

# SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

**Serving the Tri-State over 75 years**

December 2023 – Vol. LXXVI, No. 12



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.

Material in this newsletter may be reproduced provided that TARS and the article author is properly credited. Complimentary issues of the SPARKS Newsletter are available to amateur radio clubs on a newsletter exchange by e-mailing your request to [sparks.w9og@gmail.com](mailto:sparks.w9og@gmail.com).

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](http://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](mailto:info@w9og.net).

## Presidents Corner

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, visiting with family and having a feast.

I really can't believe it has been a year already. So how did we do? Our meetings are just enough technical and just enough diverse to keep it interesting and we have averaged 25-35 in attendance at every meeting. In January I said my presidential theme was going to be "sharing" and in February we started show and tell for our introductions. We helped KD0EE get a tower installed at his new qth and we had an antenna party for KB9MZH. I learned at the Feb meeting that the club overwhelmingly uses ALog so I started using it too. We had a very successful Winter Field Day which was highlighted by Mark Thienes KC9TYA elmering Steve Brewster KD9VZQ for his first HF contact on 28.410 to OK1KIM Czech Republic. Our Banquet in March was well attended at the Golden Corral and Rick Jackson K9EXY won the McCutchen Award which is our highest honor the club can bestow. We learned about Weather Spotter Training and about Emergency Communications too. Several of us joined Jerry WB9ONU for several POTA activations to learn how to do it ourselves. In April an anonymous donor gifted the club a brand-new KENWOOD TS-590SG (many thanks!). We had a meeting devoted on how to operate several HF radios including our new one. We had a blast at the FOP camp for INQP where we learned Jerry WB9ONU cooks awesome burgers. KD0EE taught us about contesting and the club had another great turnout to activate Indiana for the Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air for almost two weeks. The club was again gifted a radio by an anonymous donor, a Yaesu FTM-300D (thank you!) for the shack. We absolutely rocked Field Day at the Red Cross with 9yr old Ilia Finical working the GOTA station for five hours for 25 SSB contacts on 40 Meters. We had four other stations crushing the airwaves too! A surprisingly well attended antenna building party was held to prepare to assemble 7 five element cubical quad antennas at a meeting which went smoothly thanks to a lot of hams working together. Our September picnic was also a success. We asked chef Jerry to a repeat performance of his hamburgers and we hunted a couple of foxes at Mesker Park on a perfect day. We had a couple more antenna parties putting up antennas and taking some down. Our October Fest was another outstanding success, well attended and well run with lots of equipment being bought and sold. We completed an inventory of the club's assets and we formed a new repeater committee. We held 10 VE testings at the Red Cross this year thanks to John N9OL and the team. We learned a little about everything from Antenna Myths to mesh networking.

I think we had a wonderful year, we certainly are VERY ACTIVE.

My only regrets have been being unable to get a Tech Class started and unable to get our Morse Code Radio display completed for the Evansville WW2 Museum. I haven't given up on either and I hope we can get these accomplished soon. If you have anything you would like to see our club do, please let me know.

To borrow from the Transformers universe, our sharing radio with each other is exactly the AllSpark of our club. I'll paraphrase from one of the movies about the AllSpark, our club is merely a vessel;

our power, our knowledge—can never be destroyed – it can only transform and that it has for 76 years now. I will do my best to thank each one of you for making this year so fun. I really am grateful.

This is our December newsletter and I would be remiss if I didn't wish each of you my warmest regards, happy various holidays, or at least my Christian blessing for you to have a Merry Christmas, may God bless every one of you and your families for a happy new year.

Sincerely,  
Scott Hibbs KD4SIR  
President TARS 2023-2024

## It's time to renew your dues for 2024!

A 2024 membership form is included with this mailing of SPARKS. You may mail the form with your due's payment to the address on the form, or bring it to the meeting. Please fill out the form as it lets us update our records and make sure your information is correct. THANKS!

