



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

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



SEPTEMBER 2004

The Prez Sez:

Good day to my fellow club members and to the inquiring readers who are also on our mailing list. I have a few items that I thought I might mention that are in the works or already underway, that you may find of interest.

This last month has been keeping the ARES participants active with the Fire Station backup communications event, and then the Meijer Toledo Air Show, along with other activities I probably am not even aware of. The groups monthly meeting had to be rescheduled and then eventually cancelled because of conflicts with these events that are keeping them so busy. I hope everyone reading this (the licensed amateurs anyway), have considered what role they could play in helping out our communities, whether for casual volunteering (like the Air Show) or in a real emergency. Please make it a point to participate in some aspect of the ARES group in the future, and don't forget, all licensed amateurs are already members of ARES. Make sure you support the group, and also be more readily identifiable to the public by getting one of the T-shirts that ARES is now offering.

We have a club picnic scheduled for the date of Sunday, September the 19th to be held at the Monclova Park. Keep your senses keen for the other details to come via this newsletter (probably in this month's issue) or on the evening nets.

At the next General Meeting, we will be holding the club's elections... come out and vote! So far this year, we know we will have a race for the office of Secretary, but we still don't know if someone else will throw in their hat for one of the other offices. Also, we will be having a presentation by Marth Hanna, K8AAC, last year's recipient of the TMRA's Amateur of the Year award. She will be announcing who is deserving of the award this year. Come out to the meeting and congratulate the newly elected officers and whomever it will be who gets honored with the distinction of TMRA Amateur of the Year 2004.

I mentioned this last month and here is an update: The By-Laws committee has been meeting and making great progress, and by the time you read this we may be complete with our review of the By-Laws. Check the next issue of the 'Beacon' for the summary of proposed changes to the By-Laws. Then come to the following General Meeting to vote-in the proposed changes. Hopefully everything will go smooth. Though, there is an unfortunate downside to this task, the timing of the member's roster mailing is going to be delayed. But, I must say that I think it is definitely a worthwhile venture that has been needed for some time.

73 de KB8PAI
Tom Swartz, President and Membership Chairman
KB8PAI@ARRL.NET
(419) 724-8672

Let's Rethink The BPL Party

By Joe Phillips, K8QOE
Ohio Section Manager

It was a memorable line from the movie "Jurassic Park" which can easily fit the current Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL) controversy. Actor Jeff Goldblum's character was explaining how the intelligent scientists - doing breeding of prehistoric dinosaurs - could mess up so badly and things go so very wrong. Because he said "the scientist spent all their time seeing that they COULD and not one minute asking if they SHOULD." Which is why the ARRL have spent almost two years researching the Broadband Over Powerlines threat - the BPL suppliers know "THEY CAN" but do not seem to care "IF THEY SHOULD."

Beside the obvious interference from unshielded radiating lines (power lines never constructed to carry radio frequency signals), the ARRL biggest warning concerns what happens when the entire power grid of a city becomes one GIANT radiating antenna. The problems will then not be confined to amateur radio operators. Public service agencies (air traffic control towers???) could feel adverse effects.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, in "QST" (October, 2003) compared the BPL suppliers to "Baghdad Bob" who told the world America had no troops in Iraq right up to the second he was arrested. The evidence of BPL problems is everywhere: no BPL supplier seems to care. But let's put the technical aspects of BPL interference aside for a moment. The bad news is when amateur radio operators as individuals complain, our technical arguments are such a snoozer that we put the general public to sleep. Sorry but that's just the way it is. But the good news is that the economics of this technology will, in time, get us the same results - BPL as a minor player in Internet business or disappear altogether. And we actually owe BPL suppliers a debt of gratitude - it is their excessive claims and overblown rhetoric about this technology which will hopefully soon make BPL the 8-Track Tape of Internet services.

Know why utilities got excited about the BPL business? Because they saw a huge cash cow with little investment and an infrastructure already in place. They are finding out now the huge cash cow does not exist and the technology is not problem-free (see problems in Manassas, VA, Raleigh, NC and Cedar Rapids, IA). Know why the politicians like BPL? Because they have been promised this technology will EASILY bring low cost Broadband to rural America (voters). Well, check the rural cooperatives who have studied this or check with rural utility companies. No rural utility, and I mean not one that I am aware of, is going into the BPL business. The rural availability argument is simply as BOGUS as bogus gets. When the politicians find this out, their praise will melt and disappear.

The Jurassic Park movies are now history. Maybe BPL's massive promises are next.

"From the Ohio Section Journal, Ron Griffin, N8AEH, editor."

