



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

December 2015



The Prez Sez

First of all, congratulations to all the new Hams from Mike and Steve's latest class, and welcome to the TMRA to those who accepted the invitation to join the club – we are here to help you whenever we can. We're planning on educational programs at many of our up-coming monthly meetings – so we hope to see you there. Thanks to Mike WA8SYD and Steve KC8TVW for the class again.

The December meeting will be out Christmas/Holiday pot-luck party – I'm sure that there's a more detailed announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter.

January meeting will feature Rob KV8P and his presentation on JT65-HF. We're hoping that at our January meeting we can process applications for ID cards for Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LCARES) and issue the signed, photo ID, and laminated cards.

In January TMRA is holding a "radio-day" at the Maumee branch of the Lucas County library, organized by Steve W8TER and Dave KB8EVN – who will have more details – kind of like a mini-Field Day – temporary antennas set up outside the library and food for lunch, but definite protection from the weather for the operators – remember June 26-27-28, 2015 ? All are welcome.



Programming the hospital radios at the LCARES meeting.

W8MUK Photo

On behalf of LCARES - I'm one of the Assistant Emergency Coordinators (AEC) for hospitals - I want to express appreciation to those who are getting more involved; the attendance at the November LCARES meeting was about 3 times that of the average that we've been seeing at the meetings. The plan to hold drills/tests on the first Saturday of every month with the hospital radios in conjunction with the NORC net appears to have stimulated considerable interest and participation. If you're not sure what the NORC net and testing the hospital radios is all about, please refer to the TMRA November Newsletter.

If you can't make it to the TMRA party on December 9th, hope you have an enjoyable holiday season.

73, Brian

ARES News

The Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service meeting is held at 9:00 a.m. in the basement of St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Rd. Maumee, Ohio, on the 4th Saturday of each month. Arrive early and enjoy breakfast in the basement cafeteria at 7:30 a.m.

Please note there will be no ARES meeting in December.

Winter Field Day

Are you looking for an opportunity to make numerous contacts with other amateur radio stations throughout the USA while enjoying food and fun with your fellow hams. Winter Field Day will be January 23, 2016, from 9-5:00 PM at the Maumee Public Library at 501 River Road. All activity (except antenna set-up) will be indoors. You don't have to be a TMRA member to participate. Come to operate, log, or just hang out.

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Dale's Tales

Greetings everyone, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for December 2015.

KRAMER GOES ROGUE: Not Seinfeld's Kramer, but our own: Harold Kramer WJ1B! It seems Harold and a team of operators have decided to strike out on their own to commemorate QST's founding 100 years ago this December as they will be operating a commemorative Special Event station W1Q. They plan to be on the air from December 1-15. The first QST was published in December 1915. ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer WJ1B and the volunteer operators will man W1Q. This is not an "official" ARRL operation, and Harold will handle all QSL cards and LoTW entries. He will post additional information on his QRZ.com page under WJ1B. Let's keep them all busy! What a great way to celebrate the founding of our official journal.

SPECIAL EVENT: National Parks on the Air will be a key event in 2016. I hope you all will be able to take advantage of getting some On-the-Air-Time to operate and have some great fun contacting stations in our National Parks and actually doing some serious operating from the parks. Be sure to check out the full details at <https://npota.arrl.org/>. There are actually 20 qualified National Park Service Units within the Great Lakes Division, and plenty of opportunities to put them all on the air over the next 12 months. Be sure to check out the current "On the Air" list of scheduled events on the web page. Not surprisingly, many dates are already booked.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO
ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673,
TOLEDO, OH
43697-9673

President, Brian, WD8MXR;
Vice-President, Glenn, W8MUK;
Secretary, Zack, N8ZAK;
Treasurer, Rich, KD8WCB.

Board Members: Steve, W8TER;
Skeet, KD8XKD; James, WD8IOL;
Dan, KE8UE; Dave, KD8EVN.

TMRA Home Page

www.tmrahamradio.org

Webmasters, Zak, N8ZAK &
Mike, N8ZLW

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 on
the second Wednesday of every
month in
The Electrical Industry Building,
Lime City Rd. Rossford, Ohio.

ON THE AIR: Are you? Maybe it is time to check! After the experience of operating last year's great Centennial Points Challenge, like many ops, I have experienced some serious withdrawal symptoms. So for 2015, I've given myself another challenge and made it a point to try to get on for a while every day and get some QSOs in the log outside of nets and contests. An all-too-often brief QSO with a foreign ham brings a new friendship and new interests. Certainly, my knowledge of this Earth's geography is improving as I frequently squeeze in some research on the country I have contacted. Of course, some time is spent searching for "rare ones", but I like the time spent for even a brief contact. This is not to say I am neglecting contesting. Operating contests is great for honing skills, and I note I seem to be able to copy everyone a little better after finishing a contest; with that little experience, copying DX through the noise and QRM truly becomes an easier task. Of course operating on a few nets keeps up the traffic handling skills and builds camaraderie. We have so many diverse aspects of this hobby, but one - actually getting on the air - is what it is all about. Let's all really DO IT!

