



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

January 2009



The Prez Sez

Many thanks for Dave, KB8EH, assisted by his wife Sharon, KA8LPX, to Kim, (NoCall), assisted by her husband Ed, KD8GT, and to Chuck, KD8JGU (if anyone assisted you Chuck - I didn't get the details, so please thank them for us) for organizing a very enjoyable TMRA Christmas Party.



TMRA members enjoy food and fellowship at the annual Christmas party.

w8ter photo

It's my understanding that we have all we need for the two new repeaters and that they are being checked out before being installed at the repeater site - we should have more information at the January club meeting.

An update on the TMRA Hamfest location after the 2009 HF: several members have suggested Tam-O-Shanter in Sylvania. Tom, KB8PAI has contacted them and received information and a sample

contract from them - the earliest date now available for renting the facility in 2010 is the weekend of April 24-25: our scheduled week-end for our 2010 Hamfest would be March 13-14 (traditionally we hold it the weekend of or before St Patrick's Day), and the day after the Marshall, MI. hamfest While traditions can be changed or abandoned - we have to consider what the vendors are used to, how a change of dates would affect their schedules, what other hamfests we might clash with, and so on. Reports in local news media would suggest that the decision to close the Lucas County Rec Center is not yet an absolute final - we can hold out some hope, maybe, but we still need to assume the worst and so explore other locations.

73, Brian, WD8MXR

New From ARRL

The ARRL has just introduced a new Membership Benefit..With just a click or two of a mouse, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive. This new benefit provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more.

Need Updated List Of VE's

Greetings everyone this is Stacey, NS8W hoping to get the VE team roster updated. I have a list of VE's who have volunteered since I have been a VE. If someone is a accredited VE who is not on the list please let us know. If a member wants to become a VE all they have to do is take the VE accreditation course online at ARRL. It is Free.

There are three classes (elements) of license given. Element 2 is for the Technician. Element 3 is for the General and Element 4 is for the Extra. An Extra class license holder can give all three Elements. An Advanced class license holder can give Elements 2 & 3. A General can give element 2 only.

Current VE Volunteers: Steve, KC8TVW; Dan, KE8UE; Tom, KB8PAI; Brian, WD8MXR; Jon, KB8KLLK; Brian, KD8COO; Steve, KB9UPS; Rita, WB8FBG; Nick, AF8CS; Chris, KC8UFV; Bob, K3RC; Mark, W8LJT and Stacey, NS8W. Anybody I missed let me know.

We also would like to remember Howard, W8NEE (SK) for all his years of serving as a VE and the almost 200 sessions he participated in. If you needed him for a session he was always there. Thanks Howard.
73

Stacey, NS8W

HIGHLITES FROM "WEAVER'S WORDS" - Ho, Ho, Ho

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2008

Gary Johnston, KI4LA re-elected Vice Director

Current Great Lakes Division Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA was re-elected to the Vice Director chair for another three years in a term that will begin at noon, January 1. Gary won a highly-contested race over Michigan Official Club Coordinator Dan Romanchik, KB6NU and Division Legislative Action Chairman John Meyers, NB4K. Meyers is also former Kentucky SM. Gary edged Dan by a 13-vote margin and John by 63 votes in an election that saw 3578 votes cast. Gary served as Vice Director to former Director George Racer, WB8BGY. Gary served as director for six months after George resigned.

FCC requests help from hams

By this time, most ARRL members have heard that the FCC asked the League to help in the coming conversion of analog TV (ATV) to digital TV (DTV). The Commission is concerned there will be problems during this switchover because a number of people may not understand how to connect the converter box or deal with some other aspect of the change. A number of such problems occurred when a trial switch to DTV occurred.

I will not discuss the rights or wrongs, if any, of the coming switchover. It is going to happen. I won't even discuss whether it was right or wrong of FCC to request help through ARRL. This, too, is a done-deal -- they've already asked.

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 6:10 PM. 146.940- Alternate frequencies are: 147.375+ or 147.270+. **Lucas County SKYWARN Net** as needed by the NWS, 147.270+ Alternate frequencies are 146.835-, 146.940- or others announced by "net control". **District SKYWARN Net** on 147.375+, Alternate frequencies are 146.610- and 147.345+.

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 Becky, KC8ZNX, 419-290-3511.

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.

What I will discuss is watch-outs, I suggest us, who are lending a hand may want to take to avoid the likelihood Amateur Radio ends up in hot water.

Many of us older hands remember public relations problems that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s when we tried to help with television interference (TVI) that was blamed on amateur transmissions. The answer to the TVI typically was to put a simple filter on the TV set in much the same way the DTV converter will be hooked up. A number of hams went to the length of obtaining these filters and installing them on neighbors' TV sets, trying to be good neighbors.

The problem was that a number of TV sets "went out" soon after filters were installed. Many owners of these sets blamed the hams for these failures -- never mind that the set was quite old and destined to fail soon.

A lesson from this situation soon became apparent. This is, "Thou shalt keep thy hands off thy neighbor's TV set." Give them the filter, but have them install it themselves or let them have a TV technician do it.

The same could happen if we attach DTV converters to TVs. With a high percent of the sets that need converters being a few years old, we should not be surprised if a number of them fail shortly after a converter is attached.

The first rule I suggest anyone who helps out with the ATV to DTV project is to stay away from your neighbor's or a stranger's TV.

The second rule I suggest is to be certain that the instructions provided for connecting converters clearly indicates they come from the Federal Communications Commission of the US Government. These are not our instructions. We are relaying them at the request of the Federal Communications Commission of the US Government. Notice I did not merely say "the FCC." Too many people have no idea what the FCC is. In addition, many may not understand even what the Federal Communications Commission but "US Government" should be understood.

