



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

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



November 2006

September 16th Drill

How did we do?

(In Short)

In my opinion, the ACU 1000 seems to take the place of the existing installed radios, with the exception of the ham gear, that are mounted in the truck.

On the test run we discovered that the antennas do not work well without a good ground plane. After discovering that this problem existed and finding a cure, we were successful in accomplishing everything that was asked from us.

Brian, WD8MXR and myself are currently working on a design of a ground plane that could be mounted on the mast if the trailer was not available or more height was needed.

How did we do?

(The full story)

We arrived at Springfield number two station just before 6:00 AM. I wanted to try the ACU to see if I had understood the manual and would be able to operate it correctly.

When trying to get power to the ACU we discovered the new power cord that Bill Halsey had gotten for the unit was not in the truck. We improvised and used the power cord from the trailer.

Brent, WD8PNZ and myself setup the antennas on a makeshift iron bar and laid it across the top of the truck. We then turned on the unit. It powered up and we turned on the radios.

After going over the keypad entry instructions we programmed the radios to the Maumee DPW and tied it to the Maumee fire ground. I then used a borrowed handie talkie from Maumee to test the system. I was able to key up the radio but the Maumee dispatcher was not hearing it. We could hear the repeater turn on and off but I was not hearing audio.

It was still dark outside so finding some thing to use as a ground plane was not going to be easy. We shifted the iron bar to the trailer because it was higher in profile than the truck. We tried the system again and this time the Maumee dispatcher heard us. This confirmed that we had programmed the unit correctly. The received signal was very weak and scratchy though. At this point I knew that the antenna system was not adequate and began to look for a solution. Then as I was pulling the antennas down from the trailer, I noticed that the entire roof of



Steve, W8TER, with the ACU-1000 in the ARES truck.

the trailer is sheet metal and the antennas stick to it quite well. It makes a splendid ground plane! This is how we mounted the antennas for the drill, by sticking them on the roof of the trailer.

When we were called to leave Springfield number two station to go to the incident command location, we were asked to get a handie talkie and tune to ecomm 7, I pulled the truck to the side of the road and Brent retrieved a handie from the rack. We continued to head to the incident command. We were unable to tune the handie talkie to ecomm 7 even with instructions because that handie talkie was not programmed correctly. We finally arrived at the incident command area and Brent retrieved another handie talkie from the back of the truck. We then got it tuned to ecomm 7 and were able to communicate with the other units involved in the drill.

Upon arrival the incident commander instructed us to setup and get on the air. He asked how long this would take and I informed him 20 minutes or less. A police dispatcher asking to be patched through to Oregon PD as soon as possible also approached us. We were on the air in about 10 minutes and were able to make a patch for the dispatcher. We also offered the trailer for use to the incident commander to use as a command post. The incident commander had people use the inside of the trailer but didn't use it for himself. Instead they set up and taped their maps and other visual aids to the sides of the trailer and the truck.

Brent and myself remained with the ACU and provided patches and tuned radio frequencies for the dispatcher and the incident commander. At one point the incident commander wanted a USAR frequency. There are four of them. We asked which one he wanted. He said he did not know so we found the one with activity on it and he was able to communicate with them using the ACU handset.

As the drill was winding down I was able to speak with the dispatcher and asked about the performance of the ACU. Was there any problem communicating? Was there a problem hearing? He stated that communications with the other stations were good. "The ACU's audio is HOT". "Too loud!" Meaning that when I spoke to him over the radio, using the handset, it was very uncomfortable on his ears. Even when I held the handset far away it still was too much.

After the drill was over the incident commander thanked us for our help. I asked him if there was anything he would like to mention that would have made this drill better from the standpoint of the drill. He requested a table and chairs for outside use. A canopy or tent shelter, (The table in the trailer was being used by other personnel in the trailer.) and a large dry erase board to hang on the sides of the truck and trailer.

We were the last unit to leave the area and we discovered that there was a sat phone and some other equipment apparently forgotten by some participants of the drill. Since that time the equipment has been returned.

The Incident Commander seemed pleased with our presence and thanked us for our help.

Steve Bellner, w8ter
Assistant Emergency Coordinator Lucas county A.R.E.S.

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

ARRL Requests Input On Recent FCC "Omnibus" Report And Order

The ARRL is requesting member input concerning the FCC's Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, released on October 10. The Report and Order will not take effect until 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. This publication date is not yet known.

The complete text is available for viewing as a PDF file on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf>. A summary is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/10/11/100/>>.

The ARRL is specifically seeking member guidance on how the changes will affect current operating activities on 80, 40 and 15 meters. See the current ARRL band plans at: <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html>> and an ARRL FAQ <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/faq.html>> that includes a downloadable chart showing the band changes <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3_color.pdf>.

Comments may be submitted by e-mail to <bandplan@arrl.org>. All e-mails will be read and considered, but individual responses will not be possible due to the message volume expected. The deadline for comments is October 31.

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 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.



Jamboree on the Air

TMRA participated in the Scouting JOTA on Saturday, October 21. It was a beautiful day at the Wolcott House as Scouts explored the world of Ham Radio. Be sure to watch for the story of this event in the December *Amateur Radio Beacon*.

Remember to vote on November 7th.

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VE Testing - Nov. 11

Congrats to the following new Generals: Dohn, KD8ELE; John, KD8BIN and Bob, KC8RWI.

Thanks to the VE's that helped: Tom, N8MAV; Wayne, KC8WCN; Dan, KE8UE; Stacey, KD8DFI and Brian, WD8MXR. Just a note about the sessions: When we do CW testing along with written exams, it is better for all concerned to have 2 separate exam areas. Thus the need for 6 VE's at that session. If you are General or Extra, please consider getting certified as a VE. It will help spread the load.

Thanks,
Steve KC8TVW

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673
President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, James, WD8IOL;
Treasurer, Chuck, N8NIR; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Howard, W8NEE; Bob, K8ADK; Steve, KC8TVW; Tom, KB8PAI

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*