



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

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



March 2006

The Prez Sez:

ATTENTION: (I hope that got your attention,) To those of you who have not renewed your membership with the TMRA, this will be your last issue of the "Beacon". Sad to say, but I must remove those non-members from the 'roll' as the rules state. And that means that you can't be on the mailing list for the next newsletter. So please take a moment to verify with me that you need to renew and any other particulars you need to know, and take care of this promptly. Even though we shouldn't do it, we, (I) take applications through and at the Hamfest. Heck, for that matter, I take them any time! But, make sure to make a special effort to: 1. Support our Hamfest, 2. Support your club, 3. Have fun at a great event and maybe you'll even win some money or a door prize. In other related matters, our roster is currently at 143 members right now... about sixty shy of where we left off from last year.

To those of you who like things to be prompt and timely. I have been asked to get the meetings started on time at the scheduled starting time of 7:30PM. I will make more of an effort to do so and in turn, I hope to see more of you at the meetings and other events. I aim to please, at least I try to aim to please.

We have a jam-packed month for March: The Northwest Ohio District Two Science Fair held at the University of Toledo on the 18th, and also National Weather Service Skywarn training at St. Luke's Hospital on the same day. Then our TMRA Hamfest on the 19th. Who knows what I may be missing, but check either the calendar in this newsletter or the one on our website. Also, mark on your calendars the Glass City Marathon event on April 2nd. The LCARES group will be needing help with that one.

A reminder to those that attend the monthly Executive Committee Meetings at the #2 fire station in Maumee: the meeting for March will be postponed to 3/29/06 to allow time for our Hamfest to take place and for the Budget Committee to hold their meeting thereafter.

73 de KB8PAI and see you at the Hamfest,
Tom Swartz, President and Membership Chairman
kb8pai@arrl.net

LCARES News

Hello all, I am the Lucas County ARES van and am now the proud recipient of a new piece of equipment. It belongs to the Lucas County EMA office and will be riding along with me to whatever emergency, event or incident that my drivers choose to take me. It is the ACU1000.

The ACU1000 is a neat unit that takes up quite a bit of my rear floor space but when in use it will allow all the local incident responders to communicate with each other using their own radio equipment and frequencies. It has 9 mobile radios mounted on a rack, the ACU1000 unit itself, a laptop computer, and 2 60 amp power



ACU1000

N8APZ Photo

supplies. It is entirely enclosed in a nice case, which measures 2' x 3' x 3 ½' tall and weighs 280 pounds. It is attached to the sides of my rear compartment so that it doesn't become a WMD upon my driver's erratic driving.

My new piece of equipment uses a laptop computer to set up the patches between various local fire, police and other incident responders radio systems and landlines into the Toledo 800 Mhz system. The responder transmits on their radio's frequency and the ACU1000 unit's corresponding radio receives the signal and passes it on to one of the other radios in the rack system. This all works seamlessly and will be a great improvement to my usefulness.

If you would like to learn more about this unit and how it works you can visit the ACU1000 web site at www.jps.com/index.asp?node=65 There is also a nice article of the ACU1000's use in the February issue of Monitoring Times that should be on the newsstands at this time.

Thank you very much for reading of my recent updates and please visit me at the TMRA Hamfest on March 19, 2006.

The LCARES Van by Ron N8APZ

Get Involved

Ask Representative Marcy Kaptur to Cosponsor H.RES.230

Brent Stover

Ohio State Legislative Action Assistant

If you haven't written to Representative Marcy Kaptur to cosponsor House Resolution 230 concerning Broadband over Power Lines, now is the time. Included is a sample letter ready for you to use, or make up one of your own. Rep. Kaptur's contact information is as follows:

Main District Office, One Maritime Plz., 6th Floor, Toledo, Oh. 43604 Tel:419.259.7500, Fax:419.255.9623.

Washington Office, 2366 RHOB, Washington D.C. 202.225.4146, Fax: 202.225.7711.

Please send a copy of your correspondence in a word file to Jim Weaver k8je@arrl.org so he can forward it to our lobbyist in Washington D.C. With your help our voice will be heard all the way to Washington.

