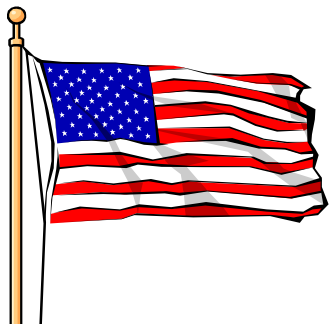


# Sparks



Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society  
January, 2004--Vol. LVIII, No. 1

**TARS Website: <http://www.w9og.org>. Club repeaters: 146.79 and 147.15**  
**Say "Hello" at the weekly Tri-State Emergency Net, 8:00pm Wednesdays on 146.79**

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## The President's Corner

I am sorry to start the year off on such a sad note, but my condolences go out to Carol, KB9HDZ and family on the passing of Hal Wilson, WB9FNN. Hal was one of the driving forces behind TARS for many years, and will be greatly missed.

On the brighter side of things, the Red Cross has moved into their new building, and we will have a nice new meeting room. One of the first things that we need to accomplish is to get the communications room finished and the Red Cross HF base station on the air. At the meeting Thursday night we will have a short program followed with talking over ideas for the new communications room. Also, a reminder--club dues for 2004 are now due. If you haven't mailed them yet, bring them with you to the meeting on January 8 at the **New Red Cross Building**, 29 S. Stockwell Rd., at the corner of the Lloyd Expwy. and Stockwell.

Let's all give a note of thanks to last year's officers for their efforts on behalf of the club. The outgoing president, Chris (N9JCA) introduced some innovating programs of do-it-yourself projects that everybody seemed to enjoy. Bill (K4LRX) organized

other programs that were equally interesting. Susie (KC9BLZ), with Joanne's (KB9LXZ) help, kept the books in order, and with Leonard (N9QVO) taking over this year there shouldn't be any loss of continuity. Thanks to Adam for filling in as Secretary on the dates he was able. Unfortunately, no one has stepped forward to take on that role for 2004. We are still looking for a volunteer to step forward and serve as Secretary. And let's not forget the Board members--Thank all of you for your unselfish service to the club.

One last thing, February will be the annual TARS auction, so start looking for those things in your shack that are just taking up space. Clear those out and bring them with you to the auction. You could also bring home a few neat additions to your stash of equipment and spare parts. Don't miss it!

**Chris KE9YK**

## Calendar

**JANUARY, 2004**

- 1 No TARS Board meeting due to the holidays
- 7 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVO)

- 8 TARS club meeting; 7:00pm at the new Red Cross Bldg. next to the Lloyd Expwy (turn south on (don't stay on the service road-go right at the first opportunity), and then turn into the Red Cross parking lot.
- 14 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 21 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 31 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, EVC Emergency Management Bldg. on Stanley St. (just north of Diamond Ave. at Stringtown Rd.); bring photocopy of current license, any previous exam credits, two forms of ID, and \$12.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sigecon.net).

## **FEBRUARY**

- 4 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 5 TARS Board meeting, 7:00pm, new Red Cross Bldg., Lloyd Expwy. and Stockwell Rd.
- 11 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 12 TARS club meeting, 7:00pm, new Red Cross Bldg., Lloyd Expwy. and Stockwell Rd.; annual TARS auction!
- 18 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 25 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 28 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, EVC Emergency Management Bldg. on Stanley St. (just north of Diamond Ave. at Stringtown Rd.); bring photocopy of current license, any previous exam credits, two forms of ID, and \$12.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sigecon.net).

## **Hal Wilson, WB9FNN-SK**

The following is an e-mail message received by several TARS members from Greg Wilson on December 19:

"It is with great sorrow that I tell you Dad died today, December 19, at 3 pm MST. His fight with lymphoma and the chemotherapy used to treat it ended peacefully this afternoon. Mom, Mike, myself, our wives, and the kids all spent the last week giving Dad encouragement and comfort. The week was a roller coaster ride of hope and sorrow, with Dad holding on until he was certain that Mom would be ok after he had gone.

"Boulder Community Hospital, where Dad was for the last week, was wonderful in the way they cared for him, keeping him as comfortable as possible while

trying to cure the illnesses that the cancer and chemo wrought upon him. Mom was allowed to stay with him the entire time. Isaac brought in his guitar and the boys sung songs every day after school. The girls talked to him and showed him video tapes of their band performance. At the end we were all there for him and for Mom.

