



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

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



MARCH 2004

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING – LUCAS COUNTY

The National Weather Service (NWS) in cooperation with the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency(EMA) will be conducting a Skywarn Spotter Training class.

When: Saturday, March 6, 2004, 9:00 to 11:00 am
Where: St. Luke's Hospital, Auditorium A, Monclova Rd. Maumee
Trainer: The training will be conducted by Gary Garnet, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Cleveland.



With the severe weather season perhaps only a few weeks away, this class will teach the storm spotters of Lucas County how to identify and report tornadoes, funnel clouds and other severe weather problems.

This class is free and open to the public, and persons completing this class will be registered with the NWS at a storm spotter.

Skywarn is a program of the NWS, working with the local EMA office, where trained spotters look for and report incidents of severe weather that might be affecting their immediate communities. This is a completely volunteer organization. These trained spotters are the eyes and the ears of the National Weather Service in times of severe weather.

The program in Northwest Ohio is headquartered at the Lucas County Emergency Services Building where the relay point to the NWS is located. Trained ham radio operators collect the severe weather reports from Lucas and the surrounding counties and quickly relay them to the NWS in Cleveland.

Please contact the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency at 419-213-6532 for more information.

Ohio Statewide Severe Weather Week Will Be Observed March 21th - 27th.
Ohio Statewide Tornado Test; 9:00 AM, March 24.

Mark your calendars and sign up to help with these events this year.

March 14, -- Churchills ½ Marathon, 1:00 pm, Monclova area. Contact Ron, 419-841-7117.

April 25, -- Glass City Marathon, 8:00 am. Contact Bob, K8ADK, 419-382-2529.

The Prez Sez:

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well.

My goodness, is it March already? We sure have a lot going on! This is going to be a very busy month. We've got meetings, our Hamfest on the 21st, LCARES events, classes scheduled for early April, and the list goes on and on. And there's more in the near future that we'll mention when we get closer.

Stepping back in time for a moment... In case you didn't already know, in late January, the Technical committee and the Board decided to cut our figurative loses and remove our equipment from the prestigious rooftop location we had held. As much as we didn't want the situation to work out this way, we felt that it would be in the club's best interest to put this issue to rest and move on towards the future. What lies in the future? We're not entirely sure. But for now we have our repeaters on the air in temporary locations while we search out more sites to consider for permanent installation. If you know of a viable, legitimate location that the technical committee might consider, try to do some of the legwork and get some contact information for them to follow-up on. We need the whole membership to help find a location, and then once one is found, we will need physical help to complete the installation and then support from everyone in the choices we have made. If you are unable to contribute in the ways mentioned, another way would be to help the club by supporting our Hamfest. The finances that this event can provide may allow us more options when it comes time to make these tougher, more permanent decisions about our equipment. If nothing else, support the vendors who come to our Hamfest and make it worth their while, so we can count on them to return next year.

Now on to a more current topic... membership. We currently have 157 members in our ranks. I know there are more of you out there that need to renew. Technically, the membership year ends on March 1st and next I will be removing names from the newsletter mailing list. This may be the last issue of the Beacon you will be reading for awhile. Please contact me to make sure that this doesn't happen to you. I will be glad to let you know how to keep your membership active. Also, many of you are eligible for the 'seventy-plus' complimentary membership, and all you need to do is submit the application. Check with me and I will let you know if you qualify.

For a final comment this month, let me say this: Let's all work together and support our common hobby that we all enjoy, however we may choose to do so.

73 de KB8PAI

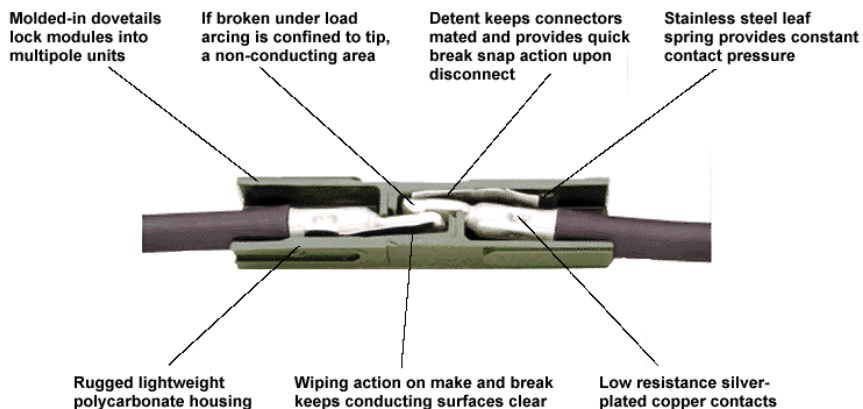
Tom Swartz, President and Membership Chairman

KB8PAI@ARRL.NET

Anderson Powerpoles

This article is not intended to be a tutorial on Anderson Powerpoles, rather an introduction with features and benefits. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me. Contact information is available at the end of the article.

If you have been in the Amateur Radio Service/hobby long enough, you have probably collected equipment from many different manufacturers, many of which need



to be powered by 12/13.8 volts DC. Does this sound familiar?