What we can take credit for is that we are taking the time and effort to help our fellow citizens. A few ways we can do this are to set up stands in shopping centers and stores where high volumes of people shop, give demos to church, civic and fraternal groups, or operate phone banks in conjunction with TV and radio stations to spread the FCC's instructions. TV stations, having much at stake in the changeover and are taking the lead in publicizing "how to's" related to it, local clubs might find them willing allies in helping set up and publicizing demonstrations.

I understand the FCC will provide instructions to distribute to consumers and scripts for use over the telephone. These should clearly indicate the source of the information is the Commission. They merely ask us to volunteer time and in a way serve as parrots to distribute the information.

Provided we amateurs do not fall into the trap of being overly helpful or decide to show first hand how technically elegant we are, there should be very little chance this project will haunt us. Let the glory and problems (if any) go to the FCC.

Let us be fully satisfied to be known as good citizens who help our fellow citizens and our government when this is needed. So, feel free to put up signs stating who you are. Feel free also, to talk to people about Amateur Radio and the technical advances we are making ourselves in digital and other communications, but stay away from taking credit for the service you are forwarding from the FCC.

This is my thinking about the project. If you choose to help with it, thanks. If you decide you cannot help, thanks for thinking about it.

Remake of ARRL Internet facilities in progress

Some of you may have noticed that the Board of Directors approved a total remake of the League's Internet presence at our last meeting. As we approach the end of this year, the project is coming along nicely. Some improvements are visible. Others remain in the implementation stage and still others are in their relative infancy. We have contracted with Fathom for the project. Fathom provides web engineering for a number of major corporations, including their customer interface. We expect the project will continue throughout 2009. When completed, the ARRL will be able to provide a number of new and exciting services to members and affiliated clubs.

ARRL Strategic Plan: Member input requested

How many of you have heard -- even said -- that the ARRL leadership does not ask for the opinions and wishes of League members? Whether you have believed these earlier charges -- or not -- the ARRL Board of Directors wants your help as it develops a revised Strategic Plan to cover the coming several years. Yes, Uncle Hiram wants your input.

All members are requested to contribute thinking to the coming revision. The mechanics of doing this are very simple. All one needs to do is to go to <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/stratplan/>. To read the current Plan, click on the link "The ARRL Strategic Plan" that is just below the opening paragraph on this site. Type your comments into the space provided here. The Strategic Plan is used by the Board and staff to maintain focus when establishing and pursuing policy and projects.

Jim's Tentative 2009 Schedule:

1 Jan: (Noon) New terms of Director and Vice Director begin.
10 Jan: SW Ohio Digital & Technical Symposium, Thesken Hall, Miami
U.-Middletown, Middletown, OH - Gary, Jim.
15 JAN: A&F Committee, Newington, CT - Jim.
16-17 Jan: Board of Directors meeting, Newington - Gary, Jim.

73,

Jim, K8JE
ARRL Great Lakes Division
Director: James Weaver, K8JE
k8je@arrl.org

Winter Weather Watches, Warnings and Advisories- What do they all Mean?

The National Weather Service uses specific winter weather terms to ensure that people know what to expect in the coming days and hours. But what do they all mean?

A *Winter Storm Watch* means that severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may occur in your area, but how much, where and when are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued to provide 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather.

A watch is upgraded to a *Winter Storm Warning* when 4 or more inches of snow or sleet is expected in the next 12 hours, or 6 or more inches in 24 hours, or 1/4 inch or more of ice accretion is expected.

Winter Weather Advisories let you know that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, advisory situations should not become life-threatening

A *Blizzard Warning* means that snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill.

WINTER WEATHER TERMS

Some winter weather terms you should be familiar with:

BLIZZARD: Winds of 35 mph or more with snow and blowing snow reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mile for at least 3 hours.

BLOWING SNOW: Wind-driven snow that reduces visibility. Blowing snow may be falling snow and/or snow on the ground picked up by the wind.

SNOW SQUALLS: Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant.

SNOW SHOWERS: Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

SNOW FLURRIES: Light snow falling for short durations with little or no accumulation.

RAIN: Frozen precipitation melts into rain

FREEZING RAIN: Frozen precipitation melts in warm air or rain falls and freezes on cold surfaces as a sheet of ice

SLEET: Frozen precipitation melts or it refreezes into sleet before hitting ground

SNOW: Snow falling into cold air never melts

Wind Chill is not the actual temperature but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin.

BEFORE the Storm Strikes, Be Prepared

Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!

Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.

A WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT should be in your vehicle and should include:

- Mobile phone, charger, batteries
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Knife
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- Large empty can to use as emergency toilet. Tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope
- Battery booster cables
- Water container
- Compass and road maps.

Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Avoid traveling alone.

Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

At Home and Work

With a winter storm, most people will get stuck at work or at home. Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. Here is a list of some of the things you should have available:

Flashlight and extra batteries.

Battery-powered NOAA Weather

Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information. These may be your only links to the outside.

Extra food and water. Have high energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.

Extra medicine and baby items.

First-aid supplies.

Heating fuel. Refuel before you are empty. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.

Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater.

• Use properly to prevent a fire.

• Ventilate properly.

Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm.

• Test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.

• Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #201
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January 2009

Hamfest Calendar

Sunday, Feb 15— Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show. Richland County Fairgrounds, 750 North Home Road Mansfield, OH. Talk-in, W8WE repeater (146.94-) More info at (www.w8we.org).

Sunday, March 15—That's right, our TMRA Hamfest will be here before we know it, plan now to volunteer to help out. There is lots to do your help is needed.

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; Stacey, NS8W;.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.