



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

March 2007



## The Prez Sez

As many of you know, the February TMRA General Meeting was cancelled due to the weather, with the result that some actions and announcements that would have been made at the meeting still have to be made – see below. The meeting was cancelled because for most of that Wednesday both Lucas County and Wood County were under Level 3 Snow Emergency declarations by their Sheriffs and although Lucas County had dropped the level to Level 2 during the afternoon, it was expected to be raised that evening back to Level 3 with falling temperatures. An announcement of the meeting's cancellation was put on the 147.27 repeater during the afternoon. Under a Level 3, all roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel (however, the news media have exemptions to this). Under a Level 2, only those people who feel that it is necessary to drive, e.g. have personal emergency reasons, should be out on the roads.

As a group that expects to co-operate with law enforcement and to be respected by law enforcement, amateur radio operators should be a group that respects these travel restrictions, unless of course, we have been given exemptions to help with communications. Incidentally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has recommended that in the event of a bio-terrorism attack; when keeping people in their homes would be advisable to prevent spread of infection and keeping roads open for emergency purposes, declaration of "snow emergencies" should be considered by local authorities – and this could occur even in "good" weather. Not everyone agrees with this recommendation, and not every state has snow emergency levels, but they could be an effective way to reduce population movements in an area-wide emergency situation.

Back to the meeting that wasn't: one of the items on the agenda was the appointment of a Budget Committee, to meet after the Hamfest financial situation is known, to draw up a proposed budget for the financial year 2007-8. Chuck, N8NIR our Treasurer, would like the committee to meet Tuesday March 27, 2007 so that the proposed budget can be presented to the Executive Committee at its meeting March 28th. There is still time to get a committee together at the March TMRA general meeting, but if you're interested in being on the committee, let me know before then.

Saturday March 10th is the annual Science Day at UT; as for many years now, TMRA provides 3 awards (money) to students whose projects involve electronics, computers, radio or closely-related fields. The UT organizers request that we provide 3 or 4 judges for those projects entered for our award. If you would be willing to spend 2 -3 hours that Saturday morning (starts around 0800h with a free coffee/donuts/juice breakfast for the judges) – let me know as soon as possible so that I can submit names to UT. If we don't submit names, they will assign judges to those projects, and there's no guarantee that these judges will be knowledgeable about radio or electronics or computers.

At the meeting there would have been reminders that we have a Hamfest rapidly approaching (it's on March 18), and volunteers are needed for a range of activities: Tom, KB8PAI is in charge of set-up and tear-down; Brenda, KB8IUP and Chuck, KB8FXJ are doing tickets; Steve, W8TER, is security; Chris, KC8UFV is doing talk-in: these activities all need support with volunteers – contact them or myself.

73, Brian, WD8MXR

## CW Q&A

**Q.** The Report and Order in WT Docket 05-235 that eliminates the Morse Code testing requirement for all license classes was adopted by the FCC on December 15, 2006. When will it become effective? **A.** The new rules become effective at 12:01 AM Eastern Time Friday February 23, 2007.

**Q.** I am a "no-code" Technician. What does WT Docket 05-235 mean to me? **A.** Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination -- will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF. These include: 3525-3600 kHz CW only; 7025-7125 kHz CW only; 21,025-21,200 kHz CW only; 28,000-28,300 kHz CW, RTTY and Data and 28,300-28,500 kHz CW, SSB. The power limit is 200 W PEP output for Technician operators. Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the Element 3 written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Element 4 written exam. No Morse code test will be required.

**Q.** What about other bands and modes? **A.** There are no additional new privileges available to Technician/Tech Plus licensees as a result of WT 05-235. The R&O does not change the operating privileges of Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees either.

**Q.** I have a Certificate for Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General written test) and have been waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse code requirement. What will I need to do? Will I auto-matically receive my General license? **A.** It will not happen automatically. You also will need to wait until the new rules are in effect. CSCEs remain valid for 365 days. There's been no change in that rule. If you have a non-expired CSCE for Element 3 credit, you would need to go to take the CSCE to a VE test session, pay the test session fee which the majority of VECS charge for both examinations and applications and submit the paperwork for your license upgrade.

