



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

January 2016



The Prez Sez

It's January – so Happy New Year to all – but we have to be realists and acknowledge that there is the potential for snowy/icy weather conditions in the upcoming months, resulting in Snow Emergencies. It is TMRA policy that if there is in effect at 5:00pm on the day of a scheduled TMRA General meeting, TMRA Executive Committee meeting, and TMRA Technical Committee meeting a snow emergency declaration of Level 1, 2, or 3 in Lucas County and/or Wood County, that meeting is cancelled. The cancellation still applies if the snow emergency declaration is cancelled after 5:00pm. This should avoid any confusion as to whether or not a meeting is still on, and who decides, and when, to cancel a meeting. While announcements of cancellations may be made on our 147.270 and 442.85 repeaters, please monitor local TV stations or any other source of information regarding a county sheriff's declaration. For detailed information about Ohio's snow emergencies, go to www.buckeyetraffic.org or <http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/snowemergencyclassifications.aspx>.

I think that we had 30-45 people at the December Christmas/Holiday party, with the usual varied selection of excellent dishes to sample - thanks to Brenda KB8IUP, Pat KC8WQU, Sandy KB8HYS, and all who assisted.



At the Maumee Police HQ, following the TMRA VE session on Saturday January 9th (which will also be that the police HQ for this month only), Steve KB8TVW and Steve W8TER are holding an Fldigi training class, followed in the afternoon by some CW training/practice – the Steves will have more details.

TMRA Christmas Party - w8muk Photo

Our January meeting on the 13th will feature Rob KV8P and his presentation on JT65-HF. We're hoping that at our January meeting we can process applications for ID cards for Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LCARES) and issue the signed, photo ID, laminated cards. Saturday January 23th is also the monthly LCARES meeting, and at that meeting will be the election of 4 of the LCARES, Inc. Trustees for 2016-17.

On Saturday January 30th, TMRA is holding a "radio-day" at the Maumee branch of the Lucas County library, organized by Steve W8TER and Dave KB8EVN – who will have more details – kind of like a mini-Field Day – temporary antennas set up outside the library and food for lunch, but definite protection from the weather. We will operate under the club call W8HHF, and all are welcome to come, observe, and operate – either with the Club call or their own (if applicable).

There will be a meeting of the TMRA Executive Committee at 7:30pm on January 27th, at the Maumee #2 Fire Station; these meetings are open to all TMRA members.

Our 2016 Hamfest has been registered with the ARRL and we're awaiting their "approval" – (which really is just a formality) – so that we can advertise it as an "ARRL-Approved Hamfest". Earlier this year I applied for

renewal of our status as an ARRL Affiliated Club, and as an ARRL Special Services Club, and both have now been approved.

Jo Ann Valvo WB8UWO died on November 8th 2015: Jo Ann and her husband Phil WB8UWM, although not TMRA members for the last few years, had been long-time members. I sent a sympathy card to Phil and his family on behalf of the TMRA.

73, Brian WD8MXR

ARES News

The Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service meeting is held at 9:00 a.m. in the basement of St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Rd. Maumee, Ohio, on the 4th Saturday of each month. At the January meeting there will be the election of four trustees for LCARES, Inc. for 2016-17. Arrive early and enjoy breakfast in the basement cafeteria at 7:30 a.m.



Mark Your Calendar for January 9th. . .

January VE session: New location for Saturday, January 9th **only** is the Maumee Police Department building at 109 E. Dudley, 2nd floor. Time is 8:15 a.m.

Fldigi entry level class: Also on Saturday, January 9th at the Maumee Police Department building. Class runs from 9:30 AM-3:00 PM. Bring your laptop and HT or mobile 2M rig w/ antenna.

CW training group: Also on Saturday January 9th at the Maumee Police Department building. Training runs from 3:00 PM-5:00 PM. If you have a key and CPO, please bring it; if not, just bring yourself. This is about learning & sending CW in a non-threatening environment off the air. We could use some Elmers as well.

For more information about the above events contact Steve, KC8TVW.

Winter Field Day

Don't forget that Winter Field Day (radio-day in Brian's "Prez Sez" article, above) is on January 30th from 9:00-5:00 PM at the Maumee Public Library at 501 River Road. This is a change from the date listed in the December *Beacon*. Come to operate, log, or just hang out while enjoying food and fun with your fellow hams. All activity (except antenna set-up) will be indoors. You don't have to be a TMRA member to participate.

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to a new ham, **Philipe, KE8CUI**. And congratulations to **Joseph, N8JAJ** for upgrading to Amateur Extra!

