



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

October 2015



The Prez Sez

At the September TMRA meeting the TMRA Amateur of the Year award was awarded to Zac, N8ZAK: congratulations, Zac – I understand that there's more coverage elsewhere in this newsletter.

A committee has been formed to consider ideas/plans for the TMRA equipment that was previously at the Challenger Learning Center. Members are Steve, W8TER, Steve KC8TVW, Mike WA8SYD, Tom KD8WCD, Rich KQ6EF, Skeet KD8KXD and me, WD8MXR. 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.

At the last General meeting Foxhunting (hidden transmitter hunting) was discussed and we're going ahead with plans to have hunts. Locally in the past this was an activity that the Toledo Radio Amateur Club (TRAC) organized, but haven't for some time and they have given TMRA the OK for us to organize and hold foxhunts. Members of the Tech Committee will be looking into portable, collapsible 2m beams and probably holding some construction presentations on making such beams.

The next General meeting is Wednesday October 14th – we've been having some great turn-outs recently, I hope that continues.

73, Brian WD8MXR

ARES News

The October ARES meeting will be October 24, at 9:00 AM at St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee, Ohio.



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It is a privilege to announce the 2015 TMRA Amateur of the Year

By Dave, KD8EVN

The TMRA Amateur of the year is selected by a committee of the previous Amateurs of the Year who meet in early August. This year the committee was 14 people. It is not a done deal that every year TMRA will have an Amateur of the Year. Actions of all of the members are discussed, nominations are made. Sometimes the committee decides two members have earned the honor in any one year. This year the committee selected one Amateur of the Year.

What decides who will be the Amateur of the Year? One thing all TMRA Amateurs of the year have in common is they are very involved in service to the club, and then service to the public and other served agencies. *They see what club needs, and step up to do what needs to be done.* They give of their time, effort, and expertise to make TMRA better and serve the public. Let's look at some of the past Amateurs of the Year and how they "became more involved" with TMRA.

What is some of what they do? How do they give back amateur radio?

- My fellow 2014 amateur of the Year Rod KB8OTP: Is a VE, works in the Tech Committee on the repeaters, and monitors them for correct operations. He never misses working the Hamfest.
- Myself, KD8EVN: Also a VE, I Chair Special Events, Public Service Operations, Newcomers & Elmers Net Coordinator, LCARES Unified Command at TEA, and of course work the Hamfest.
- James WD8IOL: The TMRA Hamfest Table Organizer. That is a year-round behind the scenes job and the basis of a successful Hamfest. He never misses Field Day.
- Chris KC8UFV: A VE often in charge of testing sessions, new technology and repeater expert, club technology operator at many events and the Hamfest, the voice on the radio talk in at the Hamfest.
- Joe KJ0EYT: A VE, he improved the current TMRA website, an Elmer to many club members, also a repeater/technology expert.
- Dan KE8UE: A VE, the Heart and Soul of the Tech Committee, one of the best Elmers in the club, and a wealth of knowledge.
- Dave KB8EH: Maintains the nuts and bolts and history of all of the repeaters and antennas, and is a tech expert. Knows the history of the club's equipment and how to keep it running and repaired.
- Pat KC8WQU Works Field Day, the Hamfest and Christmas party, and also keeps WA8SYD Mike grounded. ☺
- Mike WA8SYD: A VE, Education Elmer, and a human dynamo of outreach to new non-hams and our TMRA Radio Encyclopedia, and never forget, he is responsible for running the fantastic bus to the Dayton Hamvention every year!
- Steve KC8TVW: Education Elmer, runs Tech License Classes, runs TMRA VE testing. If you are a new ham you know him and appreciate what he can and has done for you.
- Steve W8TER: Long time club VP, chairman of Summer and Winter Field Days, Master of Emergency Communication & MARS. When emergency communication is needed, he is the one you want to be there.



