

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

August 2023 – Vol. LXXVI, No. 8



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.

Presidents Corner

August 2023

At our last meeting we had our July Antenna Build. We built 2 meter 5 element cubical quad antennas. We made seven of them and finished around 10pm. Big thanks to Mark KD0EE for leading the way with this project. I can't wait to put mine up once it's not so hot on my roof.

Also related to this project was the antenna building party we had the Saturday before this meeting. Several hams got together to "pre-make" the antennas so they would be ready to assemble at the meeting. Big thanks for all those that helped out there as well, more on that in this issue.

Elections are coming up so please consider running for an office. We have a lot of opportunities to get involved, and running for office to help TARS grow and thrive is a fantastic service you can provide. If you have been a member for one year, you are eligible to run. We have formed the election committee and Walt WB4ZUT has agreed to chair it. So if you want to help run the club, please let Walt know or speak up when we call for nominations. If not you then who? - nominate them at least!:)

I mentioned in the last sparks that I'm redesigning my shack. It's almost finished. If you haven't done your summer time cleaning or redesign it is a great time to start. At least look around for items to donate for the Hamtober Fest in October. If you find any paperwork on TARS or Sparks, please let me know. We have a lot of our history missing for a 76-year-old club. I'll even be glad to give back originals if you wish to keep them after I scan them.

Again, lots to do and we need a lot of members to step forward to help. Here are some of them: We have the community service project at the Evansville WW2 Museum; We need a volunteer to lead our Technician Class we want to have. The Vanderburgh ARES Emergency Coordinator position is vacant. Give a presentation on anything radio related really (I'd like these - APRS, FreeDV, M17, VARA-C, what would you like?). Please join us on www.groups.io if you haven't already. Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR President TARS 2023

Mark your calendar for the TARS Picnic

September 16th, Mesker Park.



Hamtober Fest raffle tickets are on sale!

John N9OL had tickets for the raffle for sale at last months meeting and will have more this month. The raffle is for a Yaesu FT-891 HF rig. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

August TARS Meeting

The next TARS regular meeting is Thursday Aug 10th 7:00 pm at the Red Cross, 29 S Stockwell Rd, Evansville.

The meeting program will be, Antenna Myths - Brian WB9QVR

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will have a meetup before the regular TARS meeting for anyone that would like to join us. **We meet at 5:30pm**, for you to grab a bite to eat, swap stories, tell a few lies and whatever else you like, still giving us time to make it to the Red Cross for the TARS general membership meeting at 7:00pm.

Come out and join us at **Dennys**, **351 N Green River Rd**, **Evansville**.

WANTED - WANTED - WANTED

The Antenna Committee is getting lazy and fat. If you need help with your shack or an antenna install, please reach out to Scott, KD4SIR @ scotthibbs@gmail.com or Jerry, WB9ONU@ wb9onu@hotmail.com or speak up at a meeting. A dozen or so hams are ready and waiting to help.

The Contest Corner

By Mark Holland KD0EE

August is not a great month for contesting as there are no major international events scheduled. Nevertheless, there are some good QSO parties that are worth checking out: The Maryland-DC party on August 12; and the Hawaii, Ohio, and Kansas parties on August 27. Not only do the QSO parties provide an opportunity to get a needed state on a needed band, but it also is a great encouragement to those who participate. Give the deserving a call!

Another thing worth mentioning is the Kentucky State Parks on the Air event August 12. All Kentucky State and National Parks hope to have a presence. Since we have a park near us, John James Audubon in Henderson, some of us may want to consider an activation. It could be a fun portable operation. Rules can be found at https://k4msu.com/kypota.

August is also a good time to prepare for the fall contest season. Get out there while the weather is good and check your coax and connectors. Finish that antenna project you've been planning. Add those extra radials. And don't forget to inspect your ground.

Look for more next month. KD0EE

TARS Calendar

August

- 2 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 3 TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)
- 9 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 10 TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
- 16 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
- 23 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 26 VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross
- 30 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)

September

- 6 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 7 TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)
- 13 Tri-State Emergency Net (Don, KB9YWQ)
- 14 NO REGULAR MEETING SEE PICNIC BELOW
- 16 TARS PICNIC at Mesker Park shelter #15
- 20 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 27 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 30 VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross

October

14 HAMTOBER FEST 7am – Noon, Lynnville

New Indiana ARRL SEC

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Alley W9MSK as ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator.

Mike brings over 20 years of experience in amateur radio, serving public safety, hospitals, and the community. Mike has served as the Hamilton County RACES Officer, Training Officer, and Emergency Coordinator. He has helped organize and served as net control for marathons, including net control for the South Logistics Net for the Chicago Marathon, which consistently uses over 100 amateur radio operators for support. Through his work providing emergency preparedness services, he has provided planning, training, or exercises for every hospital in the state, worked with every County's EMA, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Health, Integrated Public Safety Commission, and FEMA on various projects, including training and the integration of amateur radio. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for amateur radio on a statewide level to assist operators in serving their communities.

