



# *TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon*

August 2016



## **The Prez Sez**

At our August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, we'll have a presentation by a Yaesu representative: it's not certain whether it will be an "in-person" or a Skype (projected onto the screen) presentation, but either way, we will start the meeting with it, and promptly at 7:30pm. Thanks to Rob, KV8P, for getting this set up.

Ron, N8RLH, is still periodically (frequently) activating his Grab & Go station on 40m in the National Parks on the Air from the Fallen Timbers Battle Field site in Maumee, and welcomes assistance in contacts and logging.

Steve, W8TER, and I recently up-dated the TMRA Informational Booklet and the revised version is now available on the TMRA website: any suggestions for additional revisions or additions to it are welcome. I'll bring a few copies to the meeting Wednesday.

Recent Technical Committee activities have included installation of a new 220 MHz repeater; the remote receive site for 147.27 downtown Toledo (use a PL of 250.3 Hz for it – the UT site is still PL 103.5 Hz); and new (to us) power control strips for both repeater sites. Dan, KE8UE, can update us at the meeting and in next month's Newsletter. Thanks to those members who contribute time and expertise to these activities.

June 30<sup>th</sup> marked the end of our Membership year, so renewals were due by that date – contact Ernie, K8EEE, our Membership Chairman with your renewal form (he allows you a short "grace period" to renew if you missed the deadline) – it's available on-line at our website [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org). Please remember that if you meet the requirements for an over 70 years-old complimentary membership, you still need to complete and turn in an application form each year so that we can keep our "active member" list up-to-date.

Again another reminder: many of the amateur radio operators in our area who are active in, or who are interested in, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) are also members of the TMRA. The old Yahoo Group for Lucas County ARES (LCARES) is no longer active, and that a new Yahoo Group has been formed – [ARESLucascounty.org](http://ARESLucascounty.org). In addition to disseminating information on LCARES activities - events, including the hospital radio tests, and now the potentials for financial support for LCARES with Amazon Smile and Kroger Rewards programs. If you're interested in LCARES and have not yet registered and joined the new group, go to the website and apply to join.

73, Brian

## **ARES News**

The next ARES meeting is August 27 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. Thanks to all who volunteered to help with communications at the Toledo Air Show.



## **The Toledo Air Show**

**From Brent Stover, WD8PNZ, DEC District 1**

The Toledo Air Show is over and, thanks to all the amateur radio operators that participated, it was a resounding success! A big thank you to all that participated in this large event. In an after action telephone conference with the Hospital Council of NW Ohio, they were extremely impressed with the professionalism and expertise of all the amateur radio personnel they interacted with. The Hospital Branch Director commented the “ARES people were incredibly organized”.

A special thank you to Lucas County EC, Brenda Krukowski KB8IUP for attending all the meetings in the months prior to the Air Show and setting in place the organization needed to accomplish all that was asked of LCARES. Also, a special thanks goes out to ADEC, Steve Ashenfelter, N8XSF for his extraordinary accomplishment of putting together an amateur radio MESH network in just a couple weeks with no equipment to a working video network at his own expense. The hospital command was extremely impressed with this capability and wants to see it expanded in the future.

Also, a special thank you to Rick, K8RKS, for scheduling the hams for the show, especially with all the changes at the last minute.



Again, a hearty thanks to all the operators that helped out and volunteered their time. As the days and weeks go by we will learn more from the different agencies that participated in the form of after action reports on what went right and what things could be improved upon and I will put together a report on the amateur radio side on what we can learn from such a large event. So far, it looks like the Toledo Air Show will return in 2 years.

## **New Hams and Upgrades**

**A report from Steve, KC8TVW**

Congratulations to the new hams from the July 9th VE Session. New Tech Geoffrey, KE8ETF, and New General Brooke, KE8EBN.

VE testing is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net).

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## National Parks on the Air

By Glenn, W8MUK

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, TMRA held its fourth NPOTA operating session at Fallen Timbers Battlefield National Historic Site. We had a great turnout with 14 hams dropping by throughout the afternoon. From around 3:00 pm to when we wrapped up around 8:00 pm, we made 143 contacts. There were still many hams still wanting to contact us. The band conditions on 40 meters were similar to the other sessions we have held this summer with severe static, fading, and some interference from other hams.



A great turnout for NPOTA!

- N8RLH photo

We learned some important lessons. “We learned that the ground rod needs to be in the ground past the mulch to keep the RF out of the equipment,” said Ron, N8RLH. Also, when the transceiver became overheated “we did have to move to the porch to get out of the sun,” Ron said. Ron also explained that, after the last NPOTA session, he had to carefully inspect his twisted-pair random wire antenna and repair several places where the insulation had worn through.

