

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

November 2025 – Vol. LXXVIII, No. 11



The SPARKS Newsletter is published monthly by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

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E-mail subscriptions are provided to all regular TARS members. News contributions and letters/emails to the editor are always welcome.

TARS regular membership is open to all licensed Amateur Radio operators for \$25.00 a year. An Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but do not currently hold a license. Associate membership is \$25.00 a year. Student memberships are also available for \$12.50 a year.

Membership information is available at www.w9og.net

The Tri-State Amateur Radio Society meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Cross, 29 Stockwell Rd, Evansville IN, at 7:00 p.m.

Family and visitors are always welcome to attend.

For more information, please contact one of the TARS officers listed in this newsletter or email info@w9og.net.

Presidents Corner

November already? The club elections are this month. Please attend the meeting and Vote for Pedro.

For those of you who don't know, the club is in its 78th year of existence. Many of us haven't been in the club that long. I have only been a member for 7 years. I keep repeating my favorite ham joke "where there are three hams, there are two clubs" just to illustrate that it is impossible to get along with everyone. It's not only the humanity aspect, we all have our favorite thing about this hobby and it is impossible to enjoy everything this hobby provides. There are just some things we don't enjoy. Like all history, the club has had some bad years. I bring this up because while Josh KE9BAH and I were verifying the bearings for the teaching foxhunt and waving our yagi antennas around like the proud hams we are, a ham stopped to introduce himself. He was from CLUB PAST and left during a bad time. He asked how the club has been doing, and I invited him to rejoin and find out and I was proud to explain CLUB PRESENT. I invited him to rejoin us as we have fun, share and stay positive.

Today we have old members and young members and are nearly 80 members strong. We have almost half that number attending our meetings. We have subject matter experts on just about every aspect of amateur radio: satellites, towers, repeaters, digital, direction finding, Morse, emergency, contesting, soldering and electronics, antennas (really you want me to list them all?) and even plumbing. OK not plumbing but I could be wrong. We got it covered, name it, I bet we got it covered. As president, I have focused on having fun, staying positive, and sharing. I think this is our success.

I didn't sit down to write a TARS Christmas Carol play, but why not? No one knows Club Future though. I do know it is you. Yes YOU, the ME reading Sparks now. The magic formula of Time, Talent, and Treasure has a great bearing on our club's future. We need you to donate all three. Your time sharing and helping other hams, Your talent sharing how you do the ham voodoo you do and sharing your treasure, your financial donation (we are a charity), for the club's infrastructure in serving the community. This club needs YOU to have fun. This club needs YOU to stay positive, and this club needs YOU to share. And lastly, I need you to stay patient in doing so. Not everyone is on the journey that you are on. We all approach things from different angles, and failures allow us fantastic learning opportunities to catch up to your success. (fade out, curtain, end play)

Thank you John N9oL, Tom KD9PFH and everyone for a fantastic Hamtoberfest! **Please join us for the Saturday Christmas Party at the Red Cross on December 13th, 1:00 pm.** It's really is a lot of fun, probably the largest White Elephant/Dirty Santa game you will ever attend, and bring something for show and tell at the Christmas Party. Also we have Winter Field Day approaching and our Banquet in February. At the next meeting, I need you to tell me what the most interesting ham in the world would say or do. Because YOU, my friends, are the most interesting hams in the world. Mine is "Stay CQ, my friends." What's yours?

One more item, a shout out to AJ. Others got their callsign in the same session, but AJ is probably the first in line for the FCC to issue him a sequential call sign after KE9EBG. Hang in there AJ - it really is worth the wait.

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023-25

November TARS Meeting

The next TARS regular meeting is this Thursday November 13th 7:00pm at the Red Cross. This will be the election for 2026 officers and the meeting program will be presented by Brian WB9QVR.

At the November meeting I will be leading a discussion entitled **"SWR, Resonance, Impedance, Efficiency and Antenna Performance: What Really Matters - and What Doesn't"**. As the title suggests, we'll be talking about the things that actually affect antenna performance and the many common misconceptions about factors that, well, simply don't. I'll also present some relatively simple criteria for designing or selecting an antenna for a particular situation.

