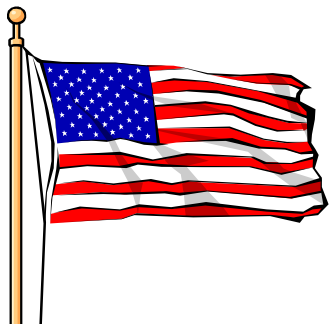


# Sparks



Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
September, 2002--Vol. LVI, No. 9

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## de KE9YK

I think everyone enjoyed the meeting last month. Sherman Greer presented some interesting information on Community Emergency Response Teams, and how Amateur radio could fit in to the plan. And, as always, Harold (N9DEO) had some interesting projects to show.

Remember this month is the club picnic. Hope to see everyone there. Remember also that next month, Oct. 25-26, is Wesselman Woods Haunted Hayride. We will need 6-7 operators each night. This is a fun event, so if you have some time and would like to help, give me a call.

This year seems to have zipped by, and it is already time to start thinking about officer elections. We will need nominations shortly. If you know of someone who would make a good club officer, make it a point to bring them up for nomination.

See you at the picnic!

73 Chris KE9YK

## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, N9JCA)
- 5 TARS Board meeting, Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm

- 11 Tri-State Emergency Net (Blanche, KA9EIV)
- 12 TARS club meeting-picnic at Wesselman Woods, 7:00pm
- 18 Tri-State Emergency Net (Blanche, KA9EIV)
- 25 Tri-State Emergency Net (Jim, W9NJE)
- 28 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, Red Cross Bldg.; bring photocopy of current license, any previous exam credits, two forms of ID, and \$10.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sige.com.net).

### OCTOBER

- 2 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 3 TARS Board meeting, Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm
- 9 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 10 TARS club meeting, Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm; Bill (K4LRX) will discuss DXing and award hunting.
- 16 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 23 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 26 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, Red Cross Bldg.; bring photocopy of current license, any previous exam credits, two forms of ID, and \$10.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sige.com.net).
- 30 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, N9JCA)

## Haunted Hayride: Oct. 25-26

If you can help out for the Haunted Hayride at Wesselman Woods, please contact Chris, KE9YK. This event is lots of fun, and it has been enjoyed by everyone who has worked it.

## Dedication of New Doppler Weather Installation

TARS recently received this letter from the Paducah office of the National Weather Service:

Dear Amateur Radio Partner:

You are invited to participate in a brief September 14, 2002, groundbreaking ceremony near Owensville, Indiana, to mark the beginning of construction for the new Doppler weather radar to serve the Tri-State area. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. CDT.

Beverly Poole, Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service in Paducah will serve as master of ceremonies. John Hostettler, Indiana's District 8 Representative, will be the keynote speaker and National Weather Service Director Jack Kelly will also speak.

The groundbreaking will take place at the radar site in Gibson County. The enclosed sheet with map and text provides details for getting to the site. Directions and maps are also available via the front page of our web site <[www.crh.noaa.gov/pah](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/pah)>.

Data from this radar will be utilized by Weather Forecast Offices in Paducah, KY; St. Louis, MO; Lincoln, IL; Indianapolis, IN; and Louisville, KY to provide forecasts and hazardous weather warnings for Tri-State area residents.

I hope your schedule will allow you to join us for this event. If you have any questions, please call me at 270-744-8029.

Sincerely,

**Ricky L. Shanklin**

Ricky L. Shanklin

Warning Coordination Meteorologist

***Directions to Tri-State Area Doppler Radar Site***

**To reach the radar site from Evansville:** Travel north on U.S. Highway 41 approximately 18 miles to Highway 168; go west on 168 to approximately 2 miles west of Owensville to County Road 850 West; turn south on 850 West and go approximately 1 mile to the intersection of County Road 850 West and County Road 650 South. The radar site is in the northeast corner of this intersection.

**To reach the radar site from Princeton:** Travel south on U.S. Highway 41 approximately 8 miles to Fort Branch, Indiana; go west on Highway 168 to approximately 2 miles past Owensville and turn south on County Road 850 West; go approximately 1 mile to the intersection of County Road 850 West and County Road 650 South. The radar site is in the northeast corner of the intersection.

## Ham News

### Amateurs' Non-stop Fire Duty Does Section Manager Proud

Amateur Radio Emergency Service members in the San Diego, California area spent two weeks assisting the American Red Cross and the California Division of Forestry during the so-called Pines Fire. ARRL San Diego Section Manager Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, says dozens of ARES members responded July 30 to a full callout. The fire started a day earlier after the blade of an Army National Guard helicopter on drug patrol struck the ground near Volcan Mountain. Hundreds of residents had to be evacuated as the fast-moving wildfire some 60 miles northeast of San Diego threatened homes.