Thanks again to Ron, N8RLH, for bringing his grab-and-go kit, and thanks to all the hams who came out. Also, thanks to Glenn’s wife, Lois, for making brownies. Yum!

Another operating session is planned for August 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Hara Arena

I have heard from a couple of sources that Hara Arena is closing permanently after 60 years in operation. The 2017 Hamvention will be held at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia. Xenia is east of Dayton on Route 35. There is more about this in Dale’s Tales for August (below).

Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

## A Little Off the Wall - The Unexpected Science Experiment

By Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Director, Great Lakes Division

I have a tower located about 6 feet from the house. My antenna transmission lines run via messenger cable from the tower to the soffit and then inside to the ham shack. I can see this cable run clearly from the shack window. One morning, I glanced out and saw a glint of bare copper on one coax line. Visible braid!! I went outside and up the tower, only to find little teeth marks on the cable jackets. Yes, jackets, as three cables had the braid exposed. So out comes the silicone waterproofing and a lotta tape to do the necessary repairs, still not knowing what varmint had done the damage.

An hour later, I spotted a grey squirrel climb the tower, traipse across the cable bundle, pause for a late morning snack of PVC and hurry on his way to bother someone else. Aside from squirrelcide, which would have its own

set of problems, it just seemed a protective cover for the cables would be the best solution. Running the cables through a 3 inch Schedule 40 pipe looked pretty reasonable, that is, except for the mechanical problems of actually snaking 9 cables with connectors through the pipe.

Splitting the pipe to make a "roof", then covering it with some black semi-gloss just appeared to be the best solution. A quick run across the table saw to split the tube should be simple enough. After all, I have a long fence on the saw and all the safety equipment to insure a straight run and no twisting, while keeping all my digits. The plywood blade in the saw should make a very clean cut. Onward! It is only a 6 foot pipe.

Two feet into the cut, I began to hear a lot of strange snapping sounds and then I noticed that all the hair on my arms was standing up. I look behind me to see the plastic chips from the saw cut shooting out of the end of the tube at about 80 miles an hour, dust collection system be darned. Let's see, insulated particles shooting down an insulated tube; OMG! I have a Van de Graaff generator running in my hands and everything is now charged to some absurd voltage level with static electricity.

I hit the power switch and watched as the saw slowed to a stop and the few remaining plastic chips hit the wall. They were all there, hanging on the wall, in kind of a big ugly clump. Then the chips began scattering...the like-electrical charges of the chips began to repel each other; the spot on the wall was growing like some beast from a "B" Sci-fi flick. It finally reached about a 2 foot diameter and then began to collapse onto the floor. What fun!

After vacuuming the wall, the floor and me, I decided that next time, I will give serious consideration to the fine qualities of a hand saw. Oh, the "roof" works very well, and I think the squirrel has finally lost his taste for coax cable.

- Reprinted from "Dales Tales" (June 2016)

## **Dale's Tales**

**By Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Director, Great Lakes Division**

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

**NEWS FROM THE DAYTON HAMVENTION®:** The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) regrets to inform our many vendors, visitors and stakeholders that, unfortunately, HARA has announced the closing of their facility. We have begun execution of our contingency plan to move Hamvention® 2017 to a new home.

DARA and Hamvention® have enjoyed many successful years working together with HARA Arena and we wish the Wampler family the best.

DARA and Hamvention® have been working on a contingency plan in the event HARA would become unavailable. We have spent many hours over the last few years evaluating possible locations and have found one in the area we believe will be a great new home! Due to logistics and timing issues, we will make a formal announcement introducing our new partner. This information will be coming soon. We all believe this new venue will be a spectacular place to hold our beloved event. Please rest assured we will have the event on the same weekend and, since it will be in the region, the current accommodations and outside events already planned for Hamvention® 2017 should not be affected.

We look forward to your continued support as we move to a new future with The Dayton Hamvention®.

Signed, Ron Cramer, General Chairman, Dayton Hamvention 2017

**THE MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB** hosts another one: the upcoming Ohio QSO Party. It will be held August 27, 2016. Full details, rules, links and forms are at <http://www.ohqp.org/> For those among us who are not familiar with the MRRC, it is a regional club of contest enthusiasts who really enjoy putting counties (and people!) on the air. You can check the MRRC web page at <http://www.madriverradioclub.org/>.

Welcome to the new hams that have joined ARRL recently. The number of members in the Great Lakes Division has continued to grow somewhat this year while we had expected a slight downturn. Division membership stats stand at 12,796, making us one of the larger of the 15 Divisions in the ARRL. We do encourage members to occasionally review and update their Personal Web pages by logging into ARRL.org and looking at their personal profile. There is also the opportunity to view and select your various e-mail subscriptions ARRL offers under "Edit your Profile". Check it out!

