



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

August 2007



## Challenger Learning Center ARISS Contact



Steve, KB9UPS, controls the microphone for one of the students asking Flight Engineer, Clay Anderson, KD5PLS, on the Space Station, a question.

Photo-Ron, N8RLH

On July 25, 2007 tensions mounted as the clock slowly clicked down to “Zero” hour, 1148 utc. Sixteen students from in and around the Toledo area lined up for a chance to talk with Flight Engineer Clay Anderson (KD5PLA) aboard the International Space Station. As parents, guests and the Challenger Learning Centers staff looked on, my local support team dubbed “Team Challenger” from the Toledo Mobile Radio Association finalized equipment connections for the contact.

Last year I had learned that no one in the area had contacted the Challenger Learning Center to try an ARISS contact from the center, this amazed me. I soon rallied the members of the TMRA and we were on the list for a possible summer contact. I contacted Julie Muffler the center's director and then lead flight director Reed Steele, who now works for NASA's educational department, in Houston, both were awed by the chance. Our contact became reality during the Centers 2007

Summer Camp where students would be assembling their own space station in a local pool to simulate zero gravity.

As the contact started, tension built even higher as on the fourth call, still no answer from Clay, then came the words we had hoped to hear, “KB9UPS, NA1SS on the backup frequency”. Quickly tuning to the backup frequency a signal report was given and the questions began. Clay kept his answers short even though some of the questions posed could have gone into much more detail. Questions like; “How is oxygen maintained in the ISS and what type of backup system is in place should a problem be encountered?” and “How does the Space Station keep from falling to the ground?”.

The sixteen students selected for the contact ranged in grades from grade 6 through grade 10 were also signed up for the Challenger Learning Center's summer space camp being held all week long.

As the contact drew to an end with 26 of the 32 questions being answered by Clay Anderson, the room exploded with cheer at what had just taken place.



Challenger Learning Center Summer Space Camp participants.

Photo-Ron, N8RLH

This had become my second contact as control operator and my first “solo” contact as ARISS mentor Charlie Sufana-AJ9N was not on hand for the contact but nervously stood by on the phone as the contact took place.

Ten of the members from “Team Challenger” and myself assembled the station on the previous Saturday taking just over nine hours totaling over “102” man hours plus an additional eight hours on Monday. The setup included links into the IRLP system and into the Discovery reflector on the web via an RF link. A connection through Skype software to Graham Lawton-G7EVY in Preston, UK also inserted the audio to the Echolink server. There is a recording of the contact on the AMSAT conference node for all to listen.



"Team Challenger", TMRA members set up and test equipment for the ARISS project.

Photo--Ron,N8RLH

I am looking forward to many other contacts from schools around the Toledo area and sharing Amateur Radio with them.

73's All and I'll see you, “on the birds”.

Steve/kb9ups  
ARISS Team

AMSAT area coordinator, Toledo, Oh.

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## Field Day 2007

If you came to Field day this year chances are you heard the operators operating. We had pretty good turn out and the hotdogs tasted delicious. I can't remember when the weather cooperated so well. The mosquitoes even cooperated.

I don't have the points racked up yet but I'll publish them when I get them done. A lot goes into making field day every year. Not as much as the hamfest but still, a lot of people come out and help set up and also Get On The Air. When I can get people to show up and operate, then I know I'm having a good time. If you missed the field day event there will be one next year at the same place. I'd like to take this time to give a big thank you to all who came out and made it go. I am really glad to have your help.

One thing that was missing at this event was the kids. In fact, there are not a lot of kids that are at all interested in ham radio. Those that do stop by are just happenstance and there is not any real attempt to give them inspiration. I can't say that trying to interest them has not been tried but with the world of communications we live in now they are just not impressed. True too about the grownups. “I can talk to California with my cell phone and it doesn't cost me any extra.”

We have an opportunity in October to help the amateur radio hobby by influencing kids who want to learn about communications. It's called JOTA. Jamboree On The Air. TMRA will be sponsoring JOTA at camp Miakonda this October and we will have a bunch of kids who will want to learn and this is our time to influence them about ham radio.

