



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

The Toledo Mobile Radio Association is an ARRL Special Services Club Serving Northwest Ohio Since 1953



AUGUST 2004

The Prez Sez:

Well, I'll start off this month's article with some good news: The club's picnic seems to have been saved! Last month I made mention that no one seemed to want to volunteer to head up the planning for the event. Well, at the July general meeting, someone finally spoke up and said that they would do it. That person is one of our newer members, Marcia Parton. She is the mother of our club's secretary, Randi Parton, KC8IVV. The details are still being worked out, so check the future newsletters and listen to the 'nets' for the latest information, and then make plans to attend. I hope we have a good turn-out, so as to make the event worthwhile. And let's all thank Marcia for saving the day!

Now I have even more positive news: I mentioned at the general meeting that I have selected a new person to be the webmaster for the club's website. This position is going to another new member; that being: Becky Eby, KC8ZNX. If you have any suggestions, make note of them and let her know after she gets settled in to the position. And I'm sure, if an idea is practical, she will do her best to implement it.

Now moving on to more business oriented matters: This should be very important to club members and your input is requested. It has been decided by the club's Board of Trustees, that I should put together a By-Laws Committee to review and recommend changes that should be made to the By-Laws. It has been about four and a half years since there have been any changes made to the document, and some of the content is not up-to-date. This committee consists of the five Board of Trustee members, Chuck Ferguson, N8NIR; Steve Bellner, W8TER; and myself Tom Swartz, KB8PAI. You should all know, but just to remind you, the board members for the club are: Dave Leroux, KB8EH; Ed Pierson, WA8BHO; Scott Roberson, N8BIR; Brian Harrington, WD8MXR; and Howard Fuller, W8NEE. We shall be meeting in early August to get started, and if you have any comments or suggestions, make your voice heard and please contact one of us via e-mail or phone. If you don't know how to contact one of us, call me, and if you choose, I'll put you in touch with whomever you want. Please remember: It is YOUR club, and you DO have a say in how the club performs its functions.

A quick mention to congratulate a couple of 'local' amateurs concerning some VE business. Local, well known club member, Steve Stalker, KC8TVW, upgraded to extra class at the last exam session. Well, some of you may know that he has been 'elmering' out-of-towner Cory Wills, KC9CDA, the grandson of local ham Don Wills, WD8AKS. Cory had passed his General written exam a few months ago, but didn't have the 'code' licked. Well he does now, through a special arrangement with the VE team lead by Ross, NS8C. If you didn't know, Cory is blind, and had to have a special accommodation for his test. Steve, his tutor, set up his portable operating station at the exam site (you may have seen him operate it at Field Day). He sent the code, and Cory read back what he copied, verbally, one character at a time. That was the proverbial 'ticket' and Cory passed the morse code exam with little difficulty. Congratulations go out to both of them on their achievements!

Make a note of my new home phone number if you need to contact me: It is (419) 724-8672.

73 de KB8PAI

Tom Swartz, President and Membership Chairman

kb8pai@arrl.net

FCC Proposes Rules To Facilitate Wireless Broadband Services Using Vacant TV Channels

Washington, D.C. – In an initiative to increase the use of radio spectrum to provide greater service to the American public, the Commission today proposed to allow unlicensed devices to operate in the broadcast television spectrum at locations where the spectrum is not in use by television stations. In order to ensure that no interference is caused to TV stations and their viewers, the Commission proposed to require unlicensed devices to incorporate “smart radio” features to identify unused TV channels.

These proposals advanced by the Commission are intended to allow the development of new and innovative types of unlicensed broadband devices and services for businesses and consumers by utilizing vacant spectrum that is particularly well suited for these purposes. Due to the physics of signal propagation, transmissions in the TV band can travel farther and can better penetrate into buildings than transmissions in the spectrum where existing unlicensed wireless broadband operations are permitted. As a result, allowing unlicensed operations in the TV bands could benefit wireless internet service customers by extending the service range of current providers’ (WISPs) existing operations, particularly in rural and underserved areas. The Commission believes that by carefully tailoring this initiative to protect incumbent television service, it provides a balanced proposal for the American public, for WISPs and for television station operators. These proposals also have the potential to provide benefits to broadcasters as well, as they may facilitate the provision of interactive TV services.

Part 15 of the Commission’s rules permits the operation of unlicensed radio transmitters on a non-harmful interference basis to authorized services. Accordingly, any such uses would have to be on a strict non-harmful interference basis, and the Commission proposed specific technical requirements to ensure that TV reception is not impaired. The Commission’s Part 15 rules have enabled the development of a large number and variety of devices including wireless computer networking cards, wireless connections to printers and keyboards, and wireless headsets and computer connections for cellular and PCS phones. Many of these devices currently operate in the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands.

