



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

November 2015



The Prez Sez

The Hamfest Committee met a couple of weeks ago to get things started for Hamfest 2016. Ticket and Table prices will remain the same as this year's event. We're hoping to be able to offer QSL card checking at next year's event, and we're open to ideas and suggestions for Forums. If you're interested in helping the Committee, please let me know.

At the November General meeting Steve W8TER will have a presentation on Coronal Mass Ejection (CME). December meeting will be the annual Christmas party – same as last year, the Club provides the drinks – pop, coffee, tea, and the table settings, members bring a dish to share. For the January meeting Rob KV8P will have a presentation on JT65-HF.

Regarding the TMRA equipment that was previously at the Challenger Learning Center, don't forget that a committee has been formed to consider ideas/plans. Members are Steve, W8TER, Steve KC8TVW, Mike WA8SYD, Tom KD8WCD, Rich KQ6EF, Skeet KD8KXD and me, WD8MXR, and we're looking for ideas. Any input from any members of the Club would be welcome. At present the equipment is being safely stored, but hopefully we can find a place or places (if it were mobile) where it would be used as an introduction to some of the features and capabilities of amateur radio – it was put together for satellite and space station contacts – but is not limited to that.

Please look at the article in this Newsletter about the Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LCARES) and the “hospital radios” and NORC. Attendance at the monthly LCARES meetings has been declining, but it's hoped that by getting more area amateur operators involved with NORC and its monthly net, and getting a regular schedule of testing the hospital radios, LCARES will see a reversal of the attendance decline.

73, Brian

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CQ CQ de Lucas County ARES

At the October monthly Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service meeting a suggestion was made to start a regularly scheduled ARES informational net. All licensed amateurs are considered to be part of ARES.



You are invited to tune in to the TMRA 2 meter repeater (147.270+) at 7:30 pm on Sunday night. The name of this net will be “The ARES in Brief Net,” and happens just before the TMRA Newcomers and Elmers Net at 8:00. As the name suggests the net will not take a lot of time. Its success depends on you.

Brenda, KB8IUP
Lucas County Emergency Coordinator

LCARES “Hospital Radios” aka “ASPR radios”

Introduction and Background:

Prior to 2012, the 8 major hospitals in Lucas County (UTMC, Toledo, St. Vincent Mercy, Flower St. Charles, St Annes, Baypark, St. Lukes) had, as amateur radio equipment for emergency back-up communications, a 2m/440MHz roof-mounted antenna and an Icom 2100H 2m FM radio with power supply. In 2012, Lucas County Emergency Services, Inc., (the financial part of LCARES) applied to the Hospital Council of NW Ohio (HCNO) for a grant to provide up-dated equipment at these hospitals. The HCNO had federal money from the USDHHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), through the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to award as grants to expand the disaster preparedness and response capabilities of non-hospital partners. The LCARES, Inc. grant application proposed replacing the Icom 2100Hs with the Icom ID-880 (2m/440MHz, FM, D-STAR, and digital-capable) radios, new PSs, SignalLinks, headphones and some other accessories. The grant application was successful and LCARES, Inc. was able to purchase 12 sets of the equipment – the “hospital radios” - which enabled us, in addition to the 8 hospitals in Lucas County, to have sets for the Wood County Hospital, the LCARES truck/trailer, the Lucas County EMA building, and one for a portable “grab-and-go” station. A requirement of the grant was that LCARES run a minimum of quarterly tests of the equipment purchased.

The equipment and the hospitals:

For details of the equipment and its location in the hospital, there are files (Word® document) for each of the Lucas County hospitals – with information as to where to park, where in the hospital the equipment is located, contact person(s) at the hospital for emergency communications, etc.

These files are currently available on the LCARES Yahoo group website, and will be placed on the LCARES website, under “Documents”. I have them available on request to me at wd8mxr@gmail.com.

Testing the “hospital radios”:

We have run several tests, sometimes involving just some or all of the 8 Lucas County radios,, sometimes just brief tests through a few repeaters and a simplex frequency, sometimes passing files with FIDigi, sometimes including the non-hospital sets of equipment, sometimes including SWR checks of the hospital feedline and antenna. We have never had a predetermined schedule for the testing, relying largely on who’s available and when for setting a test date.

We now want to get a more fixed, regular schedule set-up for testing the equipment. One way to do this is to get involved with the NORC Net. NORC is an acronym for Northwest Ohio Regional Communications. HF radios were purchased with grant money through the Regional Medical Response System (RMRS) and placed at the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in 18 NW Ohio Counties for back-up communications. Hospitals in those are involved in the NW Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition (NWO-HEMC), and many of those are also part of the HCNO, and all have amateur radio written into their plans for emergency back-up communications. For more detailed information on NORC, including a list of the counties, go to the LCARES website www.lucasares.org, click on LCARES Voice Nets, and then Northwest Ohio Regional Communications (NORC) in the table listing (from which I took this information).

