



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

October 2009



The Prez Sez

The September General meeting of TMRA was election night for the Officers; as there was no competition for any of the offices, there was no suspense nor surprises in the outcomes: I was re-elected President, Steve, W8TER, was re-elected Vice-President, Ron, N8TLH, was re-elected Secretary. Brenda, KB8IUP, was elected Treasurer.

As Brenda is resigning her position on the Board of Trustees now that she is Treasurer, and as I will not be moving onto the Board, we have 2 vacancies to fill. The Executive Committee is the Nominating Committee for vacancies on the Board of Trustees, and it is nominating Rita, WB8FBG and Dan, KE8UE, for those vacancies. That election will take place at our October General meeting.

I'd still like to have 2 or 3 more members volunteer to be on the By-Laws Review Committee – it's overdue in reviewing the By-Laws; contact me if you'd be interested.

73, Brian, WD8MXR

Test Preparedness And Practice Skills With Operating Events And Contests

by Jeff Pryor, KC8NNO

I had the opportunity to work a couple ham radio HF operating events/contests during this past September. These activities provided for both a good test of emergency preparedness in the field as well as the ability to practice communications skills from the comforts of home. I worked 80 Meters exclusively for these particular events, in both voice and digital modes, with each event needing different configurations, and having different goals and setup requirements.

First, on Friday night, September 11th, I participated in an 80 Meter PSK31 digital mode contest, sponsored by the Penn-Ohio DX Society's "PODXS Ø7Ø Club"

(<http://www.podxs070.com/>). The Ø7Ø comes from the "070" frequency suffix that is commonly used for PSK31 in the various HF bands (7.070, 14.070, etc) and the digital modes focus of this particular club. This specific contest was a short "sprint" from 8PM to 2AM local time with the goal to work as many stations on 80 Meters as possible using solely PSK31



Station KC8NNO at Maumee Bay State Park

kc8nno photo

during the six hour time period. For this event I was able to shoe horn my full size 80 Meter dipole into the backyard using somewhat of a inverted V configuration. I operated in the Low Power category (<50 Watts) and was able to make 42 contacts from 18 unique states and three countries, with the farthest contacts being in Utah and Puerto Rico.

Next, during Saturday on September 12th, I packed up my HF equipment and setup in the field to activate Maumee Bay State Park for the Ohio State Parks On The Air 2009 event. This operating event was sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service and was their 2nd annual Ohio State Parks event (<http://parks.portcars.org/>). This contest was an all day event from Noon until 8PM and it placed a premium on working stations at the State Parks. This provided an opportunity for hams to visit and activate parks across the state, along with the goal to work other Ohio stations on HF via deployment and utilization of NVIS antennas. The weather for this event was also ideal. For this particular setup, I utilized my full size 80 Meter dipole in a Near Vertical Incidence Skywave configuration, having strung it up about 5 feet off the ground between a tree and a light pole at my location overlooking the inland beach area. This NVIS configuration sends the majority of the radiation straight up and is then refracted back down to blanket a circular region surrounding the transmitter. I had no troubles hearing and working stations at the various parks from all around of Ohio using 80 Meter phone. Overall I had 52 total contacts at 30 unique state parks. Thanks to the Portage County ARS and Ohio State Parks for sponsoring this now annual event that takes place the weekend after Labor Day.

While I don't consider myself a really serious ham radio contester, I do find these kinds of operating events provide an opportunity to get on the air and work many contacts during a short time frame. These activities can help test your emergency preparedness capabilities to deploy a solution to meet specific needs. Along with practicing communications skills, this gives you a chance to have fun and work with other hams while trying to reach similar goals that often require rapid exchange of specific information. Give a ham radio event like these a try, and I look forward to working you on the air!

73 Jeff

Tech Committee Work Party

On Saturday, September 29, several members of the tech committee met at our secondary repeater site to do some work. As you know, this site is located on top of the Parks Tower Building on the main campus of the University of Toledo.

The university has installed some new equipment up there and it was necessary to reroute some of our antenna feed lines. This was also a good opportunity to clean up and repair some of the equipment in the cabinets. Outside, the 2 meter antenna was replaced and some minor repairs were made to other antenna installations.



Tom, KB8PAI, and Mike, WA8SYD, discuss the project as Steve, W8TER prepares to climb the tower.

kc8nno photo

Both Generators Are Working Again

A special thanks to Skeet, KD8KXD for his expertise and talent at getting our generator repaired and running well.

Skeet was at field day when it was reported that one of the generators was not running well. Upon further inspection, Skeet found the generator was in need of some adjustment. Skeet has a background that includes small motor repair and volunteered to examine the generator after field day.

Skeet took the generator to his home and replaced a fuel line and made some adjustments. The generator now runs fine and he even added an information pouch so that we will know what and when maintenance is done. This has been a great help in keeping our emergency preparedness up to date and working.

For those who don't know Skeet yet, he is a newly licensed ham who enjoys building things like antennas. If you see him, thank him for helping keep us prepared for emergencies.

As WA8SYD has said many times... "Many hands make light work".



Skeet, KD8KXD, and our newly repaired generator.

w8ter photo

It is the members who step up and volunteer that makes TMRA a great club to belong to. It's not how much you do, it's that you try to do. You only fail when you stop trying. Thomas Edison says "I haven't failed to make a light bulb work, I've found 100 ways not to make a light bulb work".

Steve, W8TER

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #209
Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, and Chuck, KB8FXJ.
Email, kb8iup @ arrl . net

ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins And Notifications

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplarian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>>.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol.28, No.37, Sept 18, 2009.

JOTA October 17

Hi everyone Jamboree on the Air will be taking place at Camp Miakonda 5600 W. Sylvania Ave. Sylvania, Oh. October 17th. TMRA will be on site with radio stations set up to talk on the air. ARES will have the truck and trailer on site also. I am looking for some volunteers to help with hands on activities at the truck and trailer from 8 am till about 4pm. You do not have to volunteer the whole day. Any time you can spare Saturday October 17th will be much appreciated. Please volunteer for this awesome project with the scouts and remember these kids could be our future hams.

73,

William Sido, wn8rug. Emergency Coordinator Lucas County ARES
419-283-7386 wn8rug@arrl.net

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

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

Treasurer, Brenda, KB8IUP; 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.