Welcome aboard, Mike!

Bob Burns AK9R
ARRL Indiana Section Manager

TARS PICNIC Sep 16th

Coming September 16 is the Annual TARS Picnic. This year it will be held at Mesker Shelter House #15. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks. There will be activities at the picnic, QLF contest and FOX Hunt. So come and have that rare Eye Ball QSO's with other members of the club along with their spouses. Bring your foxhunting equipment so you can find the hidden foxes.



IMPORTANT INFO

We would like to have a list of suggest food that members will bring. This is to ensure that we don't have 20 bowls of bake beans. So please send me an email to wb9onu@hotmail.com or let me know at August Club meeting what you will be bringing and the number attending the 2023 TARS PICNIC.

Jerry - WB9ONU

TARS OFFICER ELECTIONS

2024 Officer elections will be at the November 9th meeting, but we are actively looking for nominations. Offices up for election are:



President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Board Members.

If you wish to nominate someone or yourself, please contact Walt WB4ZUT. The only requirement is that they have been a TARS member in good standing for at least a year.

Commercial Interests Petition FCC for High Power Allocation on Shortwave Spectrum

The ad hoc group Shortwave Modernization Coalition petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 - 25 MHz range with up to 20 kW, including on bands immediately



adjacent to spectrums allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests. The FCC has assigned the public notice as docket number RM-11953. Comments are due by July 31, 2023, and comment replies are due by August 15, 2023. While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high-power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed. ARRL is reviewing the petition.

A PDF of the petition is available at:

https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1.

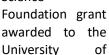
[Editor's Note: This is one reason to support the ARRL, as they are the only organization looking out for issues like this that might jeopardize amateur radio.]

Amateur Radio Operators Can Help with HAARP Experiment

The ARRL Letter for August 3, 2023

The High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) will host more than 50 researchers at their Alaska facility from August 1 -14, 2023, for the resumption of a science summer school that will conduct 30 experiments over a span of two weeks.

The Polar Aeronomy and Radio Science (PARS) summer school was last held more than 10 years ago. return is part of a \$9.3 5-vear, million National Science



effects that occur



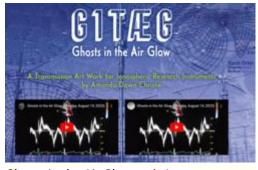
The HAARP antenna array at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. (Photo courtesy of HAARP)

Alaska Fairbanks in 2021. PARS is a group of more than 50 researchers committed to meeting the growing demand for skilled scientists and engineers with knowledge of the special

in the ionosphere at high latitudes.
One of the experiments,
Ghosts in the Air
Glow by Canadian artist Amanda
Dawn Christie, will give amateur radio operators

shortwave

and



operators Ghosts in the Air Glow website.

listeners an opportunity to help with on-going geospace research. This transmission art project will begin on Monday, August 14, 2023, and use the HAARP Ionospheric Research Instrument to mix audio and images from the transition between Earth's atmosphere and outer space. They will then be received and decoded via software-defined radio. Amateur radio operators and shortwave radio listeners around the world are invited to tune in and submit reception reports.

Event information, including transmission times, frequencies, modes, and report submission guidelines, is available at the project's website, <u>Ghosts in the Air Glow</u>. Each experiment participants will receive a QSL card.

"The return of PARS and these experiments marks a milestone for HAARP and the geospace communities," said HAARP Director Jessica Matthews.

Amateur radio operators are needed for a realworld science experiment during upcoming solar eclipse events

Members of the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation

(HamSCI) will be making radio contacts during the 2023 and 2024 North American eclipses and probing the Earth's ionosphere. The Solar Eclipse QSO Parties (SEQPs) are set to be fun and friendly with a competitive element, and all amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners are invited to participate. The upcoming eclipses (October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024) provide unique opportunities to study interactions between the sun and the ionosphere. As participants and HamSCI members transmit, receive, and record signals across the radio spectrum during both eclipse events, valuable data will be created to test computer models of the ionosphere. Learn more at

https://hamsci.org/projects.

ARRL is a partner with HamSCI for the SEQP.

Route 66 On the Air Special Event

Planning is underway for the 2023 Route 66 On the Air Special Event on September 9 - 17. This will be the 24th year of the event has been running. It was started by the Northern Arizona DX Association (NADXA) and is now coordinated by the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) in San Bernardino, California. Twenty-one special event stations along the route from Santa Monica, California, to Chicago, Illinois, are expected to participate in 9 days of operating opportunities. The special event celebrates the history of the Mother Road that began in 1926, when US Highway 66 was established. It was the first major improvement to the link between the west coast and the nation's heartland. Through stories, songs, and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America in its entirety. The demise of Route 66 began in the 1950s, as construction began on the new interstate highway system. US Route 66 was officially decommissioned in 1986, but today, small portions of the highway still exist in several states. More information on the event will be available soon at the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) website or on their Facebook page.

