



# *TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon*

March 2012



## **The Prez Sez**

Depending when you read this, our 2012 Hamfest is either only a few days away or has already happened. Meredith Party Rentals will deliver tables and chairs to OCC Friday March 16 and we'll be ready to set-up tables around 9:00am Saturday morning so that everything will be in place when the vendors start arriving Saturday afternoon. Tom, KB8PAI, is the person to contact to volunteer to help with table set-up, and please keep in mind that after the Hamfest, Sunday afternoon – we have to take down the tables and clean up. The OCC people were very impressed the last two years at the way we left the rooms after all the activities were over.

This year Dave, KD8NJY, is handling Security and will be needing members to help with security at the doors Saturday afternoon once the vendors start arriving. We will also need security at the doors Sunday during the Hamfest. Skeet, KD8KXD, is handling tickets and has had his ticket-selling slots Sunday morning filled with volunteers for some time now. Many vendors appreciate help bringing in their stuff, and again this year we'll offer help by having carts available Saturday and Sunday. Chris, KC8UFV, is doing talk-in and also would appreciate help Sunday morning. James, WD8IOL, would appreciate help in guiding vendors to their table locations when they arrive; we've simplified the table numbering this year by having each row its own range of numbers in 100 increments; those 500 and below are in the basket ball court and those 600 and higher are in the gym. Steve, KC8TVW, is looking for VEs to help with the VE testing Sunday morning. The more members we have helping in many ways makes for smoother running event and happier vendors. Again this year we'll have discount coupons for the food service for all members who volunteer at least an hour of their time at the Hamfest. Ron, N8RLH has put together a Forums program that includes a presentation on D-STAR and one on digital modes using a sound card.

Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> is SKYWARN® training at St. Luke's Hospital, (auditorium) replacing the LCARES meeting normally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Congratulations to LCARES for being awarded a large grant to enable it to up-grade the amateur radio stations at local hospitals for emergency communications from basic 2m FM to 2m/440MHz FM, D-STAR and other digital modes - I have a more detailed article about the grant and the equipment elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Instead of a formal program presentation at the TMRA general meeting on March 14, Steve, KC8TVW, asks those with "grab-and-go" kits for either UHF and/or VHF to bring them to the meeting and show us what you have put together.

Hope to see many of you at the Hamfest, Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>.

73, Brian WD8MXR

**TMRA HAMFEST - MARCH 18 - THERE IS STILL TIME TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP.**

## News from Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (LCARES):

Last October, LCARES was informed that the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio (HCNO) had federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) available in the form of grants to further expand the disaster preparedness and response capabilities of “non-hospital partners”, such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Steve, W8TER, Brent WD8PNZ, and Jim, N8DST, for LCARES, Inc. (the organization that handles the financial affairs of LCARES) wrote and submitted a grant proposal request for money to purchase new amateur radio equipment to replace equipment currently in the eight area hospitals: The Toledo Hospital, University of Toledo Medical Center, St. Luke’s, Hospital, Mercy St. Anne Hospital, Mercy St. Charles Hospital, Baypark Hospital, Mercy St. Vincent’s Medical Center, and Flower Hospital. It is possible that, in the future, Wood County Hospital in Bowling Green may be included. The request was approved and LCARES, Inc was able to purchase 12 sets of new equipment with the money from the ASPR grant.

As TMRA has a D-STAR repeater on 440MHz, and as the hospitals have 2m/440MHz antennas, the Icom ID-880H transceiver was chosen. This is a 5-15-50 watt dual-band, D-STAR ready digital radio. These radios will expand considerably the communications capabilities of the hospitals’ back-up amateur radio stations, and other locations at which the equipment may be used, e.g. at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the county EMA and in the LCARES truck and trailer. As shown in the photograph, all the new equipment fits in the lockable boxes at the hospitals. Under the conditions of the ASPR grant, because the radios cost more than \$300.00 each, they will be tagged with identification labels as being the property of ODH. The other equipment, although in LCARES’ possession is still the property of the US government. LCARES is responsible for its care and usage of this equipment.



Over the next few weeks LCARES will replace the present Icom 2m IC-2100H radios and power supplies at the hospitals with the new equipment. The IC-2100H radios and their power supplies belong to Lucas County and they will be returned to the appropriate county personnel.

Also, starting in the next few weeks, Steve, W8TER, as LCARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) will be organizing training sessions on the new radios.