And now, the three oldest Amateurs of the year and THE MOST RESPECTED:

- Brian WD8MXR: He is TMRA, Long term President and guiding influence of the club, never misses ANY club activity, *Long term service to LCARES, and has worked 161 VE Testing Sessions. Brian was Amateur of the Year in 1994.*
- Brenda KB8IUP: For many year treasurer of the club, huge Field Day operator, leader of Skywarn, and LCARES
- Chuck KB8FXJ: Long term Editor of the Club Newsletter and another Field Day operator, active in Skywarn and LCARES. *Chuck and Brenda were Amateurs of the Year in 1992...23 Years of Service to the Club since their award!!!*

These are only highlights of what of what these prior Amateurs of the Year have accomplished. This is our selection committee and they set the standards for new TMRA Amateurs of the Year. This year's Amateur of the Year has to some extent, done all of these activities, and more.

The 2015 TMRA Amateur of the Year

He is outstanding at managing the balance of family and club and has a great outgoing personality. A regular check in to the LC Siren Training Net, and Skywarn Nets, and has been the most requested Net Control for the TMRA Newcomers & Elmers Net. Always works the LCARES hospital radio tests. He always helps at the Hamfest where ever needed, table setup/teardown/security/tickets. Another expert at the radio technology we use at the Hamfest and Field Day. Active participant in club special events like Dudley's Massacre, and the Newcomers and Elmers 2M Contest, Field Days, and also TMRA outreach to educate the public and other amateurs. He is active in maintaining and repairing the clubs repeaters and antennas and has his own repeater. He is never too busy to take time to explain to or educate new or old members. He enjoys being in the workshop in the amateur tradition of do it yourself and homebrewing. He is one of the few of experts in the club on digital technology and computer programming and a respected Member of the Tech Committee. Currently the Webmaster for the TMRA Website, he has his own amateur radio website that you really should check out. See his QRZ page for the address... (www.N8ZAK.com) He has been in charge of the Challenger Learning Center New Ham Educational Outreach, and is an Extra Volunteer Examiner. An Officer in TMRA, and our current Secretary. He is one of the best persons and radio amateurs I have ever had the privilege to work and operate with...And just his callsign ALWAYS puts a smile on my face. ☺

The TMRA 2015 Amateur of the Year: N8ZAK, Zak Burns.

Toledo Area Jamboree on The Air (JOTA)

When: October 16-18, 2015. Set-up on Friday, October 16.

Where: Camp Miakonda - Sylvania, OH

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than a million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). During the 2014 event, worldwide Scouting participation included 1.1 million Boy Scouts and 200,000 Girl Guides/Girl Scouts, for a total participation of over 1.3 million--the largest Scouting event in the world.

Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. With no restrictions on age or on the number of participants, and at little or no expense, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

TMRA needs hams to volunteer to operate the station. Please note we will be in a heated cabin.

For information or to volunteer, contact Steve at kc8tvw@arrl.net

Dale's Tales

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

SPECIAL EVENT: Radio Amateur Satellite Corp. (AMSAT-NA) will hold their 33rd AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting Friday through Sunday, October 16-18, 2015 in Dayton, Ohio at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 33 East 5th Street in downtown Dayton. There is free hotel parking to attend the Symposium. Registration includes receiving a copy of the "Proceedings of the 33rd AMSAT Space Symposium". Papers will be presented from 1300-1700 on Friday and 0800-1530 on Saturday (break for lunch). There is a reception Friday evening and the banquet on Saturday starts at 1900. The banquet speaker will be AMSAT VP-Human Space Flight Frank Bauer, KA3DHO, retired NASA Engineer at Goddard Space Flight Center presenting "Making a Difference: AMSAT's Contribution to Navigation and Timing in HEO/GEO Space and Its Profound Impact on Earth and Space Science".

