

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for 75 years

November 2022 - Issue No. 11



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

President Corner

Wow. Is it November already?! This year flew right by! And November means it's time to vote for TARS club officers and board members. We have a great slate of candidates and I hope you will vote in the election either at the November club meeting or by mail postmark before the meeting date. And if you are not running for an office and are eligible or soon will be, please consider getting involved in the leadership of our club. Whether you have been a ham radio operator for years or are just starting that journey, you can and should run for office.

Radio clubs are vital to Amateur Radio. And the Tristate Amateur Radio Society has a rich history of providing tristate hams with knowledge and resources, camaraderie, mentoring, repeater services, and the list goes on and on. We celebrated 75 years this year. You may be tired of hearing me say that, but it is a huge milestone and something to be very proud of. Personally, I would not be in the hobby today without TARS. As is the case with many hams, I am the only ham in my family. So TARS has been so vital for me. The friends I have made, the things I have learned and continue to learn are invaluable. We have seen an influx of newly licensed hams here in the tristate in the past few years. I hope we all continue to reach out to them and provide a safe place to ask questions, share ideas, and grow their expertise. And mostly have fun!! If you see a new ham invite them to join us. Make them feel welcome and be a mentor to them. That's what it's all about!!

As you may know, I am stepping down this year as President of TARS. I will still be active in the club for sure. I think at this time it is appropriate for me to step back, take a break, and most importantly give someone else a chance to lead, to bring new ideas and fresh perspective to that role. I do plan to continue as the club liaison to the Red Cross. I am incredibly proud of what TARS has accomplished the past 3-5 years. And it was nothing I did. It was strong leadership from the TARS board and officers, plus active club members that led to a vibrant club which, despite COVID restrictions and physical isolation and all we went through, is today an active and growing club! I am incredibly thankful for all the leaders that served during my tenure as President. I am looking forward to many more years of hamming with TARS, and who knows- maybe I'll be here to celebrate the 100th birthday too!

Lastly, I want to say a few things about the Red Cross here in Evansville. What a great host and partner they have been for many years. They provide us a space for our radio room and for meetings and events, allow our antennas on their tower and roof, and have always been accommodating for special situations. We as a club need to get more prepared to be a partner to them in their mission. Are there ways you can serve the Red Cross? What additional things we as a club can do to enrich that partnership? I would love to see that as a point of emphasis for TARS in the coming year. Give that some thought and share your ideas!

73 and I will see you at the November meeting!!!

John N9oL

November TARS meeting

The November TARS general meeting is this Thursday Nov. 10th, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross. This meeting will be the Officer Elections for 2023. Bring your BALLOT which you should have received for the election. Following the business meeting the program will be by Chris KE9YK on ANTENNAS.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that wants to join us.

Come out to Moe's 6401 E Lloyd Expressway in the Evansville Pavilion Shopping Center across from Target.

Welcome to southwestern food with a twist. Welcome to burritos, nachos, quesadillas, tacos and burrito bowls made just for you. Welcome to pico de gallo, seasonal salsas, and good times made in-house every day. Enjoy FREE chips and salsa with every meal. Welcome to Moe's Evansville Lloyd Expressway!

We will meet at 5:30, for you to grab a bite to eat, swap stories and whatever else you want, giving us time to make it to the Red Cross for the meeting.

Elvin Reed WB9VSQ (SK)



It is with great sorrow to report Elvin Reed WB9VSQ, a long time TARS member passed away Monday, Oct 31.

Elvin was born in Stanton, Kentucky on December 17, 1930 to the late Vernon and Nora (Collier) Reed. He taught Architectural Drafting at Central High School and retired after 39 years of service. Elvin was a member of Jaycees,

Civitan, Tri-state Woodcarvers, and was a HAM radio operator. He was a lifelong member of McCutchanville Community Church. Elvin was in the United States Naval Reserve for eight years and volunteered at Habitat for Humanity for over 30 years. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

TARS Invitation to Morse Runner Community Edition

by Scott Hibbs KD4SIR

Several years ago, I made a suggestion on Github to a programmer wondering if they would make a Field Day contest version of Morse Runner. This comment got picked up by a different programmer named Mike Brashler W7SST earlier this year. He created this version for me and had the brighter vision to combine all the enhancements to this wonderful program others had come up with. We are in the process of doing this. Thus, the Community Edition of the Morse Runner project was born.

