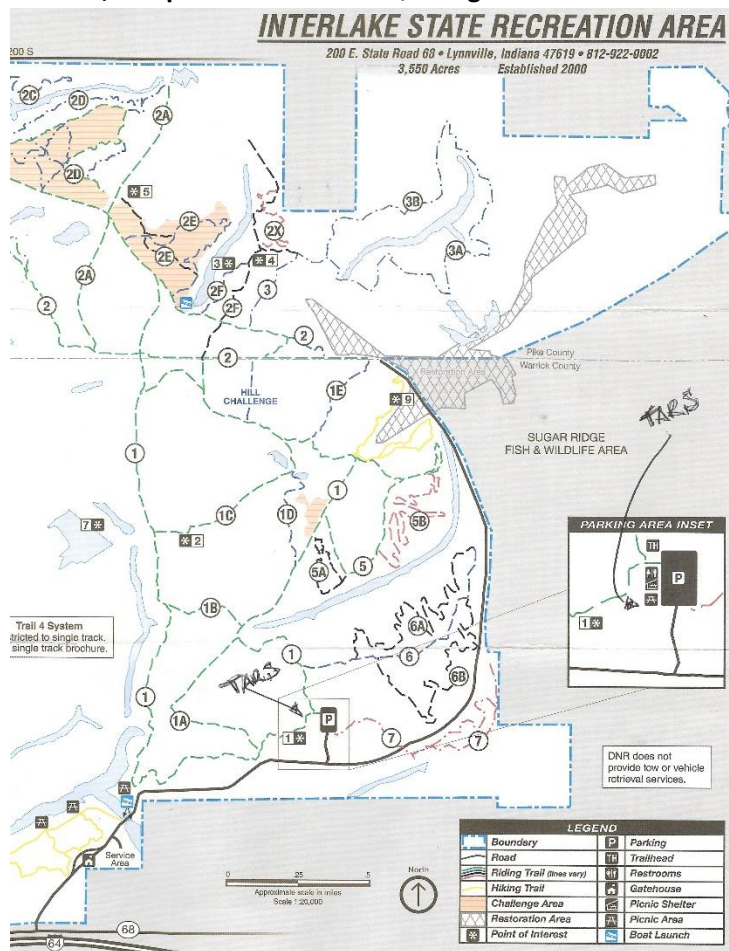
October 23rd 2021 at the Lynnville community center.

Watch for more information soon!

www.HamtoberFest.com

Indiana QSO Party--2021

TARS is planning to hold a group event at [Interlake State Recreation](#) area east of Lynnville off of Highway 68, on Saturday MAY 1st, setup 10 am. There is a \$7.00 gate fee to enter.



Google map to INQP location

<https://goo.gl/maps/111oGNuGfRaTfk7K9>

The 2021 dates are May 1-2 and updated rules are [here](#). Revisions mainly concern returning to pre-covid practices for multi-op, rovers, and portable stations with the hope that things will be "(mostly) normal" by then. See the rules for more info. There was lots of activity with club competition in 2020 and we encourage clubs again to participate in this fun aspect of the QSO party. It can do a lot to strengthen club teamwork.

Club Competition:

In addition to individual awards, there is an award for the Indiana Amateur Radio Club whose members turn in the highest total aggregate score.

How Amateur Radio Fans Decoded SpaceX's Telemetry & Engineering Video

Over the weekend amateur radio tinkerers in Europe managed to decode some portions of the telemetry data broadcast by the second stage of the Falcon 9 when it's in orbit. This data was in a somewhat standard format, but decoding still required some

custom tools to extract the bitstream from the signal and then some guesswork to figure out the exact format. There's still lots of unknown data, but most interestingly this gave access to the engineering cameras including one showing the interior of the liquid oxygen tank.

Video link: https://youtu.be/74_N163HyhA



FCC Not Yet Collecting \$35 Application Fee

The FCC Part 97 rules establishing a new \$35 amateur radio application fee go on the books on April 19, but the FCC won't start collecting the fee "until the requisite notice has been provided to Congress, the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated, and the Commission publishes notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules."

When effective, the fee will apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications, as well as applications for a special temporary authority (STA) or a rule waiver. Fees will be collected per application. The FCC exempted from the fee applications for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. The FCC proposed a schedule of application and other fees for all services last year.