The NORC net typically meets on the first Saturday of the month at 11:00am on 7.200 MHz (plus/minus a little) as a training net and a test of equipment. They encourage amateur stations who can communicate via VHF/UHF with a hospital to check into the NORC net.

The NORC net:

LCARES sees several opportunities here: ¹

- a) It is a pre-existing, defined schedule that is related to hospital emergency communications, and that we could piggy-back onto to.
- b) While we couldn't expect all 12 of the LCARES "hospital radios" to be involved every month, it gives amateur operators in Lucas and Wood counties opportunities to get to know the set-up and locations of the radios in the hospitals, where to park, etc., when it's convenient for them.
- c) We would not expect to run comprehensive tests of all the modes the radios are capable of every month, and on variety of frequencies. Some Saturdays we could plan on taking the time to run extensive testing after the NORC net: this could also be planned for times other than Saturdays, i.e. week day evenings.
- d) The Lucas County and Wood County EOCs have HF radios – if they were manned for the NORC nets an amateur operator with HF privileges could inform the NORC Net Control Station (NCS) that they had communication with local hospital VHF/UHF stations. LCARES and WCARES amateur operators who wished to operate from the EOCs in those counties would have to make this known to the county ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) in advance to obtain clearance to enter the EOC building.
- e) Home HF stations are encouraged to check into the NORC net – if the hospital radios were manned, the home station operators could also inform the NORC NCS that they had contact with local hospital stations.
- f) Would give home stations the reasons and opportunities to install and test Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) antenna(s).
- g) Could, over a short period of time, enable LCARES to build up a group of amateur radio operators having familiarity and expertise with the equipment, hopefully several persons deep for each location where we have the "hospital radios".
- h) Would strengthen the amateur radio back-up emergency communications systems and capabilities, and not just for Northwest Ohio.

¹ I wish to acknowledge Steve, W8TER for suggesting that LCARES align with the NORC net and outlining many of the above points.

Brian, WD8MXR
LCARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Hospitals.

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VE Test Session

At the VE test session on October 10th, Brandon, KE8CHZ received his tech license and Keith, KD8VSE upgraded to general. Congratulations to both! If you or someone you know are interested in obtaining or upgrading an amateur radio operating license, contact Steve, KC8TVW at kc8tvw@arrl.net.

Christmas Party

TMRA will hold its annual Christmas Party on the regular meeting night, December 9, 2015, beginning at 6:30 PM. The club will provide drinks and table service. Please bring a dish to pass.

Toledo Area Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

TMRA was pleased to participate in JOTA, held October 17, 2015. Steve, KC8TVW, with the assistance of other hams, set up an amateur radio station at Camp Miakonda in Sylvania, Ohio. Designed to demonstrate amateur radio to scouts, the station included Swan Transceiver on 40M and an Icom IC7000 on 20M, plus a CW keyer that proved to be very popular with the scouts. Twenty-four scouts viewed the station, learned CW, and got on the air in digital modes.

Thanks to the following hams who participated: Steve, KC8TVW; Joe, KD8UZA; Mike, WA8SYD; Greg, KD8NTU; Glenn, W8MUK. I apologize if I missed anyone.



Scouts learning CW at JOTA 2015

W8MUK photo

Skywarn/TRAC Meeting

The Skywarn/TRAC meeting takes place the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the 911 Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604. The training center is located directly behind the 911 Building on Monroe Street. All are welcome to attend.

Did You Know?

- TMRA Elmers will provide assistance to anyone wishing to upgrade to a general or amateur extra operating license. Contact Mike, WA8SYD for more information.
- TMRA will again sponsor a bus to the Dayton Hamvention in May 2016.
- TMRA is planning another winter field day in mid to late January 2016. It will be held indoors, so don't worry about your fingers freezing to the microphone.
- TMRA is planning an entry level class on digital communications featuring fldigi software.

Tech Committee Work Party

On October 12, the Tech Committee held a work party at Park's Tower. The plan was to replace the 440 repeater with the club's Fusion, run new Andrews hard line to the 440 antenna mount, and replace the old 440 antenna with a G9. The plan also included replacing the 2 meter antenna with a G7.

Headed up by Dan, KE8UE the group consisted of Steve, W8TER; Tom, KD8WCD; Rob, KV8P; Joseph, AB9YY; and Dave, KB8EH. The tasks were many and all was accomplished with the exception of the 220 amp. The 220 seems to be having some problems and needs closer inspection. There will be another work party in the future to address the problem. Overall, the group spent 6 ½ hours completing the tasks.

