

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

June 2025 – Vol. LXXVIII, No. 6



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

June 2025

How many hams does it take to put up an antenna? One is enough but when you get about 10 hams helping it becomes a party. It's antenna party season so plan a date and let's get you on the air.

Everyone has been asking me about Hamvention. It was fun! I've been about 10 times now but never as a vendor. I got my Extra at Hamvention 2010, and a few years later I volunteered for Hamvention as a Laurel VE giving the tests. So this year I got to see the boneyard (flea market) setup and got to see the products for sale dwindle down. I've been there when there were very few second hand radios being sold. And before Covid, I bought a couple 50 watt mobile radios on a Sunday afternoon for \$25-\$40. Lots of second hand radios for sale this year and most two meter mobiles were priced over \$120. This year had a lot of used commercial radio gear for sale. The TARS booths sold everything we had around noon on Saturday. I enjoyed saying "give me an offer" to anyone staring at an item long enough to see their surprise when I accepted it. It was heart-warming seeing others doing this as well and seeing the boneyard dwindle down. It really is Ham Radio Christmas. If the board approves, TARS will have the same booths next year and I invite you all to schedule the time for next year right now.

We have two big events coming up. Ham Radio Thanksgiving aka Field Day is coming up so make plans to be involved. Our June meeting will be all about Field Day planning. It will be at the Red Cross again this year. Please contact Mark KD0EE if you have any questions. Also starting on the 31st of this month and lasting two weeks is Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air. I'm looking forward to this! This is really a fun event to hunt for states and/or activate Indiana. Please see John N9oL if you have questions.

I really am proud of our club. Please invite everyone you know to join us at the next meeting.

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023-25

June TARS Meeting

The next TARS regular meeting is **Thursday June 12th 7:00pm**

The program will cover information on Field Day



REMINDER! If you ordered an ARRL Field Day 2025 shirt through the club, please bring \$25 cash or check made out to TARS, and pick up your shirt at the meeting.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

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

Come join us at **Fazoli's, 899 N Green River Rd, Evansville.**

<https://fazolis.com/>

Contest Corner for June 2025

The big event for June is Field Day. Field Day is an operating event that demonstrates our club station's emergency preparedness, and the value of amateur radio to our community. It also gives us great opportunity to connect with club members in a social setting. The dates for Field Day are June 28-29. We begin operating at 1:00 pm on Saturday and conclude at 1:00 pm Sunday, giving us a 24-hr. window. Set up will be Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. We will be operating two CW stations, two SSB stations, an FT-8 station, and a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Our location will be the Red Cross building. We will need strong club participation to keep these stations active. **Food will be available, including hamburgers and brats at 5:00 pm Sat. Please consider a side dish to share.** The club will also have coffee and some drinks but you are welcome to bring your favorite. More information will be available as the event draws near. Please attend the TARS meeting at 7:00pm on June 12 if possible. Field Day is only successful when you are there!

73, Mark KDOEE

FOX HUNT

**The next Fox Hunt will be
Saturday June 21st, 1:00 pm.**

Desk of Jerry -WB9ONU

I would like to give a BIG THANKS to all that help with the Wartime Museum 5K Run on May 3 and also to those that stepped up and helped with the INQP. I can always count on the members stepping up to help out.

So, I assume the members that worked the Wartime Museum 5K Run liked doing that event. If so look around to see if we can do

TARS Calendar

June

- 4 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
5 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 ZOOM**
7 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**
11 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry, WB9ONU)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
12 **Eat'n Before the Meet'n 5:30 – Fazoli's**
TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
18 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
25 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
28-29 **FIELD DAY – Red Cross**

July

- 2 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
3 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 ZOOM**
9 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Herb, KB9MZH)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
10 **Eat'n Before the Meet'n 5:30 – Chipotle**
TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
16 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
23 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry, WB9ONU)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-
26 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**
30 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.350 +-

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

more events. If you know of a group having a special event, ask them if we could help them with communications.