Representative Marcy Kaptur
One Maritime Plaza, 6th Floor
Toledo, OH. 43604

Dear Representative Kaptur,

As a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator in your district and as a member of ARRL -- the national association for Amateur Radio, I ask you to support House Resolution 230. This resolution urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the potential of "broadband over power line" (BPL) systems to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio services.

BPL utilizes electric power lines to serve as the conductors of the broadband signals. Unfortunately, because the power lines are not shielded, they also act as antennas and radiate the signals into the air. These radiated signals will interfere with radio receivers tuned to the same frequency range. BPL has only been deployed to a very limited extent, but Amateur Radio already is experiencing severe BPL interference that the FCC has been unable or unwilling to correct. Unlike BPL, other methods of providing broadband Internet services to consumers, such as cable, DSL, wireless and Fiber to the Home, do not pollute the radio spectrum.

Last October 14, the FCC ignored the evidence that BPL systems will cause widespread interference and adopted rules for BPL deployment that provide inadequate protection to radio communication by First Responders and others who need reliable radio communication to ensure our security. The FCC needs to do what it should have done in the first place: fairly and carefully review this evidence and adopt rules that will keep interference from BPL within reasonable bounds.

Because we need no infrastructure in order to communicate, the Amateur Radio Service is the only 100-percent fail-safe emergency communication capability in the world. Interference from BPL emissions will significantly disrupt this capability. Please cosponsor H. Res. 230 as soon as possible to express your concern over the interference potential of BPL to Amateur Radio operators and to public safety licensees.

Sincerely,

Minutes of the TMRA General Meeting – 2/8/2006

The meeting was called to order by President Tom, KB8PAI at 1931h. 30 members and 2 guests were present.

- ▶ Treasurer Chuck, N8NIR presented the up-to-date Treasurer's report.
- ▶ President Tom, KB8PAI reported that so far we have 136 members for 2006. The NW Ohio Science Fair is Saturday March 18 and we need volunteers for judging. We also need a Chairperson for the Program Committee – there were no volunteers at this meeting.
- ▶ Technical Committee: Chuck, N8NIR will check with Mark, WB8OET regarding the 2m repeater amplifier
- ▶ ARES report: SKYWARN training will be March 18 at St. Luke's Hospital, 9:00 to 11:00am. At the last meeting Bill, N8XVD ran a NIMS700 training course.
- ▶ Hamfest committee: Brian, WD8MXR discussed problems with some persons reserving tables wanting an excessive number of vendors passes – we are limiting them to a maximum of 2 passes per table reserved. There will be a HF committee meeting at his house Feb 15, 2006. Chuck, N8NIR asked for information regarding silent keys so that they can be taken off the data base used for HF publicity mailings.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- ▶ Steve, KC8TVW announced that VE testing will be Saturday Feb 11.
- ▶ Tom, KB8PAI announced that the March Executive Committee meeting has been postponed until Wednesday, March 29, 2006 as the Budget committee will not meet until Monday, March 27, 2006, by which time the Hamfest financial situation will be known.
- ▶ Nick, AF8CS announced that the 2006 Air Show has been cancelled.
- ▶ Steve, KC8TVW announced that, as decided at the January Executive Committee meeting, Club brochure and newsletters will be sent to new hams that check into the Q & A Net on Sunday evenings. Also, he will place advertisements/announcements about the Hamfest in local newspapers.
- ▶ Brenda, KB8IUP announced that the Mansfield Hamfest is Sunday Feb 12, 2006.

There being no further business before the club, KC8TVW made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris, KC8UFV - motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2010h.

Respectfully submitted

Brian, WD8MXR
Secretary.

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

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March 2006



March 18 - Lucas County SKYWARN Training at St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium. 9:00 AM. Bring your family and friends. A very interesting and informative free program.

March 19 - TMRA annual Hamfest/Computer Fair at the Lucas County Recreation Center on Key St. in Maumee. There is still time to volunteer an hour or so of your time to help make this event a success. Call Brian, WD8MXR, at 3855624.

April 2 - Glass City Marathon, call Bob, K8ADK, 3822529 to sign up to provide communications for this annual event.

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, 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*