TOM'S COMMENTS: Our Vice Director, Tom W8WTD is on a well-deserved hiatus this month. He will return in January all refreshed for the upcoming year.

UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: The Senate version of the measure passed through committee during November. The package will now go to the full Senate for a vote. NOW is the time to contact your Senator in Washington and encourage his/her support for the measure. When you do this, please reference the Bill Number S 1685. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters for personal delivery: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. You can find more information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>.

HAMFESTING: Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule for the next few weeks. These swaps have received their sanctioning approval from ARRL HQ at the time of this publication.

Dec 5 - Fulton County Winterfest - Delta, OH
Dec 6 - L'Anse Creuse - Harrison Township, MI
Jan 17 - SCARF - Nelsonville, OH
Jan 24 - Tusco - Strausburg, OH
Jan 24 - Hazel Park - Madison Hgts, MI
Feb 13 - Cherryland - Traverse City, MI
Feb 21 - Mansfield - Mansfield, OH
Feb 21 - Livonia - Livonia, MI
Mar 5 - Cave City - Cave City, KY
Mar 6 - Crossroads - Kalamazoo, MI

HAMFEST OFFICIALS: It is never too early to register your hamfest for ARRL Sanctioning. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Help avoid date conflicts, do it early!

WISHES: It is still early in December, but as we enter this holiday season, Judy and I wish to extend the very best wishes for Peace and Prosperity in the coming year.

73, see you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director, Great Lakes Division

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be December 9, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the Electrical Industries Building, 727 Lime City Road, Rossford, Ohio. The club will provide beverages and table service. Please bring a dish to pass. Soups and significant others are welcome.

The theme for the party will be "My Most Prized Amateur Radio Possession". It will be a show and tell for all attending. If you don't want to physically bring the item (for example: 1500 watt amp or 160 meter dipole) you can bring a photo or just tell us about your item. Also, please bring and wear a name tag. Blank name tags will be available at the sign-in sheet.

Congratulations to New Hams and Upgrades!

New Technicians:

KE8CPU TIMOTHY
KE8CPV McKENZIE
KE8CPW LOGAN
KE8CPY ROBERT
KE8CPZ CHARLES
KE8CQA ROBERTA
KE8CQB JAMES
KE8CQC SCOTT
KE8CQD MARK
KE8CQE KELLY

KE8CQF DAVID
KE8CQH SAMUAL
KE8CQI EVAN
KE8CQJ HEATHER
KE8CQK ISAAC
KE8CQL RICHARD
KE8CQM JAMES
KE8CQO RONALD
KE8CQQ CRAIG
KE8CQN Brian

New Generals:

W6LDS LUCAS
KE8CPX DAVID

KE8CQG THOMAS
KE8CQP JAMES

Monthly Meetings

If you haven't been to a TMRA monthly club meeting for a while, you may be surprised at what you see. Our attendance has been averaging almost forty people, including regular members, new hams, and guests. We discuss the many club activities: current, future, and recent past. Most meetings include a program with a topic of general interest to hams of all experience levels. In the photo, Dan, KE8UE, is giving the Tech Committee report. Come join us and learn more about what we are doing.



Dan, KE8UE giving the Tech Committee report.

N8RLH photo

A Message from Brent Stover, WD8PNZ

ARES has been evolving to meet the needs of our served agencies. Agencies and the volunteers are better organized than ever, and are required to be better trained in technology, tactics, and organization. Volunteer organizations must be self-sufficient rather than rely on their served agencies to provide them support. The Ohio Section is working to ensure that ARES remains a viable and vital partner in emergency communications to our served agencies and a partner in managing public events in our communities. In 2016, you will see several important changes throughout the Ohio Section.

- 1. More rigorous training.** Building and maintaining essential skills and qualifications is a priority. These need to cover radio technology and tactics, organization, and relevant regulatory concerns. We'll continue putting these to work in the kind of multiagency exercises that many ARES groups throughout the Ohio Section have been supporting in recent years, showing the agencies just how we can support them.
- 2. Greater capability.** Our system of providing support to local ECs through Districts and with ARESMAT will help to ensure our agencies that should the time come, trained and capable operators will be available. The OARS database helps us to identify and to organize assets needed to respond. Team W8SGT keeps the State EOC on our airwaves. Exercises in using NVIS, mesh, *fldigi*, and other technologies have proved successful, giving us more options than ever to move voice, text, images, and video all without others' infrastructure.
- 3. Greater service to our agencies.** As our skills and capabilities increase, our focus is still on making ARES a working partner with our agencies. We have the capability to become a 'technical advisor' to our agencies. We should always display the attitude that we're there to help- whether that be via ham radio, our first priority, or in any other way that we can. With our own support systems, field operations capabilities and infrastructure such as repeaters we can ensure our served agencies and public events coordinators that we have the resources to support them.