In the Notice, the Commission proposed to classify the unlicensed broadband devices that could be used in the TV bands into two general functional categories. The first category would consist of lower power “personal/portable” unlicensed devices, such as Wi-Fi like cards in laptop computers or wireless in-home local area networks. The second category would consist of higher power “fixed/access” unlicensed devices that are generally operated from a fixed location and may be used to provide a commercial service such as wireless broadband internet access. The Commission proposed to allow both of these types of operations in the TV spectrum, provided appropriate measures are taken to ensure that operations are limited to unused TV channels. Different interference avoidance requirements are proposed for these two different types of unlicensed broadband applications. These proposals should provide flexibility to permit a wide range of unlicensed broadband uses and applications and ensure that the most appropriate and effective mechanisms are in place to limit such unlicensed use to only unused TV channels.

Action by the Commission May 13, 2004, by Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FCC 04-113). Chairman Powell, Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Adelstein, with Commissioner Martin Concurring. Separate statements issued by Chairman Powell, Commissioners Copps, Martin, and Adelstein.

Office of Engineering and Technology contact: Mr. Hugh L. Van Tuyl, (202) 418-7506, e-mail Hugh.VanTuyl@fcc.gov.

ET Docket Nos. 04-186 and 02-380.
- FCC-

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, and Chuck, KB8FXJ. Email, kb8iup@arrl.net

AMSAT "Echo" Satellite Opens For Fm Voice Trial Run

AMSAT-NA's new "Echo" satellite (AO-51) has been turned on for general use in FM repeat mode for a trial period of about three weeks. During that time, command stations on Earth will monitor AO-51's power budget and adjust the UHF Transmitter B (TX B) power as needed for good battery management. They'll also be watching the AMSAT Bulletin Board e-mail reflector, amsat-bb@amsat.org, for reports of how Echo is working.

"We are most interested in hearing about how well Echo hears you and how well you hear it," said the Echo Command Team--Jim White, WD0E, and Mike Kingery, KE4AZN--in an AMSAT bulletin. White and Kingery note that this is a trial period of the FM voice repeater. The digital portion of Echo is not yet open for use.

AMSAT Vice President for User Services Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says reports of successful QSOs on Echo's first day of operation came from all over the world, including the US, Brazil, New Zealand and Germany.

A Russian Dnepr LV rocket carried AO-51 and several other payloads into orbit June 29 from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The 10-inch-square microsat, circling some 800 km above Earth in a sun-synchronous orbit, will permit voice communication using handheld transceivers.

The Echo FM voice uplink frequency is 145.920 MHz, and the downlink is 435.300 MHz. The downlink transmitter will come on when it hears an uplink signal with a 67 Hz CTCSS (PL) tone for about 1 second, and it will stay on for 10 seconds after that signal goes away. "This operation is just like a terrestrial FM repeater with a 1 second 'kerchunk' filter and a 10 second hang time," AMSAT noted. Transmitter A (TX A), now sending telemetry, generally will continue to operate on 435.150 MHz.

AMSAT points out that Echo, which launched June 29, is still "wobbling a great deal," so the downlink polarization sense will vary.

The Echo Command Team says it expects Echo will be heavily used during the first few days of the trial period. "It is good amateur practice and common courtesy to let everyone have a chance," they said. "Echo will hear you as well as or better than any previous amateur FM repeater satellite." With hundreds of stations trying out AO-51, ground controllers say they expect the transmitter will be on continuously when the spacecraft is over populated areas.

The Echo satellite project is still some \$8000 short of the \$110,000 that was needed to launch the spacecraft. AMSAT guaranteed the full fare by borrowing from its dedicated funds, which now must be repaid. AMSAT--a 501(c)(3) organization--welcomes additional donations to bridge the funding gap. Visit the AMSAT AO-Echo Web page for additional details.--AMSAT News Service

From The ARRL Letter Vol.23 No.30, July 30, 2004

OTHER TOLEDO AREA AMATEUR RADIO ORGANIZATIONS

ARES

Lucas County Amateur Radio
Emergency Service meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of the month in the "Private Dining Room" in St. Luke's Hospital, at 9:00 AM. You are welcome to meet in the cafeteria for breakfast before the meeting. Alternate meeting locations and information will be announced on the daily 6:40 PM net. Contact Brenda, KB8IUP at 419-866-5928. **ARES NTS and Training Net** meets daily at 6:40 PM. 146.940- Alternate frequencies are: 147.375+ or 147.270+.

SKYWARN Net as needed by the NWS, 147.375+ Alternate frequencies are 146.940-, 147.270+ or others announced by "net control".

GTARA (146.610-) Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM. Contact Martha, K8AAC.

SARA Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Springfield Twp. Hall, 7617 Angola Rd. at 7:30 PM. Contact Tom, N8MAV, 419-826-7401.

TRAC (147.375+, 146.940-) Meets 1st Thursday of the month at the Springfield Twp. Hall, 7617 Angola Rd. at 7:30 PM. Contact Terry Caldwell, KC8HQB, 419-874-2173.

QCWA Chapter 142, meets 1st Saturday of the month at The Big Boy Restaurant, 1402 Reynolds Road, Maumee. (next to Hampton-Inn hotel) Contact Paul Lentz, K8PL, 419-882-5906. Or email, plentzk8pl@juno.com
FRAT (52.360, 146.835-, 224.280-, 444.650+) Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month. FRAT net follows the Rain Dialup and Amateur News Weekly on Thursday nights starting at 8:30 PM.

