



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

March 2010



The Prez Sez

As I think that everyone knows, our Hamfest is only a few weeks away – Sunday March 21, 2010 at the new location for us – the Student Health and Activity Center (SHAC) at Owens Community College, 30335 Oregon Road, Perrysburg, Ohio. As has been mentioned before, we really need a good turnout of club members to volunteer to help if the Hamfest is to run smoothly. One major difference this year will be that we are responsible for setting up most of the tables, and – even more importantly - taking them down Sunday afternoon. Yes, you read it correctly, taking down 200-250 tables immediately after the Hamfest is over on Sunday and stacking them ready for pick-up by the company that we're renting them from; the College needs to have the halls back in service as gymnasiums for the students Monday morning. If you're willing to help with that – contact Tom KB8PAI or Steve KC8TVW.

March 27, 2010 is the NW Ohio Science Day at UT; again this year TMRA is sponsoring awards for projects that incorporate radio, electronics, computers. We give 3 awards, and the Science Day organizers ask that we provide 2 or 3 persons to judge the projects that have been entered in our award category. Judging is that Saturday morning – judges are asked to be there at 8:00am for some preliminary instructions (and free donuts, bagels and drinks), and judging is usually over by 10:30 – 11:00am. If you're willing to be a TMRA judge, please let me know so that I can forward your name to the UT people: I realize that once again, it falls on the same day as the Lucas County SkyWarn training.

The TMRA's Financial Year starts May 1 each year, and the Budget Committee meets after the Hamfest, and when we know what our income from the Hamfest is, to propose a budget for the coming FY. That proposed budget has to be presented to the Executive Committee and then to the General membership. As the March Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for only 3 days after the Hamfest, in order to give the Budget Committee time to review the Hamfest finances, the Executive Committee's next meeting will be moved to Wednesday March 31, not March 24 as scheduled. The proposed budget can then be presented to the General membership at our regular meeting in April, and the budget as approved then can take effect on May 1, 2010. The Exec Committee's meeting place has not changed, it will be at the Maumee Fire Station on Dussel Drive.

As most members know, we cancelled our General meeting in February because of the snow and the weather conditions. There was some uncertainty (confusion) regarding the Lucas County Snow Emergency Level: it was a Level 2 that Wednesday afternoon, I talked to a LC Sheriff dispatcher who told me that it would be at Level 2 for the rest of the day, so we cancelled the meeting; but apparently it was reduced to a Level 1 by early evening – despite what some TV stations were saying, and the LC Sheriff's website still had it at Level 2 the next morning. In order to help spread the word, we're going to arrange with the TV stations, Ch 11, 13, 24, 36 to get on their "cancellations" crawls next time we have to cancel a meeting due to weather.

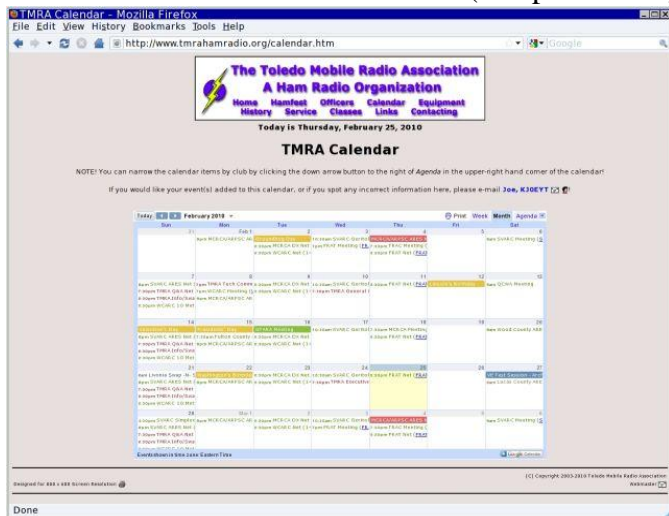
Next month I'll have a few more of the predictions that went wrong.