### December TARS Meeting –12/14/23

The next TARS meeting is this Thursday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Red Cross. We will have a **DIRTY SANTA / WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE, with a maximum \$10 gift limit along with a SHOW-N-TELL Holiday meeting with refreshments.** Bring your favorite holiday treats/cookies etc. to share and a drink if you wish. TARS will have a few cans of pop left over from the picnic but it is a limited selection and also some chips. If you have something you want to bring along for showing off it's that much better.  
Go Kits – Projects - ?????

**For the DIRTY SANTA / WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE, Wrap your gift without a to-or-from label.** Here's a tricky wrapping tip: The more interesting the wrapping, the more excitement there is to choose a certain gift early on. Try wrapping the package in several layers of paper or different size boxes to make it appear like an elaborate gift when it's actually something small. You can also try wrapping the gift to look like a different object, just to throw someone off.



Come on out and join us for a fun time!  
Everyone that brings a White Elephant gift will get a ticket to be drawn for your turn to select a gift from the pile or STEAL a gift from someone that has already opened a gift!

## TARS Calendar

### December

- 6 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 7 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 9 **VE Testing 9:00 am Red Cross**
- 13 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 14 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 20 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 27 Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)

### January

- 3 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
- 4 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 (ZOOM)**
- 10 Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
- 11 **TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross**
- 17 Tri-State Emergency Net (Herby, KB9MZH)
- 24 Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
- 31 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

### Basic Dirty Santa Rules:

- The game begins once #1 selects a gift from the pile (after much thought and deliberation, of course), opens it, and shows it to everyone.
- The person who drew #2 then goes and has the option to steal #1's gift (aka "Dirty Santa") or pick a different gift from the pile. This continues with each person having the chance to steal or choose a wrapped gift.
- A gift can be stolen no more than three times. The host should keep a tally of each gift and announce once a gift is "dead" and can no longer be stolen.
- A gift can also only be stolen once per turn. For example, if person #17's gift was stolen, and they steal from person #5, then person #5 cannot steal the gift that was taken from #17.
- If your gift is stolen, you can't steal it right back. You can steal another gift or choose from the pile.
- When all the gifts have been opened, the person who drew #1 has the option to steal a gift (since they did not have any gifts to steal initially). If they choose not to steal and keep the gift they have, the game is over. If they decide to steal, then the game continues until someone decides to keep their gift.



## Eat'n Before the Meet'n

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



This month, join us at **Jason's Deli, 943 N Green River Rd.**

**Check here for more information:**

<https://www.jasonsdeli.com/menu>

## TARS OFFICERS for 2024

2024 Officer elections were held November 9<sup>th</sup> and the officers elected for 2024 are **President Scott Hibbs KD4SIR**

**Vice President Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU**

**Treasurer Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH**

**Secretary John VanVorst N9OL**

**Newly elected Board of Directors 2024-2025**

[Ross Cecil KC9JOV](#) (2024-2025)

[Mark Holland KDOEE](#) (2024-2025)

[Rick Finical KF0TL](#) (2024-2025)

**Continuing Board of Directors**

[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2023-2024)

[Brian Esche WB9QVR](#) (2023-2024)

[Walter Egenmaier WB4ZUT](#) (2023-2024)

## HamtoberFest 2024

Mark your calendars,

Our 6th annual Hamtober Fest,  
Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> 2024!



## The Contest Corner

By Mark Holland [KDOEE](#)

Two big contests are coming up in December, both sponsored by the ARRL. The 160-meter contest is December 1-3, and the 10-meter contest is December 9-10. Since most of us don't have antennas for 160, we'll concentrate on the 10-meter contest.

