

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State over 75 years

July 2026 – Vol. LXXIX, No. 7



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.

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

July 2026

I'm writing this on the eve of our Field Day. It should be a fun event. Walt and I spent the evening getting the GOTA station hooked up and ready to go. I helped put up the digital station antenna for a bit. Hopefully the weather and the bands will cooperate.

I feel obligated to write about next week because it is so important. We will celebrate 250 years of The United States of America. I take great pride in our country. Our government is a product of the ideals of the Enlightenment. The Enlightenment itself is a product of the Scientific Revolution that brought new ways of thinking using empirical evidence and scientific method. The Enlightenment focused on God, reason, nature and humanity. Thus, the goal of the Enlightenment was to bring about knowledge, freedom and happiness. So when our Founding Fathers gathered to break from the tyranny of a king far away, they didn't have the time to hash out a brand new form of government, but they knew they would. They wrote a Declaration of Independence outlining unalienable rights endowed by a Creator, not by King George. A purely enlightened idea. On July 4th, 250 years ago, they voted on it. Nine colonies voted in favor, two colonies voted against (PA, SC) and one colony (NY) abstained. Eleven years later they created a Constitution to protect those rights with checks and balances. While others far away now swear allegiance to King Charles; all Americans, from our president to our local mayor, swear an allegiance to that Constitution.

Many have said this form of government is a grand experiment. How true. We usually don't get it right the first time. Our history has even had a war between citizens which is why we call it the Civil War. We make mistakes, we criticize, we do better. Everyone disliked something about the Constitution they wrote. In fact, they argued about Franklin's motion to sign the Constitution and what it would mean. They all agreed without nine states of the thirteen to ratify the document, it was just a piece of paper. The vote to sign wasn't even unanimous, it was 10-1. Dickinson (DE) was sick and asked Read (DE) to sign his name. Thirty-eight men signed thirty-nine names that Monday 17th Sep 1787. Three men absolutely refused to sign it for their own reasons. They were Gerry (MA), Randolph (VA), and Mason (VA). It wasn't all roses then; it isn't all roses now. The Declaration of Independence wasn't unanimous either. I don't think our votes have ever been unanimous since, but it seems to be how it is designed. Let's call it the American Way.

Franklin, in his speech that day, wasn't very optimistic. He said "... that this is likely to be well administered for a course of years, and can only end in despotism, as other forms have done before it, when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government." So when Elizabeth Willing Powel asked Benjamin Franklin what kind of government was created, he still wasn't very optimistic. Although his answer still rings true today: "A republic, if you can keep it."

I say we keep it Mr. Franklin. God Bless America.

Scott Hibbs KD4SIR
President TARS 2023-26

July Meeting

The next meeting is July 9th 7:00pm at Red Cross.

Presentation on TARS Repeaters

– Scott on how the 79 system works.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n

We will meet at, La Campirana, 724 N Burkhardt Rd, Evansville, 5:30 pm, before the regular meeting to grab a bite to eat, swap stories and share camaraderie before heading to the meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us.

<https://www.la-campirana.com/>

TARS 80th Anniversary Tee shirt order

Scott will have an order form for the 80th Anniversary Tee shirts (**also attached to this issue of SPARKS**) at the next meeting. Final orders accepted right after the August Meeting.

They will have the regular logo on file for members to buy shirts, hats etc. on an ongoing basis.

The pricing is for a 2-color white and red full back print this is for 36-71 total pieces.

10.50 each S-XL

12.50 each 2XL

13.50 each 3XL

If the members want to add a name it will be listed on the order form giving that option and that will be an additional \$5.00 each.

Desk of Jerry - WB9ONU

Its July and the 2026 ARRL Field Day is in the Past. The weather was the normal field day weather. We had a lot of members showed up to operate. I just hope everyone had a good time. Thanks for Mark-KD0EE for being the Chairman for this event. Thanks John N9OL for being the CW Captain, SSB Captain Mark – KD0EE. Fantastic doing double duty. The Digital Captain Jerry - WB9ONU. Want to give a Big Thank You to Brian – WB9QVR for setting up the Logging System. Then the final Thank You goes out to all of the TARS members that showed up. Let do this again, but for Winter Field Day in January.