As a bonus (and a reward for sitting through this presentation :) , I'll also be giving away to one attendee an HF multiband wire antenna which is suitable for either portable use or as a permanent installation.

I look forward to seeing everyone next Thursday (November 13) at the Red Cross!

73 de Brian WB9QVR

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 [Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers](#), 2848 N Green River Rd, Evansville.

Desk of Jerry - WB9ONU

Its November again so it must be time for the TARS Election. That means anyone that has been a paid members for a year can run. It isn't that hard to be a Board Member, Treasure, Secretary, Vice President, or President. The hard part is to get the courage to step up and run. The club needs members to step up and try. New officers give new ideas. Unless someone runs against me it looks like I will be Vice President again.

December we will have a Christmas Party instead of a club meeting. So, brush up on Dirty Santa. It will be a fun time with snacks. Stay tune for more details on the Dec Meeting Sat Dec 13th, Christmas Party

Mark your calendar!

TARS Christmas Party Saturday Dec 13th!

TARS Calendar

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 +-

December

- 3 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 4 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 ZOOM**
- 10 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry, WB9ONU)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 13 **TARS Christmas Party (SATURDAY) 1:00pm**
- 17 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 24 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 27 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**
- 31 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-

TARS OFFICER ELECTIONS

2026 Officer elections will be at the November 13th meeting.

The election ballot is attached to this issue of SPARKS. Voting is open to any current paid member of TARS.

If you would like to mail your ballot, follow the instructions on the ballot, or print a ballot out and bring it to the meeting to vote in person.



HamSCI Meteor Scatter QSO Party

Work the rocks! Decode the pings! Dec 12-13, 2025

Ham -Sci is having a meteor scatter QSO party in December. They are concentrating on 10m and 6m.

If you are interested in participating or want more information check out the link <https://hamsci.org/msqp>.

Contest Corner for November 2025

November is ARRL Sweepstakes month! The CW contest is November 1-3, and the SSB contest is November 15-17. The contests begin at 2100Z on Saturday and end at 0300Z on Monday. You may operate a max of 24 hours in the contest. The exchange is somewhat cumbersome. It is serial number, power (A=low, B=high, U= unlimited, and Q=qrp), your call, check (year of your first license) and section (IN). This is one of the few contests where we may have a propagation advantage over the east and west coasts. We are only working USA and Canada. 20, 40, and 80 meters will be your bread-and-butter bands. Go for the clean sweep of all sections. If you only have a couple of hours, go for Sunday afternoon. By that time stations will be looking for fresh meat. That can be you! Most important – have fun. This is a great way to improve your operating skills.

Also don't forget the CQ Worldwide CW contest the last weekend in November. I worked the SSB portion last weekend and the bands were red hot! Even with a dinner date on Friday and Saturday, and church commitments on Sunday, I still managed 990 qsos in 108 CQ band zones and 325 band countries for a score of 1,240,100. Ten meters was especially incredible! Don't miss these opportunities which may not happen again until another solar cycle. Enjoy it while it's there!

73,
Mark KDOEE

Beyond the Baofeng

By Chris Lantaff [KE9YK](#)

At the meeting last month Mark KDOEE talked about construction of his common mode choke and how it helped with the receiver interference noise he was getting. Here is the YouTube link he used for construction, which also has links in the comments for the hardware needed.

<https://youtu.be/AlwMmUvMhSM?si=vRZHhuxJmUI-n768>

Many people don't understand Baluns and Ununs, the differences between the types, uses, and what they do.

Perhaps over the next few months we can take a dive into understanding the differences and usage.

Hamtober Fest

Hamtober Fest 2025 a SMASHING success

Many thanks to all who attended and volunteered at Hamtober Fest a few weeks ago. We had great attendance numbers and we had ALL tables occupied by vendors and individuals selling stuff!



Congrats to the winners of our Hamtober Fest Raffle!

KC9JOV Ross Cecil was the big winner of the Yaesu FTM-510DR.

K9UIM Dave Smith of Olney IL winner of the Yaesu FT-70D HT

– enjoy those new radios!! We are already starting to plan next year's hamfest so stay tuned for more info in the coming months. Again, thank you so much for supporting our club!!
John N9oL

Fox Hunt

The Fox Hunt for October was a training fox hunt. The winner was Dean NE9S



Scott KD4SIR and Dean NE9S with TARSan.

