



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

February 2015



The Prez Sez

It appears that the “word of the day”, and in fact the next few months, for the TMRA is going to be “changes”.

First of all, our 2 long-time (from the very start of our website) co-webmasters – Joe, KJ8EYT and Tom, KB8PAI, are retiring from that position: many thanks to them for the work that they have done with it and for it. Taking over as co-webmasters are Zack, N8ZAK and Mike, KD8ZLW; many thanks to them for offering to take on the responsibilities for it. Zack will also be coordinating the management of the Swap and Shop: starting afresh in January 2015, many old listings have been dropped, Zack has a form on the website (under Swap & Shop) for new listings to be sent to be listed. At the discretion of the Newsletter Editor current listings could be included in the Newsletter, and at the discretion of the Net Control Station (NCS) of the TMRA Sunday evening “Newcomers and Elmers” net (8:00pm on the 2m FM repeater) included in that net.

Another change: Chuck, KB8FXJ, is looking to retire as Editor of the TMRA Newsletter. Chuck took over as Editor in March 1996 – yes that’s correct, no typo – nineteen ninety-six: many thanks to Chuck, ably assisted by Brenda, KB8IUP, for all those years of monthly Newsletters. Only one month was missed – and that was because no-one submitted any articles !

Other future changes: Brenda, KB8IUP, has decided not to seek re-election in June as TMRA Treasurer and Steve, W8TER, has decided not to seek re-election as Vice-President in June also. Thanks go to both of these long-time Officers of the Club. The Nominating Committee will be formed in March and it will be seeking volunteers to run for election to those two positions.

Any other future changes ? Who knows ?

TMRA Hamfest is Sunday March 15th. Volunteers are needed to help with Set-up Saturday morning and afternoon, and Tear-down Sunday afternoon, Ticket sales Sunday morning, Talk-in Sunday morning, Security Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday during the Hamfest. Extra class VEs Sunday morning.

Chris KC8UFV has a program for us at the February meeting Feb 11th.

73, Brian WD8MXR

Fldigi Training

Fldigi hands on Training Feb 14, 10 am - 3 pm
Location - 450 W. Dussel Dr, Maumee FD #2
Bring your rig and computer. We also need Elmers
Questions?
kc8tvw@arrl.net

Let's Talk..

Hi Gang,

First let me say "Happy Groundhog Day.." It just seemed fitting with the way that "Storm-ageddon" went this weekend. I hope you didn't get TOO mobbed at the grocery store when you went to stock up on milk, eggs and bread. I swear, I never realized that so many Ohioans loved French Toast!! Anyway, the storm that came through the mega-tropolis of Lexington just barely got noticed, and now that we know that Buckeye Chuck (Ohio's groundhog) didn't see his shadow we will have an early spring for sure.!! Oh yes, I know that the other groundhog did see his shadow, but I am an optimist, I think spring will be here early this year..

Anyway.. I do have a reason for coming into your emails today. We all need to say congratulations to Dale Williams, WA8EFK, our Great Lakes Director for being elected to the Executive Committee of the ARRL just recently. Dale was also assigned to chair the Ethics & Elections Committee as well.

Next.. I want to let all of you know that there is a NEW survey question posted on the Ohio Section Website.. It's on the left side of the main page. Please, go take the survey. It's just one yes or no question, and it really means a lot to get view on this issue.

Next.. If you bet on the Seattle Seahawks as my wife did with me, sorry about your luck.. Deflate-gate has yet to be concluded, but you can take it from me, it was the Patriot's time to reign!!

Next.. Did you see that the FCC has decided to no longer send a paper license out to new licensees? It's true, but that doesn't mean that you can't get a copy of your license, because you can. What will all of this do to those of us in Ohio that have to show our license every year to renew our licenses? Not much. Yes, I did say not much. First of all, your license is valid for 10 full years. This means that you have proof for 10 years that you are a licensed Amateur Radio operator with a valid license. Next, you can always go onto the FCC website and get a copy of your license. Details of this procedure are at the ARRL website.