The contest will begin at 0000Z on December 9 and run until 2359Z on December 10. You will not need a big antenna to make lots of contacts. Sunspot numbers look good so there should be plenty of worldwide action. SSB contacts are worth 2 pts. and CW contacts are worth 4 pts., so you will want to spend some time on CW if you can. Multipliers are all the US states, Canadian provinces, Mexican states, and dx entities. In particular, there is a special category for those with a simple antenna: any single element under 50ft. high. This would include a vertical, dipole, or end-fed wire. This levels the competitive field. The exchange will be signal report and state/province for W/VE, and dx will send a serial number. Have fun, and see you on the bands!

KDOEE

## Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff [KE9YK](#)

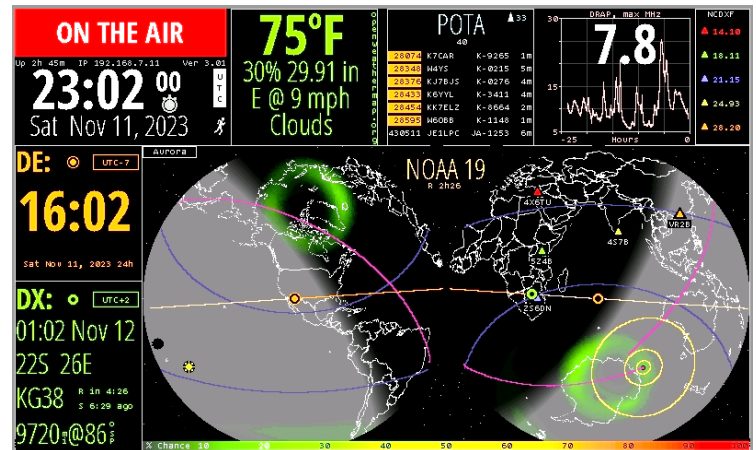
### HamClock!

I came across this on a post and thought it was really sweet!

If you haven't got your Christmas request in, there might still be time!

If you have a Raspberry Pi, you can just load the Ham Clock software on your system and have a very cool Geochron style type clock display, that does even more.

<https://www.clearskyinstitute.com/ham/HamClock/>



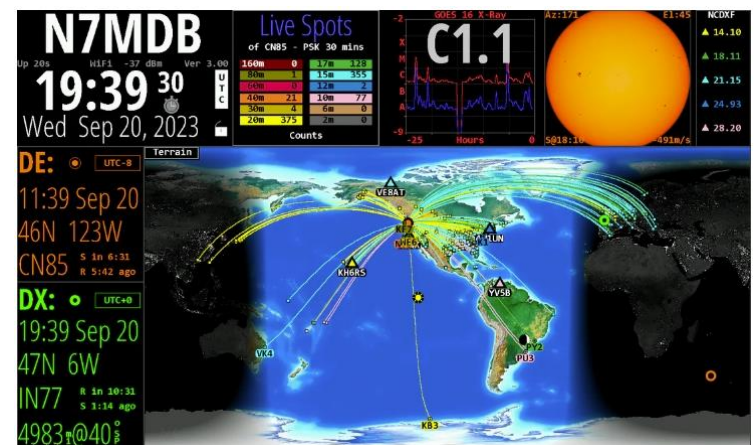
HamClock is a kiosk-style application that provides real time space weather, radio propagation models, operating events and other information particularly useful to the radio amateur.

**But now the best news!**

### Meet Quadra: A \$35 Complete Mini-PC for Amateur Radio (and more!)

**Update:** Now includes popular ham radio apps pre-installed. **HamClock**, **WSJT-X**, **js8call**, **GridTracker**, **Pat (Winlink)**, and the **fIDigi** suite are all ready to use out of the box, plus an installer to add more easily.

Not just a raw board, Quadra is a complete modern Linux



computer that can be used as a server or light-use desktop. It includes the case, heatsink, power adapter and HDMI cable. Just plug into a TV or monitor and a keyboard/mouse. No SD card needed as the OS (Debian Bullseye 64-bit) is pre-flashed in internal memory. A great option instead of Raspberry Pi when



you don't need the 40-pin I/O header or want something more affordable that doesn't require assembly.

#### LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Check out the inovato web site for more information

<https://inovato.com/products/hamclock-bundle>

W6LG YouTube video setting up of the Quadra computer

<https://youtu.be/dFYnthSdY3g?si=n1VNtbbt6jmYwOUk>

K2CJB Radio Configuring the Inovato Ham Clock Computer for the shack [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RUs2d\\_hBEU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RUs2d_hBEU)

KF0IDT HAMClock for FREE?

[https://youtu.be/nxhw-HNIIYo?si=gy18fXGE4Z\\_7o-9P](https://youtu.be/nxhw-HNIIYo?si=gy18fXGE4Z_7o-9P)



## SANTA NET

Santa Net is back on 3.916 MHz for the 18th year! Starting Friday, November 24th, good girls and boys can talk to Santa Claus, via amateur radio, nightly starting at 7:05 PM (Central). The Santa Net will run every night through Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023.

Pete Thomson (KE5GGY), of The 3916 Nets, commented on The Santa Net. He said, "What started 18 years ago as a small gathering on Christmas eve has really grown over the years. This year we expect to connect around 1,000 kids with Santa."

Youngsters can talk to "Santa at The North Pole" via strategically placed operators (Santa Net Relay Stations) who relay the voice of Santa. Thomson said the dedication of 3916 net members is

the reason for the net's longevity. He said, "Santa Net is only possible because of the net members who volunteer their time and talents as relay stations and in other support roles. Each year our volunteers tell us that Santa Net was a highlight of their Holiday Season."

In addition to connecting kids with Santa, Thomson said that Santa Net also brings young people into amateur radio. He added, "Santa Net is often the first time many of these kids experience the magic of amateur radio. Every year we hear from parents and sometimes even the kids who go onto get their amateur license after taking part in Santa Net."

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

The Santa Net is presented by The 3916 Nets. The Rag Chew Crew, The Tailgaters, 3916 Trivia 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 go to [www.cqsanta.com](http://www.cqsanta.com) or email KE5GGY at Gmail dot com.

## Will AI help us have more fun with amateur radio?

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In this morning's email was a message from *Inc.* magazine with links to some articles in the magazine. At the top of the list was, "4 Unimaginable Ways A.I. Will Change Your Life Within the Next 5 Years, According to Bill Gates" (<https://www.inc.com/minda-zetlin/4-unimaginable-ways-ai-will-change-your-life-within-next-5-years-according-to-bill-gates.html>) Gates says that in the next five years, you will have your own artificial intelligence assistant, or agent, that will be a frequent voice in your ear and will help you with everything from deciding where to go on vacation to managing your friendships and more. Let's think for a minute about Gates' 4 Ways and how they might help us enjoy amateur radio more.

**1. You won't bother with software or operating systems anymore.**

How cool would this be. You could simply tell your AI amateur radio assistant, "Hey, HAL. Let's operate 20-meter FT8 this afternoon," and the agent would set up the radio and begin



Hey, HAL. Let's operate 20-meter FT8 this afternoon!

looking for contacts. If the band wasn't open, it would come back and tell you, "I'm sorry, Dave, but propagation on 20 meters is terrible this afternoon. May I suggest 30 meters instead?"

## **2. Your agent will be a frequent voice in your ear.**

Gates believes that most of us will wear at least one earbud most of the time so that our agents can talk to us whenever they need to. So, for example, it might be monitoring the activity on 6 meters and notify you when the band is open. Or, you might want it to notify you when a particular contest or operating event is coming up so that you don't miss it. "Dave," it might say, "remember that the 2-meter club net is at 8 pm tonight."

## **3. Your agent will get involved in your personal relationships.**

We often don't think of amateur radio as having a personal aspect, but it really does. For example, don't we enjoy talking to some people more than others? Your personal agent could monitor your club's 2-meter repeater or 40-meter CW and notify you when your friends are on the air.