The Ohio Section leadership is excited about 2016, and are looking forward to working with all Ohio Section ARES volunteers to realize the vision of a fully-capable Amateur Radio Emergency Service throughout Ohio. My great thanks and appreciation to all of you for your enthusiasm and dedication!

Lucas County Siren Net

On the first Friday of each month, Lucas County Siren Net is scheduled from 10:30 to 11:30 AM on 147.270 + W/103.5 PL and 442.850 + W/103.5 PL. . This net is open to all amateurs. You do not have to be in Lucas County to participate in this net. This net will take check-ins and then stand-by for the outdoor warning siren test at 12:00 noon.

Anyone can be Net Control for the Monthly Siren Test and we welcome new net controls. We like to refer to the net as a training net because while testing the sirens you are training to become a Net Control for other emergency nets. Yes, you do need to have an amateur radio license to run the net. The good news is the first license you earn, the Technician License, would qualify you to run the net! Most of the net controls run the net from home or their mobile station so you do not have to go to the 911 building to run the net.

Here's Your Chance To Be A Net Control

Thanks to Ernie K8EEE for stepping up as Net control for the Newcomers & Elmers Net. I really enjoy his Net Control style and all of the great experience he brings to the net. Also, I must thank the Alternate Net Controls Darrin KD8WBZ and Steve W8TER. If you can keep up as an Alternate Net Control, you will soon be running your own net. And... you never forget who helps you when you are the net control; it is the beginning of a lot of friendships.

We need Net Controls for the coming weeks. I get the stitches out of my right hand and will be going into rehab and hope to be back to writing and net control by the 1st of the New Year. TMRA also has a class of new Techs getting on the radio eager to learn and talk. Here is your chance to Elmer a lot of new hams.

Pick a topic or question to get the net talking or just do a round robin rag chew. Putting the wattage into cottages and people on the air is good for TMRA and Amateur Radio in NW Ohio. Give back to the hobby and have some fun while improving your communication skills. If you can take a Sunday, phone me at [419-893-8811](tel:419-893-8811) or drop me an email at: buellshug@bex.net

73,
Dave, KD8EVN

Did You Know . . .

- TMRA membership is 177 members including 51 complimentary memberships for those age 70+ and 15 family memberships.
- The TMRA Tech Committee will meet on Monday, December 14, 7:00–9:00 pm at Maumee Fire Station #2 on Dussel Drive (in front of the water tower).
- The Lucas County ARES Informational Net is every Sunday at 7:30 pm on 147.270.
- The TMRA Newcomers and Elmers Net is every Sunday at 8:00 pm on 147.270.

Our Debt to Those Who Came Before Us

Recently, Ron (N8RLH) and I visited an old-timer retiring from ham radio to pick up several items of equipment he wanted us to sell and to anonymously share the proceeds with TMRA. During our visits and in an email, he shared some of his ham radio and military radio experience. He entered the hobby in 1957 and earned his amateur extra license in 1963. He was active in local emergency communications and in MARS radio for the military. To honor his elmer, he proudly obtained the call sign when it became available.

As I thought about his story, it reminded me we owe a great debt to those hams who worked hard to develop their skills and to safeguard our hobby for future generations. Men like him (and my father, too) loved ham radio and benefited from the experience. We can enjoy ham radio because of those who came before us and the tireless work of ARRL. In this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we should take a moment to be grateful. Just as we should say thanks to our military veterans for their service, we should also say thanks to those ham radio “old timers” for their service to our hobby.

Glenn (W8MUK), Editor

Climbing the Tower of Fear

By Andrew Anderson, N8VES

I often get asked how I can climb a tower and not freeze up in fear halfway up. They tell me "I'm too scared of heights to climb that tower". Yeah? Well, so am I. Yet, I still climb them. I am as scared of heights as anyone else. What keeps my wits together at 125 feet is my respect for the environment I'm in. I learned at age 3 how to respect electricity the hard way by sticking a bobby pin in an electrical outlet. Needless to say it was a "hair-owing" experience. My sister often reminds me it's what made my hair so curly.

As a kid, my sister, my friends and I would climb the tree in our back yard. Mom would always scold us for climbing it, especially since it was so close to the power lines. At 20 feet up we were less than 10 feet away from them. Of course we stayed on the side of the tree away from them. Respect for the danger of the lines. We were quite lucky because none of us ever fell out of that tree. We helped each other up and down, without safety equipment. We didn't know such equipment existed but we did have respect for each other in that tree.

I have that same kind of respect today whenever I climb a tower. I won't climb without safety equipment and I NEVER climb without at least one person on the ground. A successful tower project is planned well in advance of the actual climb. I assess and plan my climb on site so that I only go up and down as few times as possible. I don't want to be up there any longer than I have to. At 125 feet, it's scary up there, but the view is just awesome. You never lose your fear of heights and conquering it is foolish. But you can successfully climb a tower (and come back down) without freaking out if you respect the environment up there, test your safety equipment on the ground and trust it will hold you there

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