**TOM'S COMMENTS:** Comments from our Vice Director Tom Delany W8WTD Is there a busy season for ham radio? Maybe, but we also seem to find a lot to do any time of the year. If anything tips the balance toward summer being the busiest, it's probably the public service events.

Nice to see so many people taking part in helping with communications for bike rides, runs, parades, etc. What we do is always appreciated. It's a good time for newer hams to take part, and learn what goes on with nets and remote operation. Good training for emergency work.

There are lots of hamfests coming up in the next couple of months. I'll be at Columbus, Lawrenceburg, KY, Cincinnati (OHKYIN), as well as Greater Louisville and Findlay. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and talking about what is going on in your part of ham radio

I'm always encouraged to see youth in ham radio. There are lots of good programs throughout the Division, and lots of plans to help get and keep youth involved. Speaking of involvement, it was nice to meet Chris, KD8YVJ, this year's winner of the Hiram Percy Maxim award. I wish his enthusiasm for ham radio would rub off on everyone!

73, Tom W8WTD Vice Director, Great Lakes Division

**AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT:** Congress is currently in recess, due back in early September. When this happens, we will be getting information to you so you may contact your elected representatives encouraging their support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. You can find the latest information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>.

**ARRL SANCTIONED HAMFESTS:** Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule covering 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

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](http://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.

hamfest with Headquarters. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Help avoid date conflicts, do it early!

Aug 6 - Columbus Hamfest - Columbus, OH  
Aug 6 - UP Hamfest - Escanaba, MI  
Aug 7 - Seaway Trunk Swap - Port Huron, MI  
Aug 14 - Central Kentucky - Lawrenceburg, KY  
Aug 21 - Cuyahoga Falls Tailgate Swap - Stow, OH  
Aug 21 - Warren Tailgate Swap - Cortland, OH  
Sep 10 - GMARC Trunk Swap - Shelby Twp, MI  
Sep 10 - Louisville Hamfest and KY ARRL Convention - Sheperdsville, KY  
Sep 11 - Findlay Hamfest - Findlay, OH  
Sep 17 - OHKYIN Hamfest - Cincinnati, OH  
Sep 18 - Adrian Hamfest - Adrian, MI  
Sep 24 - GRAHamfest - Wyoming, MI  
Sep 24 - Richmond Fall Hamfest - Richmond, KY  
Sep 25 - Cleveland - Cleveland, OH  
Oct 1 - Vette City - Bowling Green, KY  
Oct 8 - Thunder Bay - Alpena, MI  
Oct 15 - Muskegon Color Tour - Muskegon, MI  
Oct 16 - Conneaut Hamfest - Conneaut, OH  
Oct 16 - Kalamazoo Hamfest - Kalamazoo, MI  
Oct 23 - Massilon Hamfest, Massilon, OH  
Oct 29 - Hazard Hamfest - Hazard, KY  
Oct 30 - USECA Swap - Madison Heights, MI

Be sure to check your Section's news pages for the latest local happenings, club and net information.

73, See you on the bands,

## Newsletter Photos

Many of you have submitted photos for the newsletter and every one of them is appreciated. I wish I could use them all. I suspect others would like to submit photos, but don't know how to go about it. Here are some hints.

- Your subject should be of interest to the ham radio community and to TMRA in particular. This includes ARES and other ham radio activities.
- Action shots are better than people just standing around. Rather than have them line up to smile for the camera, try to catch them busy at work. They will look more natural and the photo will be much more interesting.
- Closer to the action is better. Photos of heads are usually better than full-body shots. However, "selfies" generally aren't appropriate for a newsletter.
- Try to let people know they are being photographed and ask permission in advance of anyone you don't know well. Let them know what you are going to do with the photo.
- Ask permission of parents before you take photos of children. And don't tag the photos with the names of the children photographed. You don't know where the photos may end up.
- Send your photos with your name, call sign, and an explanation of the ham radio activity to me at [w8muk@arrl.net](mailto:w8muk@arrl.net).

## 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.
- TMRA annual dues were due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. You must fill out a membership renewal form even if you receive a complimentary membership.
- The Lucas County Skywarn Net is the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the 911 Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.
- 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 Lucas County Hospital Net is the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM.
- The NORC Net is the first Saturday of each month. This net typically meets at 11:00 AM on or around +/- 7.200 MHz LSB.
- VE testing is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net).
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

## Did you see the B2 Stealth Bomber at the air show?



B2 Bomber at the Toledo Air Show  
- w8muk Photo

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #291  
Editor: Glenn, W8MUK

Email: [W8MUK @ arrl . net](mailto:W8MUK@arrl.net)

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

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