



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

August 2011



The Prez Sez

Now that we're having presentations at our monthly meetings – check on the TMRA web-site for details of planned future presentations for the rest of this year - there was some discussion last month on the format of the meetings: presentation first then the business meeting, or business meeting first then the presentation ? A suggestion was made that we're going to try – starting with the August meeting.

We will start the business meeting promptly at 7:30pm, keep reports and discussions as brief as possible, and at 8:00 pm start the presentation – length of this will vary, but typically would be 45 – 60 minutes. After the presentation and related questions, we'll go back to the business meeting if we didn't complete it before 8:00pm.

Rita, WB8FBG is now our Membership Chairperson – so if you want to renew your TMRA membership, or join TMRA – she's the person to contact. Thanks go to Tom, KB8PAI for his many years in that position. Still don't have a Nominations Committee: the current officers are all willing to run for re-election, but that shouldn't deter other members from volunteering before or at the September meeting to run also.

Joe KJ0EYT has the club's new Icom D-STAR repeater up and running at a temporary location – keep up-to-date with what's happening with it by going to the TMRA web-site, and under Resources click on the link to D-Star.

73, Brian WD8MXR

Help Needed!

Hi all! The last two athletic events of the season are coming up in a couple weeks. The Sylvania SuperKids (kids triathlon) is on Saturday, August 13th and the Sylvania Triathlon is on Sunday, August 14th. Both races start at 07:30AM. For the SuperKids we just cover the bike course and are usually done by late morning. The Triathlon lasts until early afternoon and we cover all the events but most people are not there the whole time. If you can help out with either of these events or would like more information please contact me at k8rks@arrl.net or 419-471-0573. Thanks!

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

LC_ARES Training

"Why We Do Events"

Is it for the entertainment factor? Or is it because it serves a deeper purpose? After reading this you should have a better understanding of what we should be doing when we are standing on the corner with our radios during the Glass city Marathon or the Sylvania Triathlon...

This is a letter between an ARES instructor and a student explaining

Why We Do Events



➤ Ken,

I was referring to public service events which are geographically small and well-served by cell phones or Family Radios, for example, "walks" for some good cause or other which are confined to a single city park or racetrack. Waving one's arms and shouting might almost suffice for communications for some of these.

➤ By contrast, an event like that huge bike race you described was definitely a fine opportunity for hams. Good for you for taking the trouble to plan it and check everything out in person rather than just showing up around the starting time and hoping for the best, which seems to be local practice here...

➤ Bill,

Don't discount the 'walks' and other small area events as one's where Amateur Radio doesn't have a role. My own experience is that they need our help just as much as any place else. Cell phones are inefficient for controlling a real time event. There is too much time spent in making contact and too much attention needs to be paid. FRS radios and such are OK for limited communications between organizers, but they still aren't enough. We're the only ones who can do what needs to be done, even if the whole event takes place in a square block area. Here are some things to think about:

1. All of the communications setup by the organizers are limited to their group, they're not cross group and unless everyone is within the same auditorium and stays off the street, you're going to need to speak to other groups. The walk we just did for the American Heart association only covered a couple of square miles of area, but we provided liaison between organizers, medical support, police support, SAG wagons, refreshment stations, and more. We can drop a communications net over an event that can interface with everyone. The police talk to themselves, the med techs talk to themselves, and the organizers talk to themselves.

2. We're really the professionals at communications. We know how to set up and operate communications nets in a range of structures to support an event. The organizers are just that ... organizers. They know how to do an event and they know how to talk to each other, but in real-time, they can't keep abreast of everything that happens. When we're doing our job right, even in a 'small' event they know more and are able to function better because we've got someone there.

3. Some organizers will try to hand a radio to the police, fire, and medical people and add one more radio to what they're doing. While this works on a limited basis (like the FRS radios ideas we've been discussing), it's confusing for most people because they a) aren't familiar with the particular radio b) have lots of other radios to keep track of and c) aren't really interested. We do best by putting an experienced ham close to the people who need to interface and simply pass messages for them. We

relieve them of the burden of passing the messages so they can focus on what they do best. If we've trained our people right ... and that includes good training in the EMCOMM classes ... then they know when it's appropriate to use a given channel. Cell Phones are great for some things, so are FRS radios, but we're better at choosing which one matches the message we need to pass.

4. Even in very small events, professionalism counts. When we can take the burden of planning communications off the organizers, we can help them free themselves to plan other aspects of the event better. Unfortunately, many organizers don't realize this and see us as 'Amateurs' ... and so discount us. The ones who've benefited from our help, and then try to do without us are the most vocal about never wanting to do without us again.



In short, whether the event is large or small, passing information is critical. While you may be within shouting range, it's better not to shout. Passing the information over Simplex on an HT keeps things moving calmly and efficiently. Even in a small event, that can be a bonus that we can bring. The same applies to disaster and emergency response. Every comment above is something your students should be aware of when they get involved in any sort of communications support.

Terry

submitted by steve,w8ter

Adrian 38th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show
Sept. 18, at the Lenawee County Fairgrounds. Additional information at www.w8tqe.com

Check into the TMRA Information Net on Sunday evening at 8:30pm (20:30) on the 147.270+ TMRA repeater.

Ohio Contests

Ohio QSO Party August 27

The annual Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio QSO parties are great fun for operators who enter them. The Ohio QSO Party (OhQP) is August 27, 2011. The basic QSO exchange form Ohio stations is a consecutive serial number plus the abbreviation of the county of operation. Ohio stations work any station. Non-Ohio stations work only Ohio stations and send a consecutive serial number and their state, VE province or "DX." Logs will include the band, mode and time of the QSO, and the callsign of the station contacted.

Contacts may be made using CW and SSB on 10M through 80M excluding WARC bands. Suggested frequencies are: SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300 and 28,450 kHz; CW: 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz. Ohio stations may work any station. Stations outside of Ohio work Ohio stations, only. Plaques are awarded in 16 categories.

The OhQP runs for 12 hours from 12 noon, Eastern time to midnight Eastern time. Full rules and abbreviations for Ohio counties are found at: www.ohqp.org.

Ohio State Parks on the Air

Another contest that continues to grow in popularity is the Ohio State Parks on the Air contest. This one is sponsored by the Portage County ARS and will occur on September 10. The contest involves working as many portable or mobile stations operating from Ohio State Parks as possible. Stations operating from Ohio State Parks work only other stations in the parks. Stations outside Ohio State Parks similarly work only stations operating from these parks. The operation runs for 12 hours from noon to midnight.

QSOs may be made using AM, SSB, CW and Digital. These contacts may be made on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands.

Full details are at <http://parks.portcars.org/ospota/index.php>.
Certificates and plaques are available in six categories.

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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 Webmasters, Tom, KB8PAI & Joe, KJ0EYT

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)

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.