



# TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon*

December 2011



## The Prez Sez

At the November general meeting, the members present voted to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation that TMRA dues be raised to \$20.00 per year for Full membership, with the dues for family members and students \$5.00 per year. The change will take effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – so pre-paying by then means another year (or even longer, as you can pay in advance for as many years as you wish) at only \$12.00 per year.

Congratulations to James, WD8IOL, who was elected to a 5 year term as a club Trustee at the November meeting. Thanks go to Glenn, W8MUK, for also agreeing to be nominated and for making it a very close race.

Also, congratulations to TMRA member Brent, WD8PNZ, who has been appointed as District Emergency Coordinator for the Ohio ARES District 1 – which includes Lucas and Wood counties. George, WB8HHZ, is retiring from the DEC position after serving for many years.

The Ohio Area Repeater Council has notified us that our D-STAR repeater, W8HHF on 447.750/442.750MHz has been granted "Coordinated" status as of November 22, 2011.

The December TMRA general meeting will be the Christmas party – I'm sure there are more details about it elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter. Steve, KC8TVW gets a well-deserved break in December from the meeting's educational programs, but gets back into the action with the January meeting, when the scheduled topic is soldering: as probably most of us have found out the painful way – PL259s take a long time to cool down !

73, Brian, WD8MXR

## 8th Region SSB Net Changes Operating Frequency

Ohio Section Traffic Manager Dave Maynard, WA3EZN advises that the 8<sup>th</sup> Region SSB Net now operates on the frequency of 7235 kHz ( QRM), due to propagation. This frequency change affects both the 12:30pm and 4:30pm (local time) sessions.

ARRL Ohio Section  
Section Manager: Frank Piper, KI8GW  
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## Have You Got The Power For Emcomm?

### Extra Life for the HT

Last time I talked about emergency or back-up power in a very general overview of what is available. I couldn't cover everything in a few short paragraphs and I will not be talking about old tube type radios from the 60's for emergency use in these small articles.

A common error of new operators is failure to plan to carry enough battery power to meet their needs. One ham chided me for saying we should have three sources of power in an emergency. I checked multiple ARES/RACES and EMCOMM websites and they all say the same thing so I stand by this statement and will show you how easy it is to meet this requirement.

This time let's look at the HT. The HT is where a lot of the new hams start, even before some buy a mobile transceiver. For the sake of someplace to start let's say you have been listen and talking on your HT for a while when the call comes from the ARES or elsewhere to go and assist. At this point we will assume that you have used half of the battery life of the current charge, more or less. Here are a few examples of things you can do to be prepared to extend the use of your HT beyond the remaining charge on the HT battery if you can't recharge your battery pack. Of course, it would be good to have your charger with you when you get the call.

If you have a second battery pack for you HT it will extend the use of you HT for awhile if it is fully charged. These battery packs are somewhat expensive but are available from the HT manufacturer and radio dealer. It is best to purchase these with your HT or soon afterward because the manufacturer may change models and the battery pack may not be available three or four years down the road. Even if the battery pack is the same voltage they often are not interchangeable between radio models and manufacturers. Another consideration for back-up power for you HT is an alkaline battery pack. Most manufacturers sell these battery packs and they are less expensive than the second battery pack. Alkaline power is perfect for long shelf life such as in an emergency kit. The alkaline battery may also be more available during a disaster depending on how wide spread the disaster is. Most manufacturers of alkaline batteries have a date on the package that indicates the supposed length of shelf life. It may also be possible to use rechargeable nickel-cadmium (NiCad) batteries in some of the battery packs.

I looked at what was available now at the local radio store in Columbus and found HTs by Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu and several other manufacturers currently for sale. Most of these HT radios use 7.4 volts and are not directly compatible with a car battery or 12 volt emergency power system. They can not be connected directly to 12 volts. Fortunately there are adapters that can be purchased with the radio that allow these HT radios to be operated from a 12 volt system. Several of the radios have both cigarette and battery adapter cables available that can be used to connect to you emergency back-up power source and extend you operating time. These items are far less expensive than a second battery pack and should not be overlooked for the ARES or Emcomm operator. Some manufacturers use the drop in charger as an adapter to run the HT from 12 volts. Look at your radio and charger and read your manual to see if your HT is like this.

