



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

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



June 2006

The Prez Sez:

To those of you that I don't see or haven't seen for awhile you should have your membership cards by now, that is, if you requested one. In the last few weeks I mailed out 60 letters to 72 Club members issuing their membership cards. When you renew your membership this next November or December, try to see me to pick up your membership cards. Don't worry... I'll continue to remind you when the time gets near!

Congratulations to our newest graduates of our Technician Class and the newest members of the Club: John, KD8DOU; David, KD8DOT; Jerry, KE7HUL; Shelly, KD8DOQ; and Don, KD8DOS. That, along with a few other renewals and a couple of new members, brings our membership total to 185. A big welcome goes to Mark, W8XR; Stacey, KD8DFI; Patricia, KD8DJW, Larry Crook (Yes, Larry) and welcome back to John, KB8KLLK a member from the past that many of you probably remember. Once again, if I've missed anyone, I apologize.

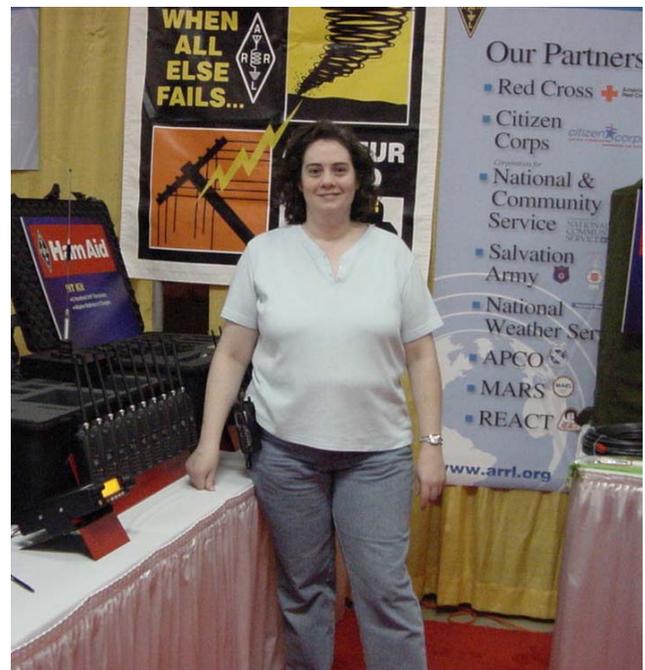
Dayton was fabulous! What else is there to say? The weather was great; the bus trip, as always, was the way to go; and the price of admission was definitely worth it. If you missed out... then you really missed out! 'Nuf said. But plan on going next year.

Interested in foxhunting? This is a very interesting, useful, and fun facet of the Amateur Radio hobby. The next one is scheduled for June 3 in the Northeast part of Toledo... check for another article elsewhere in the newsletter to learn more.

There is some very important information that should concern all members of the Club regarding our UT Scholarship(s) on another page in this issue of the Beacon. Make sure to read it and express your thoughts to someone on the Scholarship Committee. Those persons would be Chuck, N8NIR; Brian, WD8MXR; Mike, WA8SYD; Brenda, KB8IUP and myself. We need your feedback on this matter!

Don't forget about the big Field Day event coming up on June 24 and 25 at the Wolcott House and Museum in Maumee... I hope to see as many Club members attend as possible. We'll be there for at least 24 hours, so stop by and see what's going on.

73 de KB8PAI,
Tom Swartz, President and Membership Chairman
kb8pai@arrl.net



Becky, KC8ZNX, Lucas County SKYWARN coordinator, checked out the ARRL emergency communication display at Dayton.

kb8fxi photo

Foxhunting Revival – A New Ham’s Perspective

Jeanne Ewald, KB8TAT

Foxhunting is an age-old tradition of sport and camaraderie during the hunt for the intended animal. Usually horses, dogs and the targeted fox are involved in the hunt. However, on May 6, several amateur radio operators from the Toledo and surrounding area were active in another kind of foxhunt, using vehicles, antennas, radios, and their creative skills to locate the fox.

As a newly licensed ham, I was introduced to foxhunting “radio style” by Tom Swartz KB8PAI. He told stories of previous hunts he had been involved with, and I was excited to try this aspect of the hobby. I didn’t really know what to expect, but it turned out to be a very fun evening.

Bob Van Klingerer KB8WVL was the driving force to get people re-introduced to foxhunting. His website (<http://www.kb8wvl.com/Foxhunting%20Main.htm>) lists the boundaries and rules for each hunt. Although TMRA did not sponsor the event, they did allow their repeater to be used for the evening’s activities.

Brian Van Klingerer W8PH and his daughter Emma rode with Bob KB8WVL.

As I am still learning many things about radio and antenna use, I was curious what the steps were, as many people might be who are unfamiliar with this activity. How would we find the fox as we started out on the first hunt?

Tom KB8PAI explained to me that the first step was to get a general direction to head in. While the fox continually transmits a signal by talking or giving dead keys (just holding the microphone open without speaking), the “hunters” have to race against each other to find where the signal is coming from. Tom and I accomplished this by using a new antenna he built out of a broken steel tape measure.

Driving through residential neighborhoods, commercial locations, and industrial parks, keeping a steady eye on the S meter reading (signal strength), we followed the signal to where it was the strongest. Eventually we came to the place where WVL was hiding, behind a bush in a commercial business parking lot at Angola and Wenz Roads. We had passed by this place a couple times already. It was thrilling to see the “fox” come into view. Then we found out we were the first to find him, so we were now the fox! Of we went to hide before the others started the hunt.