"Amateur Radio played a major role in the safe evacuation of residents from their homes to Red Cross-maintained shelters," Tiburski said. "Hams manned several shelters including one at Julian High School." The high school served as the primary shelter as well as the California Division of Forestry's field operations center. Hams later assisted the Red Cross in damage assessment.

"The fire early on had destroyed power and telephone lines, leaving the east county towns without telephone and cellular service," Tiburski said. "Hams utilized numerous repeaters during the fire to cover the rugged back country of San Diego County." Radio operators quickly set up vital communication links

between the Red Cross emergency operations center and workers in the field, earning later praise from Red Cross officials.

"As the fire lines quickly changed, radio operators stayed one step ahead of the fire, radioing information necessary to assure an appropriate Red Cross disaster response," said Red Cross Public Information Officer Jay Esper. "Without the quality service from the ARES radio operators, the American Red Cross could not maintain the high quality of service to its clients."

Tiburski had special praise to San Diego County and the county's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) team for loaning its new county-wide repeater system. He said the more than 40 ARES members, some working multiple shifts round-the-clock, passed hundreds of messages.

Some hams were surprised at how dependent the community was upon the services of Amateur Radio. Many hams who had never been involved in this type of operation volunteered and found themselves badly needed.

The Pines Fire burned over some 62,000 acres and destroyed three dozen homes and another 100 or so other structures. Tiburski said it was the largest and longest-burning fire in San Diego County to require ARES support.

## **Pending CITESL Resolution Is a Step Toward Global Ham Ticket**

Ham radio has moved closer to an internationally recognized license. Delegates to the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITESL) this month approved a resolution that would extend reciprocal recognition of the International Amateur Radio Permit (I ARP) to member states of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). The resolution includes as a goal "to promote the development of a global Radio Amateur Permit working with other regional organizations within the framework of the International Telecommunication Union."

ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, attended the CITESL Assembly August 12-16 in Washington, DC, as a member of the US delegation. "In an ideal world, we'll one day have an international Amateur Radio permit that's like an international driver's license--good around the world," Siverling said. He conceded that CITESL-CEPT reciprocity will not benefit US amateurs, however. Only licensees elsewhere in the Americas would be affected, since US

licensees already enjoy automatic or nearly automatic reciprocal licensing in many countries throughout Europe and the Americas.

The resolution builds on existing CITESL and CEPT arrangements. A CITESL convention already provides for temporary amateur station operations in one member state by individuals holding an I ARP and licensed by another member state "without further review." Recommendation T/R61-01--makes possible operation by amateurs from CEPT countries during short visits to other CEPT member countries or to non-CEPT participating countries--including the US--without having to obtain a temporary license.

## **Ham-led Team Attempting Transatlantic Model Airplane Flight**

A team of model airplane enthusiasts led by Maynard Hill, W3FQF, is attempting a record-breaking crossing of the Atlantic by a model aircraft. A model plane dubbed "The Spirit of Butts Farm" was launched August 20 and was on its way to Ireland. Monitoring the flight, TAM-3, the third in a series, from Newfoundland, Canada, Hill's team reports the plane was last heard from August 21 at 0428 UTC.

The Transatlantic Model Aircraft--or TAM--project is Hill's brainchild as the president of the Society for Technical Aeromodel Research. Hill and his design team have spent four years on the ambitious project. The TAM aircraft are hand-launched and guided to an altitude of 1500 feet by radio remote control. Upon reaching that altitude, a sophisticated GPS-based autopilot system takes over. The aircraft sends periodic position reports to the flight team, and these are posted on the TAM Web site <<http://tam.plannet21.com/index.html>>.

The first two TAMs failed soon after launch. The last position report for TAM-3 indicated that it had completed better than one-fourth of its journey before contact with the airplane was lost. TAM-4 will be the final attempt--at least for now.

A successful flight would mark the first transatlantic crossing by a true model airplane--an aircraft weighing 11 pounds or less with an engine with no more than 10 cc displacement, as specified by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) <<http://www.fai.org/>>. It would also set a new world record for straight-line distance by a radio-controlled, piston-powered model airplane.

More information on this historic effort is available on the TAM Web site <<http://tam.plannet21.com>>

/index.html>. An article on the flight appeared in the on-line edition of National Geographic <[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/08/0805\\_020805\\_transatlantic.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/08/0805_020805_transatlantic.html)>

[These reports are modified from The ARRL Letter, published on-line by the American Radio Relay League.]