The Symposium is a wonderful opportunity to learn about amateur radio's newest satellites! Get helpful tips and techniques of working the "birds". Hear about the future satellites. Banquet Prizes! Rub shoulders with some of your fellow hams and satellite enthusiasts. Additional information about Symposium and options to register for the Symposium as well as the banquet can be found online: http://www.amsat.org/?page_id=3667. Check directly with the Crowne Point Plaza Hotel for room availability as the deadline for the AMSAT block of rooms has expired. Call [1-800-689-5586](tel:1-800-689-5586) for hotel reservations.

CLUB PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES: You would be surprised to discover all the things that your League is involved with these days. Here is an opportunity to learn more about how your being an ARRL member truly helps Amateur Radio. Your locally elected leadership, consisting of your ARRL Director, Vice Director and Section Managers are available to visit radio clubs and talk with you about ARRL and what is happening in your Section or your Division or nationwide. Most of the talks are prepared in a video presentation format and can include a Q&A session as well. Advance scheduling really helps and gives you an opportunity to publicize the event. See pages 15 & 16 of a recent QST for contact information.

COMMENTS: from our Vice Director, Tom W8WTD

It was another busy month with travel to hamfests. I always enjoy meeting and talking to fellow hams, and finding out what is on your mind. This may sound like a broken record, but we can't stress enough how important it is to put some pressure on Congress to get our legislation passed. You can check out the ARRL website for all the details on the two bills, one in the Senate, and one in the House. It's hard to overestimate

how important these bills may prove to be for the future of ham radio. Each ham should do his or her part.

While we're generating letters at hamfests, it's also important to note where things stand with individual Congressmen. We don't want to appear ignorant of who is supporting us already. While we want to gain more support by way of co-sponsors, it's equally important to thank those who are already on board. So I did a search on the current list of Congressmen, looking for those from the Great Lakes Division who are signed on as co-sponsors.

Here's the list:

Michigan: Rep. Benishek, whose 1st district includes a lot of northern Michigan and all of the U.P. ; Rep. Huizenga, whose 2nd district includes a portion of the western part of the state; and Rep. Bishop, whose 8th district includes a smaller portion of the center of the state.

Kentucky: Rep. Guthrie, whose 2nd district includes a lot of the center of Kentucky, from south of Louisville and Lexington down to Bowling Green.

Ohio: Rep. Wenstrup, whose 2nd district includes much of southern Ohio, from just east of Cincinnati over to Chillicothe and south to the Ohio River; Rep. Johnson, whose 6th district takes in much of eastern Ohio, running along the Ohio River from Youngstown south and west near to, but not including Portsmouth; and Rep. Joyce, whose 14th district is generally east of Cleveland.

These are people we need to thank! Please send an e-mail, or phone your local office with a message of thanks and encouragement. If you're not sure of just who your representative is, you can find out by checking the listing "Who is my representative in the US House?" under the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 on the ARRL website. If your Congressman is a co-sponsor, please thank him. If not, then ask for his or her support, either by signing a letter at one of the hamfests, or getting details on how you can write a letter from home, also on the ARRL website. Please, do something this week. It only takes a few minutes, and it is so important to you and to all your fellow hams!

Here's another way that a few of you can help. Not everyone will be able to do this. But in conversations at hamfests, I came across a few people who could say, "You know, I went to school with Rep. ___" or, "I know Rep. ___ from business connections, back when he was doing ___." If you have any connections like that, what would it take for you to call and make an appointment and discuss the issue with your friend? Personal connections are so important. And while most of us don't have those, all of our representatives went to school somewhere, and have friends in the community. If you have that kind of connection, please make use of it!

Thanks for listening. I hope to see many more of you at hamfests and meetings coming up next month and beyond, and also talking with you on the air.

73, Tom W8WTD

FIELD CARD CHECKERS: Well, the facts are simply this: we need more and we need more to visit our hamfests. The ARRL Programs and Services Committee has established a sub-committee to examine the current Field Checker guidelines, the appointment requirements and many of the details of the program. It has been a while since a thorough review has been conducted of the Field Checker rules so that is happening now. Your Director has been asked to assist, and I have been actively discussing Field Card Checking with both active Checkers and aspiring ones plus the DX Community in general. Feel free to let me know your

thoughts and I will see to it they are considered by the committee.

