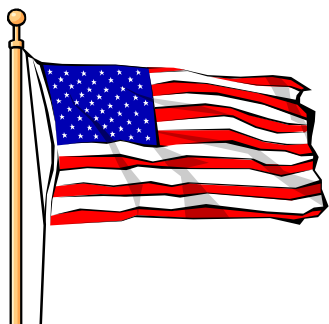


Sparks



Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society
May, 2006--Vol. LX, No. 5

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

The President's Corner

Bob was unable to send me a message this month, so I will insert something I know he would have said. (It's actually me, W9AU, Sparks editor, trying to look like Bob!) Namely, be sure to come out to the tailgate party at Mesker Park (shelter #15--it's away from Mesker Park Drive, down the hill--we met there two years ago), starting 11am on Saturday, May 13. Please bring a covered dish. Burgers, dogs, and drinks will be supplied. Operating on site, and a fox hunt will follow the picnic. 73, de **N9XAW**

Calendar

MAY

- 3 Tri-State Emergency Net (Norm, W9AU)
- 4 TARS Board mtg., Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm
- 10 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 13 TARS club mtg., Tailgate, Mesker Park Shelter #15, 11:00am.
- 17 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 24 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)

- 27 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, Red Cross Bldg.; bring original and one copy of current license, any previous exam credits, two ID's (one with photo), SS or TIN number, and \$14.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sige.com.net).

- 31 Tri-State Emergency Net (Terry, WB9KQF)

JUNE

- 1 TARS Board mtg., Red Cross Bldg., 7:00pm
- 7 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 8 TARS club mtg., 7:00pm, Red Cross Bldg.
- 14 Tri-State Emergency Net (Chris, KE9YK)
- 21 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)
- 24-25 ARRL Field Day at the Boy Scout site next to Lloyd Expwy. near the old state hospital; see article by John, N9OL in this issue of Sparks.
- 24 ARRL exam session, 9:00am, Red Cross Bldg.; bring original and one copy of current license, any previous exam credits, two ID's (one with photo), SS or TIN number, and \$14.00; contact Terry, AA9MM for additional information (812-401-9632 or tbrooks@sige.com.net).
- 28 Tri-State Emergency Net (Leonard, N9QVQ)

QSL Contest

Remember the QSL contest. All members are invited to submit their designs for a new club (W9OG) QSL card. Artwork will be judged at the TARS May meeting (Tailgate Party at Mesker Park Shelter #15), on Saturday, May 13, starting at 11am. The prize for the winning design is an a one year membership to TARS. Bring your designs!

2006 Field Day

Mark your calendars for the weekend of June 24th and 25th. These are the dates of the 2006 ARRL Field Day, and TARS will be operating from the Boy Scouts Of America site off the Lloyd Expressway near the State Hospital. Everyone is welcome. You do not have to be a TARS member to participate.

We plan to operate at least 2 stations—one for HF CW and one for HF SSB, plus a GOTA (Get-On-The-Air) station intended to get unlicensed or newly licensed folks a chance to get on the air. In addition, we would like to operate stations on VHF/UHF to demonstrate modes such as slow-scan TV, packet, and satellite.

But we can't do any of this without YOU. We need help setting up antennas and stations, operating the various stations, and then tearing down after the event. If you have any portable antenna equipment, deep-cycle batteries, or other equipment which may be useful in a field operation, we could put that to good use, too. Let us know what you have that you could bring out for us to use.

This is a great way to test our (your!) equipment and operating skills in a field setting, and a fabulous opportunity to share our hobby and have fun. This is also one of the best ways to show off and showcase Ham Radio. Given the location, a number of scouts and scout groups may stop by. Maybe we can get some of them on the air!

For more information on Field Day, see the ARRL website at <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>>.

This will be the first time I have been very involved with Field Day. I am really looking forward to it. Please come join us on June 24-25. Reserve those dates! Hope to see you there.

73, **John** N9OL

Ham News

HOUSE COMMITTEE OKAYS TELECOMS BILL WITH BPL-INTERFERENCE STUDY AMENDMENT

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee's version of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006 includes an amendment requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The panel voted April 26 to send the much-talked-about "telecoms rewrite" bill to the full House for its consideration. "Outstanding news!" was the reaction of ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"This is a major victory for the ARRL," he exulted, noting that the amendment "received significant opposition" from utilities. Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), proposed the amendment, and, with the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the committee agreed by voice vote to include it in the bill.

A year ago, Ross sponsored House Resolution 230 (H Res 230) <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230.pdf>>, which calls on the FCC to "reconsider and revise rules governing broadband over power line systems based on a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of those systems to public safety services and other licensed radio services."

"Hundreds of ARRL members who wrote their congressional representatives in support of Rep Ross's H Res 230 helped to achieve this week's success with the COPE Act amendment," Sumner observed.

A more-widely reported Internet "network neutrality" amendment to the COPE Act bill was defeated. The measure will get a number next week.

