



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

August 2013



The Prez Sez

At our last General meeting the question of our Field Day location was raised and we had a little discussion on the topic, but as neither Steve, W8TER nor Glenn, W8MUK, the Co-Chairpersons for Field Day were at that meeting, we decided to postpone any further discussions until they could take part. So the topic will be on the agenda for our August meeting.

Just as a reminder, I've reprinted below, my article from the August 2012 Newsletter. I must point out that neither Steve nor myself received any suggestions or ideas in response to that article.

At the July 2012 General meeting, Field Day Chairman Steve, W8TER proposed that next year we go back to the Wollcott House in Maumee. There was considerable discussion on Field Day sites, with some good valid points being raised. It was suggested that we go to a different site every year, rather than staying with one or two that we know and are comfortable with; this would be more in the spirit of Field Day as an exercise in Emergency Communications (EmCom). Some suggestions were made, both in general (go to a park) and specific (named locations).

As Field Day is a Club function, what we need are ideas and suggestions from members. Send any ideas either to me or to Steve, W8TER. It will be important (and useful to Steve) if the advantages and disadvantages – the pros and cons – are, as far as are known, are included in any suggestions of possible sites.

Remember that we start setting up Friday evening, and we stay overnight Saturday – so we need to be able to do that – either at a site that usually allows the public to be there overnight, or would grant us permission to be there overnight. We also need to be able to run at least one generator – so special permission may have to be sought for that. The availability of refrigerator/freezer facilities for food storage would be important, as would easy access to toilet facilities (and not just behind a tree), although trees would be a plus for antennas. What about campers at the site, driving on the site, pitching tents? The availability of picnic tables/benches. Is there a charge for the use of the site, and if so, how much?

Keep in mind too that we want to encourage as many members as possible to set up a station and to encourage as many people as possible to visit the Field Day site.

If you want to suggest alternate locations from the Wollcott House and the Electrical Workers shelter house, please do a little research as far as restrictions if any, and what or who would we have to contact for easing or waiving such restrictions for Field Day.

Matt Welch W8DEC, the Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator has expressed an interest and willingness to come to one of our meetings to talk about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The September meeting has been suggested to him –still waiting for confirmation.

73, Brian

Field Day 2013

Without a doubt Field day 2013 was my most unusual event for the year. Although Glenn, W8MUK and myself tried to make an organized effort to set it up and prepare for the event, it fell a bit short of being the perfect Field Day event. The event was not adverse but it did have its share of errors and fun moments.

From the moment I suggested that we move Field Day back to the Wolcott House, I received many thanks for deciding to do so. Although the Electrical Industry Building was a good choice for Field Day the past couple of years, many shared their admiration of the diversity the Wolcott house gave in affording various advantages to setting up antennas. In fact through the entire Field Day event I received thanks for restaging the Wolcott house, not only from TMRA members but from a host of hams who had become accustomed to visiting Field day.

Even though we had a tight budget, it did not detour those hams from creating an atmosphere of fun and challenge once the site was operational. A simple meal of hotdogs and dishes to pass overseen by Sandra, KD8HYS, seemed to satisfy the participants for dinner and then a tasty meal for breakfast on Sunday morn.

The midnight fire on the island was an interesting aspect especially when watching what could have been interpreted as the Keystone firemen in a gallant attempt to extinguish the burning tree.

I have submitted our logs for the event. Do not expect first place this year but without a doubt we shall endeavor to supersede our attempts next year.

A special Thank You to Glenn, W8MUK, my assistant in well upholding his end of the vent and for being patient as I stumble through getting ready and finishing Field day.

I am already thinking about field day for next year and am hopeful you will attend and help make it a memorable one again.

73,
Steve / W8TER

Amateur Call / W8TER
w8ter@bex.net
419-367-1200

**The next TMRA meeting date is, Wed, August 14
The Electrical Industry Building, Lime City Rd. Rossford, Ohio**

**The TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon is
published monthly by the Toledo Mobile
Radio Association. #256
Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP and Chuck,
KB8FXJ.
Email, kb8iup @ arrl.net**

Taking A Dose Of My Own Medicine

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last week, I wrote a blog post on preventive maintenance for one of my writing clients.

Afterwards, I decided to take a dose of my own medicine and do a little preventive maintenance around the shack. I started with the Astron RS-35M, which provides the DC power that runs HF transceiver and my VHF/UHF transceiver in my shack. I had started noticing a few little things, such as the voltage adjustment being a little fussy, that I wanted to correct before the supply failed on me.

After removing the cover, I vacuumed all the dust out of the supply. The RS-35M wasn't very dirty, but even so, getting the dirt out of a piece of equipment is probably the first thing you'll want to do when performing preventive maintenance. Dirt impedes air flow. That can lead to higher operating temperatures, and as the lab manager that I interviewed for my blog post said, "Heat kills."



Not only should you vacuum any dust out of a cabinet, you should also clean the fan filters, if your gear has them. Dusty filters prevent air from flowing smoothly through equipment, and that means the fans don't cool as well as they should.

Once that was done, I did a visual inspection. One thing that you want to look for are components that look like they're getting too hot. Another thing to look for is evidence of arcing. Whatever is causing the overheating or arcing will eventually cause a unit to fail. Fortunately, I found neither.

Next, I checked to see that the components mounted to the enclosure were securely screwed down. In the RS-35M, the transformer, the bridge rectifier, and an electrolytic are mounted to the enclosure. Oddly enough, the bridge rectifier was quite loose, so I tightened it down. Also loose were the output terminals. I tightened these down as well.

Finally, I squirted a little cleaner and lube into the voltage adjustment pot and worked it back and forth. That seemed to do the job. That pot now works smoothly and cleanly.

I put the cover back on, reconnected the power cable, and got back to making QSOs. It should be good for another couple of years.

=====

When he's not keeping the gear in his shack in tip-top shape, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

The 71st Findlay Hamfest

Make plans now to attend the Findlay Hamfest on Sunday September 8. The location is same as before, The Hancock County Fairgrounds. Flea market opens at 07:30 and the buildings open at 08:00. Talk-in is on 147.15+ or 444.15+. the fairgrounds address is 1017 E. Sandusky St. Findlay, OH.

Ohio QSO Party And Ohio State Parks On The Air Are Just Around The Corner

OHIO QSO PARTY

The Ohio QSO Party is an opportunity for amateur radio operators around the world to celebrate the great state of Ohio. Sponsored by the Mad River Amateur Radio Club, The Ohio QSO Party will run from Noon to Midnight, EDT on Saturday, August 24, 2013.

A new category for this year will be an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) category. Local ARES / RACES groups will want to take advantage of this opportunity, and get your local EOC stations on the air! For full information, visit the Official Ohio QSO Party website at: <http://www.ohioqp.org>

OHIO STATE PARKS ON THE AIR

The Ohio State Parks On The Air, sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, will be hosting their annual event on Saturday, September 7, 2013.

For rules and other important documentation, visit their official website at: <http://www.ospota.org> Both of these Ohio events are excellent opportunities to enhance your operating fun, and also a great way to show off our hobby to the public! Work with your local clubs, and see who can take the lead on these operating contests!

from the Ohio Section News for July 21, 2013

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: Glenn, W8MUK; Joe, KJ0EYT; James, WD8IOL; Rita, WB8FBG; Dave, KD8EVN.

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)

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.