Now for June I am the Digital Captain for the Tars Field DAY. So all of you digital operators and non-Digital operators. Start making plans for June 28-29. To the experienced Digital Operators, its time to come out and shine. Also, for the Non-Digital Operators it's time to experience a new mode of communication without the investment of equipment and learning curve. There will be someone to help.

Would everyone like to setup a schedule time or just randomly show up and get on to operate. So, start thinking about Field Day. Let's be number 1 in our class. More to come be TARS@groups.io.
Jerry - wb9onu

10 Meter Rag chew Net

I know there is more of you that has 10 meters antenna, because you built them at the March meeting. I been getting about 6 to 7 check-ins each Wednesday night. So remember after the TARS net at 8 p.m. Starting at 8:30 pm change bands to 10 meters and turn your dial to 28.350 mhz. Check-in to the Tri State Amateur Radio Ragchew net. If you a radio problem speak in the net there maybe one or more on with a answer. Will be looking for all of you with the 10-meter vertical antenna that you built.

Thanks

Jerry wb9onu

13 Colonies Event Recognizes Event Founder KU2US

In just a few weeks, one of the most popular summer operating events kicks off – The 13 Colonies Special Event. Now in its 17 year the event has grown from Special Event Stations making approximately 12,000 contacts to last year making 292, 496 contacts around the world. The Event runs from July 1 9:00 AM - July 7 Midnight Eastern (July 1 – 1300 UTC – July 8 – 0400 UTC). This year Event organizers are recognizing the 13 Colonies Special Event founder Ken Villone, KU2US, who is passing the torch on to Tony Jones, N4ATJ. For the past 16 years Villone has lead the Event by working with state and bonus station coordinators. Then after the event he would print out individual certificates for thousands of people who made contact with the special event stations.

The Special Event consist of one station operating in each of the 13 Colonies (K2A – K2M) and three bonus stations (WM3PEN – Philadelphia, GB13COL – England, TM13COL – France) each representing their city, state, or countries role in America's Colonial period.

Villone describes how the event got started:

“I had just finished participating in the ARRL Sweepstakes in 2008, and remarked how fun it was. I could not figure out why there were not more of these type special events on the air? So I decided to try my luck and create one for one year only to see what happens and to have some fun. I knew we had to offer a special QSL card and/or certificate plus have on hand a printer and supplies. The hard part was deciding what the event would commemorate and when to do this. I needed a theme that ALL could relate to! Also the event would have to be the type with multiple event stations involved, like the ARRL Sweeps.

Then it hit me! 13 Colonies states, during the 4th of July week and offer a certificate with the theme for the year. I made sure the theme was different each year with a different certificate design, to make it interesting and to also make the cert collectable. The theme would highlight some event or thing connected to the American Revolution. The event was held July 1st to the 4th,

2009, 4 days with no advertising except on QRZ. I had a hard time getting 13 different Ops, one from each Colony state but it worked out. All in all it was a success! We did over 12,000 contacts the first year. I decided we have a good thing going so I recruited another Op from each state and ran the event the next year in 2010. We did over 32,000 contacts in 2010, and had 26 state operators total. There was a 13 Colonies special event in 1962 but only lasted one year, according to my research. (I was 13 years old).”

Ham Radio operators and SWLs can participate in the event. Complete information about the call for each colony station and the bonus stations can be found on the event website 13colonies.us and they can follow us on Facebook – 13 Colonies Special Event Community. Stations need only make one contact with one of the participating stations or they can go for a Clean Sweep and work all 13 Colony stations and the 3 bonus stations. Each station offers a special QSL card for the event as well as a different certificate each year. Operators can keep an eye out for the special event stations can keep an eye out for them by watching many of the dx spotting networks such as DXSummit.fi.