Gates also notes that you could have your AI assistant talk to your friends' assistants and set up lunch for you. If those friends are also radio amateurs, you could also use that capability to set up an on-air sked.

## **4. It might even help you solve personal problems.**

The article notes, "One of the most intriguing predictions Gates made is that your agent could also become your therapist" While many hams probably do need therapy, I'm not so sure how applicable this will be to amateur radio.

What I could see happening is using an AI assistant to help you choose your next rig or maybe help you troubleshoot a problem. Here are some scenarios:

- You ask your AI assistant what rig you should buy next. Since it already knows what bands you like to operate—and the state of your finances—it can analyze all the options and find a radio that meets your operating needs and fits into your budget.
- You might describe your backyard and the bands that you want to operate, and your AI Assistant could come back with antenna suggestions.
- You ask your AI assistant about a problem that you're having with your rig. It comes back with, "Dave, if you would just RTFM, you will find the answer on page 67 of the operating manual." Or, after scanning the appropriate online forums, it would tell you, "Dave, several other owners seem to be having a similar problem. Here's what they've done...."

All of this sounds kind of fun to me, but I can understand some of you having reservations. What do you think? Can you think of other ways an AI assistant would make amateur radio more fun for you?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not trying to decide if artificial intelligence will help us have more fun with ham radio—or destroy humanity—he tinkers with electronics projects and works CW on the HF bands. You can email your AI comments to Dan at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

# **The First Worked All States Certificate Awarded for the 33-Centimeter Band**

The ARRL Letter for November 9, 2023

On November 4, 2023, Al Ward's, W5LUA, 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band ended when he received the first-ever Worked All States (WAS) certificate for (902 - 928 MHz). Ward started collecting states on the band shortly after it was opened in 1985.

"I am extremely grateful to Peter Van Horne, KA6U, for his EME [Earth-moon-Earth] efforts. I was able to work Wisconsin for my last state [on] the 33-centimeter band on October 21. At the end of September, I was sitting at 32 states confirmed with cards and/or the Logbook of The World (LoTW), when Van Horne went on a 25-state expedition providing my last 18 states," said Ward. In recent expeditions, Brian McCarthy, NX9O, and Jason Baack, N1AV, also provided several states that were needed.

Ward's station consists of a 5-meter dish with 400 W of power obtained from two 300 W Motorola amplifiers in parallel. His feed is a dual polarity patch feed.

ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, was one of the first people to congratulate Ward on his accomplishment.

Jahnke stated, "Hearty congratulations! It's my privilege to confirm the ARRL Awards Department has received your WAS application, plus Card Checker document, and we have issued the 33-centimeter (902 - 928 MHz) Worked All States Award number 1 to you in culmination of your 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band."

Other stations on the hunt for the 33-centimeter WAS certificate that are nearing completion include ACORA, KODAS, and N1AV.

In 1985, the Federal Communications Commission allocated the frequency band between 902 and 928 MHz to Part 18 industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) equipment. In that proceeding, the band was also allocated to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, meaning amateurs could use the band if they accepted interference from and did not cause interference to primary users.



Al Ward, W5LUA, holds his WAS certificate in front of his 5-meter dish. [Photo courtesy of W5LUA]







## W1AW/9 IN December

By AK9R, 30 November, 2023

**Amateur radio operators in Indiana will have the privilege of operating as W1AW/9 for one week starting December 13, 2023, at 0000 UTC.**

Here are the guidelines that we are expected to follow:

