



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

April 2016



The Prez Sez

Another Hamfest is over and I want to thank all who took part, the Hamfest Committee members and those club members who helped with the various committee activities, our vendors - everyone who had a table or tables, and everyone who bought a ticket to attend. The Hamfest is the major source of income for the club, and if you have any comments, ideas, suggestions, criticisms, etc. that you think could improve what we do, please let me or another Committee member know. While we do not yet have the final billing from Owens Community College, we know that financially we had similar success to last year. Almost 1,100 attendees, over 200 tables, and 80 vendors. I'll have a financial summary, comparing 2016 to 2015 and 2014 Hamfests, at the general meeting Wednesday April 12th. If you can't make the meeting but would like to see the summaries – email me (wd8mxr@gmail.com), and I'll send a copy to you.

Next year the Hamfest is scheduled for March 19, 2017 – we have requested that date with OCC, and again it will be the Sunday following the Toy Masters' Train Show at OCC.

Now that the Hamfest is over, the Budget Committee can meet and put together a proposed Budget for our Financial Year 2016-27 – this will be presented to the general membership at our June meeting.

A reminder that the TMRA digital net meets on the 147.27/87 repeater Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm and usually runs for 90 minutes or so. The digital transmissions take place on the simplex frequency of 145.555. We concentrate on Fldigi and Flmsg – the main aim of the net is to have operators familiar with and experienced with these 2 programs and so able to send and receive messages. It is a training net, even a “research” net as we're experimenting to find out what modes work best in our situations, with some operators using SignalLinks and some acoustic coupling. At present, we seem to have a core group of 6 or so operators taking part, but would like to have more, especially as, speaking now for LCARES, we want to use these digital modes with the hospital radio monthly tests, and of course if in real life emergencies, and to develop a group of as many operators as possible who can do this.

For more information about the Amateur Radio Emergency Services, especially in this part of Ohio, there's the LCARES weekly net on 147.27/87 Sunday evenings at 7:30pm to 8:00pm, the monthly LCARES meetings at St Luke's Hospital 4th Saturday at 9:00am, and the LCARES website: www.lucasares.org .

Don't forget that we're only 2 months away from the annual election of TMRA officers (at the June meeting) – and we still need a Nominating Committee!

Upcoming club activities include NVIS antenna day, the Dayton bus, Field Day – we'll have more on these at the meeting and in future Newsletters.

73, Brian WD8MXR

ARES News

The next ARES meeting is April 23 at 9:00 am at St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Road in Maumee, Ohio in the private dining room in the basement. Arrive early and enjoy breakfast in the basement cafeteria at 7:30 a.m.

Tune into the ARES IN BRIEF Net on Sunday nights at 7:30 pm on 147.270. It is open to all. And don't forget to volunteer for the Glass City Marathon on April 24th.

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TMRA Hamfest

The 2016 TMRA Hamfest was March 20 at Owens Community College. Well over one thousand hams and computer enthusiasts came to shop the many vendors, take their amateur license exams, attend technical sessions, or catch up with old friends. There was something for everyone. Many thanks to our vendors who donated door prizes, to the numerous volunteers, and to all who attended.

See you next year!

Glass City Marathon

A message from Rick Sharpe, K8RKS

The Glass City Marathon is just a few weeks away. It's not too late to volunteer to help out. This year's race is on April 24th and starts at 7:00 AM. The course closes at 1:00 PM, although not everyone needs to be there the whole time. The race starts and ends at the University of Toledo. The course runs out to the North and West as far as Sylvania. We need a lot of operators to cover all the requested spots so please consider giving some of your time to help out.



TMRA Hamfest

Please contact me at either k8rks@arrl.net or [419-471-0573](tel:419-471-0573) if you'd like to volunteer or need more information. Thanks!

Northwest Ohio Regional Communications Net

A message from Steve Bellner, W8TER

Are you looking for an opportunity to use your HF station to practice your emergency communications skills? Look no further than the NORC Net each first Saturday of the month. This net typically meets at 11:00 AM on or around +/- 7.200 MHz LSB. You should tune up or down to find the net.

This organized net was originally developed to provide a backup communications system for the Northwest Ohio County Emergency Operation Centers located in these counties:

Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood.