TARS Calendar

November

- 2 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
10m Net following on 28.405 +-
- 3 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 5 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 9 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 10 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 16 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)
- 23 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 30 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)

December

- 1 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 3 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 7 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
10m Net following on 28.405 +-
- 8 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 14 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 21 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)

January 2023

- 4 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)
- 5 **TARS Board meeting 6:30**
- 11 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 12 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 18 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 25 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)

The original Morse Runner program only had the HST and WPX contest modes. In the last month or so we have been working on prototypes of Morse Runner CE which include a Field Day contest, a CWOPS CWT contest, CQ WW contest, and an NCL NAQP contest. Because this is a prototype, we are looking for a few CW guys to use the program and provide feedback. We need to know about the useability, feedback difficulty of finding or downloading the release, the ability to ask a question or provide feedback, does the website answer their questions and what is missing from the user perspective as well as overall about the program. You get the idea.

I've bragged about our CW operators in the club and this has resulted in a special invitation for you guys who know code to kick the tires and give us your ideas.

The link to the program is here:

<https://github.com/w7sst/MorseRunner/releases/tag/v1.81>

I created a youtube video describing the project here:

<https://youtu.be/Y1kHqJRytMM>

We have big plans for this project and this program, and we would love your help and ideas.

73,
KD4SIR
Scott Hibbs

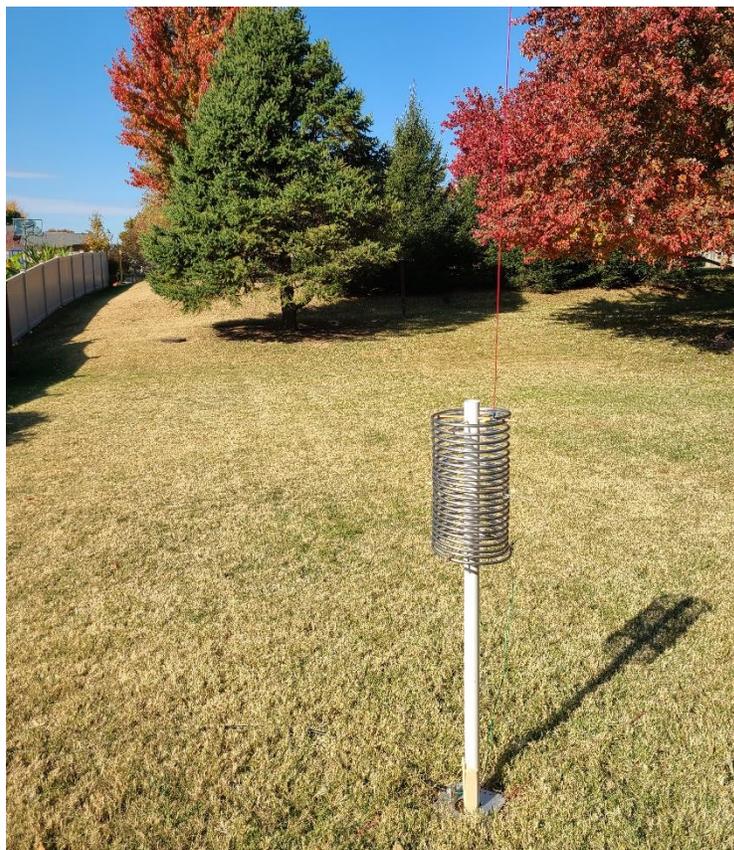
Top Band Disease

By Dennis Martin WA2USA

What is Top Band Disease? It is an inordinate desire to forge through high levels of QRM to work local amateurs or DX, long distances, using a band not far removed from the AM broadcast band. The Top Band starts at 1800 kilohertz and AM broadcast signals can be heard between 1500 to 1600 kilohertz. Try listening some evening to an AM broadcast and you just might hear stations as far away as the east and west coast. AM broadcast stations typically operate using powerful transmitters and often with an array of antenna towers. Now substitute this with an amateur station with a modest antenna and much less power.