17th Annual 13 Colonies Special Event
JULY 1ST - 7TH 2025

★ K2A/NY
★ K2B/VA
★ K2C/RI
★ K2D/CT
★ K2E/DE
★ K2F/MD
★ K2G/GA
★ K2H/MA
★ K2I/NJ
★ K2J/NC
★ K2K/NH
★ K2L/SC
★ K2M/PA

QSL GB13COL
LIBERTY TREE
IN AFFECTION TO GOD
1776
THIS CERTIFICATE CERTIFIES THAT ARS: **KU2US** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ON - AIR
-AMATEUR RADIO EVENT HONORING THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONY STATES, OUR
INDEPENDENCE, & OUR ACTIVE MILITARY / VETERANS.

THIS YEAR'S EVENT HONORS KEN VILLONE (KU2US), WHO CREATED THE 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT IN 2009

CLEAN SWEEP
ALL SSB
WM3PEN
13 CONTACTS

SKYWARN Training

Charlie WB8LDV said that TARS was well represented at the last SKYWARN Elite Spotter training April 14th. Several TARS members were observed attending NWS PAH Elite Spotter Training. W9GFS Bruce Hatfield, WB8LDV Charlie Martin, KC9ESI Bill Knowles, KC9SRC Steve Connaughton, N9WJ Dan Kelly, KO9O Steve Brewster. There may have others not spotted.



TARS Member Pictures

Bruce Hatfield W9GFS

I have been working on getting pictures for the directory but I still have too few of you! So, I will have my camera with me at the meeting this next Thursday and at Field Day for anyone who wants their picture taken. If it would be easier to just give us a picture of your own then please send a picture to me W9GFS delso1@icloud.com or Scott KD4SIR scotthibbs@gmail.com.

Brag Rag

Congrats to Josh KE9BAH on obtaining his Extra and enlisting to be a Volunteer Examiner.

Bits of Interest

Thanks to Dawnyel Flavin, the Community Paramedic that attended our last meeting for introducing us to WA9BPP Albert Arendt. Albert was a previous long-time member of TARS. We are preparing an Antenna Party to get him back on the air.



Morse Invaders

Morse training in the style of the classic Space Invaders game. KE6EEK

From Terry J. Stuckey, AB9JK via groups.io

Dayton Hamvention 2025 - Xenia, Ohio - TARS Men at Work

<https://youtube.com/clip/Ugkxm33Vv-4UiT5yOZfTPawN6vMlo8Zax2E9?si=8LWIEv6j7zfuptOq>

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.

New Dx Cluster

Mark Holland KD0EE via groups.io

Hello Amateurs,

I just discovered what I think is the best DX Cluster out there after having tried most of them all. It is called The Holy Cluster and is designed by Israeli amateurs. What I like most about it is the graphical representations and customization features. You can find it at <https://holycluster.iarc.org/>. In the setup, be sure to enter your grid square (EM68ha) to center the map on your location. Click auto on the radius to start. In the top center you will find the moon icon. Clicking on it will show the part of the earth that is in sunlight. If you don't like it, click again and it will go back to default. At the center bottom, the A, K, and Solar Flux Index is listed. The tall columns on the left are reference, and the column next to it are present readings. Green, of course, is good - tan is average - and red is poor. At a glance you can see whether band conditions are good. On the great circle map, each band is color-coded, and each mode has a shape. Hovering the mouse over them highlights the post in the table. Very cool! On the left side you can select which bands to show. On the far right you will see options for the dx postings. I highlight and select NA only as I want to see only what NA stations are working. This will get you started. There are MANY features to explore.

There is a helpful video to get you going on YouTube. Here is a link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFeqUilCaVI&t=13s>. If the link doesn't work, video is called A Revolutionary DX Cluster for Ham Radio Operators (The Holy Club) and it will appear in a search.

While I still like my HamClock, I am finding this new cluster very valuable. Enjoy!