Hospitals located in these counties are involved with The Northwest Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition (NWO-HEMC). HF gear was purchased thru the Regional Medical Response System (RMRS) grant and issued to all 18 County Emergency Operation Centers (EOC). These hospitals have written into their emergency back-up plans a place for amateur radio operators to participate. They need amateur radio operators/stations to act as back up communications during drills and emergencies; and to make a communications grid that will cover all 18 counties should it be needed so that the hospitals could or would be able to communicate using amateur radio operators.

Stations close enough to communicate simplex with any hospital via VHF/UHF are encouraged to participate on HF in the NORC Net as well. You do not have to be a member of a club or organization to participate in this net.

Like the NTS, the use of VHF/UHF and the use of HF are strategically important for relaying communications when the internet and other communications infrastructures are down.

Please consider participating.

Lucas County Hospital Net

The Lucas County Hospital Net runs in conjunction with the NORC Net on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM on 147.270 MHz. In general, the net control operator will open the net at 10:00 AM, take check-ins and ask for antenna and SWR reports. Then the net will move to other repeaters and frequencies as needed to properly test the hospital radios and repeaters.

Many volunteers are needed to operate the hospital radios. If you would like to participate in the net as a hospital radio operator, please contact Brian, WD8MXR at wd8mxr@gmail.com.

Ohio NVIS Antenna Day – April 23

A Message from Stan Broadway, N8BHL, Section Emergency Coordinator – Ohio

Here are the final arrangements.

The Ohio ARES NVIS antenna day is a non-contest operating activity open to all amateurs. In the case of an emergency, we will need to communicate over short distances to stations within the state of Ohio and our neighboring states. NVIS antennas are the technology to do this, but which are best? And, how does YOUR antenna work? Experimenting with antennas is still one of the most fun aspects of our hobby! Tie the two purposes together, add a group of friends, plenty of coffee and a BBQ grill and you have a formula for a really good time!

Our goal is to concentrate on 40 meters, our usual daytime emergency band. We'll hold onto 80 meters as a backup in case 40 just falls apart, but our operation is intended for 40 meters. This year, we will have 6 "Anchor Stations" in operation for NVIS Day. They will be in various parts of Ohio to give you consistent reports as you compare your different antennas. The overall goal is still to figure out your best NVIS antenna, and contact as many other NVIS stations as possible to plot your coverage area. Take pictures! Submit your antenna evaluations: which designs you used, how they performed, etc. and submit a log report with overall number of contacts, your location and operators. Most of all - have a great time!

NVIS Antenna Day Guidelines:

Stations: Stations may be operated from anywhere by any licensed amateur, or any group. These may be home stations, EOC stations, or portable. Any power source may be used. The only stipulation is that all stations transmit with 100 watts power. That will help keep comparisons consistent. We would like to get ALL Ohio counties active in this event, as many stations as possible! There is no restriction on food or beverage consumption- enjoying each other's company is a must!

Operation: Operation will be on 40 meter phone (with 80 as a last-ditch fallback) from 10 AM EDT to 4 PM EDT on Saturday, April 23. Make contact with as many Anchor Stations as possible, and make as many contacts with other counties as possible. You can contact any station in the event, but remember we're looking for NVIS contacts, so stay close to Ohio.

Log: Keep records of each antenna you've tried- take pictures! We're interested in compiling which designs are the most successful. Keep a log of contacts with callsign, county, and if possible antenna description of your contacted station. We'll want to know your final count of station contacts. We do have a form you can print and use, but there is no formal requirement for your log: Cabrillo, spreadsheet, or written summary will work. Email your contest report to: nvis@k8es.org

Anchor Stations: Although you are encouraged to contact as many stations as possible, these Anchor Stations will be on the air for the duration of the event to provide comparative signal reports. Their locations will be plus/minus QRM or existing nets. Best practice is to move up a bit if the desired frequency is in use.

- 7240 W8SGT Ohio EOC
- 7250 W8EOC Medina County EOC
- 7260 W8MRN Marion County ARES
- 7270 KB8DNA Huron County ARES
- 7280 W8ERD Delaware County ARES
- 7290 W8BI Montgomery County (DARA)

Evaluation: The Marion County ARES group will compile a listing of the different types of antennas used, and their relative performance. We'll also look at which stations were able to have the greatest number of counties contacted, and which stations have the highest number of contacts.