Silent Keys

In addition to Jo Ann Valvo, WB8UWO, who died on November 8th 2015, as reported in Brian's "Prez Sez" article, Bruce B. Birkenkamp, W8VEK, passed away on December 30, 2015.

Lucas County Siren Net

On the first Friday of each month, Lucas County Siren Net is scheduled from 10:30 to 11:30 AM on 147.270 + W/103.5 PL and 442.850 + W/103.5 PL. This net is open to all amateurs and you do not have to be in Lucas County to participate. The net will take check-ins and then stand-by for the outdoor warning siren test at 12:00 noon.

Anyone can be Net Control for the Monthly Siren Test and we welcome new net controls. We like to refer to the net as a training net because while testing the sirens you are training to become a Net Control for other emergency nets. You do need to have an amateur radio license to run the net. The good news is the first license you earn, the Technician License, would qualify you to run the net! Most of the net controls run the net from home or their mobile station so you do not have to go to the 911 building to run the net.

Dale's Tales

Greetings everyone, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for January, 2016 --already!?!.

SPECIAL EVENT: National Parks on the Air has begun. This is the big operating event for 2016. Be sure to check out the full details at <https://npota.arrl.org/>. See the current "On the Air" list of scheduled events on the web page. There are actually 20 qualified National Park Service Units within the Great Lakes Division, so there are many opportunities to put a park on the air.

ANNUAL REPORT: The following report has been submitted to the ARRL Board as part of the Board of Directors annual meeting. We are making it available to all of the Division membership.

2015 Activity Report for the Great Lakes Division

At the January ARRL Board meeting, with the approval and support of the Programs and Services Committee, WA8EFK presented a proposal for creating a new appointment of Assistant Section Traffic Manager, paralleling that of Assistant Section EC. The motion was passed and placed into service. MI SM Larry Camp WB8R provided the early impetus for the new position. Dale was elected to serve on the ARRL Executive Committee and appointed by President Craigie to chair the Ethics and Elections Committee.

In February, WA8EFK, SM Larry Camp WB8R and the Michigan Political Action Team met with Michigan Congressman Tim Wahlberg, to discuss Amateur Radio Parity Act, and obtained the Congressman's agreement to become a co-sponsor. Ohio SM Scott Yonally N8SY and WA8EFK presented the 2014 Herb S. Brier Award from the ARRL to Marion County, OH resident Bill Finnegan. Scott also presented to two of Ohio's outstanding Boy Scout Leaders with a brand new award from the ARRL, the Community Organization (Square Knot) award. The recipients were both

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.

from the Muskingum Valley Council #467, Billie Dickson WB8TRK and Matthew Murphy KC8BEW.

In March, WA8EFK, WB8R and the MI Political Action Team had the opportunity to meet with Michigan Governor Snyder as he signed Michigan's long-sought-after equivalent of the PRB-1 Act. Ohio DEC Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was awarded the Red Cross 2015 Senior Hero award in Athens, Ohio. Slattery is a member of his local Red Cross Emergency Communication team.

During April, Alan Morgan KY1O became the new Section Manager for Kentucky. Over the ensuing months, Alan has attended the Section Manager's Workshop and has continued to build his team. In addition, KY has implemented several added media services to keep KY hams abreast of Section happenings. Dale and Vice Director Tom Delaney W8WTD participated in the September 2015 ARRL Kentucky Leadership Conference, at the Greater Louisville Hamfest, addressed two of the meetings and hosted the ARRL Table.

May's big event is always the Dayton Hamvention® and the Great Lakes Division hosted Dayton's ARRL Forum. This year, we welcomed speakers Pres. Kay Craigie N3KN, 1st VP Rick Roderick K5UR, 2nd VP Jim Fenstermaker K9JF, and CTO Brennan Price N4QX.

There were 63 Hamfests and similar gatherings held within the Great Lakes Division during 2015. WA8EFK was able to support our Section Managers and the Field Organization at eleven of those events and Tom participated at nine during the year. Tom and Dale took advantage of League supplied software at many of these get-togethers to print constituent letters in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

During 2015, W8WTD spoke at five Amateur Radio clubs on behalf of ARRL while WA8EFK served as the guest speaker at four club meetings in the Division. These talks focused on the overall ARRL organizations structure and provided the ideal opportunity to fold in discussion of the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

Sean Kutzko KX9X and Katie Allen WY7YL, members of the ARRL PR Leadership team were guests of the MSU Alumni Association staff at a special Michigan State University-hosted forum on Public Relations. Here the MSU group explained the key factors they use in developing their PR programs and how those ideas can be applied to the ARRL's PR efforts. Dale was able to participate in the closing banquet.