The top band typically opens up as early as late September and stays open into late March early April with seasonal contests such as The Stew Perry Top Band Challenge, the CQ WW 160 Meter DX contests, the ARRL 160 Meter contests and others.

To get ready for this year's contests, I chose a different cure using a combination of my new aluminum crank-up tower, a tuning coil and 20 foot spruce tree in the backyard. My home is situated in a subdivision with room constraints for a dipole antenna. Most amateurs living on small properties like myself will use the popular Inverted L with a vertical and horizontal component, a quarter-wave antenna with radials. This year I changed my approach and modified my Inverted L by shortening the horizontal section using a stainless steel homebrew 3/8 inch diameter 50 foot chiller coil, or known by the moonshiners as the "Moonshine Snake". Without going into further details and to save space in Sparks for other more interesting topics, I chose to add a few photos. Like the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.



SANTA'S ON HAM RADIO

For the 17th consecutive year, The 3916 Nets will be presenting The Santa Net on 3.916 MHz.

Good girls and boys can talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly at 7:15

PM (Central) starting Friday, November 25, 2022. The Santa Net will run nightly at 7:15 PM Central through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2022.

Pete Thomson (KE5GGY), of The 3916 Nets, commented on The 3916 Santa Net. He said, "Christmas is our favorite time on 3916. In our first year, we connected 4 or 5 kids with Santa. Now we're expecting over 1,000 children to talk to Santa through the magic of Amateur Radio."

Youngsters can talk to "Santa at The North Pole" via strategically placed operators who relay the voice of Santa. Thomson said that The Santa Net is a team effort that involves the efforts of a number of 3916 Net members. He said, "Santa Net is only possible because of the members of the 3916 Nets who volunteer their time and talents. Each year our volunteers tell us that Santa Net was a highlight of their Holiday Season."

Prior to each night's Santa Net, pre-net check-ins can be made at www.cqsanta.com Third party rules and regulations apply.

The Santa Nets are presented annually by The 3916 Nets. The Rag Chew Crew, The Tailgaters and The Freewheelers are all amateur radio nets that meet on 3.916 MHz nightly. For more information on The 3916 Nets, go

to <http://www.3916nets.com> For more information on The Santa Net, email KE5GGY at Gmail dot com.



From N3FJP

WXWarn 2.0 is now available!

WXWarn taps into the National Weather Service real time weather data feed, constantly monitors NWS weather updates and displays just the alerts that are important to you as they are issued.

Whether you simply want a "heads up" to unfolding forecast weather conditions in your own county, or you would like statewide, region wide, or severe weather alerts for the entire US, you can easily configure WXWarn to display just the information that you are looking for!

WXWarn 2.0 is a complete recreation from our previous version 1.8, is operating system agnostic and will run entirely in your browser. There is nothing to install and it will even work on your phone! Use Chrome or Firefox for best results.

You can begin using the latest version of WXWarn from this site:

<https://wxwarn.affirmatech.com/>

Developing and supporting WXWarn is a labor of love, but it requires resources, time and a lot of work! Severe weather can develop anywhere, anytime and we would like to keep WXWarn available for anyone who needs it. Rather than requiring registrations, we would like to continue to provide resources and support for WXWarn by your generous donations. Please help us keep WXWarn freely accessible for everyone. Chris, Kimberly and I are very grateful and deeply appreciate your continued support!

Brag Rag

Do you have something you would like to submit for the Brag Rag? Send your QSLs, special event certificates, awards, interesting photos, projects etc. to sparks.w9og@gmail.com to have them included in your newsletter.

November Birthdays!!!

KD9PSK	Tom Fisher	2
KC9NOY	Gerald Schoenbachler	7
K8RAO	Robert Oberst	23
KC9JOV	Ross Cecil	29
AA9WJ	Jeff Holt	30



Swap Shop

2 - LDG AT-200Pro II Autotuners

Perfect condition; non-smoking home; no blemishes.