Brag Rag

Look for the attached file with this addition of SPARKS, with John N9OL and his vacation adventure!

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.

This and That

A couple of posts from TARS @ groups.io that you might find interesting. If you haven't joined you should!

Duane, K3LWD – July 31

I heard a familiar voice on the YouTubes this morning.

Rick, K9EXY, made a POTA contact with Michael, KB9VBR, who was filming his POTA activation on the shore of Lake Superior. Sounding good, Rick!

Here is the direct link to the contact. If this doesn't take you directly to it and starts you at the beginning of the video instead, then the time is 12:50 into the video.

https://youtu.be/Lg5K3Gt7QTw?t=767

Dave, WB9YIG - July 12

Several folks have expressed an interest in VarAC. I came across this YouTube video that does a good job getting you started. It's about 45 min long but he covers a lot of information.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prAN5ZOt5CQ

If there is some interest, I can set up a couple of VarAC stations at the club meeting to let you see the program in action.



August Birthdays!!!

KD9KJGConnie Martin2W9KXPMike Townsend5KC9UVGDavid Sandine17WB9QAVRandal Schoenbachler27

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verything for the THE ELECTRO

THE ELECTRO IMPORTING COMPANY
233a Fulton Street NEW YORK CITY

VE Testing 2023

August 26 2023 - 9AM Central time

September 30 2023 - 9AM Central time November 4 2023 - 9AM Central time December 9 2023 - 9AM Central time

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@arrl.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 N9OL c: 812.305.4100



Hamfest Calendar

08/19/2023 - 08/20/2023

Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Alabama State Convention

Location: Huntsville, AL Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Association

Website: http://hamfest.org

09/09/2023 - Greater Louisville Hamfest 2023

Location: Shepherdsville, KY

Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association

Website: http://LouisvilleHamfest.com

10/14/2023 - Hamtober Fest Location: Lynnville. IN

Location: Lynnville, IN Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tri State Amateur Radio Society

Website: http://hamtoberfest.com

2023 Vendor List:

Silver Needle Embroidery

Dits and Dash RF Headquarters

For a complete ARRL hamfest list, go to:

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

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next regular ARES/RACES meeting is August 17th 6:30 pm at the West Side EMA training center. We are always looking for new operators interested in joining and participating.



Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited to contact us for more details.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline 12604 WinLink @KE9YK

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

Secretary Report TARS Board Meeting 7/6/2023

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30 by Scott KD4SIR

Members present, Scott KD4SIR, Tom KD9PFH, Chris KE9YK, Jerry WB9ONU, Walt WB4ZUT, Duane K3LWD, Dave KC9UVG, Herb KB9MZH, Dennis WA2USA, Mike W9KXP, John N9OL, Dave WB9YIG and Don KB9YWQ

- Repeater discussion: The ILS system is having a delay issue with the clubs Yaesu system. Discussion on replacing laptops with newer tower computers. Will need ups for backup. After some discussion on the possible fixes to the system a motion was made by Tom KD9PFH to upgrade the Burnt Prairie repeater instead of Lynnville with the DR2X repeater. Second by Dave KC9UVG. Motion PASSED
- Hamtober Fest: Dennis WA2USA asked if anyone had any questions. He is ready to send out fliers and emails promoting Hamtober Fest. If anyone has any equipment donations contact Dennis and he will make arrangements to have it picked up.
- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted
- Chris KE9YK mentioned that he had sent out the latest version of the TARS constitution and By-Laws.
- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH, with an ending balance of \$7,141.78, Accepted
- Scott reported on the club asset list he is working on. At this time, it is mostly done and he is hoping to send it out to the board this week.
- Eating B 4 the Meeting next week will be at Mission BBQ,
- Shack Committee Discussion: Scott said he had properly attached the shelf in the radio room and has the FTM300 mounted. Discussed a mat for the shack and chairs.
- Next meeting will be the Quad Antenna building. We will be building 7 antennas. In order to get the build in one night there will be a pre-build meeting to get everything cut, drilled and counted at Scotts house, 9am Saturday.

