



# *TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon*

September 2012



## **The Prez Sez**

Although at the July TMRA General meeting we had some suggestions and discussion about future sites for the Club's Field Day, and in last month's Newsletter Steve W8TER and I invited further ideas to be submitted in writing to us – none have appeared. Please go back to the August TMRA Newsletter and see what we were asking for. The Wolcott House people are very interested and willing to have us go back there, and many of our members who have operated from there like it, but we're open to other thoughts from our members concerning location, but we can't wait much longer before locking in the Wolcott House for FD 2013.

The September General meeting is election of officers night: at present the current officers are running unopposed, but nominations are open until just before we vote. Also at that meeting, Joe KJ0EYT, last year's TMRA Amateur of the Year will announce the awardee for 2012 and present the plaque. Program for the meeting: a historic video about the America's most powerful AM broadcast station and the man who built it.

On Saturday September 22, 2012, the Wood County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is having a full-scale Hazmat graded (graded by the State of Ohio) exercise in Wood County centered on the North Baltimore CSX railroad Intermodal Facility. Wood County ARES has been asked to take part as the plan calls for the "normal" communications to be down for a short period, and amateur radio will provide the back-up. If you'd like to help WCARES, contact Bob W8NYY, the WCARES Emergency Coordinator for details.

73, Brian WD8MXR

Welcome to new TMRA member, Bruce Hammond, AA8HS, who says he became a ham because of his interest in electronics. His side hobbies are computers and technology.

*Next TMRA Meeting; Wednesday September 12. See you there.*

## Is Amateur Radio Too Focused on EmComm?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup, a Yahoo Group mailing list for anyone looking for help with anything related to amateur radio, one ham asked "Over lunch today I read the September issue of QST, which is heavily EmComm oriented. The articles were interesting, but the op-ed piece on page 98 seemed a little over the top to me...Has this focus of this intensity always been a part of ham radio and I just wasn't expecting it? How has it evolved over the years?"

To answer the question, another replied by posting Section 97.1, namely the principles behind the amateur radio service:

Sec. 97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

He went on to say, "I think that 97.1(a) addresses your question."

I like that reply a lot. First, it shows that providing emergency and public-service communications has been a part of amateur radio since its beginnings. Some hams are extremely focused on this, and I applaud them. In my opinion, the piece referred to in the latest QST was not over the top.

I think, however, that some hams do sometimes go overboard on emcomm, and act as if it's the only reason that ham radio exists. It's not. As you can see, the rules describe five different "purposes" for amateur radio. Emcomm might be the first, but it's only one of five. We need to keep in mind the other four as well. I personally like (e), and would like to see amateur radio actually do more to promote international good will.

*What do you think?*

When he's not pondering the place of emergency communications in amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. He is currently feverishly trying to finish the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Guide. You can read excerpts from this upcoming book on his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Information From The SGL Regarding The Ohio Ban On Texting While Driving

September 03, 2012

In an earlier publication we noted the passage an Ohio law prohibiting drivers from texting behind the wheel. Since then, a number of additional questions have been raised and the following is offered in an attempt to answer those questions.

(The following discussion is offered as an information service of the Ohio Section. It is not intended as, and should not be construed as legal advice.)

### *What's Prohibited.*

Ohio's "texting" law, H.B. 99 (the Bill) became effective on August 31, 2012. The Bill prohibits driving a motor vehicle while using a handheld electronic wireless communication device to write, send, or read a text-based communication. The use of cell-phones for voice communication is not prohibited by the Bill. The term "text-based communication" is not defined, but there a number of exceptions in the Bill to tell us what it is not. For example, the act of "reading, selecting, or entering a name or telephone number in a handheld electronic wireless communication device for the purpose of making or receiving a telephone call is not prohibited. Other exceptions include the receipt (but not the reading) of wireless messages via radio waves, the use of a wireless navigation device and commercial truck mobile data transmission. If convicted, the texting prohibition for adults is classified as a minor misdemeanor. R.C.4511.204(D).

### *Secondary Offense.*

The texting prohibition is designated as a "secondary offense", meaning that the act of texting cannot, by itself become the basis for a traffic citation without the commission of some other, primary offense. Specifically, the Bill provides, "[n]o law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of division (A) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for a violation of that nature or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that nature, and no law enforcement officer shall view the interior or visually inspect any automobile being operated on any street or highway for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of that nature has been or is being committed." R.C. 4511.93.