\$200.00 each. Local pickup in Newburgh, or I can deliver in the Evansville area.

Ken Johnson, K9KDJ

k9kdj.ham@gmail.com

812-518-0536

VE Testing

The next VE Testing session will be Dec 3rd

Examinations start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.

Testing location is the Evansville Red Cross at 29 S Stockwell Rd
Evansville IN



2023 schedule coming soon.

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

For more info contact: [John VanVorst N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9OL) c: 812.305.4100

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, upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time-to-time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

We are currently holding a 10m net immediately following the 2m net on the **FIRST WED OF THE MONTH** as part of our 75th anniversary celebration.

Look for us on or about 28.405.

All of the techs out there with HF give us a try.

Vanderburgh Co. AUXCOM

The next Vanderburgh county
ARES/RACES meeting November 17th,
6:30pm at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west
side training facility, [1440 Harmony Way](#).
Anyone interested in emergency
communication in Vanderburgh County is
invited to participate.



Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline 12604

Warrick Co. ARES/RACES

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

Treasurer Report

Financial Report for
October 2021 (prepared 11/01/21)

Opening Balance: \$6,009.63

Receipts:

Memberships

Hamtoberfest income

Total Receipts --->> \$0.00

Expenditures:

USI Field Day Event Service Fee and Sales Tax (\$22.00)

SouthWest Grafix & Apparel, Inc. (check #1113) (\$809.34)

Total Expenditures--->> (\$831.34)

Ending Balance \$5,178.29

Red Cross balance \$1,374.82

Funds Available to TARS \$3,803.47

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

TARS Treasurer

Secretary Report

TARS Board Meeting 10/6/2022

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by John N9OL

Members present, John N9OL, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Mike W9KXP, Charlie WB8LDV, Jerry WB9ONU, Don KB9YWQ, Dennis WA2USA, and Walt WB4ZUT

- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH accepted
- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Shirt order invoice of \$809.34 Mike W9KXP made motion to pay, Second by Don KB9YWQ. Motion PASSED
- Next weeks meeting will be a short business meeting and then ZOOM presentation on working satellites. Both ZOOM and in person.
- Repeater update: Mike W9KXP discussed the maintenance at the Burnt Prairie repeater. AC has been fixed and a hole patched.
- John has the rest of the shirt order and extras. Bill to be paid.
- 75th Special Event: QSL cards requests have been mailed. About 31 so far.
- Hamtoberfest – Discussed selling the older club rigs. Chris KE9YK made motion to sell the IC 746 and TS 450s. Second by Charlie WB8LDV. Motion PASSED. Discussed the volunteer positions and who was filling them. We will have raffle tickets at the meeting and still looking for equipment donations.
- Nov meeting: Elections and program by Chris KE9YK on antennas

- Dec meeting: Jerry ARRL QSL Bureau and Scott on QSL cards. All Things QSLing
- Jan meeting: Logging programs and how to do logging.
- Feb Banquet, start thinking about locations.
- Short discussion on radio room, still looking for chairs, nothing to report at this time.

Meeting adjourned 7:15pm
Respectfully submitted
Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

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@gmail.com

Looking Ahead

2022

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

2023

Winter Field Day January xx 2023

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

TARS AUCTION TBD once we get back into the Red Cross or find a suitable place to hold an auction

TARS Banquet Feb

TARS PICNIC / INQP May

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June

[13 Colonies Special Event](#)

National Night Out first Tuesday of August

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

[Route 66 Special Event](#) September 11-19

TARS 4th annual Hamtober Fest 2022

[Great SHAKEOUT](#) third Thursday of October : October 20th

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

[Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024](#)

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: Bob Burns [AK9R](#)

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 Groups.IO <https://groups.io/g/TARS>

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2022 Club Officers - Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)

Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

Secretary [Chris Lantaff KE9YK](#)

Board of Directors

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

[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2021-2022)

[Don Land KB9YWQ](#) (2022)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2022-2023)

[Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#) (2022-2023)

[Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#) (2022-2023)

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Chris Lantaff KE9YK

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