Yes, this will be a little more of an inconvenience than what we have today, but at least we still can receive the paper license or just allow the FCC to keep it for you in their system. Either way, you still have options to get a copy of your paper license.

I do have other exciting news to announce, but I will hold that until it's time to publish the Ohio Section Journal (OSJ). You know, just about half of you don't get the OSJ because you haven't subscribed to receive it. Shame on you.. You really should. It's your way of knowing what is going on in the Ohio Section. Oh, by the way, if you have friends that aren't ARRL members, tell them that they can "Opt-In" to receive the OSJ via their email simply by clicking on the "Opt-In" option on the Ohio Section Website <http://arrloho.org> The best part of this is that it's FREE.. How much cheaper could we make it..!!

Well, that's going to do it for now... Keep in touch.

73,

Scott, N8SY..

*ARRL Ohio Section
Section Manager: Scott D Yonally, N8SY
n8sy@arrl.org*

**The TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon is
published monthly by the Toledo Mobile
Radio Association. #274
Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP and
Chuck, KB8FXJ.
Email, kb8iup @ arrl.net**

February Meeting Program

At the next TMRA general meeting on February 11, 2015, I will be doing a brief presentation and interactive demonstration of a new digital mode for amateur radio that would allow for large quantities of information, such as streaming video, large pictures, or other large files, very quickly. One can even run virtually any program that runs across the internet with Broadband-Hamnet. This new mode uses relatively inexpensive equipment repurposed from part 15 service.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a WiFi enabled laptop to the meeting, so you may see for yourself how easy this new mode is to operate. If you'd like to learn more about this mode before the meeting, you can visit WWW.broadband-hamnet.org

Chris Hart
KC8UFV

LCARES, Inc Election Results

At its regular meeting on January 24, 2015, the members of ARES gathered elected the following persons to serve on the Lucas County ARES, Inc. Board in the class of 2017”:

Tim Gray, KD8IDU; Ron Hornbeck, N8RLH; Chuck Krukowski, K8XFXJ and Steve Bellner, W8TER

The Board will meet at 8:00 a.m. on February 28 in the Cafeteria of St. Luke’s Hospital to elect its officers for 2015.

Richard Brownlee, KA9IVY
President of LCARES, INC.

2015 Skywarn® Training

The National Weather Service has changed the way they present the annual Skywarn® training. They have replaced the live in-person training sessions with a “live webinar” presentation. Our originally planned large gathering at the hospital in March has been cancelled. The new training location and dates will be announced as soon as they are determined. There are no Saturday sessions planned at this time. All training will take place during on week days in the evening.

The monthly February Lucas County Skywarn® meeting will take place on Thursday Feb. 5th at 7:30 pm at the Lucas County 911 Training Center at 2127 Jefferson Ave. Toledo.

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: Dan, KE8UE;
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
on the second Wednesday of
every month in
The Electrical Industry
Building, Lime City Rd.
Rossford, Ohio.

Spring Is Coming

Spring is coming and more important, the All-Ohio ARES Conference is on the horizon! We have a growing list of rsvp's already, and the program is shaping up to be well worth your time. After all, a conference just to get together is...nice. But a conference that gives you training, some great information, and stuff you can take back to your local ARES group - now ~that's~ worth coming to!

April 11 (Saturday) at the Ohio Fire Marshall's Conference Center, 8895 E. Main St, Reynoldsburg OH 43068.
8AM - 4:30PM

Our agenda isn't completed yet, but here's some of what's on tap:

First off, some business! The newly re-written OSERP (now on the arrl-ohio.org website), the new Ohio districts, ARESMAT, OARS and a review of recent activations. Our keynote speaker is from the Ohio Fusion Center- that's the combined FBI/Homeland/Public Safety anti terrorism center. Amateur radio is a part of every major walk, run or ride in Ohio. I can link the two together with two words: "Boston Marathon". I'm really excited about this- and if it's anything like the training they gave our counties right after Boston, it'll keep you awake at night! We'll hear from the Red Cross, and the antenna wizards who are putting together our "Ohio NVIS Antenna Day". Come learn the details! Bring your Go-Boxes and communication vehicles! All this and more!