TMRA will be setting up a station for the scouts to talk on. The scouts will be using the radios to contact other scouts and have QSO's. This is one way to pique their interest. This is one time to make an effort to help them

understand that wireless communications can be an excellent means of learning and experimenting and that the results of learning and experimenting come to fruition and allow us to enjoy talking over great distances effectively and reliably.

TMRA is trying to make a difference to the young experimenters and so we are getting more involved with events such as contacting the International Space Station from the Challenger Learning Center. We are sharing these events with the younger population in an effort to promote amateur radio and all it has to offer.

There was a little girl in school who thought that chickens came from the grocery store... she was not happy when she found out where they really came from. And so it is with amateur radio. I would guess that most kids today think that electronic devices come from the store, we know better and this is what they need to understand in order to appreciate what amateur radio is about.

Steve, W8TER

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## 2007 Ohio QSO Party Announcement

The 2007 running of the Ohio QSO Party will be Saturday, August 25. It goes from noon to midnight, EDT. Activity will be on the HF bands, 10 through 80 meters, CW and SSB.

Stations inside Ohio can work anyone, anywhere. Stations outside of Ohio (anywhere in the world, and yes, we do get entrants from Europe) can only work stations in Ohio -- so we Buckeyes are the hunted, not the hunters for a change!

There are numerous awards (certificates and plaques) available -- including a club competition. To date, these are the sponsored plaques, available to the top scorers in each category:

- Ohio Single Operator High Power
- Ohio Single Operator Low Power
- Ohio Single Operator QRP
- Ohio Single Operator Phone
- Out of State Single Operator High Power
- Out of State Single Operator Low Power
- Out of State Single Operator QRP
- Single Operator DX
- Ohio Multi Operator
- Ohio Mobile
- Ohio Club
- YL

The OQP Organizing Committee is hoping that Ohio hams are making plans to be active, whether from home, camp or mobile in the Ohio countryside. The OQP Committee's annual goal is to have all 88 counties on the air. There will be plenty of activity for all 12 hours. Operate for a short time or the whole contest period -- whatever suits your time budget.

### OTHER TOLEDO AREA AMATEUR RADIO ORGANIZATIONS

#### ARES

Lucas County Amateur Radio  
Emergency Service meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Bill, WN8RUG, at 419-882-7337. **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-, 147.120+ 103.5) Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM. Contact Martha, K8AAC.

**TRAC** (147.375+, 146.940-) Meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at The Big Boy Restaurant, 1402 Reynolds Road, Maumee. (next to Hampton-Inn hotel )

**FRAT** (52.360, 146.835-, 224.280-, 444.650+) Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. FRAT net follows the Rain Dialup and Amateur News Weekly on Thursday nights starting at 8:30 PM.

Full details are on the official OQP web site, <http://www.oqp.us>.

Past scores, a "Quick Start Guide" to the OQP, logging software information, paper forms and operating aids, and a regularly updated page showing planned activity, county by county, are all there for you.

For the latest OQP information, there is also an e-mail reflector. You can sign up for it on the OQP Web Site.

If you have any questions, they may be directed to [af8a@arrl.net](mailto:af8a@arrl.net) or [jimk8mr@aol.com](mailto:jimk8mr@aol.com).

We hope you'll join in the fun of the 2007 Ohio QSO Party, Saturday August 25!

For the Ohio QSO Party Committee

73 de Gary, AF8A

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## Smiles & Frowns

The title of this article, *Smiles & Frowns* gives us an opportunity to say why our first original communication experience was better...or not. Maybe it was our first receiver or someone else's, just an old radio?, something we heard, or a ham or other person who inspired us. What turned you on to radio communications. Do you have a story? We'd like to hear it. And now, the first of what we hope to be many such tales.