### *Six Month Pass.*

In addition, for the first six months the Bill is in effect, no traffic citation may be issued for the violation of the texting prohibition of the Bill. Instead, law enforcement officers are required to issue a written warning informing the operator of the motor vehicle of the existence of the new texting law. H.B. 99, Section 3.

### *Kids Beware.*

Additional prohibitions apply to juveniles. Specifically, no holder of a temporary instruction permit who has not attained age 18 and no holder of a probationary driver's license shall operate a motor vehicle while using "in any manner" a wireless communications device. This cell-phone prohibition, like the texting prohibition, is subject to a number of exceptions including emergency contact with law enforcement, hospital, fire department or similar emergency agency. The use of a cell-phone by minors is permitted if the motor vehicle is in a stationary position, outside the lane of travel. Interestingly, the "secondary offense" limitation on law enforcement for texting violations does not appear in Section 4111.205, which is applicable to juveniles holding a temporary operating permit and holders of a probationary license. Additionally, the penalty for those individuals is much greater.

*Municipal Cell Phone Rules Not Affected.*

In Ohio, certain municipalities have the power to adopt local traffic and other kinds of laws that regulate conduct within the territorial limits of the municipality. In the exercise of that power, a number of Ohio cities have already prohibited driving while “texting” and in some cases, cell phone use altogether while driving. The Bill makes it clear that the state law prohibition on texting is not intended to supersede local ordinances prohibiting the same conduct. R.C.4511.024(E). As a result, a cell-phone conversation or mobile QSO lawfully commenced on one side of the city line may become unlawful once the municipal boundary is crossed.

*Mobile Amateur Radio Communications.*

For most of us, the Bill has very little application to amateur communications. Voice communication via mobile amateur radio is not prohibited. Text-based communication via amateur radio, however, is likely prohibited subject to the same exceptions as applied to cell phone based texting. The Bill’s definition of “electronic communications device” does not specifically address amateur radio equipment, but does include “any other substantially similar wireless device that is designed or use to communicate text.” This would appear to include mobile PSK and RTTY communications. APRS transmissions would, arguably, fall within the “navigation purposes” exception to the prohibition on texting. (See Note-1 Below) There may be other mobile amateur applications that would be subject to the Bill as well, if they involve communications by text-based messaging.

However, it is likely that the cell-phone use prohibition on juveniles under the age of 18 and those with probationary driver licenses will include the use of mobile amateur radio. The term “electronic wireless communications device” as used in that section includes, any “[w]ireless device that is designed or used to communicate via voice, image or written word.” That broad definition would likely be interpreted to include mobile amateur radio, but subject to the exceptions noted in the Bill.

(Note-1) - The statute does not specifically address that issue, and the assumption is based on my reading of the Bill.

73  
Nick Pittner, K8NAP  
Ohio State Government Liaison

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## Findlay Hamfest

September 9

Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds

1017 East Sandusky Street

Findlay, OH 45839

Website: <http://w8ft.org>

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club

Talk-In: 147.15/75

Public Contact: Bill Kelsey , N8ET

3521 Spring Lake Drive Findlay, OH 45840

Phone: 419-423-3402

Email: [hamfest@kangaus.com](mailto:hamfest@kangaus.com)

## Adrian Hamfest 2012

September 16, 2012

Lenawee County Fairgrounds 602 N. Dean Street, Adrian, MI 49221

Talk-in: W8TQE 145.370 -85.4 pl

Hamfest Hours: Sunday, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM or ? Set-up starts at 6:30 AM Sunday morning

\$10.00 per (1) Table; \$3.00 per (1) Trunk Space; \$5.00 per Ticket (Advance tickets receive 2 stubs)

Hamfest Chair: Mark Hinkleman, NU8Z

[cqnu8z@comcast.net](mailto:cqnu8z@comcast.net)

Phone: 517-423-5906

VE Licensing Exams: Walk-in VE Licensing Exams, starting 9:00 A.M. Registration at 8:45 A.M. Bring Photo ID, \$15.00, and Photo copy of existing license if upgrading.

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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)

D-Star Repeater: 442.750 APRS: 144.390

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.