

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

October 2025 – Vol. LXXVIII, No. 10



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

October 2025

For about a hundred and twenty-five years, since the beginning of wireless radio, there has been a spouse popping in and out of our shacks and checking the financial spending of the radio room. It's part of the entry into the hobby, just like our tests, and it is something we all have to navigate to get on the air. Due to this, it is fair to say that many in the hobby have our ways of saving up for the equipment that we desire. In many cases this is in a form of currency known as "brownie points". I don't know why it is called that, but I do know that this is what makes Amateur Radio run. I recently said this to a local ham who was mobile with his wife in the car. There were long pauses for him to get back to me, and I might have inadvertently caused his brownie point currency to get more expensive with more honey "dues". He did have to get off the air so he could concentrate on his driving. Lol

No worries though, my brownie point currency recently was affected. I've been saving up my brownie points for that new Flexradio Aurora that is coming out. But the other day I was bragging about Deb KE9ACL to my wife Wendy KC9EOU for purchasing a "dream" first shack. The Yaesu FT-991a, a copper 70cm/2m Jpole (just like mine), and a GAP Titan antenna (just like mine). I was explaining this gives Deb all bands with fusion, a tuner and 100 watts HF and 50 watts UHF/VHF. Truly a dream shack. In a moment of jealousy my wife said if I thought her shack was such a dream why don't I marry her, to which I replied, "But I got a better radio with you." For those of you not following along, I did imply I was married to my wife because she lets me buy a really nice radio. For those of you still lost, it also implies that there wasn't any other quality about which I am married to her. If you're still lost there probably isn't any help for you – or me, other than to explain my brownie point currency immediately nosedived into what can only be called a prolonged 1970's recession, bordering on a 1930's style depression. It might be another 125 years before I can buy that Aurora. Lucky me, I didn't have to move my hobby to the garage, or find a sudden interest in POTA activations.

In other related bad news: I got an email from FlexRadio, the makers of the better radio my wife still allows me to have in my shack, completely out of her kind, caring, wonderful, intelligent, lovely, beautiful, and the plethora of qualities she has completely unrelated to that radio whatsoever. Turns out all the effort I was putting into gathering brownie points anyway got trashed with that email. Flexradio has made a decision that will keep me from purchasing anything from them again. They are joining the anti-consumer ranks and going with a subscription model for their software which means that you don't own what you buy anymore. Unless you pay them monthly, all the new features of the Aurora belongs to them, you only buy the basic features of that radio. For everything I own, I also own all of its features just as a rule. If there is a feature in my Flex 6600 that I want that they require monthly payments for, I'll "fix" my broken radio myself to provide that feature, or I'll sell it for a radio that doesn't extort like the mafia asking me for protection money. It's called fixing, not hacking. So plainly, unless they drop the subscription model, or the open source community provides better software that allows MY radio to give me all of MY features, I will not be owning another Flex. (Yes I joined fulu. <https://fulu.org/>)

Well it's not all bad news for the club though. We got our Hamtober Fest coming up and I'm gathering a box to donate for the club tables. I suggest you do the same. Doesn't hurt to earn brownie points and say you're getting rid of all the clutter while you're doing it. Make a big show of it too, like how you hate to get rid of all these nice things but you love your spouse SO much and agree there shouldn't be so much clutter. Plus you get to show support your local club of about 80 members.

Next fox hunt will be a teaching fox hunt. It will be a week after Hamtober Fest. And please consider running for office next year.

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023-25

October TARS Meeting

The next TARS regular meeting is this Thursday October 9th 7:00pm at the Red Cross. The meeting program will be on making coax antenna traps.

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 [La Campirana](#), 724 N Burkhardt Rd.
The only 100% Authentic Mexican Grill with a full fresh Juice Bar!

TARS OFFICER ELECTIONS

2026 Officer elections will be at the November 13th meeting, but we are actively looking for nominations and will take them from the floor at the October TARS meeting.



Offices up for election are:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Board Member positions.

If you wish to nominate someone or yourself, please contact [Charlie Martin WB8LDV](#) or any member of the election committee. The only requirement is to have been a TARS member in good standing for at least one full year.