There are 2 weekly digital (not D-STAR) communication training nets on the TMRA 147.27 repeater – Tuesdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 9:00pm – everyone is welcome to participate and share experiences and problems, practice and learn.

One set of the 12 sets of equipment (not including the 20’ coil of coax) that LCARES, Inc purchased with the ASPR grant from the HCNO to enhance the communications capabilities of local hospitals in emergency situations is pictured on the next page.

Front row, left to right: Icom ID-880H 2m/440MHz D-STAR digital transceiver and microphone; Astron 30amp power supply; Signalink; external noise-cancelling speaker. Back row: headphones; instruction books. Also in the picture: power cord for the radio (currently 10' long, will be shortened); power cord for the Astron power supply and cables for the Signalink.



Not shown are other pieces of equipment such as programming cable for the radio and USB flash drive for programs for digital modes.

Brian, WD8MXR  
Assistant EC (Hospitals)  
LCARES

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## Tour of W1AW Viewable Online

Want to tour W1AW, but can't get to Newington, CT to do this? No problem. You can take a virtual tour of the ARRL flagship station online. A recording of the February 12 live webcast tour of the station can be seen at <http://www.arrl.org/W1AW>. The virtual tour is at the bottom of the screen. The Master of Ceremonies for the tour is none other than Harold Kramer, WJ1B, ARRL's Chief Operating Officer.

## Back on the Air – Reprise

Last month I commented on it being great to be back on the HF bands after having lost my tower in heavy winds a year ago. I'm still thrilled with the experiences I am enjoying once again. I also am still limited to 6, 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 Meter bands, but a new wire antenna to cover down to 160 M is sitting next to my desk, awaiting my friendly, bow-and-arrow antenna raising friends and good "bow hunting" weather.

Part of the fun of operating is the ease of using Logbook of the World (LOTW). The number of DXpeditions and private stations that now use Logbook to QSL seems to be growing nearly exponentially. The cost of QSLing truly is dropping drastically. Moreover, the best is yet to come -- it is scheduled for later this year.

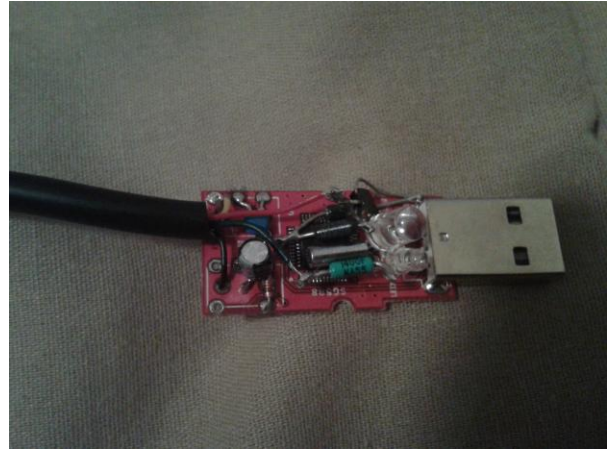
I look forward, once again, to seeing you on the bands.

ARRL Great Lakes Division  
Director: James E Weaver, K8JE  
[k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org)

*"Tour of W1AW" and "Back on the Air" from WEAVERS WORDS, February 29, 2012*

## KC8UFV's DIY USB Rig Interface

Please contact me by the March general meeting if you wish to order a kit to put together at the April meeting. I already have the list of people who placed orders at the February meeting. These kits are \$10, and include the mini-din 6 connector that fits most mobile rigs, and will also include a 6 pin female to make an adapter for rigs that don't have a 6 pin jack. The best way to contact me is by email - [KC8UFV@arrl.net](mailto:KC8UFV@arrl.net), but I can also be reached by voicemail at 419-350-3314.



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## **2012 SKYWARN®** **Severe Weather Spotter Training** **Lucas County SKYWARN® TRAINING**

The National Weather Service (NWS), Lucas County SKYWARN® and the Lucas County Emergency Management Agency, are presenting a SKYWARN® Severe Weather Spotter Training class  
Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:00 a.m.  
St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium in Maumee, Ohio.

**\*The class will last approximately 2 hours and includes a multimedia presentation.**

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President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER;

Secretary, Ron, N8RLH; Treasurer, Brenda, KB8IUP.

Board Members: Chris, KC8UFV; Joe, KJ0EYT; James, WD8IOL; Rita, WB8FBG; Dan, KE8UE.

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.