If the CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired or expires before you attend a test session to process your upgrade, you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade. The test session fee will apply. Remember: A CSCE is only valid for 365 days. An expired CSCE for the General license theory will not be usable for an upgrade. If your CSCE expires before the new rules go into effect you will have to re-take the Element 3 General class theory exam in order to upgrade.

**Q.** I hold a Novice license. Am I grandfathered to Technician now? **A.** No. There is no grandfather provision. In order to upgrade to Technician, you will need to pass the Element 2 written examination.

**Q.** I am a current Advanced licensee. Am I affected by this change? **A.** No, this ruling does not impact your license. While no new Advanced class licenses are being issued, current Advanced class licensees will have the same privileges they already enjoy

### 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 Steve, W8TER, at 419-754-9120. **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.

**SARA** Contact Tom, N8MAV, 419-826-7401.

**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 2nd<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.

**Q.** I got my Technician license prior to March 21, 1987. What happens to my license? **A.** You actually could have already taken that license and proof that you had the Technician license before that date to a volunteer examiner (VE) test session, paid the test session fee and already enjoying General privileges. This latest R&O doesn't change anything in this regard. This is based on the fact that before that date, the only difference between the Technician and General class licenses was the Morse code speed. The theory exams were identical. Starting March 21, 1987, the Technician and General class license exams no longer were the same, so the "grandfather" rule doesn't apply for Technician licenses issued after March 21, 1987. Proof that you held the license prior to March 21, 1987, could be a copy of your old Technician license or the page from the amateur Call Book showing your license class as Technician.

**Q.** Do I still need to pass a Morse code test in order to use CW on the air? **A.** No. Any Amateur Radio licensee who wishes may use Morse code on the amateur frequencies they are authorized to use -- except the five USB-only channels at 5 MHz.

Steve Stalker, KC8TVW

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## **Report on Klondike Calamity at Camp Miakonda**

Thank you for participating in the Klondike Calamity at Camp Miakonda. We were inundated with scouts and, for the most part, short handed. We had to abandon the radios while we spoke to the groups that stopped by our station. We were able to talk about ham radio to the scouts and introduce them to what we do. We showed them some videos about hams and emergencies. We tuned the radios so they could hear some hams having QSO's. Many laughed at the quirky sound of SSB.

There was a group of Canadian scouts who were very interested and we encouraged them to look into ham radio in Canada. We had one group who brought up the idea of getting their troop to all get their license and learn Morse code. I gave them some contact information so they could follow up.

Unfortunately we did not get to have them talk on the air. There was not enough time. We are hoping that we will see them in the near future and give them the chance to have a more "hands on" approach.

73

Steve Bellner, W8TER  
Acting EC Lucas County ARES

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## **2007 Lucas County Ares Ham Of The Year Banquet**

Mark your calendars, remember the date, March 24, 2007. The time is 6:00pm to 8:30pm. Find out who will be the 2007 Lucas County Ares Ham Of The Year? The guest speaker will be Frank Piper, KI8GW, ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator.

The location is Dave's Home Cooked Foods, 1855 S. Reynolds Rd. Toledo, Ohio 43614

For reservations: Call Ron N8APZ 419-841-7117. Email: N8APZ@ARRL.NET or Steve, W8TER, 419-754-9120. Email: W8TER@ARRL.NET

Ron N8APZ

## **TOLEDO HAMFEST / COMPUTER FAIR**

Sunday, March 18, 2007 8 am - 2 pm

It is time once again for the TMRA Hamfest, located at the Lucas County Rec. Center. This is our 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Hamfest. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest hamfest in Ohio.

As members of TMRA, now is the time for you to step forward and volunteer to help make this event a success. Assistance is needed with Security, Set Up and Tear Down, Ticket Sales and Talk-in. Contact Brian, WD8MXR, and he will direct your willingness to work to the right person. An hour or so of your time will make a difference.