Mark KD0EE



June Birthday's

KB9AXD	Debbie Julian	1
WB9ONU	Jerry McIntosh	5
KE9YK	Chris Lantaff	9
WB9YIG	Dave Julian	10
KC9EOU	Wendy Hibbs	12
N9AXN	Steve Parish	13
Ko9o	Steve Brewster	29
KC9BLZ	Susan Schmitt	30

Hamfest Calendar

08/16/2025 - 08/17/2025

Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Alabama State Convention

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

09/06/2025 - **Greater Louisville Hamfest 2025**

Location: Shepherdsville, KY

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association, Inc.

Website: <http://LouisvilleHamfest.com>

10/18/25 – **7th annual Southern Indiana - Hamtober Fest**

Location: Lynnville Community Center, Lynnville, Indiana

Sponsor: TARS [Tri-State Amateur Radio Society]

Website: <https://hamtoberfest.com>



11/08/2025 - **Hoosier Hills Hamfest**

Location: Bedford, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

Website: <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com>

For a complete ARRL hamfest list, go to:

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

Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next meeting will be July 17th, 6:30 pm at the Vanderburgh Co. EMA west side training facility, **[1440 Harmony Way](#)**.

Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited!

Contact us for more details.

Vanderburgh County Auxcomm

Chris KE9YK IN82RACES@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer

c: 812.453.1972 Hamshack Hotline: 12604 WinLink: KE9YK



Warrick Co Auxcomm

The Warrick County Auxcomm group meets on the second Monday of each month. The meeting begins at 6:30pm and generally is completed by 9:00pm. **Starting in July, we will be meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Still at 6:30.**

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

ARRL and RRI

– Toward One National Traffic System

From NTS Letter for May 6, 2025

During the past few weeks, representatives from the NTS subcommittee of the ARRL Board's Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee (EC-FSC) and Radio Relay International (RRI) have been meeting with the intent of finding commonality with a goal of presenting to the public and public service organizations a National Traffic System with joint oversight, under the leadership and guidance of the reestablished area staffs, reporting to both organizations. A memorandum of agreement has been under discussion and is near finalization. One of the provisions will include a monthly column in The NTS Letter by James Wades, WB8SIW, author of RRI's popular QNI newsletter. The first article is found below.

Why Participate in NTS?

Does an amateur radio license qualify one to provide emergency communications services to relief or government agencies? Does possession of two-way radio equipment ensure that the radio amateur is an asset to his community?

A strong argument can be made that the answer to both questions is an unequivocal "no." In fact, one might even argue that important operational messages in the hands of an inexperienced operator can cause major disruptions to a disaster operation.

Just as a soldier or hunter must practice with a rifle, a radio operator must practice conveying third-party messages on nets. The proper use of procedural phrases (prowords), the ability to convey and clarify complex terms using the standard phonetic alphabet, and the ability to achieve the brevity and efficiency of net operation does not come naturally, nor can it be learned "on the fly" in times of emergency.

The National Traffic System exists to provide the knowledge and opportunities needed to develop efficient radio communications skills. Whether one is relaying a routine radiogram or transmitting an important message during a disaster, the process remains the same. In other words, one should not measure the value of the National Traffic System based on the content of routine radiograms. Instead, one should measure the value of NTS based

on the training it offers. The skills needed to convey an unfamiliar address, text, or signature are the same skills needed to spell a complex pharmaceutical term or request a quantity of disaster supplies.

Regular participation in NTS and allied traffic nets builds important infrastructure and relationships that can be leveraged as an effective asset in time of emergency. The procedures used translate seamlessly to “tactical” style nets, such as those common to local ARES® and similar nets.

One needn't be an “iron-man (or woman)” operator to reap the benefits of NTS participation. Make a commitment to check into one or two nets per week to represent your area. Originate a radiogram or radiogram ICS-213 message once or twice per month. Eventually, proper, standardized procedures will become automatic.