1. At all times, remember that you are representing the ARRL and the W1AW station.
2. Please use this operating event as an opportunity to encourage operators to get on the air and make contacts.
3. Stations will operate using the W1AW/9 callsign, but they must operate within the limits of the highest license class of control operator present at the station.
4. Operators should make every effort to ensure that the frequency is clear before transmitting.
5. Operation will be on the amateur radio bands of 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, 6m, plus the VHF/UHF bands. Operators can use any mode compliant with the FCC rules for amateur radio for the band they operating on.
6. No more than one station can be on the air using any band/mode at the same time. If a W1AW/9 station is operating on 20m CW, no other W1AW/9 station can operate on 20m CW at the same time. However, a W1AW/9 station could be on 20m SSB or 20m Data at the same time as the 20m CW station.
7. There will be no QSL cards issued for contacts with W1AW/9. All contacts will be confirmed using Logbook of the World.
8. All stations operating as W1AW/9 are expected to provide an electronic log in ADIF format. Each log must include the date/time (UTC), callsign, band, and mode of each contact made as W1AW/9 and include the W1AW/9 station's county, grid, and CQ/ITU zone. All logs are to be emailed to the W1AW/9 IN Coordinator within 5 days of the completion of the W1AW/9 IN operation.

The coordinator for the W1AW/9 IN December operation is Bob Burns AK9R. If you have questions, concerns, or a log to submit, please email Bob at [ak9r@arrl.org](mailto:ak9r@arrl.org).

There is a scheduling spreadsheet available at:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ssbeHVzOSvmTEq6cy75W9ZC\\_aDq4Qpt2cZWSSStc1qnU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ssbeHVzOSvmTEq6cy75W9ZC_aDq4Qpt2cZWSSStc1qnU/edit?usp=sharing)

You can use this spreadsheet to see when timeslots are available for you to operate. To request a timeslot, please email Bob at [ak9r@arrl.org](mailto:ak9r@arrl.org) with the date, time, band, and mode that you desire. The timeslots are in 2-hour segments, but you don't have to operate the entire 2 hours.

## FCC Actions

**ARRL Members Only Web site Nov 16, 2023**

The FCC recently approved the change from symbol rate to bandwidth for digital modes on 160m and HF (also known as Greater Flexibility in Digital Communications). For more details, visit the news item about this on the ARRL website. The FCC will also be looking for comments on bandwidth on 2200m, 630m, and VHF/UHF in a forthcoming comment period.

Hopefully this will start to break the log jam of other ARRL Amateur Radio bills that are with the FCC. These other bills are Realignment of the 80-meter Amateur Band, Technician Class Enhancement, Amateur Digital Mode Transparency and a Volunteer Band Plan. Other issues at the FCC are the 3.3-3.5 GHz (9 cm) Band, the 5.850-5.925 GHz (5 cm) Band, HF Trading and the 60m Band.

While we're waiting, get on our bands and enjoy Amateur Radio.

## Winter Field Day January 23-24, 2024

Winter Field Day (WFD) is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide.

Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more."

More info at: <https://winterfieldday.org/>



**[TARS WFD operation will be at the Scott Twp Park again this year, Jan 27th! Watch for more information in the January addition of SPARKS]**

## BITS of Interest

Thanks to Terry Stuckey - AB9JK, for this info:  
Free ONLINE Technician Ham Radio License Class!  
Dec. 26-29, 2023 (Tuesday-Thursday + optional Friday exam)  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. PST Taught via Zoom

Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, ARRL Registered Instructor  
Please provide name, e-mail, and phone number.  
Phone: 541-221-2475  
Email: [ars.n7ji@gmail.com](mailto:ars.n7ji@gmail.com)

**Free ONLINE Technician Ham Radio License Class!**  
(you don't even have to get out of bed!)

**Dec. 26-29, 2023 (Tuesday-Thursday + optional Friday exam)**

- The class and materials are FREE, but you MUST register.
- Pre-study is really, really helpful.
- For students, this is a great way to stay sharp!
- Open to all ages.
- Learn new skills, serve your community, and have fun.
- Earn radio-based scholarships.