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

Highlights from the *September Section News*

It's Back This Year - The 2004 Ohio Section Conference, which skipped a year in 2003, will be held Saturday, September 18, at the Ohio EMA headquarters in NW Columbus. Which means the big social event of the year, the Pizza Lunch returns as well. The Section Conference, a meeting of Ohio Section field appointments but all are welcomed, is held each September to review ARRL activity in Ohio. The Severson Memorial Award and Ohio Section Newsletter award winners are also announced. In 2003, the Conference was canceled because of the Great Lakes Division Convention being the same week. It begins at 9 a.m. (Not 10 a.m. as originally announced.) The Ohio EMA address is 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Road (Ohio 161) in Northwest Columbus.

PARADE OF VANS - Special treat this year's Ohio Section Conference will be the display of emergency vans from various county ARES programs in Ohio. Last time we did this, nine such vans made the trip - this year SEC John Chapman, WB8INY, is looking for a few more. At this display, you can see what other ARES programs are doing and the equipment they employ.

FOR OHIO OFFICIAL OBSERVERS - Here is the directory information for getting in touch with the OOC, if necessary. Please add to your address book or Palm Pilot -
Official Observer Coordinator
Richard Swain, KK8O
837 Timberlane Drive
Galion, OH 44833-1127
home (419) 468-6050 E-mail kk8o@arrl.net.

8TH CALL QSL BUREAU - Another reason to see the Voice of America Museum in West Chester (near Cincinnati) is to visit the 8th QSL bureau set up by bureau chief, Jay Slough, K4ZLE. This mini-post office always has hundreds of QSL cards passing through - from all points of the planet.

OHIO SECTION NET NEWS - This Section has two daily operating CW traffic nets on 3.577MHz. Buckeye Net Early (BNE) is at 6:45 p.m. and Buckeye Net Late (BNL) at 10 p.m. BNE Net manager is Tom Carroll, WA8ZGL, Cuyahoga Falls and BNL Net Manager is Phil Pockras, NY8V, Belle Center.

DE Joe Phillips, K8QOE. Ohio Section Manager

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.

TMRA ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, September 19. 1:00 PM **MONCLOVA PARK** located at the corner of Albon Road and Monclova Road. (Behind the Fire Station)

For info and reservations contact Randi, KC8IVV, 419-837-5828

ARES News

August has been a busy month for members of Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Every weekend in August was busy with an event involving the amateur radio operators. Some individuals worked every one of these events. It started out August 7 with the "Mad Anthony Biking Event", August 13-14 "Sylvania Kids Triathlon" on Saturday and Sunday the regular triathlon, August 21 we manned all the Toledo fire stations for backup communications, and August 28-29 "Air Show". We booked 737.5 man hours for all of these events. I thank every one of you who have helped in one or all of these events. The county officials are very much aware what we do and how important we are for back up communications. Since we have done the fire stations several times lately, for Labor Day fireworks I decided to put people on standby at their homes if case we would be needed for backup communications. I believe that those who have gone to the stations know where the best place is to set up their equipment. I have word that antennas are to be installed on the stations in the near future. This will definitely be a plus for us. We found out on August 21 that there are some stations that amateurs can not get out on their radios from inside the station.

Keep your ears tuned to the weather. Those who have completed the CERT training have been contacted to see if they could go to Florida for 2-3 weeks. Chris Hart, KC8UFV from our group has left for Atlanta for more training. Will keep you posted as to how things are going with Chris. Keep him and those in Florida in your prayers.

September meeting is Sept. 25, 9:00 a.m., St. Luke's Hospital private dining room in the basement. Come a little early and have breakfast before the meeting. I will not be there but Chris, N8WGB will be leading the meeting.

TMRA Swap And Shop:

Current as of Sept 6, 2004

For Sale:

SCOTT, N8BIR 419-661-9349 Drake model 2B receiver - 12 600KHz segments in 80, 20 and 10m bands. With instruction manual. Date renewed 9/5/04 *

Looking For:

JOHN, K8DAD toledohamradio@yahoo.com Crystals for local repeaters, e.g. 147.27/87, 147.375/975 for Icom 22A, Regency HR2A and HR2B. Date listed 8/8/04 *****

CHUCK N8BLP 419-476-8389 someone to work on ham and CB tubed radios. Date listed 8/22/04 ***

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 wd8mxr@arrl.net.

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

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

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September 2004

OHIO SECTION SEPTEMBER HAMFESTS... (12) Findlay Radio Club at Hancock County Fairgrounds. Web site can be seen at <http://www.findlayradioclub.org> or contact Bill Kelsey, N8ET, (419-423-5643) or write kanga@bright.net .

(19) Greater Cincinnati ARA at Scarlet Oaks Career Center, Sharonville. Web site can be seen at <http://www.themikeandkey.com> or contact Stan Cohen, W8QDQ (513-531-1011) or write stanco49@aol.com .

(26) Hamfest Association of Cleveland at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Beria. Web site can be seen at <http://www.hac.org> or contact William Beckman, N8LXY, (1-800-CLE-FEST) or write info@hac.org .

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*