- Scott discussed the meeting with the Evansville War Time Museum about TARS setting up a learning display. The meeting was attended by Scott, Herb and Walt.
- September 16th TARS Picnic: Jerry WB9ONU said that TARS will
 provide hamburgers and hotdogs along with the buns and
 tableware.
- Motion made to budget \$200.00 for food, by Duane K3LWD and second by Walt WB4ZUT. Motion PASSED.
- Election Committee for the November election: Walt WB4ZUT Chairman. Charlie WB8LDV and Herby KB9MZH committee members. Offices up for election, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 board positions.
- Scott discussed Working Budget for repeaters: long discussion about setting up a working budget for the repeaters with the board approving all spending. Discussed proposing AT LEAST \$3000 be set aside for now with \$2k of that for lightening. Also propose the working budget be funded with at least 25% of the proceeds of the Hamtober Fest. The club can't conduct business if it lives in fear of what we don't know.
- Future meeting ideas: Antenna Parties... "Open House" after test sessions near-pota activation,
 Video Hamshack visits, fox hunt -Basics of Foxhunting coincide with foxhunt?
- July: 2M Quad Antenna Project Mark KD0EE
- Aug: Antenna Myths Brian
- Sep: No regular Meeting. Picnic Saturday in September 16
- Oct: Nano VNA Walt & Rick KF0TL
- Nov: Mesh Networking Brian

Meeting adjourned 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

TARS Regular meeting 7/13/2023

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross We had introductions from everyone with 20 in attendance.

- Treasurer Report: Tom KD9PFH, with an ending balance of \$7,141.78
- Secretary Report: Chris KE9YK
- Scott talked about the meeting with the Evansville Wartime Museum. Rick KFOTL will head up creating an interactive display for kids to play with using 2 cw stations that can communicate with each other. Also looking for any WW2 period radios for display. Need not be working.
- John N9OL said we had 7 operators for the Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air event. He will have better stats at the next meeting.
- John N9OL reported on Field Day. Had a good field day, Dave WB9YIG made several good satellite contacts and some good food. We did have a small issue with the logging software but worked around it. Ilea, the granddaughter of Rick KFOTL made 25 contacts on the GOTA station. Scott will have a special certificate at the next meeting.
- Hamtober Fest reminder Oct 14th and John N9OL has tickets for the FT891 Raffle for sale!
- TARS Picnic Sep 16th. Jerry WB9ONU is asking what everyone will be bringing. We will also need a rough head count. Club will have hamburgers, hot dogs and some drinks along with the tableware.
- Elections: Walt WB4ZUT is chairman, Herb KB9MZH and Charlie WB8LDV on the committee. Announced the need of a 4th person

- to serve. Rick KFOTL volunteered. Walt ask for any nominations from the floor.
- Scott asked for someone to step up to coordinate the TECH class and also the need of a webmaster.
- Scott also said the inventory committee was almost finished.
- Scott reminded everyone that if they have any old SPARKS or anything that would be good for the archive to get with him. He can scan and return the originals.
- Scott had a big thanks for the people that attended the pre antenna party.
- Mark KD0EE went over the antenna building.

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm followed by the quad antenna builds.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary

Treasurer Report

Financial Report

June 2023 (prepared 6/30/23)

Club Opening Balance \$7,734.91

Amateur Radio Society Account

Opening Balance: \$7,666.60

Receipts:

Memberships \$15.00
Sale of Power Supply \$85.00
Sale of Mount and Wire \$20.00
Total Recipts--->> \$120.00

Expenditures:

LED shed light (\$35.99)

Red Cross Gas Grill (\$608.83)

Total Expenditures---> (\$644.82)

Ending Balance \$7,141.78

TARS IGC Account

Opening Balance: \$68.31

Receipts:

Expenditures:

TARS IGC Balance \$68.31

Club Ending Balance \$7,210.09
Red Cross Account \$856.99
Funds Available to TARS \$6,353.10

Looking Ahead

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

TARS PICNIC September 16th

Route 66 Special Event September 11-19

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

TARS 5th annual HAMTOBER FEST October 14, 2023

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

2024

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

Winter Field Day January

TARS Banquet February

Total Solar Eclipse North America April 8, 2024

INQP May 2024

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 1-2 2024

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air June

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June 22-23, 2024

13 Colonies Special Event July

TARS @ Groups.IO



Have you heard about the TARS Groups.io email list?

You can subscribe at https://groups.io/q/TARS or by sending an email to TARS+subscribe@groups.io directly.

The mail list is an area where you can ask questions or get the latest information on club happenings.

For HELP on the Groups.IO site, send an email to:

TARS+help@groups.io

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 Editor

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



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

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2023 Club Officers - Board members

President Scott Hibbs KD4SIR

Vice President Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU

Treasurer Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

Secretary Chris Lantaff KE9YK

Board of Directors

Herb Alvey KB9MZH (2022-2023)

Dave Sandine KC9UVG (2022-2023)

Duane Vanderpool K3LWD (2023)

Charlie Martin WB8LDV (2023-2024)

Brian Esche WB9QVR (2023-2024)

Walter Egenmaier WB4ZUT (2023-2024)

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