



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

April 2011



The Prez Sez

Again this year our Hamfest was a success, although attendance was down a little from last year. Tables sales were about the same, with about 25 vendors who were here for the first time. On behalf of the Hamfest committee and the Club my thanks go to all who volunteered to help. Again, this year set-up and tear down went smoothly and we had volunteers with the carts to help vendors move their stuff in and unsold stuff out. I hope everyone saw the coverage of the Hamfest in the Toledo Blade Monday March 21st. Would have been more impressive to the readers if the photographer had included a few more attendees in her pictures – but the coverage - 3 large photographs (one in color) and about 11 column-inches of text - was much more than I thought that the newspaper would give us.

The budget committee has met and will present the proposed budget for 2011-12 at the next general meeting. With income from the Hamfest being down and the prospects of higher costs to mount next year's Hamfest, we have to do a little belt-tightening. Come to the April general meeting to hear the details, give us your thoughts, and vote on the proposed budget.

Although our membership year runs January 1st to December 31st, we traditionally allow some leeway, i.e. you have until the Hamfest to renew, or in the case of the over 70 year olds who qualify for a free membership – to let the Membership Chairperson know that you still want to be on the membership roster. If you haven't yet done whichever applies to you, please consider doing it. Tom, KB8PAI, has been our Membership Chairperson for many years, but has decided to give up that position effective later this year. Rita, WB8FBG, has offered to take over as Membership Chairperson. Thanks go to Tom for his years of service and to Rita for volunteering to assume the responsibility for membership.



The Hamfest success depends on many volunteers, some here are shown setting up tables and chairs. *kb8fxj photo*



Gertrude Ingle and Jean Powell attended the Hamfest and visited with many old friends. *kb8fxj photo*

Steve, KC8TVW, has resigned as the Club's Public Information Officer (PIO) and we're looking for a member to take over that position. Steve has taken on the role of Program Coordinator and already has programs lined up for several future meetings. Thanks go to Steve for his work as PIO and for organizing programs for our general meetings.

Saturday March 26th was the Ohio Northwest District Science Day, held at the University of Toledo main campus. We offered 3 awards for projects in the general area of radio/electronics/computers and there were 4 entries in our category. I went over to judge those projects. First

place was a 9th grader from Tinora HS “How much energy does a laptop consume?” Second place was an 11th grader from Patrick Henry HS “DECT Baby Monitor: Can babies be protected?” (from the RF), and third place was a 9th grader from Whitmer HS “Does the type of headphone used lead to greater risk of hearing loss?”.

Apart from 2 things to consider, that’s all I have for this month. *If “pro” is the opposite of “con”, is Congress the opposite of progress? and, if a mime is arrested, is it necessary for the arresting officer to tell him that he has the right to remain silent?*

73, Brian WD8MXR

Help Needed!

Well it's getting to be that time of year again and I'm looking for help with the Glass City Marathon. The race is on Sunday, April 17th and starts at 7:00 AM. It starts at the University of Toledo and follows a similar course to last year (for those of you who were there). They're adding just enough stuff that we'll need more help than ever. If you would like more information or to volunteer please let me know by e-mail at k8rks@arrl.net or by phone at 419-471-0573.

Thanks!

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

TMRA Radio Database

I was asked the other day about brand x model y radio. It was not one that I was familiar with so could not answer the new Ham's question. It got me to thinking. Let's create a database of members radios for those who would be willing to help a new radio owner out with the basics. It could be as simple as answering a question or giving them a copy of their cheat sheet.

If you would be willing to share your experience on a particular radio, please send an email to: kc8tvw@arrl.net

Subject Line: TMRA Radio Database

Message Info:

Name:

Call:

Radio(s):

Contact info: (email and/or phone)

Thanks, Steve, KC8TVW

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2011 SKYWARN® Spotter Training

This was another great start to the storm season with 286 people attending this year's spotter training. It would not have been so successful without all the people who took the time out of their busy lives to volunteer and help with setting up, tearing down afterward and helping with registration during training. I greatly appreciate all the help from everyone. Too many to mention but you all know who you are.

Special Thanks goes out to Jean Gillen of St. Luke's Hospital for coordinating the use of the facility every year along with Chuck and Brenda Krukowski. I would also like to thank Tony Everhardt for the display from last year's tornado and Steve Ashenfelter for helping me out with my public speaking phobia. Last but not most important, Gary Garnet and his intern Kristen Schuler from NWS for making it happen.



Gary Garnet of the National Weather Service Cleveland office, presents the annual Lucas County SKYWARN® Spotter Training in St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium. *kb8fxj photo*

The number this year of people was not as high as we expected with the EF4 Tornado in Wood County last June. A majority of the people that did attend were new spotters. Hopefully we can get more that will help report this storm season and even get a few more hams and net controllers.

Every year we have the largest turnout for spotter training in district 1. People return year after year and we even gain new hams and yet we have the least amount of people volunteering as net controllers and reporting severe weather. Lucas County Skywarn is in desperate need of net controllers. Without more net controllers, we are doing nothing but taking the advance warning to severe weather here in Lucas County and reducing it by half. We would like to see more people volunteer their time as a net controller to increase that number at least by one quarter so we could be more prepared for severe weather this upcoming storm season.

The SKYWARN® spotter program is a nationwide network of volunteers trained by the National Weather Service (NWS) to report significant weather via on the road, at work, or simply from your front porch. Every year I see new and old spotters, very few of whom actually participate in the training that they received. To me, that's like standing in line for 2 hrs to donate blood only to walk away when it's your turn give.

We offer training to anyone who is interested and would like to become a net controller. We have a Skywarn meeting the last Tuesday of every month at the 911 training center at 2121 Jefferson Ave. (Located at the corner of N 22nd and Jefferson Ave downtown.) Everyone is welcome and you do NOT have to be a ham. There is no age limit and it's free.

Again, Thanks to everyone for your help and support and welcome to all the new spotters.
Tim McConoughey, KD8HLX
Lucas County Skywarn Coordinator

April TMRA Meeting

Wear your name/call badge. Most hams have a badge or hat with their name and call sign on it. Wearing your badge/hat to club events helps others to know who you are. There are new members, visitors and others who may need to refresh their memory. Try to remember to wear yours to the next meeting. Temporary badges will be available for those who need them.

The April 13 meeting will have a short presentation on: *The Many Hats Worn During An Incident Command Scenario*. This 20 minute video will present a very humorous look at the various parties involved with the implications of "who is in charge" problems.

I promise you will enjoy it.

Steve, KC8TVW

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TMRA Bus To Dayton

Call Mike, WA8SYD, to reserve a nice comfortable seat on the annual TMRA bus trip to Dayton on Saturday, May 21. You will arrive at the Hamvention® as the gates are opening and leave at closing time. Lots of room on the bus to bring back all the stuff you can buy. You can call Mike at 419-6991390 for more info.

Hamfest VE Testing Results

Congrats to those new or upgrading at the hamfest

Tom, KD8PUA, Tech; Michael, KD8PUB, Tech; Robert, KD8PUC, Tech; Larry, KD8PUD, Tech; Matt, KD8PUF, Tech; Carlos, KD8PUH, Gen; Jordan, KD8JES, Gen; Sylvia, KJ4UBQ, Gen; Eugene, KD8NAW, Gen; James, KC8LKL, Gen

Many thanks to the volunteer VE's.

Impossible without you.

Steve, KC8TVW ARRL VE Liaison

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.

Board Members: Chris, KC8UFV; Joe, KJ0EYT; 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.