Spoofting Generates New Round Of Spurious ARRL.Net E-Mail Messages:

Recent e-mail messages purporting to be from "noreply@arrl.net," the "ARRL.net Support Team" or some similar variation are not from the ARRL. These messages are the result of a recent variant of a virus permeating the Internet. ARRL has heard from members who have received e-mails alleging that their ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service (@arrl.net) address has been used to send out spam and urging them to open an attachment to help resolve the situation. Opening the attachment will infect the recipient's computer. Outside of routine correspondence, the ARRL only sends e-mail to members who request mailings, such as W1AW bulletins and The ARRL Letter, and none of these are sent via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service. As a defense against these kinds of viruses, we recommend installing virus protection software on all personal computers and updating it on a regular basis.

TMRA Swap And Shop:

Current as of August 3, 2004

FOR SALE:

BEN, N8JUD 419-893-2937 Butternut 10-80m vertical antenna - \$125.00. Butternut 2m antenna - \$40.00. Cliff Dweller 80m antenna - \$100.00. Wilson 10/15/20m beam with Ham IV rotor. 2m beam with CD44 rotor – these two are on tower. But Ben is willing to take down for the purchaser(s). Date renewed 7/11/04 **

STEVE, W8TER 419-893-9106 or w8ter@arrl.net Cushcraft 2m Ringo Ranger antenna #ARX-2b - \$10.00 LDG model AT-11MP autotuner, handles up to 150w - \$100.00 30ft collapsible mast (TMRA's) - \$10.00 Date listed 7/6/04 **

JACK K8HNI 419-385-4332 wide range of vacuum tubes – call Jack for details. Date listed 7/18/04 **

BILL WB8SJE 419-874-2593 after 5:30pm Two sections – one top one middle Rohn 20G tower \$10.00 each. Date listed 8/1/04*

JERRY N8XQC 734-502-3576 Yaesu HF rcvr # 757GX. Drake autotuner # MW2000. Date listed 8/1/04 *

SCOTT N8BIR 419-661-9349 Drake Model 2B rcvr – 12 600KHz segment in 80, 20, and 10m. With instruction manual Date listed 7/11/04 ***

LOOKING FOR:

STEVE KC8TVW 419-472-4720 4 pin KW mike as for the TS120S. Date listed 7/11/04 ***

BILL WB8SJE 419-874-2593 after 5:30pm. Drake 2B rcvr – need not work. Drake 2NT novice tx – must be in working order. Drake 4 line equipment and accessories. Date listed 8/1/04 *

The number of * following each listing is the number of times that it has been on the Sunday evening Net. The Swap and Shop is a service of the TMRA, open to all amateurs or interested persons in the coverage area of the repeater. To list items of Amateur Radio interest, check into the Net Sunday evenings after the TMRA Information Net on 147.27/87, or call me at 419-385-5624, or mail to my address, or leave a message for me on the TMRA packet BBS W8HHF, or if you see me in person, or to my e-mail bharrington@mco.edu

The TMRA reserves the right to decline to accept any listing. *Any descriptions of items listed are those of the person listing the item(s).* Items are kept on the Swap and Shop listing for a period of 4 weeks, i.e. 5 Sundays on the air - after which they are dropped from the list; renewals are welcome. Please notify me promptly when there is no longer a need to continue a listing.

When the TMRA Newsletter is published each month, the then current Swap and Shop listings are included the Newsletter. Prices are not mentioned over the air, but will be shown in the Newsletter

**TMRA
P.O. BOX 9673
TOLEDO, OH
43697-9673**

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August 2004

Toledo Air Show

Keep in mind: The Meijer Toledo Air Show is coming up at the end of the month on August 28th and 29th and the ARES group will be needing a lot of help. Get your 'go kit' ready and volunteer for this event, and let's show the officials how we can serve when called upon for an emergency or any other event for that matter. Call Brenda, KB8IUP to volunteer at 8665928.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673

President, Tom, KB8PAI; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Randi, KC8IVV;

Treasurer, Chuck, N8NIR; Public Information Officer, Patti, KC8AKT.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Ed, WA8BHO; Scott, N8BIR; Brian, WD8MXR; Howard, N8NEE.

TMRA Home Page www.tmrahamradio.org Webmaster, Becky, KC8ZNX.

TMRA W8HHF Repeaters; 29.680-, 147.270+, 224.140-, 442.850+ (TMRA 2 meter, 220, and 440 repeaters operate with a 103.5 "PL", or a touch-tone access code of 1-2-3) Please "ID" before using phone-patch.

(10 digit dialing, *up and #down)

TMRA W8HHF Packet BBS Frequencies 51.780, 145.690, 223.480, 441.060

The TMRA meets at 7:30 PM every second Wednesday in

The Electrical Industry Building, Lime City Rd. Rossford, Ohio.

The TMRA Q & A net meets every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, followed by the TMRA "Information & Swap 'N-Shop" net at 8:30 on the 147.270+ repeater. All amateurs are invited to check-in. *TMRA Voice Mail 419-535-6594*