TMRA Newcomers and Elmers Net 10/25/2015

2003 -2131hrs 18 CHECK-INS

Topic: Why Public Service Hams Should Participate in Contests

Announcements:

- 1ST "ARES in Brief Net" tonight just before this net at 1930hrs, there will be another ARES Net Next Week
- TMRA Tech Meeting 11/9
- TMRA Meeting 11/12
- TMRA Technician License Class 11/7 and 11/21 EMS Building 2127 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, Ohio
- November VE Testing at end of second Tech Class 11/21
- LCARES Meeting 0800 St Lukes 11/28

THANKS TO THE ELMERS WHO CHECKED IN TO ANSWER QUESTIONS!

- KD8EVN DAVE NET CONTROL
- KD8WBZ DARRIN ALTERNATE NET CONTROL
- K8EEE ERNIE
- W8TER STEVE
- KB8FXJ CHUCK
- KD8UOT JUAN



Rob, KV8P on Park's Tower



Steve, W8TER using an antenna analyzer

- W8JTP JASON
- W8MAL MIKE
- KV8P ROB
- KD8WBY ED
- K8PRG RICK
- WD8MXR BRIAN
- KE8UE DAN
- N8YAE MIKE
- KD8QWO KEN
- W8UM STEWART UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN RADIO CLUB!
- WA8SYD MIKE
- KD8WCB RICH

Dale's Tales

(This month Dale's Tales was edited to fit in the available space.)

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

UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: 111 and climbing.

As of this date, we have 111 House members that have agreed to Co-sponsor HB 1301 in the U.S. House of Representatives. FCC Rules currently allow residents in these associations to install TV receive antennas, both satellite dishes and multi-element arrays. This bill has been introduced to allow Radio Amateurs parity within homeowners associations so hams may install an antenna.

The ARRL Web Page <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> contains the complete text of both the House and Senate bills. So, here is the League's recent statement on the Act, written to present some of the key facts:

"Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity" - Prepared by ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio

Some objections and concerns have recently been raised about the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301 and S. 1685, by representatives of community associations. To address them, and to separate fact from fiction, let's look at the bill itself and what it would and would not do.

Why is it needed?

Thirty years ago the Federal Communications Commission, recognizing that there was a strong federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communication from residences, adopted a policy of limited preemption of state and local regulations of Amateur Radio station antennas.

Those regulations:

- 1) Must not preclude Amateur Radio communications;
- 2) Must reasonably accommodate such communications; and

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.

3) Must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose.

Since that time, private land-use restrictions have become increasingly common. Restrictions on antennas are now so pervasive that they prevent effective communication from residences in large areas of the country.

What would the Amateur Radio Parity Act do?

As introduced in both the House and Senate, the bill recognizes the fact that whether a residence is subject only to state and local regulations or also to private land-use restrictions, the federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communications is the same. The bill simply instructs the FCC to extend its time-tested limited preemption policy to private land-use restrictions.

What would it not do?

The Amateur Radio Parity Act does not create new federal policy regarding outdoor antennas. Congress and the FCC already have acted to prohibit restrictions that prevent the installation of direct-to-home satellite dishes, TV antennas, and customer-end wireless broadband antennas. The bill does not prohibit community association review of proposed Amateur Radio antenna installations. It simply limits restrictions to what may be necessary to accomplish the association's legitimate purposes, such as safety and aesthetics. Prior approval still can be required, just as in the case of municipal land-use regulation. The bill does not mandate that a particular size of antenna be permitted. As long as a size and placement restriction does not constitute a prohibition, but reasonably accommodates Amateur Radio communication, and provided that the restriction is necessary to accomplish a legitimate purpose, it will be allowed. Claims that the bill will do any of these things are simply wrong, and are either misunderstandings of the plain language of the bill or deliberate misrepresentations.

What is the current status of the bill?

As of August 28, 2015, H.R. 1301 had 94 cosponsors (Update Oct 30, 2015 to 111) in addition to its sponsor, Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois. It has been referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. S.1685 was introduced on June 25, 2015 by its sponsor, Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi, and original cosponsor, Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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.

Nov 7 - Grant County - Georgetown, OH
Dec 5 - Fulton County Winterfest - Delta, OH
Dec 6 - L'Anse Creuse - Harrison Twp., MI
Jan 17 - SCARF - Nelsonville, OH
Jan 24 - Tusco - Strausburg, OH
Jan 24 - Hazel Park - Madison Hgts, MI

HAMFEST OFFICIALS: Your Division and Section officials want to be at your events and we strive for insuring that the ARRL is properly represented at every ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest. It is always a good idea for your hamfest chair to contact the Section Manager, Vice-Director or Director early in the planning stages to invite them to attend the activity. This will allow time to prepare for alternate representation in the event of time conflicts. When you receive your "Hamfest Package" from ARRL, please open it immediately. Read it over and check out all of the material you received. There is a form included to order additional material if you deem it appropriate.

73, see you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director
Great Lakes Division

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November 2015