



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

January 2014



The Prez Sez

Last month's meeting was our annual Christmas party, and I want to thank Sandy, KD8HYS, Brenda, KB8IUP and Pat, KC8WQU, for organizing it, and every one who came and brought a great variety of great foods.

Brenda, KB8IUP, has been appointed Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (LC ARES) – congratulations to Brenda for that.

TMRA is in the process of purchasing a D-STAR 2m repeater from Icom – it will be a while before it's up and running, and the Tech Committee will keep us informed of the progress.

As I don't have much to write this month, here's a couple of space fillers: did you know that "HERE COME DOTS" is an anagram of "THE MORSE CODE" ?

Eleven plus two = 13, twelve plus one = 13: what's interesting about that ? Answer next month.

Best wishes to all for a good New Year.

73, Brian

THE NEXT TMRA MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8 AT 19:30 (7:30 PM)



The TMRA annual Christmas party was well attended but there is always room for more. *kb8fxj photo*

Newcomers and Elmer Net

The last Sunday in 2013 was the 7th Elmer and Newcomer Net for the year. Thus far the net has been more successful than we had imagined. The topics we have covered so far have been: Repeater etiquette, Going mobile, Basic antenna theory, Antenna operations for 2 meter and 440, Simple hf receiving and sending antennas, and last Sundays topic Amateur radio software. That net ran for an hour and a half. Most nets have been no less than an hour.

These nets are great for experienced and inexperienced hams as those who have been hams share their thoughts and ideas with the new hams. The new hams are willing to listen and have many questions.

If you have not turned on your 2m/440 rig and tuned into the Newcomers and Elmer's net on the TMRA's analogue repeaters 147.270 or 442.850, you are missing out on sharing or comparing what you have learned and what others are sharing and learning.

Dave Shugar was the instigator of this net. The TMRA puts on a Tech Class at least once, sometimes twice a year. This net is the perfect complement to help those new hams develop familiarity with the TMRA and amateur radio.

We are always looking for TMRA members to act as net controls for the net. We have a topic for each week and a script to go with it. If you would like to help, and we do need your experience; contact me, w8ter@bex.net or just turn on your 2 meter or 440 rig, tune to 147.270 or 442.850 Sundays at 8:00 PM and contribute!

73,
Steve / W8TER

The Importance Of Antennas.

Antenna discussion is an important part of the Elmer's Net (Sundays at 8:00 p.m. 147.27). The following was learned from one of those discussions.

A standard antenna on an HT (rubber duck) is marginal at best. When used at mouth level, the 5 watt rating is actually putting out 1 watt ERP (Effective Radiated Power). When used at the waist with a speaker mic, it results in .5 watts ERP. When used inside of a vehicle, ERP effectively drops to 10% of the above.

To maximize ERP, use a full length whip (19") when conditions are marginal. For absolute best results, use either a 1/4 wave ground plane or mag mount.

Steve KC8TVW

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WEAVER'S WORDS -- ARRL Centennial Activities Kicked Off

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[Reply only to k8je@arrl.org unless noted otherwise.]

- *It's the "Mother" of all QSO Parties; its open to all Hams*
- *Dale's Tales for December*
- *Ramblings*
- *Tentative Travel and Hamfest Schedule*

+++ *It's the "Mother" of all QSO Parties; its open to All Hams* +++

It began January 1, 2014 and will extend through December 31, 2014. It is the "mother" of all QSO parties. Judging from the first few hours of the New Year, this will be a very successful party, too. So what are the basics of it?

The ARRL Centennial QSO party actually is two distinct-but-related activities. These involve working W1AW from each state (W1AW Worked All States) and a Centennial Points Challenge.

The W1AW WAS is possible because throughout 2014, W1AW will be operating portable from each state for considerable periods of time. There, of course, will be W1AW/1 in each of the FCC Area 1 states, W1AW/2 in each of the Area 2 states, etc. through W1AW/0. Most US territories will also operate W1AW portable (e.g. W1AW/KH2 W1AW/KP2, etc.). To get a W1AW WAS, simply work W1AW portable from each of the 50 US states from January 1 through December 31. W1AW will operate portable from each state twice during the year.