Contest Corner for October 2025

The big event for October is the CQ Worldwide SSB contest on October 25-26. It is an easy contest to enter and guarantees many DX contacts. The exchange is easy – RS and CQ zone, which for Indiana is 4. With great conditions at this point in the solar cycle, it should be exciting. Here's your opportunity for 10 meters! For those with low power and simple antennas, 10 meters should provide good hunting. The ionosphere is a great equalizer of signals. You may have better skip conditions with your simple

TARS Calendar

October

- 1 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Herb, KB9MZH)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 2 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 ZOOM**
- 8 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 9 **Eat'n Before the Meet'n 5:30 – La Campirana**
TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
- 15 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 18 **HAMTOBER FEST 7:00am**
- 22 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry, WB9ONU)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 25 **Fox Hunt 9am – Red Cross**
- 29 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-

November

- 5 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 6 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 ZOOM**
- 12 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 13 **Eat'n Before the Meet'n 5:30 – Freddy's**
TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
- 19 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Herb, KB9MZH)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 22 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**
- 26 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Mark, KC9TYA)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

antenna than the big guns with their massive aluminum and power. Give it a try. You may be surprised.

Since we may not get the November issue until after the first weekend of the month, let me also issue an invitation to try the ARRL Sweepstakes. The CW contest is the first weekend of November (November 1-3) and the SSB contest is the third weekend of November (November 15-17). It is a US and Canada contest, so DX antennas are not needed. This is one of the few contests where the Midwest may have an advantage over the east and west coasts. The exchange is somewhat difficult, and the cw speed is always challenging, but the experience will help you become a better op. Check out the rules at

Fox Hunt - October

The Fox Hunt for October will be a training fox hunt.
October 25th 9am.

We will start at the Red Cross at 9am. Elmers can help Novices and share equipment. Everyone will get a score card and record their bearing. Once completed, we will all go to a second site and get another bearing for the score card. We can repeat this process 5 times or until the crowd is convinced where the fox is located.

I've already picked out the location of the fox and the 5 locations to get bearings.

Scoring will be like golf. The bearing submitted will be subtracted from the actual bearing so the lowest score will determine the winner. (if your bearing matches, your score is zero, if you are one degree off, your score will be a 1 etc)

We can carpool etc. Should be fun. More info to come.

ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.



The campaign, announced in an [ARRL Member Bulletin](#) on September 17, 2025, follows the reintroduction of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act in February 2025 (see [ARRL News 02/07/2025](#)). The bipartisan bills -- [H.R.1094](#) in the House and [S.459](#) in the Senate -- are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when such antennas are hidden in trees, placed in attics, mounted on vehicles, or look like flagpoles.

"This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators," said ARRL President Rick Roderick. **"These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters."**

Public Support Needed for Passage

To advance the legislation, ARRL is calling on its members and all licensees of the US Amateur Radio Service to take action by sending letters to their congressional representatives. Through a dedicated online tool at <https://www.arrl.org/HOA>, hams can easily generate and submit pre-drafted letters with a few clicks.

Go to — <https://www.arrl.org/HOA>
— and help us by sending your letters to your Representative and Senators.

ARRL has emphasized that every letter matters. "Your Representative and Senators need to know that the passage of this legislation is important to you."

For more information about the ARRL grassroots campaign to pass the bill, please visit www.arrl.org/current-legislation.

FCC Issues Notice of Violation for Unauthorized One-Way Transmissions and Denial of Inspection 10/01/2025

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a [Notice of Violation \(NoV\) to Mike F. Conte](#) of Naples, Florida, citing alleged rule violations related to unauthorized transmissions and refusal to allow station inspection. The FCC notice by the Regional Director, Region One, Enforcement Bureau, was released on September 29, 2025, and includes that Conte holds an Amateur Radio Service license, KA2FPZ. According to the Notice, FCC Enforcement Bureau agents from the New York Field Office conducted an investigation on March 17, 2025. Using direction-finding techniques, they located and monitored transmissions on 7.200 MHz emanating from a residence owned by Conte in Brookfield, Connecticut that appeared to be one-way broadcasts originating from KA2FPZ. According to the FCC, Conte was "pretending to speak with a station he identified as KB2VBO," -- a call sign not currently assigned to any licensee. No station responded to the transmissions, and the Notice included that "Conte later admitted to an agent that he was engaging in one-way communication that was neither allowed nor exempted under the rules."