The rsvp link is <http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/form.html>

Here are a couple additional important items:

The EC position in Muskingum County is changing. I thank Kathy Frederico for her time and energy. And I welcome Liz Nichols, KC8SIQ, to the position. I also thank Marshall Beverage for his time and energy at the helm of the Ohio Digital Emergency Net. Marshall is having back problems (how many of us can relate!) and is resigning as Net Manager. Former Manager Gary Hollenbaugh, NJ8BB, is resuming command until we can get some new people settled in. This is a critical part of ARES service statewide, and we'll be putting together a year's plan to further integrate it. If you have an interest (or a calling!) in becoming involved in the digital net, please email me or Gary right away!

I hope to have more exciting news in the future- stay tuned! Warm wishes (read that: I wish it were warm) from here!
-Stan

Stan Broadway, N8BHL
Section Emergency Coordinator - Ohio
ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™
broadways@standi.com
614-562-3130

Area Hamfests

Mid Winter Hamfest & Computer Show, 2015 -- Mansfield, Ohio
Sunday, February 15 -- Richland County Fairgrounds
Info at www.w8we.org

LARC Annual Swap and Shop -- Livonia, Michigan
Sunday, February 15 -- Civic Park Seniors Center, 15218 Farmington Road
Info at www.livoniaarc.com

Time to volunteer to help with the TMRA Hamfest on March 15

A 20 Mile DX-pedition ...(in 1996)

From the March 1996 *TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon*

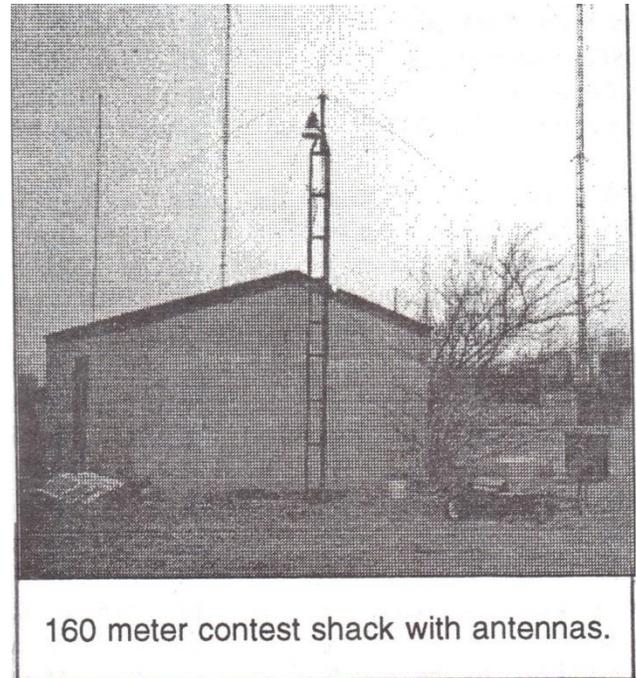
When I first heard that an old local AM radio broadcast station was no longer being used I began to dream about it's capabilities on the amateur bands: especially 160 meters. After doing some research and placing a few telephone calls, I discovered the transmitter site of WTTO, located between Lime City Road and Bates Road just off of Turnpike exit 4a, consisted of six 165 foot transmitting towers, spaced 225 feet apart running in a straight line from north to south. Realizing the fact that these towers were on insulated bases over a perfect ground screen and over 1/4 wavelength on 160 meters, I knew the potential of that site for a 160 meter contest.