The Great Lakes Division held its biennial Convention in August, hosted by the Voice of Aladdin ARC in Columbus. Tom and Dale conducted the ARRL Forum, and the Awards Meeting in addition to the usual duties of hosting the ARRL Table. Debra Johnson, K1DMJ Manager of the Education Department was our guest ARRL speaker. The attendance broke records for this Hamfest. The Ohio Section also celebrated the newest inductee of the Allan Severson Award when N8SY presented it to Robert Dixon, W8ERD. Michigan SM Larry Camp WB8R presented the ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award to Frank Maynard NF8M and honored Michigan's Ham of the Year, Ed Hude WA8QJE.

In December, Dale WA8EFK accepted the appointment to chair the newly formed Public Service Programs Enhancement Working Group of the Programs and Service Committee. Dale is also serving as a member of the DXCC Card Checking Working Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Williams WA8EFK, Director
Tom Delaney W8WTD, Vice Director

TOM'S COMMENTS: Comments from our Vice Director

Happy New Year, everyone! Not a lot of ham radio news this month. The last activity (other than a club meeting) that I attended was the Grant Amateur Radio Club's hamfest in Georgetown, Ohio, back in early November. But it will be a busy year coming up, and I'm looking forward to it. Dale and I will be attending the ARRL Board Meeting in January, where we'll find out more about our legislative efforts in 2016. Be prepared to do some more letter-writing and e-mailing once the various pieces of legislation start making their way forward towards a vote. If we want to get the antenna bills passed, we'll need to be very active in contacting Congress. We'll let you know!

About the time you're reading this, the National Parks on the Air activity will be underway. There is already a long list of stations who will be on the air starting January 1st. Check it out on the ARRL website. And get active. There should be lots of contacts for you to make.

And as we go into 2016, we'll be around to your club meetings and hamfests, asking what we can do to facilitate your activities in ham radio. Let us know your concerns, your interests, and especially your successes in whatever projects and activities you take on. Invite us to your meetings. Depending on our schedules, we'd love to come and meet all of you.

73, Tom W8WTD Vice Director, Great Lakes Division

UPDATE for AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: Please contact your Senator in Washington and encourage his/her support for the Act. When you do this, please reference the Bill Number S 1685. HR 1301 is the Bill number for the House of Representatives. In addition to a letter to your Senator, a letter to your Representative is quite appropriate. 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. You can find more information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>.

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.

Jan 17 - SCARF - Nelsonville, OH	Mar 5 - Cave City - Cave City, KY
Jan 24 - Tusco - Strausburg, OH	Mar 6 - NOARS - Elyria, OH
Jan 24 - Hazel Park - Madison Hgts, MI	Mar 19 - Crossroads - Kalamazoo, MI
Feb 13 - Cherryland - Traverse City, MI	Mar 20 - TMRA Hamfest - Perrysburg, OH
Feb 21 - Mansfield - Mansfield, OH	Mar 26 - MOVARC - Gallipolis, OH
Feb 21 - Livonia - Livonia, MI	

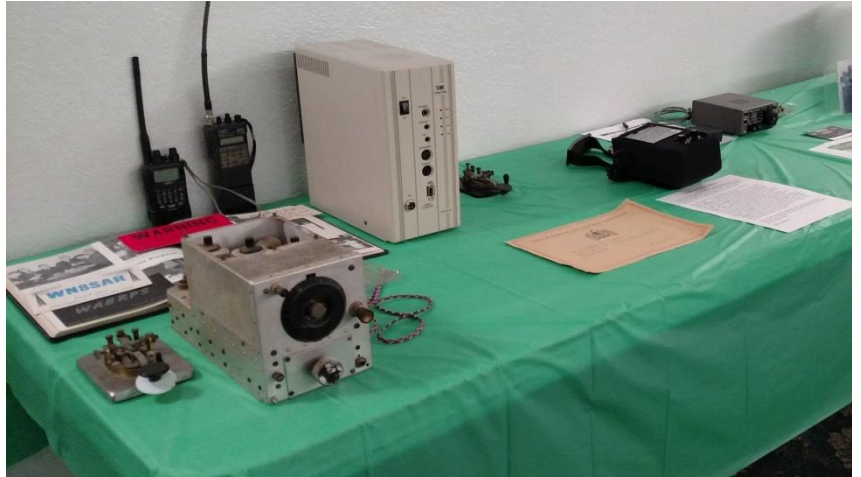
HAMFEST OFFICIALS: It is never too early to register your hamfest for ARRL Sanctioning. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Help avoid date conflicts, do it early!