In addition to the alleged unauthorized broadcasting, the FCC reported that "Agents were denied access to the Residence," in violation of the Commission's rules.

The Notice of Violation outlines two specific rule violations:

- 47 CFR § 97.103(c) -- “The station licensee must make the station and the station records available for inspection upon request by an FCC representative.”
- 47 CFR § 97.113(b) -- “An amateur station shall not engage in any form of broadcasting, nor may an amateur station transmit one-way communications except as specifically provided in these rules . . .”

The Commission ordered Conte to respond in writing within 20 days of the Notice’s release, providing a detailed explanation of the circumstances, corrective actions taken, and a timeline for addressing any remaining issues. The FCC emphasized that the Notice does not preclude further action if warranted.

Bits Of Interest

2M/70CM Antenna

Below is a link to Bob K0NR's radio site where he posted information pertaining to a telescopic antenna for 2 meters and 70 CM. Bob lives in Colorado but was once a native Hoosier from Ft. Wayne. He and his wife Joyce are very active with SOTA here in the Rocky Mountains especially on 2 meters, consequently his quest for performing antennas! I know we have many members who enjoy 2 meters and thought someone might be interested in reading his article.

<https://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2025/09/new-2m-70cm/>
73, Dennis - WA2USA

[FCC issues near-million dollar fine against New Jersey radio pirate](#)

[Installing a Permanent Remote HF Station on Frying Pan Tower in the Atlantic Ocean](#)



October Birthday’s

K9HVI	Ed Folz	6
KE9BAH	Joshua Gibson	7
WB9KQF	Terry McCraey	10
KC9TYA	Mark Thienes	11
N9JCA	Chris Matthews	23
KD9UAY	David Koewler	24
K9KDJ	Kenneth Johnson	26
KD9ZQK	William Arte	26
N9ISU	James Burroughs	26
N9YAI	Randy Jobe	28

Hamfest Calendar

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 Nov 20th, 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 HOIP: 102334 WinLink: KE9YK

Warrick Co Auxcomm

The Warrick County Auxcomm group meets on the third Tuesday 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

VE Testing 2025

No VE testing in October

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@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](mailto:John.VanVorst@arrl.net) c: 812.305.4100



Secretary Report

Tri-State Amateur radio Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Date: 09/04/2025

Meeting called to order by Scott KD4SIR at 06:33PM 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Holland KD0EE, Dir (2024-25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ross Cecil KC9JOV, Dir (2024-25) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry WB9KQF, Dir (2024-25) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlie Martin WB8LDV Dir (2025-26) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Herb KB9MZH, Dir (2025-26) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Hatfield, Dir (2025-26) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave KC9UVG | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave wb9yig | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris ke9yk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gibson KE9BAH | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Sandine KC9UVG |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh |

Reading of officer reports:

Treasurers Report Report ending 7/31/2025 read by Tom kd9pfh – Motion to accept by Charlie wb8ldv seconded by Terry wb9kqf . Report was accepted.

Secretary's Report – No minutes read due to n9ol not able to attend the prev 2 board meetings–.

Kudos to welcome committee. We are getting new members and that is great.

Fox hunt in Oct went well and Josh ke9bah found the fos. Planning next fox hunt on Sep 21

Business discussed-

- Josh ke9bah proposed purchasing a fox transmitter for use by the clubs.
 - o Total cost \$78
 - Battery approx. \$10
 - Controller approx. \$63
 - Possible 5\$ shipping
 - o Motion made by Terry wb9kqf to purchase this. Bruce w9gfs seconded.

- o Motion carried.

Jerry wb9onu – discussed picnic. Josh Gibson and John Small and Tom Hilgeman set up radios. There was a fox hunt and somehow (tee hee hee) Scott found it.

- Discussed how HOT it was. There is a desire to move it later in year and/or to somewhere with some A/C.
- There were fans and much appreciated.
- Jerry wb9onu will head up the planning and event chairman.