Phone calls continued until permission was given to access the site and make the necessary modifications to operate the CQ World-wide 160 meter cw contest during the last weekend in January. With only 2 weeks before the contest, Denny - WA8EOJ and I visited the site. Upon opening the door to the 12 by 18 transmitter building, it was obvious that the only visitors in the past 10 years were mice and raccoons! The inside was filled with junk, insulation from a once existing ceiling, transmitting tubes, old turntables, and animal excrements! There was no heat and no electricity but the old transmitter and phaser showed little signs of aging. Denny and I visited the "doghouses" on towers #3 and #4. We determined that those two towers could be retuned and phased for operation on 1.825 mhz. After two hours of work, my Icom 751a, powered by battery, brought life to the two tower phase! With a mere 75 watts, 20db+ signal reports were received by stations in southern Ohio, central Michigan, and West Virginia. I knew we had great potential!!

With one week to go, plans were in full force. Joe-N8AAT, Kurt-W8IQ, Ted-K8AQM, Bill-N8ABL and I began the long and detailed preparations. Our assessment of the site revealed many obstacles:

1. There is NO electricity at the site.
2. The building is unheated.
3. 165 foot verticals transmit well but hear VERY poorly.
4. WSPD transmitter is less than 2 miles away.
5. The building is a TOTAL mess!

Joe, Ted, and I visited the site the Sunday before to clean the building and make plans on preparing the site for a contest. We decided that in order to be successful, we would need to build a full-blown contest station with multiple radios, computers, amplifiers, packet station, additional transmit antennas and at least three beverage antennas. The week before the contest was spent preparing a master list of equipment and assigning responsibilities to the members of the contest team. By Wednesday, most equipment was in hand, including a 6.5 KW 110V generator from the TMRA and a 4kw 220V generator from Norm-N8HTT. Friday morning, Joe, Kurt, Ted, Mike (KG8CW) and I gathered at the site to build the station. Two kerosene heaters were started to warm up the building. The big generator was started and the equipment was brought in. (2 computers, a packet station, an FT1000mp, a 751a, a 1.5KW amplifier, an 800 watt amplifier, remote antenna switcher for the beverages, keyer, lights, coffee pot, chili pot, antenna tuners, 9:1 baluns, etc.)



160 meter contest shack with antennas.

Work then began on building the beverage antennas. Now beverage antennas (long-long listening wires 6 feet off the ground in a straight line in the direction you want to hear) work BEST over poor ground. The ground screen under the towers would negate the benefit of beverages so they needed to be built away from the site over farm land. With a feed point of some 250 feet away from the building, we erected three 800 foot beverages. Each beverage was supported on 1x2x8 lumber driven into the FROZEN ground. (That, in itself, was a major undertaking.) The north-east beverage was terminated to ground through a 470 ohm resistor making it unidirectional towards Europe. The east-west and north-south beverages remained unterminated. The beverages were matched with home brew 9 to 1 baluns and switched by the Ameritron remote antenna switcher. After the beverages were built, the inverted vee was erected about 85 feet up tower

#5. (By the way, the feedline to the inverted vee was almost 500 feet long!) After tuning tower #6 as a single vertical, we were ready to build the station.

The existing 11 meter ground plane loaded nicely on two meters and within a short period of time, the packet station was connected to the Packetcluster on 147.54. An existing desk was cleaned and hosted the operating equipment. By 4pm the station was complete and in operation. The logging computer running K8CC's NA logging program, was interfaced with the packet computer and the Yaesu FT1000mp. We were ready for the contest opening at 5pm local time. Apart from all of the station preparations, the contest crew had to be assembled. A minimum of two people were required at all times for the duration of the 40 hour marathon. The operators for the weekend included:

Joe-N8AAT, Kurt-W8IQ, Ted-K8AQM, Brian-KG8CO, Mark-NU8Z, Mark-WA8SAE, Bill-NSABL, Ken-WD9INF