The Centennial Points Challenge is equally as simple, but involves QSOing as many ARRL officials and members as possible . . . and club stations for ARRL affiliated clubs. Collect points by contacting every ARRL member from President through individual member. One note of importance: all entries into the Centennial Challenge must be made via LoTW. Other awards made be requested

Details of the operating schedules for W1AW portable operations, the point schedule for the many ARRL members and details of the QSO party go to www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party.

See you on the bands.

+++ *Dale's Tales for December, 2013* +++

Greetings all. HNY

As 2013 comes to a close, all I can think of is "Whew". It really has been an interesting year and it seems the case, no matter what one's perspective may be. I, for one, am glad to see it pass into history. It is not that plans went awry; the year was simply so very busy.

Therefore, in 2014, I resolve to examine the landscape in greater detail when I volunteer to take on a task, just to see how involved I may be. Hopefully, the chunks I bite off will be a bit smaller. I will certainly continue to volunteer, help out where needed and assist wherever I can. Volunteering is one of the ways I can repay past favors to those who helped me along the way. This is not quid-pro-quo. I don't play that game. It is simply doing a favor to help a new ham because someone "Elmered" me along this journey. I do hope that you can likewise help a fellow ham or two.

Like each new year, we go into it with new challenges. This will be no different. The unexpected curve balls will be thrown at us and we'll each have to make allowances. So despite what may be thrown at us, let's all plan to make Amateur Radio a little better this year. Let's answer a few more CQs, make a few more CQs and help out a little more at each club meeting. In fact, let me suggest we each step a little outside of our personal comfort zones and drag along a potential new club member to one or two meetings this year, it could be a very rewarding adventure.

From Judy and me, the very best wishes for a safe and happy 2014.

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Vice Director, Great Lakes Division
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+++ *Ramblings* +++

This is a short issue of Weaver's Words. Time has passed so quickly this past month and a number of activities have taken my attention.

Two activities of particular note occurred in December. These were attending the centennial celebration banquet of the Cambridge (OH) ARA and presenting a member with a 60-year membership recognition plaque. Each event was most enjoyable.

CARA was founded in December 1914. This was about six months before the ARRL was founded. What a unique situation. The banquet and program that celebrated CARA's centennial were great.

The 60-year membership recognition was earned by Ron Moorefield, W8ILC of Dayton, OH. Ron is a consummate ARRL member, having been fully immersed in ARES and similar public support, DXing and club activities over the years.

Operating and restoring my operational capability played a major part in occupying my spare time last month. A rather novel problem with my HF amp was finally solved by unplugging the ALC line to it. After being totally stumped by the problem, I called in some of my local friends who are excellent technicians. After being equally stumped initially, one of them called me later and suggested I unplug the ALC. Gee. The amp works fine. Why it suddenly decided not to work while connected with the ALC I have no idea.

The second problem was that my logging computer -- an old tower -- somehow glitched and apparently reverted my logging program to its "freeware," trial version which, then, stopped working altogether. With the computer repaired, the logging program was restored by re-entering the key code, but in the interim, what a hassle!

Now, I'm fully operational on 440, and 6-20M. For 160-30M, I still need to get one end of my low band wire back up after the city cut down a tree that had previously been used for this purpose. The tree was the victim of a street widening project.

Look for me and for many other ARRL officials and members on the air during 2014. The Centennial WAS and Centennial Points Challenge should be a lot of fun. Then, there will be the ARRL 100th Anniversary Convention in Hartford, CT.

Have a great 2014.

73,
Jim

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operate with a 103.5
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The TMRA meets at
7:30 PM on the second
Wednesday of every
month in
The Electrical Industry
Building, Lime City Rd.
Rossford, Ohio.