Standardization and practice are essential. When your house is on fire or a medical emergency occurs, it is reasonable to expect that agency volunteers have the necessary training and practice needed to perform their job safely and adequately. Likewise, when your community calls upon the Amateur Radio Service to provide supplemental communications or fill in a gap during a communications outage, it has a reasonable expectation that those reporting to assist have the necessary skills to communicate accurately and effectively. NTS nets provide that training and experience.

There is a renewed interest in organized traffic-handling network operations. Jump in and assist with the ongoing NTS renaissance while preparing yourself to be of service to your community when the time comes. – James Wades, WB8SIW

Training Opportunities

A reminder that the Virtual NTS Training Net (VNTN) continues to meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM Eastern Time. The VNTN URL is bitl.to/3xj4. Anyone interested in message handling is welcome. No experience required, only an interest in learning.

Want to learn about message handling on CW traffic nets? The Long Island CW Club has a great training program for learning CW, which is a lot of fun, and it also offers a class on using that CW on NTS traffic nets, which is a good way to practice your skills in a very useful activity. You must be a member of the club to participate in these classes, but the nominal fee is well worth it. Check out the club's website, longislandcwclub.org, for more information about joining, and contact Ed Conway, N2GSL, for details on LICW's NTS training.

Training on digital voice networks. Bill Leibengood, N8RWF, is working on a “National Traffic System Digital Voice Traffic Training and Information Net.” As many amateurs, including Technician class licensees, are using various digital voice modes,

and as conditions on HF can at times hinder traffic relay, it makes sense to develop training on these other modes. Bill states that “the brilliance of this reflector and network is that it can be accessed by any amateur radio station with almost any of the digital voice modes currently available. It can also be accessed via EchoLink. It can be accessed from anywhere in many different ways.” He also points out that this is in no way meant to replace or bypass any of the current NTS structure, but does offer alternatives or, in other words, another tool in the “toolbox.”

Bill continued, “The net could occur either monthly or bi-weekly with multi-purposes: 1) Generate interest in traffic handling and expand to digital voice; 2) Train stations interested in traffic handling; 3) Traffic handler fellowship; 4) Establish a common place for traffic handlers to periodically meet; 5) Establish common ground rules when issues arise; 6) Discuss traffic handling process and procedure; 7) Have fun! Check out the following link (URF106 Universal Reflector) for the Michigan Multiprotocol Reflector.”

== NBEMS Net ==

From ARRL Indiana Section News for the week of May 12, 2025

Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software (NBEMS) is a software suite that allows amateur radio operators to send and receive data using just about any computer. Many local areas have NBEMS nets including Indiana (Monday-Friday at 9:00 am Eastern Time on 3.576 or 7.080 MHz). Now, there is a transcontinental NBEMS Net that meets on Tuesdays at 9:00 pm Eastern Time on 7.068 or 14.068 MHz using the Olivia 8/500 mode. Fldigi is the most commonly-used software (<https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/>).

And, there's a groups.io group where net activities are discussed:

<https://groups.io/g/transcontinental-nbems-net>

If you can make FT8 contacts with your HF radio, you can make Olivia contacts.

VE Testing 2025

June 7 2025 - 9AM Central time

July 26 2025 - 9AM Central time

August 23 2025 - 9AM Central time

September 27 2025 - 9AM Central time

November 22 2025 - 9AM Central time

December 27 2025 - 9AM Central time

January 31 2026 - 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@arri.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



Secretary Report

Tri-State Amateur radio Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/03/2025

Minutes recorded by Ross Cecil.

Meeting called to order by __Scott KD4SIR__ at 06:30PM CST.