## One Man's Opinion

During this time of the year we officers and board members look for a committee to function in the nominating capacity, to nominate those who will pilot the ship for 2003. It is not an easy task, and before you raise your hand and say I will do it, acquaint yourself with the active members.

We have some real good choices and dedicated individuals who give of their time, money, energy and effort to keep our club going. Want some examples? The most recent is the superlative effort by our Field Day chairmen--Chris Matthews, N9JCA, is a prime example of his dedication.

Consider our VE team. Every month we gather to provide a service to the amateur community offering testing opportunities to those trying to enter the Ham Radio hobby or hoping to upgrade their present license.

Give some thought of the effort put forth for the repeater system. Terry, AA9MM, spent a lot of his time and money for not only his own repeater system, but that of the club as well. Also the work involved by Terry and Ed Biederwolf, N9XYE, to construct the new and more interesting TARS web page.

Norm King, W9AU and his dedication to RACES, as well as holding a current office in TARS. And, of course, don't forget Joanne, KB9LXZ, who crunches the numbers every month, making sure our debtors receive payments, and members get credited for dues paid.

Next time you pop a soft drink or have a doughnut at the club meetings, be sure to thank Herb, KB9MZH, who has done this job without complaint for months; he just plugs away to do his part.

Willie Wilson, WD9FHA, donated the use of his truck this past year in cleaning out the accumulated gear we had in a storage locker and disposed of it at the auction. Of course, we do not want to forget our leader of the pack this year, Chris Lantaff, KE9YK, and his determination to help TARS succeed.

I could mention myself, but I do not like to blow my own horn in this column. I enjoy what I do-- writing, meetings, classes, and VE testing. However, with all the

good people we have had this year, I sure hope we can interest some of you who have never held an office or served on the board join their ranks.

We veterans of service to the club would welcome anyone who wants to get their feet wet. Join in and give us some fresh ideas and feedback. After all, it is your club as well as mine. This year very soon, when that nominating committee makes a few phone calls, asking some of you for the first time, hold up your hand and say you will be glad to accept a club appointment.

You have the chance to make a difference, to have your ideas heard, to see your suggestions used. Give it a try. You will be glad you did, and the rewards many. This is One Man's Opinion.

73 **Bill** K4LRX

## Member News

**This month's request from the Treasurer:** Please don't miss the meeting this month. We're having a picnic at Wesselman Woods. Should be great fun and I look forward to seeing you there!

**ARRL Memberships:** TARS will receive \$15 for any new (or rejoining after 2 year lapse) membership to the ARRL that is processed through the club. Contact Joanne (KB9LXZ) at 963-5872 or at [o3office@evansville.net](mailto:o3office@evansville.net) for forms and additional information.

**September Birthdays:** 22 Harold N9DEO; 24 Mike KB9MZG; 30 Bernie KC9BMA.

## Treasurer's report

[Note: The Treasurer's report and Secretary's report are not included in complimentary issues of Sparks.]

# Secretary's Report

## TARS Elmers

Tom Dickerson, KA9NOO ka9noo@juno.com:

General stuff

Norm King, W9AU 963-5872: RACES, antennas (I can climb if it's safe and not too high)

Chris Matthews, N9JCA 867-7456: General stuff

Mark Parker, N9NYF 422-7586: Digital, computers

John Small, W9FHA 867-7058: Antennas (no climbing), kit building, operating including contesting; rag chewing, portable operations, and general topics

Hal Wilson, WB9FNN 867-3151: General stuff

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT Chris Lantaff, KE9YK**

473-5382; clantaff@sige.com.net

**VICE PRESIDENT Bill Hilyerd, K4LRX**

270-826-2687; k4lrx@aol.com; billh@wevv.com

**TREASURER Joanne Alexandrovich, KB9LXZ**

963-5872; o3office@evansville.net

**SECRETARY Norm King, W9AU**

963-5872; nking@usi.edu

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Herb Alvey, KB9MZH--477-2756** (AlveyHtoolman2@aol.com); **Terry Brooks, AA9MM--401-9632**

(tbrooks@sige.com.net); **Adam Groupe, KB9SXX--491-1982** (kb9sxx@sige.com.net); **Jim Marsh, W9NJE --476-9359** (w9nje@aol.com); **Chris Matthews, N9JCA--867-7456** (n9jca@arrl.net);

**Willie Wilson, WD9FHA--853-7296** (wd9fha@adelphia.net).

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**TARS Website:**

<http://www.w9og.org>