Today, Card Checkers can be nominated by the following methods: One by each recognized "DX Club", one by the Section Manager in his Section and one by the Division Director in his Division. These requirements impose some serious limits. For example, a Section with 2 DX clubs can have 3 Field Checkers, (possibly 4, if the Director's appointment was made in that geographic area). A change of Section Manager or Director has no bearing on appointing additional Field Checkers. As you can see, geography and population density can affect where the Field Checkers are located and even how far they need to travel. Further, the rules are silent on how to replace non-active Checkers. Suffice it to say, we have a list of things to consider, but hopefully, some improvements can be implemented within the next few months. In the meantime, our Division's diligent Field Card Checkers are taking every opportunity to be at swaps to check our cards. They travel on their dime and truly deserve our sincere thanks for serving the DX Community.

UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: We now have 100 Co-sponsors for HB 1301 in the U.S. House of Representatives. The new ARRL Web Page <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> contains the complete text of both the House and Senate bills.

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.

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.

Oct 3 - ARRL Executive Committee Meeting
Oct 3 - GRA Hamfest - Grand Rapids, MI
Oct 3 - Vette City - Bowling Green, KY
Oct 10 - TBARC Swap - Alpena, MI
Oct 17 - Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest - Muskegon, MI
Oct 18 - Conneaut - Conneaut, OH
Oct 18 - Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI
Oct 25 - Massillon - Massillon, OH
Oct 25 - USECA - Madison Hgts, MI
Oct 31 - Hazard - Hazard, KY
Nov 7 - Grant County - Georgetown, OH
Dec 5 - Fulton County Winterfest - Delta, OH
Dec 6 - L'Anse Creuse - Harrison Twp., MI

HAMFEST OFFICIALS: 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

Ham Radio Classes Now Forming

As a Licensed Ham Radio Operator You Get To:

- Serve Your Community
- Talk to Other Hams on the Radio
- Meet New Friends
- Have Own Individual Call Sign

The Toledo Mobile Radio Association will be holding a 2 day course where you will learn everything you need to earn your entry level FCC Amateur Radio license and begin to talk on the radio with other hams in the area. Morse code is no longer required for any Amateur license.

Text books are \$25 (available on 1st day) - ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 3rd Ed. The test is \$15 due at time of test on the second day. TMRA does not charge for the class.

Class Dates: November 7 & November 21, 2015 (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) Lucas County EMS Training Center 2127 Jefferson St Toledo OH 43624. Registration is required.

For more information please contact: Steve Stalker KC8TVW 419-467-3734 kc8tvw@arrl.net Toledo Mobile Radio Assn. tmrahamradio.org

USECA Hamfest

The USECA Hamfest is Sunday, October 25, 2015, 8 AM - 2 PM at the United Food & Commercial Workers 876 Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights, MI 48071 (2 blocks south of 13 Mile Road between Stephenson Highway and John R Road).

- GPS Coordinates 42.516818, -83.113124.
- Talk-in on the USECA repeater 147.180+ 100 Hz PL.
- Tickets are \$5.00 each and tables are \$12.00 each. Tables should be reserved in advance. Questions? Contact: Rob Lifton, NY8W at 248-716-8042 or ny8w@arrl.net.
- QSL card checking for DXCC is available. Forms need to be filled out in advance. Does not include 160 meter. All other bands and ARRL awards are covered.
- VE Testing 9 AM - 10 AM Please contact Alex, NF8X at nf8x@arrl.net to pre-register or for questions. Preregistration is encouraged, but not required. Please bring \$14.00 cash along with photocopies of any existing license or CSCEs. Originals will not be accepted. Two forms of ID are required, with at least one being a photo ID. You will also need to provide your Social Security or FRN.
- The 30th Annual New & Used Sales Radio test bench.

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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.