And . . .

From Eldon Peterson, W5UHQ, OHDEN

W5UHQ and OHDEN plan to have a BPSK31 beacon on **7072KHz**(vfo carrier) + **2KHz** (waterfall offset) , 40 meters during NVIS day. The beacon will transmit a Free Text ARES Bulletin every 15 minutes during the event. This transmission will be at 50 watts, 3dB down from the phone standard. No need to transmit back....if you can receive it.....you should be able to transmit in this mode.

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.

This mode was chosen to bring a bigger crowd into the ARES digital arena and as encouragement for all counties to have at least this minimum digital capability to receive bulletins from the central part of state during a widespread emergency. FLDIGI (for those that have it already) can be used but any soundcard PSK program can be used as well. We do not intend to do any of the fancy digital net modes during this event since we really want to know how this basic non-error correcting mode propagates to each county.

Groups logging one or more of those transmissions and sending in a **short email answer to the message's question with a time tag** are eligible for a OHDEN/NVIS Day Certificate and a "**Welcome to OHDEN**" package of useful information on the net and how it operates in support to W8SGT and our SEC as an augment to internet and phone liaison.

Messages replies and/or questions should be sent to the OHDEN net manager at W5UHQ@arrl.net.

National Parks On The Air

A message from Larry Camp, WB8R, Michigan ARRL Section Manager, wb8r@arrl.org

Regarding the National Parks on the Air event in Michigan, please review the following information from Mark Weaver, Superintendent of the North Country Trail. Mark offers insights, assistance, and advice concerning amateur radio NPOTA activation at the various National Park locations in Michigan. He has graciously made himself available for questions and concerns regarding activations of said locations.

Mister Weaver's comments:

The National Park Service/North Country Trail does not "own/manage" land thru which the trail passes. We are a partnership of various public and private landowners, with each relationship often being quite different. Most authority lies with the property owner. Regardless of where activations are planned to occur it is imperative to make contact and receive permission to activate from the "landowner".

For Federally owned lands, there is a list of contact information on the Trail website: <https://www.nps.gov/noco/learn/management/trail-partner-organizations.htm>. For other public lands (state, local, etc.), we do not have a list because it would be prohibitively overwhelming to collect it. If you Google the name of the public land unit you should be able to locate a number to call. We don't recommend that activations occur on private lands. If for some reason it is important, please contact me directly and I'll connect you with the North Country Trail Association state trail coordinator who MAY be able to help.

When you are contacting public land managers seeking permission to have activation, ask to speak with their special events person. Be sure to indicate that your actions are in direct support of their partner National Park Service's 100th birthday. And if there is uncertainty expressed by your contact, ask them to give me a call.

Don't do an activation without hardcopy permission in hand! Contact me with questions.

MARK WEAVER, Superintendent
North Country National Scenic Trail
PO Box 288
Lowell, MI 49331
Cell and office: 616.430.3495
mark_weaver@nps.gov

Please take Mark's suggestions to heart. We are in the fortunate position of being allowed to participate in the 100th anniversary of the National Park System and of course, we want to put our best foot forward without controversy. My thanks to Scott Yost, NM8R, for facilitating contact with Mr. Weaver.

There is a movement afoot to "Light up the Trail" across the seven states that the North Country Trail passes through. This coordinated activity is currently being planned for June 4 and possibly June 5. If you would like to receive information and/or become part of the planning for that event, you can contact John Forslin, KC8ULE at kc8ule@arrl.net. Now that the weather is warming, make your plans now to get out and activate one of Michigan's seven NPS units!

New Hams and Upgrades

A report from Steve, KC8TVW

Here are the results from the VE testing at the TMRA Hamfest.

Technician Class: Randall, KE8DQV; Zachary, KE8DQU; Matthew, KE8DQT; and Dan, KE8DSE.

General Class: Lawrence, KE8BHX; James, KC8FPE; Charles, N8CWG; James, KD8VYC; James, KD8NJW; Robert, KD8AZT; Eric, WD8LEI; Matthew, KC8DEL; Corey, KD8QHD; and Toy, KE8CZO.