MAILBAG

Here is an interesting link from Mitch K9PNP.

How many of you know SEARS had a ham radio catalog?

https://www.waynekirkwood.com/images/pdf/Sears_Roebuck_1940_Radio_Amateur_Test_Equipment_Sound_Systems_Catalog.pdf

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

April

7	KC9UVG
14	N9QVQ
21	KB9YWQ
28	WB9KQF

May

5	KE9YK
12	KC9TYA
19	KC9UVG
26	N9QVQ

If you would like to be a Net Control Operator for the Wednesday Night Net or learn how to run a SKYWARN net.

Contact: [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](mailto:Chris.Lantaff@KE9YK).

Basic Radar Fundamentals, Monday, May 10th, 2021 at 7 PM

- These courses will usually last between 1-2 hours and will be taught via webinar.
- Anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- Registration is required.

VE Testing

2021 Ham Radio VE Test Sessions

Feb 27
Apr 24
May 29
June 26
July 31
Aug 28
Sep 25
Dec 18



ATTENTION!!!

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society VE Team is currently holding all VE test sessions at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, 1440 Harmony Way in Evansville. This is the building behind the old school building. Look for the tower and antennas and enter the side door by the tower.

You will need to know your FRN number. If you have a license currently you have an FRN number. If you do not yet have a license you can register with the FCC and obtain an FRN number. Go to www.fcc.gov/register.

If you need help or have questions please let me know at n9ol@arrrl.net.

Examinations will start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.

We have no pre-registration, and examinations are administered on a walk-in basis.

Details can be found at: <http://w9og.net/ve-testing>

For more info contact: [John VanVorst N9QL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9QL) c: 812.305.4100



Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

All Vanderburgh Co ARES/RACES in person meetings are canceled until this COVID-19 emergency has passed and currently using ZOOM.

Our meetings are the third Thursday of the month starting at 6:00pm.

Watch your email for the ZOOM meeting login details.

If you would like to participate and are not currently a Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES member contact us for the login information.



Feel free to check in to the Vanderburgh Co ARES net **each Tuesday at 8:00pm** on the 146.790 repeater.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

812.453.1972

Len N9QVQ len.n9qvq@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co ARES EC

812-963-0027

Warrick Co ARES/RACES

Meetings...

The Warrick County ARES/RACES group meets on the second Monday of each month. The meeting begins at 6:30pm and generally is completed by 9:00pm. The meetings are held on the third floor of the Court House in the EMA Conference room.

Anyone needing additional information concerning meetings or location contact: Chris L. Owen at KC9CLO@gmail.com .

April Birthdays!!!

Walter Egenmaier	WB4ZUT	22nd
Scott Hibbs	KD4SIR	1st
Jackie (Jay) Jones	KD9PLY	10th
Dennis Martin	WA2USA	28th
Mary Sandine	KD9CHH	28th



Secretary Report

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

Dave Sandine KC9UVG

Treasurer Report

Budget:

Budget:

February 2021 (prepared 3/2/2021)

Opening Balance: \$4,120.26

Receipts:

Memberships \$180.00

Total Receipts --->> \$180.00

Expenditures:

None \$0.00

Total Expenditures--->> \$0.00

Ending Balance \$4,300.26

Red Cross Funds \$1,283.82

Funds Available to TARS \$3,016.44

Jeff Holt AA9WJ

TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2021

TARS AUCTION January TBD

TARS Banquet February TBD

INQP 2021 1600Z, May 1 to 0400Z, May 2, 2021

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 26-27

13 Colonies Special Event

National Night Out first Tuesday of August

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) third full weekend of August

Light Up 2 Meters Night August

TARS PICNIC Sep TBD

Route 66 Special Event September

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

TARS 3rd annual Hamtober Fest Oct 23, 2021

SKYWARN Recognition Day, Saturday, December

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

Winter Field Day January 30-31 2021

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

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

2021 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Dennis Martin WA2USA](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Board of Directors

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2020-2021)

[Don Land KB9YWQ](#) (2020-2021)

OPEN (2021)

[Mike Townsend W9KXP](#) (2021-2022)

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR (2021-2022)

Charlie Martin WB8LDV (2021-2022)

SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

E-mail: sparks@w9og.net