Board Members/Officers Present:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Hibbs KD4SIR, President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerry McCintosh WB9ONU, Vice President |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH Treasurer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Van Vorst N9oL, Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Holland KD0EE, Dir (2024-25) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross Cecil KC9JOV, Dir (2024-25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terry WB9KQF, Dir (2024-25) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlie Martin WB8LDV Dir (2025-26) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herb KB9MZH, Dir (2025-26) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Hatfield, Dir (2025-26) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave wb9yig | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris ke9yk |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Sandine KC9UVG | <input type="checkbox"/> Josh Gibson KE9BAH |

Treasurer's Report

All member payments for 10-meter antenna build have been received and all expenses have been paid. A total of \$402 was spent and \$390 was received.

Nothing was received from the Red Cross in March.

There was no VE testing in March so no income.

Payment of \$550 was made for rental of the Lynnville Community Center for Hamtoberfest on 18Oct2025; of the \$550, \$150 is the deposit which is expected to be returned.

Charlie WB8LDV moved to accept the treasurer's report and Ross KC9JOV seconded the motion; approved by all members.

Scott KD4SIR moved to pay Chris KD9YK \$17.99 for award certificate paper; Jerry WB9ONU seconded the motion; the motion was approved by all.

Chris KE9YK asked the board to approve spending money to update the McCutchan award plaque which has gotten out of date. Chris will update the board on the cost before proceeding. Charlie WB8LDV moved to approve this, Jerry WB9ONU seconded, and all approved.

Old Business

Discussion led by Scott KD4SIR on need for a greeter at club meetings: Scott doesn't want anyone new to not be welcomed. Scott asked the board to act as a welcoming committee and try to greet everyone in meetings.

Discussion led by Jerry WB9ONU on 10-meter net: Need to get more members active on 10-meter net. Jerry suggests having a conversation topic on each net.

New Business

The storage yard barn at the Red Cross needs painting. Ross KC9JOV will lead the effort. Scott KD4SIR offered to help. Ross will measure the barn at the next meeting and will provide a cost estimate for the required paint.

Jerry WB9ONU led discussion on need to operate two radios at Red Cross for events like INQP. The requirement is for a second antenna physically located away from the current mast and antenna. A suggestion was made to mount antenna at the yard barn but the long distance from the shack in the Red Cross building makes this a challenge.

Scott KD4SIR requested that this be deferred to the shack committee.

Hamtoberfest Discussion

Hamtoberfest will be Saturday, 18 October 2025 at the Lynnville Community Center. Charlie WB8LDV led discussions on the raffle prize and ticket prices.

After discussion, Ross KC9JOV moved to offer the same prize as last year (Yaesu FT-891) and use the same ticket prices as last year (\$ 5 each / 3 for \$10). Charlie WB8LDV seconded the motion, and all approved.

Jerry WB9ONU led discussion on possible half-pot raffle at Hamtoberfest.

General discussion was that there was no reason to have a half-pot raffle as it produces little income and detracts from other fund raising (especially radio raffle). Charlie WB8LDV moved to not have a half-pot raffle, Ross KC9JOV seconded, and all approved.

Scott KD4SIR led discussion on monthly Fox Hunt. Fox Hunt has been a successful activity. The next Fox Hunt will be Sunday, 13 April 2025, at 1:00 pm; it will be led by Josh KE9BAH.

Repeater Committee

No Comments

INQP

INQP will be on Saturday, 3 May 2025, at the Red Cross building. Jerry WB9ONU is leading the work. Jerry doesn't have captains for bands yet. There was a discussion on meals during INQP: Jerry will order pizzas for the meals; drinks will be BYOB. A budget of \$70 was requested for the food. Jerry WB9ONU moved to have a budget of \$70 for food, this was seconded by Charlie WB8LDV, all approved.

Field Day

There was little discussion other than Dave KC9UVG offered to be a side-band captain. Scott KD4SIR will inform Mark Holland of this offer.

World Amateur Radio Day

Discussion that the club is late getting ready for an Open House on World Amateur Radio Day on 18 April 2025. Jerry WB9ONU and Scott KD4SIR will open the shack for viewing by the Red Cross staff on that day.