We decided to hide somewhere on the Medical University of Ohio campus and chose a spot behind a brick utility building under some high power lines. We were very close to railroad tracks, and during the hour we were sitting there, we saw a doe walking along the tracks. These were several of Tom’s clues to the hunters.

Eventually, WVL and crew found our hiding place, which made them the fox again. Their second hiding place was in a parking lot of an apartment complex at Glendale and Eastgate. Tom and I followed their signal down

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, KC8HQH, 419-874-2173.

QCWA Chapter 142, meets on the 2nd 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, pelentzk8pl@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.

Glendale and finally found them, making us the fox again. However, we decided to let someone else have a chance to be the fox.

The other hunters for the evening included James Easter, WD8IOL; Matt Hahn, KC8DEL and their friend Tom, as well as Tony Everhardt, N8WAC and Jon Knapp, KB8KLLK. We also had check-ins from Tom Althoff, K8OSH and Mike Mettler, W8RF.

For the fourth hunt, Jon, KB8KLLK hid out in plain sight in a parking lot at Glendale and Byrne. He gave some really good hints toward the end of the hunt and everyone was able to locate him eventually.

The goal is to have a foxhunt once per month. Information about the hunts is available on the website as listed previously in this article. Hopefully, more people will be interested to come out and try this activity. You could be the next fox or simply listen, check in and give antenna bearings to those in the hunt.

All in all, the evening was very educational for me, and a lot of fun for everyone. I am looking forward to the next hunt.

Mini Field Day

How well does your grab and go setup work? This past Tuesday May 9th we found out that not all grab and go boxes are the same.

Mini field day took off and we were flying by 5:00 PM. Starting with three stations and ending up with six. It was not long before the contacts were rolling in.

Steve, KC8TVW our club public information officer setup and displayed our new banner that was recently acquired from ARRL. It is a site to behold. "WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS . . . AMATEUR RADIO".

Steve also planted his 40 meter loop to work some QRP cw/voice. Running on a seven Ahr gel cell he made several contacts between helping set up and tear down. It was interesting checking out all the other stations and experiencing how QRP is really fun.

A special thanks goes to Steve, KB9UPS for the terrific task of bringing out his satellite station and setting it up to give the ultimate demonstration of how to make satellite contacts. Tear down and setup are not easily done with the long two meter and 70 centimeter beams. I am grateful for the assistance that was given to Steve in his efforts.



Steve, KB9UPS sets up his station at the mini-field day.

wd8lvf photo

Thanks to all who participated. It was good practice and I learned that my grab and go kit is not set up as well as I thought. I need some extra items and maybe need to discard a couple of things that are unnecessary.

Perhaps you might need to look and see if you need to revamp the old grab and go box. Dayton is coming up and it is a good time to make a list and check it twice. I hope to get what I need at the hamvention.

We are hoping to do a couple more mini field days this year. Please listen for them to be announced and come out even just to visit.

73

Steve, W8TER

Dayton Bus Trip '06

Another Hamvention has come and gone, and we are left with just memories... ahhh but what memories! A perfect day of weather- sunny, not too hot, not too cool, and best of all- no rain!! Traveling together this year were 44 eager souls anxiously anticipating an exciting and full day of hamfesting. The bus managed to get under way by 5:32AM after dallying just long enough to acquire our last passenger, Mike, from Trenton, MI. The Monroe, MI and surrounding area contingent was well represented by the half dozen or so folks who responded to Nick and Rita's promotion of our trip. The ride down was uneventful and seemed to go quickly. The bus arrived a few minutes after 8:00AM and after the usual caveats like what's our bus number, what frequency shall we use and remember where we parked, everyone scurried inside and quickly disappeared into the crowd. Now, I cannot speak directly for any others, but I had a great time, what with visiting old friends, exploring the manufacturer's booths, wandering the flea market and peeking in on the odd forum. As with all good things the day was soon over and everyone had returned to the bus by 5:01PM, a record time I might add.



With chagrin I must admit to being the last person to return to the bus. Without delay we were soon traveling down the highway and after about an hour pulled into the Ponderosa restaurant in Sidney, OH where we were welcomed by our smiling manager, Ralph. After a delicious meal and with full bellies, we resumed our journey. During the final leg of the ride there was lots of conversation and many smiles as people remembered the day and explored their new purchases. Shortly after sunset Chet, our driver delivered us back at the U.T. parking about ten minutes ahead of schedule. The perfect end to the perfect day. Hope to see all of you again next year! The photos of James, WD8IOL near the bus and the arena vendor area are from KB8FXJ.

Mike -WA8SYD

Technician licensing classes will be held June 3rd and June 17th from 8:00AM to 5:00PM at the 911 complex in downtown Toledo. The first day will be held at the training building 2127 Jefferson Ave. corner of Jefferson and 22nd. Second day will be held on the third floor of the 911 dispatch building with testing being done from 3 to 5PM. There is still some space available. Contact Mike, WA8SYD at 419-476-2947.

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

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June 2006

Help needed for the Maumee Bay Tri-Athalon

Please call Rick, K8RKS, 4710573, to volunteer for this short Sunday morning event on June 18.

Fulton County Hamfest--June 11. Talk-in, 147.195+
Monroe County Hamfest-- June 18. Monroe County Fairgrounds.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673
President, Tom, KB8PAI; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Brian, WD8MXR;

Treasurer, Chuck, N8NIR; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Ed, WA8BHO; Scott, N8BIR; Howard, W8NEE;.Bob,K8ADK; Steve,KC8TVW.

TMRA Home Page www.tmrahamradio.org Webmaster, Tom, KB8PAI.

- 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*