Thanks

Jerry - wb9onu

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1, 2026 to July 7, 2026. 13 Colonies Special Event

July 11, 2026 and July 12, 2026 IARU HF World Championship

Look these up and get on and work these events. They are fun to work.

September 12

The Greatest EVENT of the year. Its TARS Picnic on September 12. So come one and come all members.

TARS Calendar

July

- 1 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 2 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 - Discord**
- 8 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
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 (Walt, WB4ZUT)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 22 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 25 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**
- 29 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Jerry, WB9ONU)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-

August

- 5 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Dave, KC9UVG)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 6 **TARS Board meeting 6:30 - Discord**
- 12 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 13 **Eat'n Before the Meet'n 5:30 Panda Express**
TARS Club Meeting 7:00pm Red Cross
- 19 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Walt, WB4ZUT)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 26 8pm Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
8:30pm Ten-meter RAG CHEW net 28.355 +-
- 29 **VE Testing 9am Red Cross**

[Connect to the TARS Google Calendar](#)

This year it will be at Burdette Park at Shelter House 13

I heard a rumor of a hidden Fox Hunt. Maybe this be the one that Scott doesn't end up in Warrick County. HA HA HA.
More to come in August.

October 17 - Will be the Hamtoberfest at Lynnville Community Center

November 12 - Will be TARS ELECTION. So start thinking of running for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 Board Members.

Jerry - wb9onu

WORK ALL TARS OFFICERS

Ok everyone it is May and Charlie Martin WB8LDV has completed the WORK ALL TARS OFFICER AWARD. So who will be the 2nd TARS members to complete the WORK ALL TARS OFFICER? Have you forgotten this award. This started in January of 2026 if after the election and the officers change you may have to start over. I started this to get more member active and let them meet the officers. If this AWARD is successful there will be more awards. I am thinking of maybe a WORK ALL STATES that everyone can work even with fusion or DMR. If you have any question, contact me.

Vice President Jerry wb9onu

June Fox Hunt

Josh took one bearing and drove to me in 17 minutes.



July Fox Hunt possibly on the 18th.

Watch the tars@groups.io for updates.

10 Meters Ragchew Net

If you don't know every Wednesday after TARS 2-meter net there is a 10 Meters Ragchew Net. This net was started to encourage HF activity for our Tech's in the club. Yes, ALL Tech are allowed on 10 meters SSB from 28.3 MHZ to 28.5 MHZ. TARS Ragchew Net is on 28.355 MHZ +/- depends if there are other amateurs using 28.355 MHZ. If you have a radio that does hf come and join the fun. It is a very informal net. Who knows we might get a check in from another state or even another county. If you don't have a radio that can operate on 28.355 MHZ you might consider getting one.

Hope to see all TECH's and non-TECH's on the Tri-State Amateur Radio 10m Ragchew Net.

Vice President Jerry wb9onu

Field Day 2026 Update

Thanks to all club members, we had another successful Field Day event. The weather was challenging, but we powered through it. Logs are still coming in, but it looks like we doubled our qso totals and score from last year. We hit all of our bonus points but one item. That is a tremendous effort on your part. As we get to the totals, I will share them with you. But for now, thanks for a great event!

Mark KD0EE

2026 Field Day Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Dig	Phone	Total	%
80	70	62	76	208	12
40	308	158	215	681	40
20	227	109	176	512	30
15	104	6	117	227	13
10	4	40	2	46	3
6	0	0	1	1	0
SAT	0	0	17	17	1

Total 713 375 604 1,692 100

Meshtastic

Another month, another successful node installation! This month, the SIM6 Deaconess Gateway was deployed with coordinated assistance from the Warrick Aux Comm Group. Positioned in an excellent location at an optimal height, this new node holds great promise. Our hope is that it will serve as the crucial link connecting Warrick and Vanderburgh Counties. In fact, we are already seeing significant improvements across the mesh network since it went live.

