



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

April 2009



The Prez Sez

I want to thank everyone who participated in our recent Hamfest for the part(s) they played: the Hamfest Committee members; the TMRA members who volunteered time and effort in set-up, tear-down, security, ticket sales, talk-in; everyone who attended the Hamfest, including of course our vendors. Ticket sales were very close to the same as last year, but tables were up from last year by about 50 tables - we used all 326 that the Rec Center had, the only empty ones on Sunday were no-shows. Even though some people thought we had fewer tables than last year, the different floor plan in Hall 2 (with the wide center aisle) seemed more open. We still need input for possible locations for future Hamfests. We'll have a Hamfest financial report at the next general meeting.

At that meeting, the Budget Committee will present the proposed budget for the financial year May 1, 2009 - April 31, 2010 for approval by those members present. The Hamfest is our largest source of income, and with the uncertainty of what the future holds for our Hamfest, including what it will cost us to have one (facility rental for example), we have to be prepared for what might be a significant reduction in our income and be prepared for a little belt-tightening as far as our spending is concerned. We need to explore some expense reductions and some cost-saving opportunities.

Our new 2m and 440MHz repeaters are installed and running; we owe many thanks to the Tech. Committee and in particular to Dave KB8EH, Chris KC8UFV, Jerry WJ8E, Dan KE8UE. The transition has not gone as fast and as smoothly as we'd hoped and expected, and we still don't have the 2m system working as we want it to, but it's being worked on still.

For an interesting new development in batteries, do a Google search on solar-soft-battery (I can't get the internet address to work for red-dot.com, but this Google search will find it)



Tech Committee Members at work on the new repeaters.

w8ter photo

Brian

NEXT TMRA MEETING – WEDNESDAY APRIL 8
ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY BUILDING, LIME CITY RD., ROSSFORD

Digital Communications Continued

Our general meeting on April 8th will continue with PSK31. Our March 11th meeting gave a general overview and demonstration of PSK31. Our goals are:

1. A higher level of expertise in digital communications locally.
2. A more secure message handling system for Emcomm
3. Another avenue for Technician Class licensees to explore
4. Develop a digital net to further the use of our repeater.

You can access the powerpoint presentation by going to the club website: (www.tmrahamradio.org) and click on Education: 'Digi-Classes'

After club business on the 8th, we encourage members to set up a small 2 meter FM station in the meeting room.

You will need the following:

2 meter FM transceiver

Mag mount antenna

Gel cell battery or small power supply

Laptop with PSK31 software (digipan recommended: <http://www.digipan.net/>)

www.digipan.net (free)

Digital interface (Rigblaster or Tigertronics) if you want to transmit

If you only want to receive, a simple 1/8" cable is needed to go from the radio speaker output to the line in or mic in on the laptop. This will allow you to become familiar with the software as well as monitor stations that are transmitting.

See you on the 8th.

Steve KC8TVW

Steve W8TER

Hurricanes-Typhoons-Cyclones

Same basic storm, but called different names in different locations. We see them in the paper. But, where we are living we don't have much to fear because they occur in coastal areas.

While stationed in Okinawa 1956-1958 we had 7 typhoons pass by, of all various Sizes.

If, you were single, or your family was not there, you grabbed your bedding and went to work in the Communications Center.

The Air Force would attempt to fly as many planes as they could out of the area. The remaining ones would have vehicles parked around them to break the wind. That didn't work all the time.

One thing you knew would happen, when you were with your family in the Housing area would be the loss of power. When that occurred the very next thing you did was to fill up everything you could with water, because that was the next thing you would lose. With no power, it was amazing what you could cook with the Keno burner.

Nick, AF8CS



Okinawa typhoon damage.

af8cs photo

Needed, A Few Good Hams

Hi all! I'm looking for help for the Glass City Marathon coming up on April 26th. The race starts at 8:00 and usually finishes by 1:00. A few people will need to be on station before 8:00 but most are done before the race finishes. If you have any time constraints let me know and I'll accommodate your schedule. There's a new course this year and a half marathon has been added to the day's activities. Please let me know if you can help out with this fun event or if you have any questions. Thanks!

73,
Rick K8RKS
k8rks@arrl.net
419-471-0573

Lucas County SKYWARN® Spotter Training 2009 Another Record Turnout

National Weather Service SKYWARN® Spotter Training on March 28th, 2009 in Lucas County at St Luke's Hospital had 343 total attendees including 212 new spotters and 25 volunteers. The total attendee count was up this year from last year's 293 attendees, making 2009 another new attendance record for Lucas County spotter training.

Thanks to Gary Garnet, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from National Weather Service Cleveland for presenting another great training class. Attendees learned more about: the Basics of thunderstorm development; Fundamentals of storm structure; Identifying potential severe weather features; What and how to report; and Basic severe weather safety.

Individuals attending the training class included members of police & fire departments, emergency management, amateur radio operators and weather interested citizens. And besides individuals from Lucas County, there were people from numerous other counties across Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. All local television stations were also in attendance at spotter training, and several news stories were aired.