**Contact:**

- Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, ARRL Registered Instructor
- Please provide name, e-mail, and phone number.
- Phone: 541-221-2475
- Email: [ars.n7ji@gmail.com](mailto:ars.n7ji@gmail.com)

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. PST  
Friday optional exam  
Taught via Zoom



## 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](mailto:sparks.w9og@gmail.com) to have them included in your newsletter.

## FOR SALE

Icom IC-SM6 Microphone for sale  
Scott is asking \$80 for it. He says he did modify it so I could use it with a foot peddle. Mic info can be found at:  
<https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/mics/2470.html>  
Contact: Scott [KD4SIR](mailto:KD4SIR)

## VE Testing 2023

**December 9 2023 - 9AM Central time**  
**The 2024 schedule will be available soon.**

**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](http://www.fcc.gov/register).**

**If you need help or have questions, please let me know at [n9ol@arrrl.net](mailto: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 N9OL](mailto:John.VanVorst@N9OL) c: 812.305.4100



## December Birthdays!!!

KD9PFH	Tom Hilgeman	1
WB9QVR	Brian Esche	1
N9XXH	Terry Hammers	5
N9OL	John Van Vorst	9
KD9NCP	Rodney Witherspoon	10
KB9MZH	Herbert Alvey	12
KD0EE	Mark Holland	19
KC9HWQ	Politano Chris	20
KC9SYL	Gene Flick	25
KD9TFS	David Smith	28

## New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool

The ARRL Letter for December 7, 2023  
The New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool has been released and is effective July 1, 2024. The [National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators \(NCVEC\) Question Pool Committee \(QPC\)](#) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new [Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028](#). The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats. Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of [The ARRL Extra Class License Manual](#) or the 5th edition of [ARRL's Extra Q & A](#) are encouraged to test on or before June 30, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024. Read more on [ARRL News](#).

## Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

There will be no meeting for December but will pick back up in January.

Our meetings are usually the third Thursday of the month, 6:30pm.

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

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK [IN82RACES@gmail.com](mailto:IN82RACES@gmail.com)

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

c: 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](mailto:KC9CLO@gmail.com)

## Secretary Report

### TARS Board Meeting 11/2/2023

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, Herb KB9MZH, Dave KC9UVG, Charlie WB8LDV, John N9OL, Dennis WA2USA and Rick KF0TL

- Secretary Report Chris KE9YK, accepted,
- Treasurer Report Tom KD9PFH, with an ending balance of \$9,200.72 Accepted
- Hamtober Fest report: Looking to make reservations for next year. John will coordinate with Bedford before making decision on date. Discussion on tailgating. Most hamfests have tailgating for the price of admission. We really can't charge because the weather is not dependable and we hope it draws a few people in that otherwise might pass us up. The hamfest went well and Joyn N9OL has volunteered to chair it for 2024. A couple of notes for next year. We need a person dedicated to sell at the club table and need a more secure way to handle the cash. Charlie WB8LDV made a motion to set up the date for next year and rent the community center, after coordinating with the Bedford group. Second Chris KE9YK. MOTION PASSED.
- Eating b4 the meeting next week, Fazoli's.
- Inventory is finished. Scott will give the board the file.
- Shack Committee: Scott purchased the 6x8 rug.
- Herbs' antenna party was last Saturday.
- Scott will have an antenna party this Sat 8am.
- Rick has some tower work he is looking to get done.
- Community service: Scott has lost a couple of volunteers but is working to get things moving.
- Discussion of the By Laws and Article 8 for next month, pertaining to the meetings.
- Walt talked about the election next week.
- Repeaters and inventory discussion. Will have a repeater committee meeting Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 at Red Cross.

- Dec Meeting discussion: Will have a show n tell Holiday Party with refreshments. TARS has a few drinks left from the picnic. Might have people bring treats. Will have a white elephant / dirty Santa gift exchange.

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK, TARS Secretary

## TARS General Meeting 11/09/2023

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR, 7:00 pm. With 32 members present.