6 Radios - 3 brands - 2 Base, 3 Mobile/Base, 1 HT; 2 Power Supplies; 2 Lead Acid Batteries (different terminals) ; 2 SLA's with Faston type terminals; Various chargers & power adapters; Shack & 2 vehicles

Since converting to Powerpoles and a few patch cords, I am no longer concerned about connectivity.

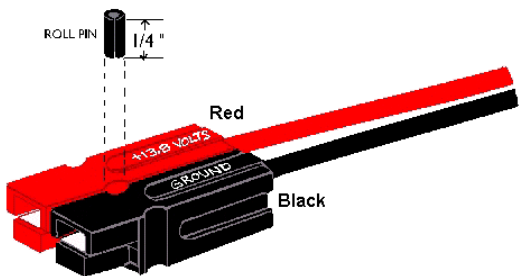
The majority of Emergency Communication groups have standardized on "Anderson Powerpoles". By converting your power cable feed connections to 'Powerpoles', several benefits occur.

- It provides the Amateur the convenience of being able to power their equipment from almost all of their power sources
- It improves the possibility that Amateurs can interchange power sources with other Amateurs.
- It assures that their equipment will most likely be able to be powered by the sources provided by Emergency Communications groups.

Powerpoles for the Amateur are available in three sizes, all of which interchange with each other. Sizes available are 15A, 30A and 45A. The primary difference is the contact that accepts the wire. The most common is the 30A.

A cross section of the connection is given below. Note that a Powerpole consists of a housing and contact.

Details for assembling a Powerpole connector are available on many web sites or you can email me. Powerpoles are genderless and as such need to be assembled as per the following drawing. Note that the red is on the left with the contact down. If assembled in this fashion, cross polarity is impossible to achieve. Powerpoles can be connected in the dark without concern for polarity. Another major advantage is that the contacts are recessed and cannot be touched when the housings are connected to a voltage source but not connected to a load.



Powerpoles are available in many colors for special purposes. For typical Amateur uses, it is recommended that Red and Black be used.

Sizes that correspond to Powerpole choices are:

15A	16-20 wire gauge
30A	12-16 wire gauge
45A	10-12 wire gauge

The 30A contacts will accept the lighter 16-20 gauge wire by folding the wire prior to insertion into the contact. All housings are identical. The wire receptacle area of the contact is the only difference.

There are currently several manufactures offering power control modules using Powerpoles for DC output. These modules may offer over/under voltage alarms, master equipment control or just DC output. The two that I am aware of currently are:

Rigrunners - West Mountain Radio

www.westmountainradio.com

PowerPanel - Saratoga Amateur Products

www.hamstop.com

Powerpoles are priced in the range of \$1.00 to \$.60 per pair(2 housings and 2 contacts). Prices vary with vendor and quantity. They generally are available at the larger hamfests.

Internet information is available at: andersonpower.com or powerwerx.com

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or call.

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March 2004

TMRA Presents Spring Ham Radio Classes

Technician classes will take place on two Saturdays, April 3 and April 10, 8 AM -5 PM. Call Brian, WD8MXR, (3855624) or Mike, WA8SYD, (4762947) for information. The location is 803 Lime City Rd. in the Local 8 Training Center, behind the Union Hall. A VE test session will close the last class.

Volunteer to help with the TMRA Hamfest on March 21. Get the word out, invite your neighbors and friends.

Remember the Annual TMRA Bus Trip to Dayton on May 15. Contact Mike, WA8SYD, for information.

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, Paul, N8XDB.

TMRA Home Page www.tmrahamradio.org Webmaster, Corey, KC8HQQ

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 information net meets every Sunday night at 8:30 PM, followed by the "Swap 'N-Shop" net on the linked 147.270+ and 442.850+ repeaters. All amateurs are invited to check-in. Voice Mail 419-535-6594

TMRA SWAP AND SHOP:

CURRENT AS OF March 1, 2004

FOR SALE:

Steve, W8TER 419-893-9106 or w8ter@arrl.net. Yaesu HF tcvr #FT-840 with matching power supply.
(Date listed 2/29/04) *

Dave WB8SHV 419-729-1507 evenings. HAL ST6 terminal unit.
(Date listed 2/29/04) *

Chad KC8UJD 419-392-4412 or kc8ujd@buckeye-express.com. Ham III rotor controller MD-44. Chimney
standoff bracket/ant mounting hardware. (Date listed 2/8/04) ****

Don, KC8EHC 734-243-2846. Yaesu base tcvr #FT-847. @m mobile amp, no preamp on Rx, variable power out.
Yaesu R51 with mike and drop-in charger. (Date listed 2/15/04) ***

Brian, WD8MXR 419-385-5624 KLM 14 ele 2m beam with instruction manual, assembled, never used - \$110.00
(Date listed 3/1/04)

FREE FOR THE TAKING:

Dave WB8SHV 419-729-1507 evenings. Two model 15 teletypes - one Rx only (no keyboard, other with
keyboard; plus parts and pieces. (Date listed 2/19/04) *

LOOKING FOR:

Brian KC8TRL 419-870-7210. 2m amp - 50-100w out for up to 10w in.
(Date listed 2/8/04) ****

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

73 Brian WD8MXR