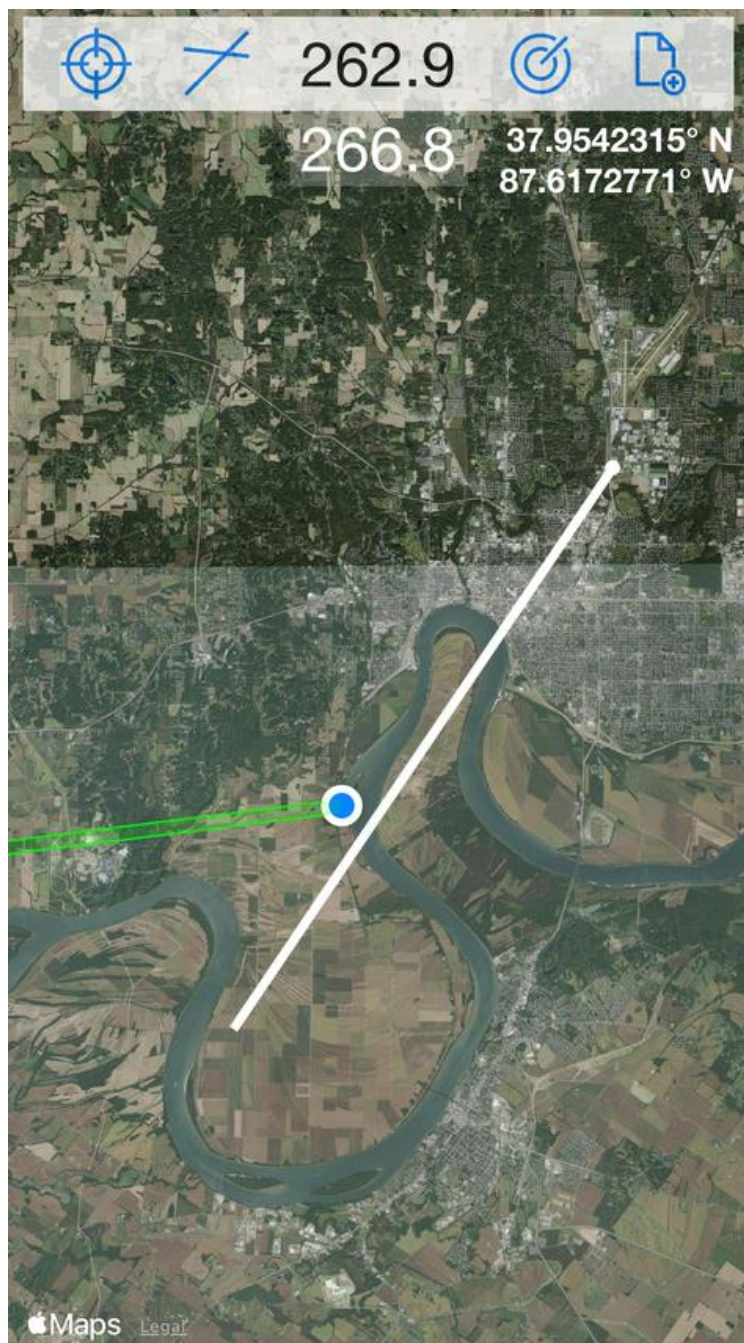
Josh – KE9BAH



Bits of Interest

From: Josh Gibson - KE9BAH via groups.io

For those curious, here is my bearing from Sigtrax. The white dot was my starting point, and the while line my bearing. Blue dot was the end location, Dogtown boat ramp.



I can see where this would be a challenging one. If you were downtown it would be very confusing with signal's bouncing off the water the buildings downtown.

I learned my lesson on one of the Fox hunts last year when Jeff was at Howell Park. I was stuck downtown by the LST.

Tips, study the Vanderburgh county map. this would be very confusing if you didn't realize there was more of Indiana and

Vanderburgh country on the other side of the river by line of sight path.

I hope everyone had fun, and enjoyed hunting even if you didn't find the Fox.

Stay tuned for date and location for next months Fox hunt.