My first original station was just a receiver but I could hear the AM broadcast stations late at night and I could also tune in the 11 meter band before the days of Smokey and the Bandit. It had an extendable whip antenna. It also had a built in key for sending Morse code. I did not understand what the numbers on the dial meant but I knew just where to place the line on them to get a station tuned in. I could not fathom why I could hear Chicago at night but in the morning when I woke up I got nothing but static. I can still see it in my mind's eye. Smaller than a lunch box but a lot more fun.

W8TER

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Thanks to all who submitted articles or photos for the *TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon*. If you would like to submit articles or photos they can be emailed or sent by any means available to you. If you have large files (over 1mb) contact us and we will give you a different email address to use. We do not have high speed internet out here in the country and large files take a long time to receive and may pick up some errors. Last month, the official proofreader was not available. *Correction* -- The photos on page one were by Bob, N8AJP.

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## 2007 TMRA Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 19, at 1:00. The location is the same as last year. Monclova Park. Corner of Monclova and Albon Roads. Call Brenda, KB8IUP, 8665928, or email: [kb8iup@arrl.net](mailto:kb8iup@arrl.net). Bring a dish to pass. Meat and drinks will be provided.

**The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association.**

**Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, and Chuck, KB8FXJ.**

**Email, [kb8iup@arrl.net](mailto:kb8iup@arrl.net)**

## **Nominations For TMRA's Officers**

Dear TMRA member,

Once again it is time to elect the club's officers. The officer positions are: Treasurer, Secretary, President, and Vice President. You only need to have been a member one year to qualify to fill these positions. Here is a brief summary.

For the treasurer's position you must be bondable. Express a willingness to seek re-election at the end of the 1-year term of office. Have acceptable business/accounting experience. ( Balance a checkbook ) Have familiarity with computerized spreadsheet/financial programs suitable for maintaining TMRA's financial records.

For the secretary's position you must be a member for one year and keep the minutes of the meetings.

For the president's position you must be a member for one year. Preside at the general assembly. Preside at the executive meeting.

We will be accepting nominations during the August meeting and at the September meeting until nominations are closed. After the nominations are closed at the September meeting, a vote of secret ballot will be done. The Nominating committee is in need of help. We are in need of people who want to make this association the best it can be. Please consider filling these positions. These are important positions and your time and help are needed. Just because there is only one person per office does not mean you have to do it alone. There are experienced club members who have held these positions before that are more than willing to advise and guide if you desire assistance. There is nothing that says you have to do it all on your own.

Steve Bellner, W8TER

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### **2007 ARRL On Line Auction**

Get Ready for the 2007 ARRL On-line Auction: Planning for the ARRL On-line auction, scheduled for October 24-November 2, is already in high gear, according to ARRL Business Services Manager Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ. "We have a head start this year, as many of the items used in QST's product review articles will be part of the Auction." In past years, product review items were auctioned off throughout the year via announcements in QST and written bids. QST "Old Radio" columnist John Dilks, K2TQN, started off the donation process when he dropped by ARRL HQ with a Hallicrafters SX-25 Super Defiant receiver and matching speaker. Jahnke commented: "During and after the conclusion of the first ARRL On-Line Auction last year, we were bowled over with the level of interest and the extremely positive feedback from both bidders and our generous donors. We anticipate another terrific turnout and will have even more items to bid on--a large selection of new and vintage equipment, Amateur Radio-related products and services--and a few surprises, too! Our goal is to make this an exciting, fun event for everyone."

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### **Great Lakes Division Convention**

The upcoming Great Lakes Division Convention, September 22 in Cleveland will feature an all-star cast for ham radio's DX and Contesting Community. The Division Convention, held at the Sheraton Independence Hotel, is presented in conjunction with the next day Cleveland Hamfest. For complete information, visit [www.2007glc.org](http://www.2007glc.org).

TMRA  
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**Upcoming events:**

**Sylvania Superkids August 11th, 2007 - Short event - bike course only - ~15 operators needed**

**Sylvania Triathlon August 12th, 2007 - Long event - our biggest event - 30+ operators needed**

**Contact Steve, K8RKS, at 471-0573 or <k8rks @ arrl.net> to volunteer.**

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](http://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*