Special thanks to all the volunteers that helped with promotion, setup, registration and all the other logistics. The Toledo Mobile Radio Association and Community Emergency Response Team also had information tables, and both groups generated interest and captured interested individuals. Also thanks to the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency for helping to sponsor the event, and to St Luke's Hospital for use of their auditorium.

The program is updated every year and the National Weather Service recommends spotters take the training every 2-3 years as a refresher. If you missed training this year in Lucas County, there are still a few additional opportunities for training in our area. Refer to the schedule below and the NWS Cleveland website for additional details. Cleveland is also offering SKYWARN® Webinar Training this year, with the last opportunity for this online Internet based training class being on April 14th. Visit the NWS Cleveland Website to register for the online Webinar Training session.



Lucas County SKYWARN training in St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium set a new attendance record.

kb8fxj photo

Remaining NWS Cleveland SKYWARN® Spotter Training Schedule for NW Ohio District 1 Counties:

April 6th @ 6:30 PM - Hancock County
April 13th @ 6:30 PM - Wyandot County
April 14th @ 6:00 PM - Online Webinar*

Helpful websites:

National Weather Service Cleveland: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/cle/>
NW Ohio District 1 SKYWARN®: <http://www.nwoskywarn.org/>
Lucas County SKYWARN®: <http://www.lucascoskywarn.org/>

TMRA Security People.

Nicely done I say to the TMRA members who volunteered as security during the 2009 hamfest. I wish to thank you for your time and assistance with the security details you were involved with during the Hamfest.

The Hamfest is probably the most significant event that TMRA performs during the year. In fact, if it were not for the Hamfest it would be very difficult for TMRA to exist. It is because you took the time to volunteer that this event became successful.

The Toledo Explorers were very helpful in monitoring the doors during the hamfest however they were unable to fill all the posts needed. Many thanks to those that took time out from the hamfest to watch the doors and check ticket holders as they entered into the hamfest. Had you not volunteered I am sure our security would have been compromised.

While you assisted me with the task of securing the Hamfest arena, you made TMRA look good and you made the Hamfest look even better.

A special thanks to the Tim and Tim show for not causing our coffee maker to burst into flames for several years in a row and for the many years in a row they have stayed through the night to provide security for our vendors from 7:30 PM to 5:30 AM.

Individually listed are the 16 security personnel volunteers:

AB8XP, Hiram; KD8NNO, Jeff; KB8LAB, Tim; N8RLH, Ron; KD8FNA, Jim; W8AII, Al; KC8HQH, Terry; N8AJP, Bob; KB8OTP, Rod; N8WBG, Bob; N8WZY, Mike; W8OJM, Tom; WA8IUR, Tim; WA8WTZ, Dale; KD8HYS, Sandra; KD8HYZ, Jeremy

Stephen Bellner, W8TER
Hamfest Security Committee
Vice President
Toledo Mobile Radio Association

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Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, and Chuck, KB8FXJ.
Email, kb8iup @ arrl . net

MAILING OF NEWSLETTER ASKING FOR A MAJOR CHANGE OF DELIVERY

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO ADVISE THE MEMBERS OF TMRA THAT I WILL BE ASKING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO CAUSE THE NEWS LETTER THAT IS GENERATED BY TMRA TO CEASE BEING SENT TO MEMBERS BY ITS CURRENT METHOD, WHICH IS DELIVERY BY U.S. MAIL, AND TO START SENDING IT ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL AND INTERNET.

In my opinion it is time to change. There are several reasons for this but the one I wish to mention first is that it makes good financial sense. The cost we pay to print and send the newsletter exceeds what our members pay in dues each year. We are entering a time now where TMRA will be forced to make some choices. I think in order to better balance ourselves we need to take stock of what we have and to make the most of it. So I am proposing to the executive committee that we cut the cost of production of the newsletter by eliminating it being mailed via U.S.P.S.

This simply means that we will no longer mail it by USPS. A new way of delivery might be this:

Chuck and Brenda Krukowski have been, and continue to do a splendid job of producing the newsletter. They have unswervingly put it together and published it every month. Instead of printing it out on paper and mailing it by U.S.P.S. I am asking the executive board to have the newsletter committee (Chuck and Brenda):

1. Create the newsletter electronically.
2. Print limited copies to bring for distribution at the general meeting.
3. Send by USPS newsletters to those "special friends of TMRA" entities such as the libraries that normally do not have e-mail accounts.
4. Send it electronically to our membership chairman Tom, KB8PAI.

I then propose that our Membership chairman:

1. Post it on the web page so that it could be downloaded to a personal computer.
2. Send an e-mail to members advising them that it is posted on the web page.
3. Directly e-mail it to those members who wish to have it directly.

I realize that not all members of TMRA have e-mail accounts or attend meetings but a vast majority does. If you are unable to attend meetings and are unable to gather the newsletter from the Internet or if you do not have a friend who can pick one up at the meeting or print one from their computer for you. I would suggest that you request to be added to the "Special friends of TMRA" list.

This will not eliminate the cost of the newsletter completely but I believe it will greatly reduce it.

Steve, w8ter

TMRA Swap 'N Shop

Contact me to create, remove, or edit a listing at KB8PAI@ARRL.NET or by phone at 419-724-8672.