Antenna Parties

None scheduled.

Lewis and Clark Activation

Lewis and Clark activation is on 31 May 2025; Scott KD4SIR is leading the effort.

Future Club Meeting Topics

April – Windows / Linux OS – Chris Matthews

May – Lewis and Clark activation; Fox Hunt Strategy

June – SDR operations; Field Day preparations

July – Dry Tortuga DXposition

August – Picnic

September -

October -

November -

December – Christmas Party

“Benefity”

Scott KD4SIR led discussion of Benefity service: Benefity provides listing and registration services so that non-profit 503C organizations can easily receive corporate matching donations. Ross KC9JOV asked for more before authorizing Scott to register TARS with Benefity. Scott will send information to the board via email.

Tri-State Amateur radio Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: 05/01/2025

Meeting called to order by __Scott KD4SIR__ at 06:33PM CST.

Board Members/Officers Present:

- Scott Hibbs KD4SIR, President
- Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH Treasurer
- Jerry McCintosh WB9ONU, Vice President
- John Van Vorst N9oL, Secretary
- Mark Holland KD0EE, Dir (2024-25)
- Ross Cecil KC9JOV, Dir (2024-25)
- Terry WB9KQF, Dir (2024-25)
- Charlie Martin WB8LDV Dir (2025-26)
- Herb KB9MZH, Dir (2025-26)
- Bruce Hatfield, Dir w9gfs(2025-26)
- Dave KC9UVG
- Dave wb9yig
- Chris ke9yk
- Dave Sandine KC9UVG
- Josh Gibson KE9BAH

Reading of officer reports:

Treasurers Report Report ending 4/28/2025 read by Tom kd9pfh – Motion to accept by John N9oL, seconded by Terry wb9kqf .Report was accepted.
Secretary’s Report – Minutes from 4/03/2025 meeting read by John Van Vorst, N9oL – Motion to accept by Mark kd0ee seconded by Charlie wb8ldv . Report was accepted.

Had a discussion about needed changes to by-laws/constitution.

- Definition of quorum
- Definition of how board meetings should be conducted
- Others?

Discussed old business-

- 10-meter nets have been going ok. Need to advertise more and get folks attending.

Hamtoberfest-

- Discussed reconsidering the raffle- motion made by Terry wb9kqf to purchase Yaesu ftm-510DRASP , seconded by Bruce seconded. Cost would be \$664.00 or less. Motion passed. This vote supersedes last months vote on radio choice.
- Motion by Bruce to add 2nd raffle prize, of FT-70D radio cost of \$160, Tom kd9pfh seconded.
- N9oL will purchase these 2 radios at Dayton.
- Made decision to keep raffle ticket prices the same.

Repeater Committee – no changes since last meeting

Community Service – WW2 museum radio displays.

- Scott discussed with Richard at the museum and wants to move forward with purchasing wifi morse code units called CW Hotline.
- Cost of these devices \$55 each kit. N9OL made motion to purchase 3 of these units at \$55 ea. Scott seconded motion. Motion passed.
- Scott will order them and put them together, and will work with the museum on the displays.

INQP

- Chris KE9YK is setting up the SSB station and Mark KD0EE is going to arrive early at Red Cross to set up CW station.
- Discussed budget. Motion made by n9oL to set food budget of \$125 for INQP, Bruce seconded.

Lewis and Clark

- All set and folks are signing up.

Future meetings-

- May- Lewis and Clark presentation, round table show and tell on Fox Hunting
- June- field day preparation and POTA
- July- Dry Tortugas DXpedition trip

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 CST.