If you do plan on using rechargeable NiCad batteries as an additional power source cycle and recharge dry NiCad batteries monthly. You can even use a piece of tape to record on the battery or battery pack when the last recharge date was. Also remember that cold weather can affect you NiCad battery pack. Put you NiCad battery pack in an inside coat pocket to keep it warm and do not expose it by carrying on your belt. Another important thing is to always protect the battery terminals as the battery back terminals should never be shorted.

Another good source of back-up power for your HT or even a mobile unit is a gel cell battery. I worked two days this year monitoring bicyclist in a Tour of the Scioto Valley (TOSRV) and used one gel cell battery for the both day. Of course with this type of operation you may only be transmitting five or ten percent of the time if that. I had a spare 12 battery gel cell charged and ready to go but when I was moving from location to location

I used my mobile radio and car battery. So yes, I did have three power sources of power that day. I did not want to drain my car battery and end up in unfamiliar territory and not be able to start my car. A good item to have if you are using your car battery is a set of jumper cables.

There are just a few examples of things you can do to extend your operating time if you are working an event or a disaster. With a gel cell you don't have to rely on the car battery but the car battery is still available if you need it. I better stop for now. Check back next time for some more ideas on being prepared.

73 (and 88 if appropriate)  
David Maynard, WA3EZN  
Ohio Section Traffic Manager

## ARES

Since LC\_ARES does not have a newsletter, I am hoping to fill in a column in the TMRA newsletter about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. I am hoping to do this as often as I am allowed. I shall attempt to provide updates as to what is happening in the ARES realm.

The next LC\_ARES meeting will be January 28th when elections are to be held for the LCARES INC. Board of Trustees. If you would like to nominate someone or are interested in getting involved, contact me, W8TER or Richard, KA9IVY to let us know.

It has been a busy month. LC\_ARES performed radio demonstrations for the Whitehouse Fire Dept. We also participated in the Maumee 5K and Christmas Light parade. George Henzler, WB8HHZ is retiring from the District One Emergency Coordinator (DEC) position and Brent Stover, WD8PNZ is stepping into his shoes. THANK YOU George for your years of service. Congratulations to Brent for stepping into the job. Also thanks to Steve Ashenfelter, N8XSF for staying on as the Assistant District Emergency Coordinator (ADEC).

The LC\_ARES Communication truck and Trailer are now in a new home. The rig is located at Toledo Fire Station Number Twenty Four in Point Place. The rig was moved there Monday November 28th and is currently assigned to that location. While I am talking about the Communications Trailer, I am in need of someone to fill in Brent's old position of Communications Truck Assistant EC. If you are interested please contact me.

Due to the holiday season, there was no meeting for November and there will be no meeting in December.

I have made out a participation report for the 5K run and parade event and it is posted on the LC\_ARES Yahoo group page for viewing.

If you are not a member of LC\_ARES Yahoo Group you can request to join by going to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LC\\_ARES/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LC_ARES/).

Remember... "WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...AMATEUR RADIO"

73,

Stephen L. Bellner  
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)  
Lucas County Emergency Coordinator  
419-367-1200  
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## VE Test Sessions

Congrats to: Joe, N5VIB, General; Dave, KD8NJY, Extra; Dave, KD8EVN, Extra; Julie, KD8QZY, Tech; Larry, KD8QGW, General; Alvin, KD8QYL, General.

New VE's: Dave, KD8NJY and Dave, KD8EVN.

Thanks to the VE's for your help at the sessions.

Note to VE's. We have had a difficult time lately getting VE's for the session. Two have been cancelled due to lack of VE's. If you are a VE and do not desire to participate please let me know and I will take you off the list. If you are looking for a chance to give back to the hobby, especially if you have an Extra class license, please consider getting your VE certification. It is done at arrl.org and is an open book test.

<http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners>

Steve KC8TVW

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14  
DECEMBER TMRA POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY AT 6:30. MEAT AND DRINKS PROVIDED.  
CALL SANDY, 734 260 3834 FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS.**

**HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS FROM TMRA**

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #236  
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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; Rita, WB8FBG; Dan, KE8UE; James, WD8IOL.  
TMRA Home Page [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://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.