Shack committee –

- We have the WX station ready to start the install. Scott will get with Brandan on planning.
- Also need to plan getting feedline run to the 'Welcare room'.

Hamtober Fest-

- Table rentals are a little slow this year. Everyone needs to talk it up, share the flyer, etc.
- Would like more equipment donations for table sales.
- Discussed the food offering- Tom kd9pfh will head up food stuff.
- ALL board members need to plan on helping with the event.

Photo directory

- In progress, Scott and Bruce are working on it.

Repeater committee

- Need to schedule a repeater committee soon. N9oL will schedule.

WW2 museum project. Dean and Steve ko9o are assembling the CW devices. Scott will get with them for addl planning.

Election Committee- Charlie, Mark and Terry report they are still working on getting complete roster.

- Josh volunteered to run for board. Still need at least 1 more
- Discussed present and future elections, possibilities.

Winter Field Day

- Mark kd0ee starting to work on this.

Discussed 'field trips' for the club, to POTA activations, trips to VOA museum, other possibilities..

Future meetings-

- September- EMA amin office tour
- October – wa2usa dennis giving presentation??
- November- OPEN
- December- Christmas party

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48PM CDT.

TARS gen meeting 2025-09-11

Called to order by Scott KD4SIR at 7PM

Recited pledge of allegiance and had a moment of silence for 9/11. Nick went over the security procedures and evacuation routes for this office.

Scott mentioned some antenna parties in the last few weeks.

Discussed the club picnic, thanked all to coming. Asked for suggestions on location for next year.

N9oL discussed Hamtober Fest, asked for volunteers, donations, etc. Scott showed off the CW keys that will be donated to the WW2 War museum for a CW exhibit.

Scott asked for nominations for TARS officers and board. The following individuals nominated for BoD :

- Josh ke9bah
- Steve KO9O
- Deb ke9acl

Steve k9src announced the Warrick S.E.T on 10/28. If anyone wants to participate in that please give him a call.

Turned over to Nick kb9rmy for his presentation on the EMA.

Treasurer Report

Tri-state Amateur Radio Society Financial Report for August 2025			
Amateur Radio Society Primary Account			
Opening Balance:			\$10,031.48
TARS sub-accounts			
General Fund sub-account			
Opening Bal		\$3,775.19	
Receipts:			
Membership	\$25.00		
Antenna Build Receipts	\$300.00		
Donations for Antenna Party Supplies	\$160.00		
Total Receipts --->>		\$485.00	
Expenditures:			
Antenna Build Parts	(\$290.65)		
TARS Picnic - Jerry McIntosh	(\$81.80)		
TARS Picnic - Tom Hilgeman	(\$17.99)		
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$390.44)	
Ending Balance General Fund			\$3,869.75
Repeater Maint & investment - Restricted acct			
Opening Balance		\$4,846.30	
Receipts:			
none			
Total Receipts --->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
ImPC Remote Subscription	(\$41.73)		
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$41.73)	
Ending Balance of Repeater Restrictd sub-account			\$4,804.57
Red Cross Fund - Restricted Acct			
Opening Balance		\$1,409.99	
Receipts:			
none			
Total Receipts --->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
none			
Total Expenditures--->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of Red Cross Restrictd sub-account			\$1,409.99
Ending Balance - TARS primary Checking Account			\$10,084.31
TARS IGC (IN Gaming Commission) restricted checking account:			
Opening Balance		\$247.48	
Receipts:			
none			
Total Receipts --->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
Printing - John Van Vorst	(\$51.36)		
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$51.36)	
Ending Balance of IGC Restrictd checking account			\$196.12

Tom KD9PFH TARS Treasurer



Looking Ahead

2025

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

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 7-8 2025

ARRL Kids Day June Third Saturday

Field Day June

13 Colonies Special Event July

TARS PICNIC

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

Route 66 Special Event September

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:

TARS

P.O. Box 4521

Evansville, IN 47724

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

Facebook Group

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

TARS Groups.io 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 N9QL](#)

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 KD0EE](#) (2024-2025)

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

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