Current as of April 1, 2009

For Sale:

Dave, KD8JGQ, davkenrem@yahoo.com , APW 42-U rack unit. It has an open front and a door on the back, it also has five bolt-in shelves. It would make a great repeater rack. See it at <http://www.davkenrem.net/rack/> (Devices pictured in the rack are not included) (\$100.00)

Earl Wells, N8XYO, Earlr1957@aol.com , Items from the estate of a silent key: all sorts of radio equipment, HF Rigs, Amps, Antennas, HT's, etc. Kenwood TS-930, Kenwood SP-940, Icom P2AT, Oscilloscope-S54A, lots more to list.

Brian, KG8Q, kg8q.dx@gmail.com or 419-344-4612, Alinco DR-435 MKIII, Great condition 440 MHz mobile. No issues or modifications, non smoking environment. Comes with mobile mounting bracket, power cable, manual, box, and hand mike. (\$170.00)

Chuck, KD8JGU, 419-754-1519 or KD8JGU@Yahoo.com , Bencher BY-1 Iambic paddle, chrome with black base, wired with 1/4" plug. (\$45.00) Software and cable for Yaesu VX120 and VX170 (\$25.00)

Steve, KC8MQH, sdunn7@roadrunner.com or 419-707-2768, Cushcraft 13B2 13-element 2m VHF beam. (\$140.00,) Cushcraft A43011S 11-element 70cm UHF beam (\$50.00,) Radio Shack HTX-10 10m SSB mobile (\$80.00,) Realistic Pro-79 200channel scanner w/charger (needs Nicads) (\$50.00,) Garmin Street Pilot #2730, GPS unit (\$100.00,) Compaq iPAQ-pocket pc #3635 (palm pilot) (\$40.00,) Sonar Linear Amp BR-21 (maybe could be tuned to 10m?) (\$50.00) All prices are "OBO - Or Best Offer"

Steve, KC8MQH, sdunn7@roadrunner.com or 419-707-2768, Icom IC-T90A multi-band HT (2m, 6m, 70cm) with wall charger, belt clip, 6m antenna adapter, SO239 to SMA adapter, manual & box ,mini speaker mic, and car charger. Used very little, paid \$325 for all, asking (\$250.00-OBO)

Looking For:

Fred, WD8ADG, fjmelick@aol.com ,(Sandusky) Heathkit SB-200/201 amplifier

Howard, N8VHX, 419-826-5968, looking for an SWR / Power meter that can handle up to 1500 watts.

Tony, N8WAC, natewac@aol.com , Please title subject "ham radio related" so it doesn't get confused with junk mail and get deleted. Looking for old catalogs from AES, MFJ, Ham Radio Outlet, Heathkit, etc.

Free for the Taking:

Chuck, KD8JGU, 419-754-1519 or kd8jgu@arrl.net , Ground-plane antenna and tower. Downward elements are 1 to 1 1/2 meters, vertical element is 2 to 3 meters. It is on a tower. Anyone who is willing to take down antenna can also have the tower.

Ron, KG8EC, kg8ec@att.net , Accessories for a Kenwood TH-77A (circa 1979)(radio is damaged): BNC-10 Drop-in desk charger, wall charger, two NIMH rechargeable 2700 MaH batteries (less than a year old), and a speaker mike.

The TMRA Swap 'N Shop is a service of the Toledo Mobile Radio Association, and open to all amateurs or interested persons in the coverage area of the repeater, newsletter, or website. The TMRA reserves the right to decline to accept any listing. Any descriptions of items listed are those of the person listing the items. Items are kept on the Swap 'N Shop list for a period of four weeks, or five Sundays on the air after which they are dropped from the list. Renewals are welcome, but please notify me promptly when there is no longer a need to continue a listing. When the TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon is published each month, the then current Swap 'N Shop listings are included in the newsletter (at the editor's discretion.) Prices are not mentioned over the air, but if known, will be shown in the newsletter or on the website.

There are several ways to list items of Amateur Radio interest: Check into the Swap 'N Shop Net Sunday evenings after the Information Net (approximately 9PM EST.) on the 147.270 Mhz TMRA repeater

E-mail me at KB8PAI@ARRL.NET

Call me at 419-724-8672

Mail the information to me through the USPS

73 de Tom, KB8PAI

TMRA
P.O. BOX 9673
TOLEDO, OH
43697-9673

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Toledo, OH
Permit No. 906

April 2009

Plan now to ride the TMRA bus to Dayton on May 16

Contact Mike, WA8SYD, at 476-2947 to reserve a seat on the annual TMRA bus trip to Dayton on Saturday, May 16. Mike has personally tested every seat on the bus to assure maximum comfort for each rider during the trip. Save time, save gas, save money, take a nap. Sign up early.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673

President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Ron, N8RLH;

Treasurer, Rita, WB8FGB; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH;.Chris, KC8UFV; Steve, KC8TVW; Tom, KB8PAI

TMRA Home Page www.tmrahamradio.org Webmaster, Tom, KB8PAI.

TMRA W8HHF Repeaters; 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.