Feelin' lucky? Lots of cash prizes. \$100.00 CASH prize drawings at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 am. \$250.00 CASH prize drawings at 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm. You must be present to win the \$100.00 and \$250.00 prizes. The Hamfest closes at 2:00 pm with the \$500.00 CASH PRIZE DRAWING. While you don't have to be present to win the \$500.00, it would be fun to be there to claim it.

Invite your friends and neighbors. Now would be a good time to update your amateur gear, pick up some accessories and visit with your friends.

Go to [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org) for the latest info. If you would like a table or two to sell some stuff, contact James, WD8IOL.



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### **Annual Lucas County SKYWARN Training**

Saturday March 31

The Cleveland office of the National Weather Service, the Lucas County EMA Office and the Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service present the Annual Lucas County SKYWARN Training.

The training will take place in the St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium, Maumee, OH, starting at 10:00 am.

This training is intended for all public safety officials, amateur radio operators and members of the general public who are willing to observe and accurately report severe weather to the weather service office.

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### **Technician Class Being Planned for Spring**

The TMRA Education Committee is planning another Technician Class on Saturday, April 21 and May 5. Plans are still being finalized for these dates. The location will be secured soon, listen to the TMRA Sunday nite nets or check the TMRA website for more details.

**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)**

## Q & A Net

Just a reminder. If you get a chance, please check into the Q & A net on Sunday evenings at 7:30 on the 147.27 repeater. This net has been meeting for over 3 years now and is an excellent resource for amateurs, both old and new. We welcome all topics. If you have most of the answers, we can use the help. If you don't, join us. Learning is one of the great parts of Amateur Radio.

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> Q & A net. List of do's and don'ts created by the group for new (and old) amateurs.

- ❑ Listen a lot. Find out what is normal on the repeater/band/net you would like to participate in.
- ❑ Do not kerchunk the repeater. (Transmitting without IDing is illegal)
- ❑ Learn how to use your radio. It is more fun to use equipment you understand. An emergency is not the time to figure out how to use the radios features.
- ❑ Join a club. Meet people with similar interests. If you are new, you may find a mentor to help you through the learning process.
- ❑ Attend a hamfest. It is a fun event and there are equipment bargains to be found. It also helps support the sponsoring club.
- ❑ Participate in a public service event. It is good for the community and is part of the reason the "Amateur Radio Service" exists.
- ❑ Work safely. If you are not sure, please ask for help.
- ❑ Attend Field Day. This is a fun event. You will see many different ways to use your equipment on non-commercial power. Did I mention food?
- ❑ If purchasing new equipment, QRZ.com is an excellent resource for information. Eham.net is also a good source.
- ❑ Join the ARRL. The league is the major source of protection for our frequencies. It is also an excellent source of information.
- ❑ Learn the band plan for the frequencies that are allocated to your license class. Be a good operator and not operate illegally.
- ❑ Buy a repeater handbook. It not only lists repeaters and access code, but a lot of other useful information.
- ❑ Use only the amount of power required for the contact being made. Not only does it make good sense, it is an FCC requirement.
- ❑ Ask if the frequency is in use before starting a contact. You may not be hearing both sides of the conversation. This is especially true on non-repeater frequencies.
- ❑ Don't be afraid to get on the air. We do not bite, but encourage new amateurs to take advantage of their new privileges.
- ❑ Learn other modes of communications. There are many others besides FM. Just don't try to tackle them all at once. Learning one at a time works well.
- ❑ Buy the ARRL "Operators Manual". Everything in the book is designed to make you a better operator.
- ❑ Last but certainly not least, be courteous on the air. This is a hobby and should be enjoyable for all concerned.

Steve & Steve  
W8TER & KC8TVW

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## K8PL (SK)

Paul Lentz, K8PL, became a silent key on February 19, at the Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Paul was first licensed in 1939 with the call sign, W8TKS. He was an active member and officer of several Toledo area amateur radio organizations. Paul will be missed by all who knew him.



## Legislative Agenda

Wherever I've visited in hamdom since returning from the Board mid-January meeting, I've asked members if they approve of the ARRL's legislative agenda for the current session of the US Congress. The immediate answer has always been a solid, "yes."