73, HNY, see you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director
Great Lakes Division

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was December 9, 2015 at the Electrical Industry Building in Rossford, Ohio. Special thanks to Brenda KB8IUP, Pat KC8WQU, Sandy KB8HYS, to those who assisted them, and to all who brought food to share. And thanks to all who brought "My Most Prized Amateur Radio Possession" for show and tell.



Some Prized Possessions

- w8muk photo

Did You Know?

- 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 general meeting is the second Wednesday of each month.
- 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 TMRA Hamfest is March 20th at Owens Community College. Set-up will be Saturday, March 19th. Many volunteers will be needed both days.
- The TMRA bus to the Dayton Hamvention travels on May 21.
- It's not too early to think about field day, which is always the last full weekend in June. Think about what bands and modes you would like to operate. How will your antenna and rig work outdoors and off the power grid? Will your camping gear be ready? TMRA has many hams experienced in field day operations. Don't wait until the last minute to talk with them. Even if you choose not to operate, there are plenty of opportunities to help set-up, log contacts, and socialize.
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

Ham Radio Resolutions for 2016 . . .

Making New Year's Resolutions for 2016? Here are some to consider.

- **Participate.** We always need more help with TMRA activities such as the Hamfest, Field Day, and various operating events. Consider being a club officer, trustee, or part of the tech committee.
- **Volunteer.** There never seems to be enough hams to serve as net controls, at marathons and 5K runs, or as Volunteer Examiners.
- **Don't forget ARES.** Will you be prepared if you are needed in an emergency? The days are over when you can just show up uninvited at a disaster site with your handy-talkie. Are you familiar with NIMS or ARRL EC? How about Fldigi, Olivia, or PSK? If you wanted to help, could you?
- **Learn.** Ham radio is constantly changing with new technologies and techniques. Digital modes are fast becoming the preferred method of emergency communications. Can you digitally send or receive a radiogram? TMRA frequently hosts training classes (See elsewhere in this newsletter).
- **Teach.** You have valuable knowledge and experience in ham radio. New hams (and not-so-new hams like me) need help in operating and understanding our hobby. Isn't it time you lent a hand?

- **Become active.** The pressure never stops to restrict antennas and to divert spectrum to other uses that has been traditionally reserved for amateur radio. Support those who are defending our hobby and add your voice.

... and Welcoming the New Hams and Upgrades

Last month the *Beacon* listed new Techs and Generals who completed the TMRA classes and successfully passed the FCC tests. This month I would like to discuss how to make them welcome. Remember, these folks will be the future of ham radio and of TMRA.

- When you see a new ham, introduce yourself and congratulate him or her on earning their license. Think back to how difficult earning your first license was and how much you appreciated words of encouragement from other hams.
- Invite them to our meetings and activities. Wasn't TMRA confusing to you when you first became a member? Didn't someone gently explain things to you?
- Look for ways to involve new hams in club activities. They have valuable skills we could use, but we have to encourage them.
- Ask about their rigs and set-up. No doubt they have questions that you could help them with. Is there something in your junk box that they could really use?
- Consider being an Elmer to someone who needs a little help. You will be remembered for your kindness.

Glenn (W8MUK), Editor

My MFJ 269 Antenna Analyzer

By Rich, KD8WCB

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #284
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An antenna analyzer represents all that is good about being a ham. It performs several tasks, but the most useful to me is the SWR analyzer function. Why do I see this as the most useful item in my shack? Because next to having a radio, I need a well-functioning antenna.

In addition to SWR, the analyzer aids with antenna tuning. If the antenna you are using is not properly tuned, or the antenna lead is not correct, your radio will not be happy nor will you be by its lack of performance. Next is ohm matching. The antenna analyzer tests the lead and antenna for proper ohms required. It can even test for a short or open in the coax. It also aids in antenna construction. For me, constructing antennas is the most enjoyable aspect of amateur radio. While constructing a radio is out of the question, building an antenna is something I can do and have done several times. Also, the analyzer is portable. It has its own built-in power supply for testing in the field as well as in the shack. Last is frequency range. It is adjustable to all of the ham frequencies I use in my shack. This includes HF from 160 to 10 meters, VHF and UHF. Life is good!

One device represents all the good things about being a ham radio user, constructor of antennas, and the ability to test and repair all the antennas that I have.

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