TARS gen meeting 2025-05-08

Past biz

- INQP was held here at Red Cross
- TARS assisted the War Museum in their 5K run on Sat 5/3.
 - Thank you to all volunteers, it was a great success
 - Richard N9OPS made remarks about how it went, and expressed great thanks to the group.
 - War time volunteers was very pleased

Hamvention

- May 16-18, everyone should go atleast once.
- Talked about where our booth was and how exciting hamvention

Summer Field Day remarks by Mark kd0ee

- June 28 1PM.-29 4PM
- We need to start planning now
- Read the purpose of field day
- Our club objective
 - Have fun
 - Keep it simple!! Do things we know
 - Keep it safe. Will have safety officer
 - Promote community awareness of ham radio
 - Achieve respectable score
- Will be held here at Red Cross, and class 4F. Exchange will be 4F IN
 - 2 CW stations – N9oL camper and the shed
 - 1 digital FT8
 - 1 SSB – in the Red Cross radio room
 - GOTA Get On The Air station outside under tent
 - Tom kd9pfh food/hospitality
 - Chris – safety officer
- Bonuses
 - Publicity
 - Info table
 - Invite elected official
 - Invite rep from service agency
 - Alternate power at least 5 qso’s
 - W1aw FD message
 - Message to section manager
 - Safety Officer
 - Youth participation
- Antennas
 - Station captains need to plan for the station equipment and antennas

TARS picnic

Hamtoberfest Oct 12

- Made raffle prize announcement
Lewis and Clark on the Air presentation



Treasurer Report

Tri-state Amateur Radio Society Financial Report for April 2025			
Amateur Radio Society Primary Account			
Opening Balance:			\$12,046.96
TARS sub-accounts			
General Fund sub-account			
Opening Bal		\$4,058.67	
Receipts:			
Membership	\$75.00		
Flat Panel Donations	\$20.00		
Donation - Excess Membership	\$0.50		
Total Receipts ---->>		\$95.50	
Expenditures:			
Certificate Paper - Chris Lantaff	(\$28.14)		
Total Expenditures---->>		(\$28.14)	
Ending Balance General Fund			\$4,126.03
Repeater Maint & investment - Restricted acct			
Opening Balance		\$6,641.30	
Receipts:			
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
None	\$0.00		
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of Repeater Restrictd sub-account			\$6,641.30
Red Cross Fund - Restricted Acct			
Opening Balance		\$1,346.99	
Receipts:			
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
none			
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of Red Cross Restrictd sub-account			\$1,346.99
Ending Balance - TARS primary Checking Account			\$12,114.32
TARS IGC (IN Gaming Commission) restricted checking account:			
Opening Balance		\$857.38	
Receipts:			
none	\$0.00		
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
	\$0.00		
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of IGC Restrictd checking account			\$857.38

Tom KD9PFH TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2025

[Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air May 31st - June 15th 2025](#)

[MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND](#) June 7-8 2025

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

[Field Day June 28-29 2025](#)

[13 Colonies Special Event](#) July

[TARS PICNIC August 16th, Audubon Sycamore Shelter](#)

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

[Route 66 Special Event](#) September

[TARS 7th annual HAMTOBER FEST October 18 , 2025](#)

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

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

2026

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

[Winter Field Day January](#)

[TARS Banquet February 2026??](#)

[INQP May](#)

TARS @ Groups.IO



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

You can subscribe at <https://groups.io/g/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.w9og@gmail.com

TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club
ARRL [Indiana Section](#)
Section Manager: Bob Burns [AK9R](#)
ARRL [Central Division](#)
Division Director: Brent Walls [N9BA](#)



TARS mailing address:

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Don't forget to check out our web page www.w9og.net

Facebook Group

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

TARS Groups.io email list: TARS@Groups.IO

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2025 Club Officers - Board members

President [Scott Hibbs KD4SIR](#)

Vice President [Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU](#)

Treasurer [Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH](#)

Secretary [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Board of Directors

[Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) (2025-2026)

[Bruce Hatfield W9GFS](#) (2025-2026)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) (2025-2026)

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

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

[Terry McCraey WB9KQF](#) (2024-2025)

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Chris Lantaff KE9YK

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