Don't forget the Hamfest March 21st – Tom KB8PAI needs help with set-up and take-down: Steve W8TER with security, Rita WB8FBG selling tickets Sunday, Chris KC8UFV for talk-in, Steve KC8TW needs VEs for the exam session. We have purchased some trolleys/carts with rubber-tired wheels, some members have volunteered the use of their trolleys/carts – we'll need volunteers to help vendors get their stuff to their tables Saturday afternoon and evening, and to help them get their unsold stuff back to their vehicles Sunday afternoon. We have made it clear, in writing on the table application form and confirmation form, to everyone having tables that they cannot drive any vehicle into the two halls where the tables are, and some vendors may show up with unsuitable wheels on trolleys/carts –so we need to be able to help move their stuff with them.

73, Brian WD8MXR

To all de KJOEYT -

The TMRA website has a new calendar! To check it out, go to the TMRA website - <http://www.tmrahamradio.org> and click on the Calendar link in the navigation box at the top of the page, directly under the title "The Toledo Mobile Radio Association - A Ham Radio Organization". Tom, KB8PAI, has been maintaining the previous calendar for much longer than I've been a ham. However, the previous calendar required Tom to do manual work for each new month. This process takes time and Tom is a busy guy! However, thanks to the wonders of technology, newer web applications are here, and they can help make things like this much easier to maintain. Whereas the previous calendar required a manual effort for each and every calendar event, the new calendar requires much less. On the new calendar, I can set up "repeating" events. So, for a weekly net, I can create the "event" once, and simply tell the calendar it takes place every Sunday night at 7:30PM. By doing so, the calendar will create an event on every Sunday night automatically. We no longer have to do any manual entry again for that event, unless for some reason the details of the event change. This is what the calendar looks like (this picture may not do it justice):



Does it seem like there is too much information on this page? Yes indeed, this calendar covers a great number of local clubs. However, you can "filter" the calendar events... you can limit the events to certain clubs or types. To do so, click the little down triangle to the right of the *Print/Week/Month/Agenda* tabs (in the upper-right hand corner of the calendar):

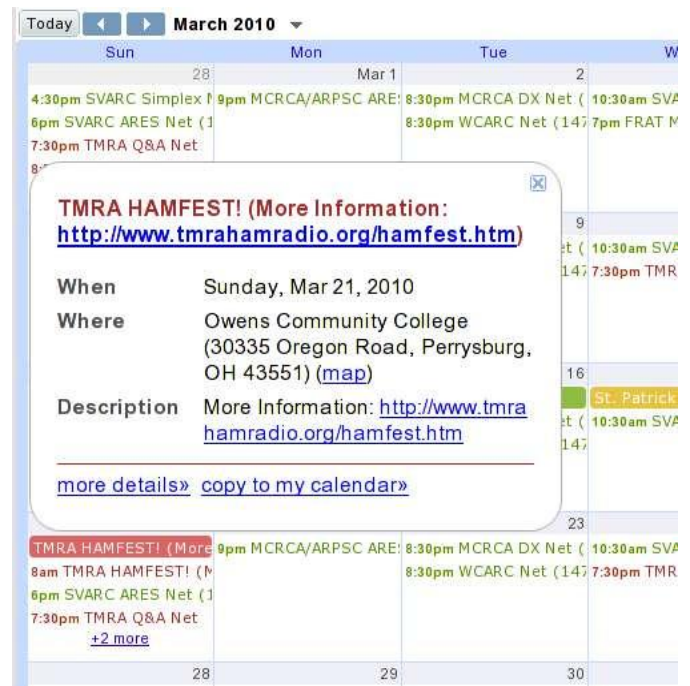


This will bring up a list of the different clubs and types of events. If you "un-check" any of them, the associated calendar events will "disappear" from your calendar view. So, if you just wanted to view TMRA's events, you could un-check everything *except* TMRA.

But wait, there's MORE!

You can event print paper calendars! To do so, click the "Print" link (it has a little picture of a printer, on the upper-right hand corner of the calendar next to the *Week/Month/Agenda* tabs). Doing so will pop up a window with different options. For example, you can print the calendar either in portrait mode (tall) or landscape mode (wide).

This calendar is not what you would call a "static" page. It's not meant just to be looked at. It's interactive. You can click on things to get more information. For example, you can click on any calendar event, and it will "pop up" with more information about that event, and maybe even an Internet link:





This calendar is made possible by Google. Google has fantastic resources for e-mail, contacts (address book), calendar, pictures, and much much more! They provide these services for free to you, as they make their money by advertising.