VE Testing 2026

July 25 2026 - 9AM Central time

August 29 2026 - 9AM Central time

September 26 2026 - 9AM Central time

December 5 2026 - 9AM Central time

January 30 2027 - 9AM Central time

You must PRE-REGISTER for these sessions at www.Hamstudy.org

Examinations start promptly at 9:00 AM Central time.

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



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.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

July Birthday's

KF6XA	Dave Donnelly	2
N9DEV	Michael Knott	2
KQ4SZD	Kim Call	4
N9XXK	John McCormick	7

Hamfest Calendar

08/22/2026 - 08/23/2026

Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Alabama State Convention

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest, Inc

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

09/12/2026 - Greater Louisville Hamfest 2025

Location: Shepherdsville, KY

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association, Inc.

Website: <http://LouisvilleHamfest.com>

10/10/2026 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest

Location: Bedford, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club

Website: <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com>

10/17/26 – 8th annual Southern Indiana - Hamtober Fest

Location: Lynnville Community Center, Lynnville, Indiana

Sponsor: TARS [Tri-State Amateur Radio Society]

Website: <http://hamtoberfest.com>



For a complete ARRL hamfest list, go to:

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

Vanderburgh Co. AUXCOMM

The next meeting will be Aug 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!

We encourage everyone to participate in the WinLink Wed exercises.

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

Your input is important

Sparks is YOUR information source for club activities and local Amateur radio information.

In each issue we seek submissions from club members. Tell us about your station, projects you have made or are making, special QSL cards, special event station contacts, DXpedition contacts or anything 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 encouraged and welcome.

Send your article to: sparks.w9og@gmail.com

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



Treasurer Report

Tri-state Amateur Radio Society			
Financial Report for			
May 2026 5/28/26			
General Operating Fund sub-account			
Opening Balance		\$5,022.88	
Receipts:			
	Membership	\$70.00	
	Donations	\$40.00	
Total Receipts --->>		\$110.00	
Expenditures:			
Transfer to TARS IGC		(\$750.00)	
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$750.00)	
Ending Balance General Operating Fund			\$4,382.88
Repeater Maintenance & investment - Restricted account			
Opening Balance		\$4,425.96	
Receipts:			
None		\$0.00	
Total Receipts --->>		\$0.00	
Expenditures:			
ICOM VHF Repeater, John Van Vorst #1213		(\$675.00)	
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$675.00)	
Ending Balance of Repeater Restricted sub-account			\$3,750.96
Red Cross Fund - Restricted Acct			
Opening Balance		\$1,549.99	
Receipts:			
For 4/25/29		\$7.00	
Total Receipts --->>		\$7.00	
Expenditures:			
none		\$0.00	
Total Expenditures--->>		\$0.00	
Ending Balance of Red Cross Restricted sub-account			\$1,556.99
TARS IGC (IN Gaming Commission) restricted checking account:			
Opening Balance		\$916.12	
Receipts:			
Transfer from TARS account		\$750.00	
Total Receipts --->>		\$750.00	
Expenditures:			
HamtoberFest Raffel Radios		(\$1,551.31)	
Total Expenditures--->>		(\$1,551.31)	
Ending Balance of IGC Restricted checking account			\$114.81

Tom KD9PFH TARS Treasurer

Looking Ahead

2026

13 Colonies Special Event July 1 to July 8, 2026

TARS PICNIC Sep 12th Burdette Park shelter #13

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

Route 66 Special Event SEPTEMBER 12-20

TARS 8th annual HAMTOBER FEST October 17, 2026

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

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

Hamtober Fest web page www.hamtoberfest.com

Facebook Group

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

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

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net



2026 Club Officers - Board members

President Scott Hibbs KD4SIR

Vice President Jerry McIntosh WB9ONU

Treasurer Tom Hilgeman KD9PFH

Secretary John VanVorst N9QL

Board of Directors

Mark Holland KD0EE (2026-2027)

Josh Gibson KE9BAH (2026-2027)

Steve Brewster KO9O (2026-2027)

Charlie Martin WB8LDV (2025-2026)

Bruce Hatfield W9GFS (2025-2026)

Herb Alvey KB9MZH (2025-2026)

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Chris Lantaff KE9YK

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