Before I say anything about results and performance, you must know that "Murphy" was present and we had our share of difficulties. Since the towers were longer than needed, the matching capacitors in our tuners were only able to handle 800 watts without arcing. (The inverted vee handled the full 1500 watts) When the wind kicked up early Saturday morning, none of the towers would load. (In fact, before the day was done, Dan-KE8UE and I tuned up tower #2 for the new vertical) Both generators stopped at inopportune times for refueling and adding of oil. The switch for the beverages on the rig was accidentally turned off and not to be discovered after 3 hours of Europeans calling without us being able to hear them! SWR analyzers don't work at that site!!!! That fact added an hour and a half of extra work climbing and rebuilding an inverted vee that was perfectly good at the start! The Saturday morning wind was so strong, 8 of the beverage supports were broken and two of the wires needed mending along with reterminating the north-east beverage. Add to that, a door that wouldn't close tight, a very cold building Saturday, and a stuck-in-the-mud car at 11pm Friday night, we didn't know what would happen next!!

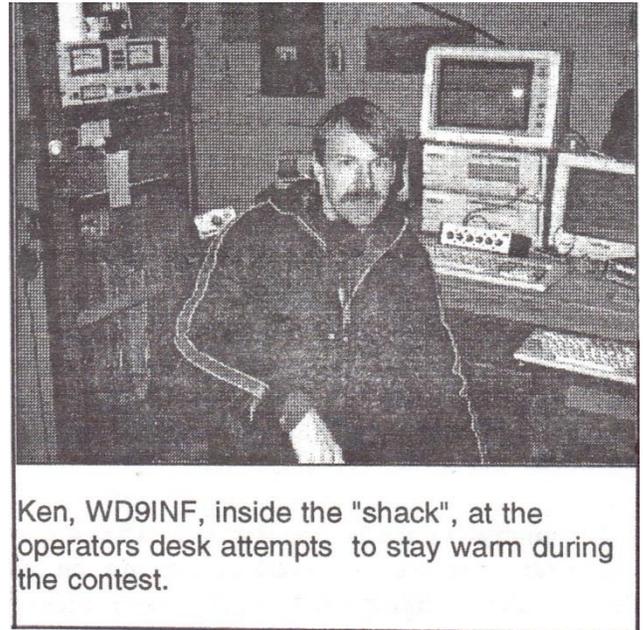
So, what about results???

1. Over 20 visitors including TMRA members KB8FXJ, KB8IUP, WT8Y, KE8UE, WJ8E and a neighbor!
2. We used 5 gallons of kerosene and 60 gallons of gasoline.
3. 1/2 pound of coffee
4. two pots of chili
5. five bottles of beer, 20+ cans of pop
6. five cigars smoked
7. 940 cw contacts
8. 49 states (we missed Maine)
9. 30 countries worked including several from Europe
10. 4 Japan stations worked
11. a total score of about 202,000 points

This was a very respectable score. Without the problems mentioned, our score would have been significantly higher! The weekend, though, was a lot of fun. TMRA members 'tout' Field Day as a major experience: true "Field Day" pioneers would cherish this experience a lifetime. It was a challenge, it was fun, it was being resourceful, it was fun, it was being persistent, it was fun, it was using knowledge and skills, it was fun, it was work - it was fun! Those involved were all willing contributors to the cause. They all trusted each other, shared in responsibility, and never gave up. The operators sat on cold chairs in snowmobile suits with hats and gloves huddled close to the heaters. We all wanted to win and we all wanted to have fun.

The station is silent again . . . waiting for another great adventure . . . maybe next year!

de KEN-WD9INF (now N8KR)



Ken, WD9INF, inside the "shack", at the operators desk attempts to stay warm during the contest.

note: Ken is now N8KR and lives in Defiance Oh. The towers and shacks are long gone and the site has been developed. The photos were scanned from the original newsletter (kb8fxj photos), also visible in the shack photo is one of TMRA's generators

*