A statement released by Ross's office notes that his amendment, which received unanimous committee support, "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." One of two radio amateurs in the US House, Ross said infrastructure-free Amateur Radio, "often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication," can maintain communication in disasters that bring more vulnerable technology to its knees. Ham radio operators "are often the only means of communication attainable in a devastated area," he said.

"I believe it is imperative that the interference potential [of BPL] is thoroughly examined and comprehensively evaluated to ensure that deployment of BPL,

which I do support, does not cause radio interference for Amateur Radio operators and first responders who serve our communities," Ross added.

The COPE Act BPL amendment adds a section (under Title V) to the proposed legislation that would require the FCC to study and report on the interference potential of BPL systems within 90 days of the bill's enactment. "This puts the House Energy and Commerce Committee on record as having concerns about BPL interference," Sumner said. "If we are vigilant in protecting it against deletion on the House floor--assuming the bill is approved by the House--the BPL language will be included in the legislation that goes on to the Senate."

[This article from the ARRL Letter, published on-line by the American Radio Relay League.]

One Man's Opinion

This past Saturday on the 22nd of April, I left the Red Cross Center with a good feeling and a sense of accomplishment. For several weeks, Bob (N9XAW), Bill (K4LRX), Terry (AA9MM), and Terry (WA9KQF) played the role of instructors and tutors for five prospective new hams. We also worked with two long time members of TARS interested in passing their Extra Class license.

Over the last few weeks we got to know some of the students, helped them along and of course encouraged all to join TARS after receiving their licenses. This is a prime example of the inner core of our club at work; we all gave of our time, talents and knowledge to help others.

Yes, it required several trips to the Red Cross Center. It absorbed a lot of our personal time. The reward will be seeing our students succeed, and go home on test day with a certificate of successful completion.

Another example of our club at work is the Field Day Committee. I was surprised by the number of people present for the gathering at Jo-Jo's on April 20. Len (N9QVQ), Dave (WA9C), Chris (KE9YK), Bill (K4LRX), and John (N9OL) were there (I think I mentioned everyone). Some great ideas surfaced, and the plan is for everyone to have fun and score lots of points at Field Day.

Yet more club work is performed by the Repeater Committee. When I was asked to serve as the Trustee of W9OG by Hal Wilson, WB9FNN, I felt honored, and

have served in that capacity for a few years, since Hal left Evansville for the Denver area during his final illness. The committee is governed by the same basic rules as the TARS constitution, and we are open for suggestions, comments, and encouragement. The current repeater committee consists of the following long-time, very active club members: Bill Hilyerd (K4LRX), Trustee, Bob Pointer (N9XAW), Terry McCrayer (WB9KQF), Terry Brooks (AA9MM), Brian Esche (WB9QVR), Chris Lantaff (KE9YK), and Dave Julian (WB9YIJ).

If you take a good look at these various committees, the Board of Directors, and list of club officers, you will notice the same names showing up again and again. This inner core of members are the ones who put up their hands when a job comes up, when there is an opening on the Board, or when we are having a hard time filling an officer's position. And I suspect that, if needed, these same people will volunteer again to perform such services and duties. Some will no doubt be elected for a second, third, or even fourth term. Ideally, however, some newer members will also step up to the plate. Later this year, a nominating committee will form. If we approach you for a position with TARS, please give serious consideration to taking a turn at being an officer or Board member. To not accept this challenge weakens our club, and leadership fails due to lack of interest. As always my friends, I wrap things up with my now famous statement that this is "One Man's Opinion."

73, **Bill** K4LRX

For Sale

First, let me [*Editor*] welcome Earl Pfettscher, WN9HRB back to TARS. Earl was a long-time, active TARS member who, among other things, served a term as club president. If nothing comes up to change their plans, Earl and his XYL Darlene, KA9AZS, will be at the Tailgate party on the 13th. Let's give them a warm welcome, and you can get caught up on what they have been up to the past few years. I bought part of the tower system that he disassembled recently, but he still has items to sell.

Earl has these items for sale:

1. four 10' sections of Rohn 25G tower for \$40.00 each.

2. 8' top section Rohn 25AG with Rohn TB-3 heavy-duty thrust bearing and Rohn TB-50 bushing, all for \$60.00.
3. 7' Rohn heavy-duty mast for \$10.00.

The tower sections have some light rust, but they are structurally in great shape—a little clean-up and paint will make them like new. Call Earl Pfettscher, WN9HRB, at 853-5110 or e-mail Earl at: <hamradio_1@msn.com>.

Secretary's Report

Minutes are not provided in the complimentary and web based editions of Sparks.

Treasurer's Report

May Birthdays

W9ZPP Alan Dale 8th
KD9YP John Brown 12th
N9PDL Mark Decamps 14th

Budget

The detailed budget is not provided in the complimentary and web based editions of Sparks.

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(One vacancy)

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