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

November Birthday's

K9RVB	Rick Barth	5
KC9NOY	Gerald Schoenbachler	7
KE9CCS	Allen Kincheloe	13
K9LMK	Paul Richard Robb	17
K8RAO	Robert Oberst Jr.	23
KN9DXD	KennethGwin	28
KC9JOV	Cecil Ross	29
AA9WJ	Jeffrey Holt	30
KE9AUQ	Carl Carick	30

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.

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

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.N9OL) c: 812.305.4100



Secretary Report

General TARS Meeting Date: 10/09/2025

Welcome and Intro's Scott KD4SIR

Welcome and Intros - New attendees were introduced

Officer Reports

1. Secretary's Report No reading
2. Treasurer's Report

Hamtober fest

1. Oct 18, 7AM, Setup 6AM
2. Setup Friday Oct 17 3:30PM
3. Raffle tickets available for FTM-510 and FT70D
4. Biscuits and gravy \$3.00

Photo Directory Bruce W9GFS Still needs more mug shots of members for directory

Various items

Mark KD0EE

1. Certificate for LCTOTA
2. Reminded us that Lo Band season is here
3. Home brew
 - a. Box to get on the air for 160M
 - b. Common mode choke for noise reduction home brew

D Band Dongle

Terry WB9KQF Discussed his D band dongle

Sparks email issues

Chris KE9YK If you are having issues with receiving your issue of Sparks, make sure that Sparks is in your email contacts list

For sale

Larry KE9EAZ

1. Shoulder mike for sale, needs some work
2. Received certificate from Scott KD4SIR for first contact!

Fox Hunt

Scott KD4SIR Next Fox Hunt will be October 25, 1PM This will be a learning Fox Hunt to help those new to the contesting

V Band CW

Scott KD4SIR VBand, Virtual CW Band is useful for practicing CW skills with other folks and no license is required. Works over internet. Possible use will be at the WW2 Museum.

Program Coax Traps

Jerry WB9ONU Jerry along with a presentation of a YouTube video from @RicksHamShack discuss how to make traps for your antennas

Christmas Party

Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec 13 at the Red Cross, including a Dirty Santa exchange!

November Meeting

1. 2026 Elections
2. Brian WB9QVR - Program to be determined

End of meeting 8:47PM

Submitted by Dave KC9UVG

Treasurer Report

Tri-state Amateur Radio Society Financial Report for September 2025			
Amateur Radio Society Primary Account			
Opening Balance:			\$10,084.31
TARS sub-accounts			
General Fund sub-account			
Opening Bal		\$3,869.75	
Receipts:			
Membership	\$25.00		
Total Receipts ---->>		\$25.00	
Expenditures:			
W9OG Fox - Josh Gibson KE9BAH	(\$78.02)		
Total Expenditures---->>		(\$78.02)	
Ending Balance General Fund			\$3,816.73
Repeater Maint & investment - Restricted acct			
Opening Balance		\$4,804.57	
Receipts:			
none			
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
None	\$0.00		
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of Repeater Restircted sub-account			\$4,804.57
Red Cross Fund - Restricted Acct			
Opening Balance		\$1,409.99	
Receipts:			
none			
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
ForAugust VE Room	\$7.00		
Total Expenditures---->>		\$7.00	
Ending Balance of Red Cross Restircted sub-account			\$1,416.99
Ending Balance - TARS primary Checiking Account			\$10,038.29
TARS IGC (IN Gaming Commission) restricted checking account:			
Opening Balance		\$196.12	
Receipts:			
none	\$0.00		
Total Receipts ---->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
None	\$0.00		
Total Expenditures---->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of IGC Restircted checking account			\$196.12

Tom KD9PFH TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2026

Straight Key Night January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC

ARRL Kids Day Jan First Saturday

Winter Field Day January at Red Cross

TARS Banquet February 2026??

INQP May

Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

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 8th annual HAMTOBER FEST October, 2026

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

SKYWARN Recognition Day, First Saturday, December

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 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)

SPARKS Editor:

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