"Dad requested that instead of flowers or other remembrances any money spent be donated to a group of Mom's choosing. As such, if you desire to make a memorial contribution please send it to:

New Commandment Men's Ministries  
1238 Fern Circle  
Broomfield, CO 80020

"This ministry began as Pastor Herb Reese's vision to carry out the Biblical mandate to help the widows, fatherless, and aliens among us. It helps churches begin ministries, like the one Mike and I have been part of for several years. In these groups, men make a long term commitment to meet once a month and help a widow, single mom, or elderly couple with chores and other things that they may not be able to do by themselves. With the long term commitment of the men, they become like sons and brothers to the families they help, allowing them to meet the emotional as well as physical needs of the families. Having been in a group of men involved in this ministry for over 2 years I can say that it is the best way I have found to put Christ's love into action.

Greg

## **New Look Coming for Sparks**

Those of you who are tired of Norm's dry, rather formal presentation, cheer up! **Sparks** will be getting a face lift in 2004, as Chris Matthews, N9JCA takes over as the Editor. If you wish to send articles or news for the **Sparks**, send them to n9jca@sigecon.net. For those of you who have a filter setting where you can block incoming e-mail, please allow n9jca@sigecon.net so you can continue to receive **Sparks** by e-mail from Chris.

## **Net Control Operators Needed**

We know that you often have other things to do on Wednesday evenings, but so do Leonard (N9QVQ) and

Norm (W9AU). These guys have been "holding down the fort" in running the Tri-state Emergency Net single-handedly (OK--doublehandedly) for about a year. They could use some help! Please volunteer to try your hand at net control. Look at it this way: it's sort of like upgrading--you will be adding to your capabilities as an amateur. We've made this plea before--several times. Jim (W9NJE) stepped in for an occasional stint as net control, but otherwise our previous requests have met with silence.

How about you **new folks**? We can give you a list of call signs and names so you can greet those who check in even though you may not have met many of them. You won't seem like a "newby," and boy, would you make all those old-timers who have avoided this duty look bad! It would be a form of community service that could go on a resume or other employment-related "credit list." If you would like to give it a try, first tune in the Tri-state Emergency Net on any Wednesday at 8:00pm local time to see what happens. Then contact Norm, W9AU (w9au@insightbb.com or 812-963-5872) for more information (and encouragement).

With the recent increase in popularity of computers, and also with the recent advent of cell phones, ham radio has gone through a bit of a lull. But TARS has finally turned the corner and we are growing again. For new hams and new TARS members, this is a great opportunity to grow with us!

## Treasurer's Report

Leonard (N9QVQ), the incoming Treasurer, reports that he and Susie (KC9BLZ), the outgoing Treasurer, are auditing the books after noting that last year some deposits to our account were mistakenly double credited as income. They are currently doing an audit to make sure the numbers to be reported are correct. Leonard will list the December report in addition to the January report in the next issue of **Sparks**. He says not to worry--the money is all there!

## Secretary's Report

Welcome to new member: Bill Leonard, KE4HFG.

**Minutes:** Minutes for December meetings are not included here. The Christmas Party club meeting normally does not generate a set of minutes, anyway. The

big things at that meeting are always the introduction of new club officers and Board members, and the awarding of the McCutchan award. The 2003 McCutchan award went to Chris Matthews, N9JCA for his service to TARS (President, Board member, and Field Day coordinator, along with participation in TARS public service activities) and his years of work with experimental and developing technologies, particularly in the areas of APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) and integration of the internet with ham radio. Congratulations, Chris!

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Chris Lantaff, KE9YK  
473-5382 (clantaff@sigecom.net)  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Herb Alvey, KB9MZH  
477-2756 (AlveyHtoolman@aol.com)  
**TREASURER** Leonard Schmitt, N9QVQ  
426-2003 (lradio@evansville.net)  
**SECRETARY** (position open)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne Alexandrovich, KB9LXZ  
963-5872 (kb9lxz@insightbb.com)  
Jay King, WB9ICL  
985-3886 (wb9icl@arrl.net)  
Mark Parker, N9NYF  
422-7586 (mparker@evansville.net)  
Dave Vogel, WA9C  
453-9566 (wa9c@arrl.net)  
(two positions open)

**RED CROSS LIAISON:** Dan Weil, KB9GNI  
491-2565 (dbweil@sigecom.net)

**RACES OFFICER:** Norm King, W9AU  
963-5872 (w9au@insightbb.com)

**Sparks** is published monthly as the newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 4521, Evansville, IN 47724

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