- Following introductions, we had a short talk by Raymond Edge W9KHP about the McCreary Gravel Rally. Raymond and a few from Warrick Co helped the Lake Cumberland Amateur Radio Association with the rally last year and is looking to entice a few more to help out for 2024.
- Secretary report: Approved
- Treasurers report with ending balance of \$9,200.72 Approved
- Shack Committee report: Nothing new to report
- Herby is back on the air after some antenna and rig work.
- Repeater committee: There will be a repeater committee meeting Nov30th.
- John N9OL discussed TARS name badges. They will be available from the SIGN MAN and ordered directly from their web site. Watch for more information on the TARS Groups IO.
- Hamtober Fest 2024 is scheduled for Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Lynnville Community Center. John N9OL is the 2024 chairman. He wanted to thank everyone that helped with the hamfest setup/cleanup. The club made some money and everyone had a good time. The Raffle was won by Jim Block KD9UAZ.
- Election: Ballots were counted and the Officers for 2024 are:  
President Scott Hibbs KD4SIR  
Vice President Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU  
Treasurer Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH  
Secretary John VanVorst N9OL  
Newly elected Board of Directors 2024-2025  
Ross Cecil KC9JOV (2024-2025)  
Mark Holland KD0EE (2024-2025)  
Rick Finical KF0TL (2024-2025)  
Continuing Board of Directors  
Charlie Martin WB8LDV (2023-2024)  
Brian Esche WB9QVR (2023-2024)  
Walter Egenmaier WB4ZUT (2023-2024)
- December will be a Show and Tell, Holiday Party.

Business meeting ended at 7:30 and was followed by the meeting program on MESH Nodes by Brian WB9QVR

Respectfully submitted

Chris Lantaff KE9YK – TARS secretary





## Treasurer Report

October 2023 (prepared 10/31/23)

Club Opening Balance	\$7,574.91
Amateur Radio Society Account Opening Balance:	\$7,114.10
Receipts:	
Memberships	\$30.00
Hamtober Fest (food & door donations, Equipment and table sales)	\$1,205.81
Donation from Ross Cecil KC9JOV	\$100.00
Donation from Jeff Holt AA9WJ	\$50.00
Deposit Refund from Lynnville Community Center	\$150.00
Total Receipts --->>	\$1,535.81
Expenditures:	
Repeater Purchase DR2X- Dave Julian WB9YIG	(\$700.00)
Rug for Radio Room	(\$25.00)
Total Expenditures--->>	(\$725.00)
Ending Balance	\$7,924.91
TARS IGC Account Opening Balance:	\$460.81
Receipts:	
Hamtober Fest Raffel Tickets	\$760.00
Hamtober Fest 50/50 Pot	\$55.00
TARS IGC Balance	\$1,275.81
Club Ending Balance	\$9,200.72
Red Cross Account	\$940.99
Funds Available to TARS	\$8,259.73

Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH – TARS Treasurer

## Looking Ahead

### 2024

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

**Winter Field Day January 27**

**TARS Banquet February 8**

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

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

**TARS PICNIC September ???**

Route 66 Special Event September 11-19

**TARS 6<sup>th</sup> annual HAMTOBER FEST October XX, 2024**

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

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**Most any document format is acceptable.**

**Photos or graphics of your subject are welcome.**

**Send your article to:** [sparks@w9og.net](mailto:sparks@w9og.net)

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: Bob Burns [AK9R](#)

ARRL [Central Division](#)

Division Director: Carl Luetzelschwab [K9LA](#)



**TARS mailing address:**

TARS

P.O. Box 4521

Evansville, IN 47724

**Don't forget to check out our web page** [www.w9og.net](http://www.w9og.net)

**Facebook Group**

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

**TARS Groups.io email list:** [TARS@Groups.IO](mailto:TARS@Groups.IO)

**TARS E-mail:** [info@w9og.net](mailto: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)

### SPARKS Editor:

Chris Lantaff KE9YK

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