The agenda calls for us to pass national laws that are beneficial to Amateur Radio and the public we serve. These laws would enable amateurs essentially anywhere to put up antennas (overriding local codes covenants and restrictions), protect Amateur Radio frequencies from wanton sell-offs, require the FCC to re-evaluate its rules regarding "unintentional" emitters such as (but not restricted to) BPL and recognize the huge value the Amateur Radio community offers to the nation in times of emergency and disaster.

If you agree with this agenda, it is very nearly "put up or shut up" time. The time is rapidly approaching when ARRL members will be called on to contact their Congressmen to show local support for the first Agenda item introduced into the US House. In many instances, the first of our contacts will be made by teams of local members with the local offices of their US Representatives or US Senators. If you want these legislative items to pass, we need your active support. To do this, we first need to complete the organization of the Legislative Action Program in the Great Lakes Division. This is where you might fit in.

Our target is to have a team of two or three members in each Congressional District in our three states. These teams will be the ones who will contact local offices of US Representatives and US Senators. We are far from accomplishing this goal! Of the 6 Congressional Districts in Kentucky, two Districts (Districts 1 and 5, Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Rogers) have a two-member team ready to roll. The remaining Districts have absolutely no members who have volunteered for the Program or have just one member to do this critical task.

Of the 15 Districts in Michigan, only District 7 (Mr. Walberg) is represented by a two-member team of ARRL members. The remaining 14 Districts have no one or only one member to represent Amateur Radio interests to their Representative.

Finally and best off, if one wishes to consider this as being best off, Ohio has a whopping total of four Districts of its 17 with two-member lobbying teams. You guessed it, the remaining 13 Districts are either not represented or are represented by no more than one member. We need your help. ARRL is a "member organization." This means not only that members pay dues to belong and support the League; but that members often need to supply the muscles that are needed to help ARRL protect and promote Amateur Radio. Without at least a small amount of sweat from each of us, ARRL has no muscle . . . and no face. We need you to add muscle and the face on Amateur Radio to your Congressional Representatives.

We all make choices throughout our lives. In this instance, we can choose to sit back and do nothing (a time-honored tradition for many people) or we can choose to become involved and make things happen. If we sit back and do nothing, we have absolutely no right to complain when CC&Rs prevent us or our friends from putting up antennas, or if FCC sells off our bands. How'd you like to loose the 2M or the 20M band?

If we do nothing, we also have absolutely no right to brag or take credit when things go well. We certainly would have no reason to feel "warm and furry" over helping to save Amateur Radio.

If we choose to roll up our sleeves (in this case, to put on a shirt and tie or nice dress), we will have every right to feel we are part of the solution when our work is successful.

If you are interested in learning how you can become part of helping pass the legislation I mentioned, please contact your Legislation Action Coordinator, our Division Legislative Action Chair, Val Rose, N8EXV ([n8exv@arrl.net](mailto:n8exv@arrl.net)) or me at [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org) for further information. Let us know you are willing to help. In Kentucky, contact Gary Johnston, KI4LA ([ki4la@arrl.org](mailto:ki4la@arrl.org)), in Michigan it is Bob Wright, KB8APS ([kb8aps@arrl.net](mailto:kb8aps@arrl.net)) and in Ohio contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ ([wd8pnz@arrl.net](mailto:wd8pnz@arrl.net)).

*from WEAVER'S WORDS -- THE SNOW IS MELTING  
Date: Monday, February 26, 2007 06:55*

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## March 2007

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### March 2007

- March 18 --TMRA Hamfest / Computer Fair-- 8:00 am - 2 pm Lucas County Rec Center, Key St. Maumee. TMRA members can call Brian, WD8MXR, to volunteer to help out.
- March 24 --Lucas County Ham of the Year Banquet-- At Dave's Home Cooking on Reynolds Rd. Contact Ron, N8APZ, or Steve, W8TER for info and reservations. guest speaker will be the "new" Section Emergency Coordinator, Frank Piper, KI8GW.
- March 31 --Annual Lucas County SKYWARN spotter training at St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium, Monclova Rd. Maumee.

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*

