



QRP Amateur Radio Beacon

September 2007



ARES Teams Activated For Northwest Ohio Near-Record Flooding

Heavy rains over the past week began taking their toll on Northwest Ohio communities as near record flood levels peaked on Wednesday. Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service District 1 was especially hard-hit in the Hancock and Seneca County areas, and a command post at the Seneca County Emergency Operations Center was activated.



Sandusky Street in Findlay.
[Mike Yammine, KB8CMS, Photo]

The city of Findlay experienced catastrophic flooding; according to Karl Erbland, K8ARL, District Emergency Coordinator for ARRL Ohio Section - District 1, this is the worst flooding in the area since 1913. Hancock County ARES Emergency Coordinator Bill Davis, N8PTJ, activated Hancock Emergency Radio Services ARES to provide support to numerous agencies, including the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency, area fire departments, American Red Cross, the Sheriff and health district departments. Two shelters were set up, with the largest taking around 250 displaced persons.

The flooding affected every area of the city. The Blanchard River's almost-100-year-old record of 18.5 feet was nearly broken by a crest reading of 18.46 feet on Wednesday

afternoon.

The Hancock County hams even had to be resourceful for their own services. A few days before the major flooding began, lightning struck the Findlay Radio Club repeater site during another severe storm. Radio communication during the flood was conducted on a simplex frequency, with additional support through their 440 MHz repeater.

Reports of cell phone failures and some problems with the state's 800 MHz digital system set the stage for Amateur Radio networks help to relieve some of these shortcomings. At an information meeting held on Thursday, EMA Director Garry Valentine, N8GIL, noted that agencies should learn to count on the Amateur Radio operators in emergencies to provide communication support, and that Amateur Radio has many capabilities for communicating. "Our amateurs are always there to assist," Davis said. "We can count on them in times like these."

Communications activities included the following: relayed from Emergency Operations Center to fire departments; facilitated delivery of food and water to Jenera, Ohio residents; assisted in the rescue of two elderly ladies and two people in wheelchairs; kept County Sheriff aware of road closures; tracked rescue operations for the Red Cross; tracked displaced persons being transported to Red Cross shelter; on standby for Water Command Center and City Command Operations; relayed Health and Welfare traffic; provided telephone service to some without home phone service; relayed between Seneca County and Hancock County EMA directors, and relayed between District Emergency Coordinator and Hancock County Emergency Coordinator.

Amateurs in Seneca County were put on standby Tuesday, August 21 when word came that the Ruffing Family Care Center (south of Tiffin, Ohio) might be in danger from the rising Sandusky River, which runs near the center's property. County Emergency Coordinator Mike Klaiss, KC8BUJ, and EMA Director Dan Stahl, KC8PBU, held an on-the-air meeting with ARES officers and the McCutchenville, Ohio fire chief to review the reports and predictions from the National Weather Service in Cleveland. ARES officers remained ready through the evening and Wednesday morning. Seneca County activated the Emergency Operations Center around 7 AM on Wednesday as the Sandusky River continued to rise and affect additional areas in the county.

Seneca County EMA Director Dan Stahl said: "Hams play a big part in the emergency operations plan and in the communications center at the EOC. We intend to use all the amateurs in Seneca County during disasters like these. They provide a trained and reliable pool of communicators capable of assisting us."

Thursday brought a little relief from the rising waters but then came the rising temperatures and humidity levels. Disaster assessment was a hot job as temperatures rose to 91 degrees and similar levels of humidity. "There is a lot more to do across the entire affected area," said Erbland. "Our communities are extremely blessed to have such dedicated Amateur Radio operators. Our emphasis on ARRL communications training and the different FEMA courses such as Incident Command System and National Incident Management System is paying off. We're standing by for any needed communications as our communities recover."



Flooded Main Cross Street.
[Mike Yammine, KB8CMS, Photo]

ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW, said, "I am extremely proud of how well the Amateur Radio operators in Hancock, Seneca and all other counties affected by the weather this past week in the Ohio Section. This is why we plan and test our communication skills and equipment on a regular basis."

Information provided by Karl Erbland, K8ARL, District Emergency Coordinator for ARRL Ohio Section - District 1; Bob Copas, K8OIL, Hancock County Liaison/Net Control Operator, and Bill Davis, N8PTJ, Hancock County ARES Emergency Coordinator

Aug. VE Test Session

At the Aug. 11th test session in Maumee Ohio, John, KD8BIN upgraded to Extra Class License, Steven, KD8GVX and Earl, KD8GVY, earned their Tech Licenses.

Thanks to the VE team who helped this Month. Next test session is September 8th in Maumee Ohio

73's Stacey KD8DFI

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association.
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September 2007 Ohio Section Conference

New Location: Same Winning Agenda

The Ohio Section Conference, which annually draws nearly a hundred Buckeye hams, will be held in a new location but the same time - 9 a.m. the Saturday after Findlay Hamfest - or September 15th for you calendar buffs.

This year the Section Conference, with the famous PIZZA LUNCH, has been moved to the Ohio State Fire Academy, 8895 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. It is on old Ohio US 40 east of town - just east of Columbus. And about three miles from the Interstate 70 exit 118.

The conference is exactly one week before the Great Lakes Division Convention - which is September 22 in Cleveland.

The Fire Academy auditorium is only a year old and the lunchroom facilities are very comfortable for Ohio Section's Social Event of the year - PIZZA LUNCH.

There is a tentative agenda and more information on the Ohio Section website at www.iarc.ws/ohio/ - tentative, because if you have an item you want addressed, contact the Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE (513-874-0006 or jphillips@arrl.org) with your request.

Ohio Section September Hamfests:

Sunday (9) Findlay ARC; Hancock County Fairgrounds; For more information, E-mail kanga@bright.net; Sunday (16) GCARA at Cincinnati Diamond Oaks Career Center Campus: For more information, E-mail; stanco49@aol.com; and Sunday (23) Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland; Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds; For more information, E-mail: info@hac.org.

2007 Great Lakes Division Convention

The upcoming 2007 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.2007gldc.org.

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 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 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM. Contact Martha, K8AAC.

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, KC8HQB, 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)

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.

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Safety Tip of the Month

Everyone has heard the recommendation to change the battery in your home smoke detector twice a year. Usually it is tied to the spring and fall time change. "Change the time on the clock and change the battery in the smoke detector." Now let's take it one step further.

How old are the smoke detectors in your home? According to the NFPA, (National Fire Protection Association) smoke alarms in one and two family dwellings "shall not remain in service longer than 10 years from date of manufacture."

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*