



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

September 2015



The Prez Sez

At the August meeting Skeet KD8KXD was elected for a 5 year term as a Trustee on the Board of Trustees, and Steve W8TER was elected to the 2 years remaining in Glenn’s term on the Board. Our thanks to those gentlemen for their willingness to serve.

Our September meeting is the monthly meeting at which the TMRA Amateur of the Year is recognized and presented with the AotY plaque, so hopefully we’ll have another good turn-out of members to congratulate and thank the recipient for his or her contributions to the club.

For future meetings we are planning on having presentations on a wide variety of amateur radio-related educational/instructional topics, and if anyone would like to present and share their knowledge and experience with the members – just let me or Steve KC8TVW, our Program Chairman, know. Want to make some slides but don’t know Powerpoint, let us know – we’ll help.

Some of our newer members may not know that TMRA is an ARRL Affiliated Club and an ARRL Special Services Club – I have just renewed/up-dated our status in both of these categories: the ARRL website currently shows our up-dated listing as an Affiliated Club, but has not yet up-dated the SSC listing. Being an Affiliated Club means, among other advantages, that we get recognition and help with our Hamfest – free listing of the Hamfest in QST, free mailing labels for flyers etc, presence of local ARRL officials at the Hamfest. The SSC status recognizes us a club that actively promotes and supports Amateur Radio, has an educational out-reach, has continuing education for its members in the technical aspects of Amateur Radio, takes part as a club in major operating activities such as Field Day, provides support for emergency communications, for example, repeaters. For more details, check the ARRL website under Affiliated and Special Services Clubs.

This takes us back to the subject of yearly membership application/renewal forms. A requirement of the ARRL for Affiliated and Special Service Club status is that at least 51% of our members are also ARRL members. How do we know is an ARRL member? Ernie K8EEE has a box to check on the membership form – another important reason for those members over 70 years of age with complementary memberships to keep a current year’s form on file with Ernie.

Saturday August 22nd was the Ohio QSO Party: Steve W8TER organized the TMRA participation at the Maumee #2 Fire Station (a late change of plans from the Wolcott House site due to a long wedding there that afternoon) which meant that the 5 or 6 antennas were a little lower in height than some of us had planned. We had 6 or 7 stations on the air, but band conditions were not great. Thanks to all who turned out for the event. Steve will most likely have a report at the September meeting, and Mike WA8SYD can tell us of his successful recruiting activities at the QSO Party!

73, Brian

The TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #280
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ARES News

The next ARES meeting will be September 26, 2015 at St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee at 9:00 AM. Volunteers are needed for the Koman races in Findlay and Toledo, September 26 and 27. Mark your calendars. See Rick Sharpe's email, below.



Dale's Tales

Unfortunately, Dales Tales was not available when the *Beacon* needed to be published for this month.

Tech Committee Work Party at Park's Tower

On August 21, 2015, the TMRA Tech Committee led a work party to the top of Park's Tower on the University of Toledo Campus to make repairs to the club's repeaters and antennas. About eleven hams enjoyed a beautiful, bright sunny day and helped to remove and replace equipment in the rack panels, test and repair antennas and feed lines, pass tools, tell stories, and generally have a good time. We can be proud that when help was needed, so many club members responded.

"We tested the 2 meter Station Master antenna and found a break in the hardline. We cut out a portion of the line and replaced it with a pigtail. Fortunately we did not have to move the antenna," Steve, W8TER said.

But not everything went smoothly. "We installed and connected the club's Fusion Repeater and it was functioning," Steve explained. "However, about an hour later it locked up in FM transmit mode." Steve returned to Park's Tower with Rob, KV8P, who brought his personal Fusion Repeater with updated firmware. It was installed and is currently operational. "We will use it until the club's repeater has its firmware updated," Steve said. **Thanks, Rob!**

The Tech Committee also connected the 220 repeater to an amplifier that had been recently repaired. Unfortunately, the amplifier did not properly function. It will be sent back for more repairs.



On top of Park's Tower

W8MUK

Photo

On Sunday, the 2 meter Motorola repeater turned itself off, but turned back on in about an hour. During the week, Dan KE8UE, Rob KV8P, and Dave KD8EVN went to Parks Tower to perform tests to the Motorola Repeater, but could not find a problem.

Thanks to all who came to help on August 21: Rob, KV8P; Juan, KD8UOT; John, KD8PNG; Rich, KQ6EF; Dave, KB8EH; Skeet, KB8KXD; Mike, WA8SYD; Glenn, W8MUK; Steve, W8TER; Dan, KE8UE; and James, WB8IOL.

Ohio QSO Party

On Saturday, August 22, 2015, TMRA hosted operations at Maumee Fire Station #2 for the Ohio QSO Party. From noon to seven pm, five stations logged at least 38 contacts in terrible band conditions on 40, 20, and 2 meters in voice and digital modes. Antennas included simple dipoles, sloping long wires, verticals, and j-poles. There were plenty of opportunities to observe and operate a variety of rigs from modern solid state mobile transceivers to a 1950's era tube-type desk top unit. And plenty of opportunities to practice erecting antennas using trees, tripods, masting, and guy wires. Good practice for Field Day and any disasters that may come our way.

We were pleased to welcome two visitors, Heather and Isaac Demarest.

Special thanks to all who brought food: hot dogs, pizza, potato and macaroni salads, cookies, soda and water.

Thanks also to Steve, W8TER, for organizing the event and to the following hams who participated: Skeet, KD8KXD; Mike, N8GBU; Juan, KD8UOT; Ron, KD8SEW; Joe, KD8UZA; Darin, KD8WBZ; Jim, KD8FNA; Ernie, K8EEE; Ron, N8RLH; Dave, KD8EVN; Ken, KD8QWQ; Brian, WD8MXR; and Glenn, W8MUK.

Lucas County Siren Training Net

The Lucas County Siren Training Net is the first Friday of the month when Lucas County activates the outdoor warning sirens at 12:00 Noon local time. The frequencies are 147.270 MH with a PL of 103.5 and 442.850 MH with a PL of 103.5. This net is open to all amateurs and you don't have to live in Lucas County.



Ohio QSO Party

W8MUK Photo



More Ohio QSO Party

KD8WBZ Photo

Help Needed!

Email from Rick Sharpe

Hello all! We've been asked to help with a new (to us) event. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure wants us to help with communications this year. The race is Sunday, September 27th and starts at 9:30. However they want some help during the race set-up so some of us will be getting there well before 9:30. It's a 5K race which takes place in downtown Toledo so it should be pretty well done by 11:30. If you'd like to help out or have any questions, please let me know at either k8rks@arrl.net or [419-471-0573](tel:419-471-0573). Thanks!

Rick K8RKS

Did You Know?

- Mike, WA8SYD and Steve, W8TER recently gave a talk on ham radio at the Ohio Family Survival Store in Toledo.
- TMRA has two new trustees. Congratulations to Skeet, KD8KXD and Steve, W8TER!
- A member seventy (70) years and older, having been a member in good standing for at least the previous three (3) consecutive years, will be offered an annual membership, having all the privileges of Regular membership, with dues waived on receipt of a completed application form for each annual membership period.
- TMRA has about 135 members. (The total changes monthly.)

Your Comments Are Welcome!

Your questions, comments, and suggestions on how we can improve the *Beacon* are welcome and appreciated!

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THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO
ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673,
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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.

More Field Day Photos



Holding Down the Tent. The 40 MPH wind gusts took us by surprise. It took some quick thinking to keep the tent from blowing away.

N8RLH Photo



The next day was beautiful.

N8RLH photo