If you would like to see other local ham radio related events listed here, or if you spot any incorrect information, please e-mail me, KJOEYT at KJOEYT@arrl.net!

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

TMRA, Emcomm, Q&A and Digital Communications

The Q&A net is embarking on a voyage into the world of digital communications. We are attempting to get everyone on the same page initially. We will be using Fldigi as the software and PSK31 as the mode.

The software can be downloaded at: <http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html> Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on: "Fldigi/Flarq download". That should take you to the download page. Most of you will use the windows version (third one on the list).

Choose save and save it to the desktop. Run the installation by clicking on the new icon (fldigi-3.12.5_setup.exe) on your desktop. After installation you may want to delete the setup program that you originally saved to your desktop. You can access basic Fldigi instructions at: <http://www.w1hkj.com/beginners.html>

There are several other excellent programs available as well as many other digital modes. Initially, if you choose Fldigi and psk31, everyone on the Q&A net will be talking apples & apples.

The purpose is two-fold. First, digital modes are a lot of fun, take up very little bandwidth and use low power. Digital modes are better for some forms of emergency communications than voice mode. For example, transmitting a list of medical supplies that we may not even be able to pronounce. That would not be a list that I would want to get wrong.

The Q&A net will be covering the above over the next several months. We are going to try hard to get everyone to point A before we move on to point B. Please join us in discovering digital communications. FYI, the software will also decode CW.

A Technician license or above is all you need to join us. Sunday nights. 147.27 at 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Steve KC8TVW & Steve W8TER

Ham Radio Classes Now Forming

As a Licensed Ham Radio Operator You Get To

- Serve Your Community
 - Talk To Other Hams On The Radio
 - Meet New Friends
 - Have Own Individual Call Sign
-

The Toledo Mobile Radio Assn. will be holding a 2 day course where you will learn everything you need to earn your entry level FCC Amateur Radio license and begin to talk on the radio with other hams in the area. Morse code is no longer required for any Amateur license.

Class Dates: April 3rd & 17th (8:00 am to 5:00 pm)

Lucas County EMS Training Center
2127 Jefferson St Toledo OH 43624

Registration is required.

For more information please contact:

Steve Stalker KC8TVW

419-467-3734

kc8tvw@arrl.net



Toledo Mobile Radio Assn.
tmrahamradio.org



From The Ohio Section News For March, 2010

Ohio Section Conference Will Be Held On Saturday, October 16, 2010 Will Include Ohio Section Emcom Conference

In the past, the Ohio Section has held 2 conferences each year, the Ohio Section ARES conference in the spring, and the General Ohio Section Conference in the fall. At the Ohio Section Conference last year we discussed the idea of combining the conferences into one major conference. This year we're going to give it a try. The Ohio Section and ARES Conference will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010. The Conference venue will be the Educational Services Center for Central Ohio (ESCCO), which is located on 2080 Citygate Drive in Columbus. Those who attended the conference last fall can tell you what a great facility we had to work with, and I'm glad to say we will be there again.

The Conference is being coordinated by a great committee, headed by Scott Yonally, N8SY. They are working hard to line up speakers, programs, and refreshments for the attendees. It proves to be a great time, and you'll start to see announcements coming out for speakers in a few days. So, mark your calendars and pass the word!

Severe Weather Month Is Coming Up In March

Ohio ARES groups, Skywarn, and Ham Clubs - one of your major public service and public relations events is coming up in March - The Ohio Statewide Tornado Drill will be conducted on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 9:50am. Please support the drill by checking into your local Skywarn or ARES nets that day.



Lucas county SKYWARN® Severe Weather Spotter Training

The annual Lucas County SKYWARN® Training will take place on March 27 at the St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium in Maumee. The session starts at 10:00 AM. Training is free and open to the public.

The training session is presented by the National Weather Service (NWS) in conjunction with the Lucas County SKYWARN® and the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency.

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: Chris, KC8UFV; Steve, KC8TVW; Tom, KB8PAI; Rita, WB8FBG; Dan, KE8UE.

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.