Extra Class: Donald, KE8DHO; Stephen, W8MSW; and Barbara, KB9OIX.

Thanks to the VE's: KB8OTP, KD8COO, AC8DS, N8GBU, KD8UOX, N8ZAK, KE8UE, KD8EVN, W8MAL, KV8P, K8EEE, and KC8TVW.

Dale's Tales

Greetings everyone, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for April, 2016.

UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: This subject moves to the front of the column as recent actions are getting us reasonably close to closure. Our ARRL Legislative Action Committee members have been meeting in Washington to reconcile the bill verbiage with representatives of homeowners' associations. I am optimistic that most of the concerns on both sides of the issue have been resolved and I look for us to have a bill that will not face opposition in either the House or Senate. I am not attempting to say the deal is done, it is not and we remain steadfast that hams are to be treated fairly in installing an outside antenna. Opposing that single issue can be a deal breaker as it is the basis for the entire bill. You can find more information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. Thanks to so many of the Great lakes Division hams who have sent letters supporting the legislation. If you have not done so, you can find a sample on the listed web page. 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. We will hand deliver the letters, thus avoiding delays caused by the postal inspection system in DC.

SPRING: It is now upon us and along with it, the frequent severe weather that hits the Midwest. Many regions are well underway with their annual spotter training programs, certainly an important item on the calendar. Recognition of what constitutes a funnel cloud vs virga can be a lifesaving measure. While our ARES members train in storm spotting, these sessions also offer an opportunity to work on net procedures. Knowing what to report and how best to convey the information on a busy net (with an overworked net control) insures efficiency and accuracy, again, potential lifesaving measures. We need to ask

ourselves "Who uses our reports? What data do they need? How it is best presented to them? Can your local Emergency Management people use a spotter report in the same form as the National Weather Service? What is the best method to get the report to your partner agency?" Certainly, many more questions need answers, so meet with partner agencies now, well before severe weather sets in, to work out the details so our ARES programs are viable and incorporating the Best Practices to serve the public.

NPOTA: I am receiving a lot of positive input about National Parks on the Air. Here we are with spring is only a few days upon us and the bands are busy with NPOTA operations. Warmer weather will bring even more operators into the field and more of the National Park System locations on the air. Remember if you have the opportunity to set up and operate, check in at the park office and let them know your plans. Many are willing to assist with PR and even help you put up a suitable sign to let the public know who you are. Let's make the best of the show.

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. We have approximately 65 hamfests each year in the Great Lakes Division. I do encourage each Hamfest Chair to register early for ARRL Sanctioning. It is never too early to register your hamfest with Headquarters. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Help avoid date conflicts, do it early!

Apr 2 - Portsmouth - Portsmouth, OH
Apr 9 - Cuyahoga Falls - Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Apr 19 - Letcher County - Whitesburg, KY
April 23 - Jackson County - Jackson, OH
Apr 24 - Athens - Athens, OH
May 7 - Cadillac - Cadillac, MI
May 14 - Chassell Hamfest - Chassel, MI
May 20-22 - Dayton HamVention - Dayton, OH
May 28 - Ashland - Ashland, KY

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Editor: Glenn, W8MUK**

Email: W8MUK @ arrl . net

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director, Great Lakes Division (Dale's Tales was edited to fit the available space.)

Did You Know?

- 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.
- The Tech Committee meets the second Monday of each month at Maumee Fire Station #2 on Dussel Drive (in front of the water tower).
- The TMRA digital net is Tuesday at 8:00 PM to at least 9:00 PM on the 147.27 MHz repeater for voice and on 145.555 MHz simplex for the Fldigi.
- The TMRA general meeting is the second Wednesday of each month.
- The Lucas County Siren Net is the first Friday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM on 147.270 + W/103.5 PL and 442.850 + W/103.5 PL.
- The TMRA bus to the Dayton Hamvention travels on May 21.
- Field Day is June 25 - 26 at the Wolcott House Museum grounds, 1035 River Road in Maumee, Ohio.
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

**TMRA
P.O. BOX 9673
TOLEDO, OH
43697-9673**

April 2016