



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

May 2016



The Prez Sez

First of all I want to thank and congratulate Steve KC8TVW and Mike WA8SYD for running another successful Technician license class, and congratulate those who obtained a license after taking the class, and welcome to the TMRA those who accepted offer of a year's complementary membership. We hope to see you at club meetings and other activities. Also in the area of instruction and training, we have W8TER Steve's digital practice net, currently on Tuesday evenings starting at 8:00pm on the 147.27/87 repeater. Steve KC8TVW will have a digital training session at the Maumee #2 Fire Station Saturday May 14th 10:00am – noon, and then CW practice 1:00 – 5:00pm. For more information, contact Steve or myself.

A reminder about the TMRA equipment that was previously at the Challenger Learning Center, we have a committee formed to consider ideas/plans. Members are Steve, W8TER, Steve KC8TVW, Mike WA8SYD, Tom KD8WCD, Rich KQ6EF, Skeet KD8KXD and me, WD8MXR, and we're looking for ideas. 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 a General meeting several months ago Foxhunting (hidden transmitter hunting) was discussed: 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. Several members have demonstrated portable, collapsible 2m beams and now with better weather, we could plan on holding some foxhunts. If anyone is interested in getting a group together and organizing some hunts, just let me know and we'll publicize it.

We have a signed contract with Owens Community College for our 2017 Hamfest there, date is March 19th, 2017 – like this year, it's the weekend after the big train and toy show there.

73, Brian WD8MXR

ARES News

The next ARES meeting is May 28 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. The Glass City Marathon was April 24, 2016. Thanks to all who helped out with communications.

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Toledo Memorial Day Parade and Toledo Airshow

A Message from Rick, K8RKS

We've been asked to help with the **Toledo Memorial Day Parade** again. This year it will take place on Saturday, May 28th and the start time is 10:00 AM although we will need to be there before then. The parade usually lasts a little over an hour. Please contact me at k8rks@arrl.net or [419-471-0573](tel:419-471-0573) if you can help or need more information.

Also mark your calendars for the **Toledo airshow** which is coming up July 16th & 17th from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and will need a lot of help. Thanks!

FLDIGI Digital and CW Training - Saturday May 14th

A message from Steve, KC8TVW

At the **FLDIGI digital training**, from 9:45 AM to noon, we will have at least one Hospital radio set up for you to test your laptop on. The receive audio levels may be different than your normal rig, so this will be a chance to test out a hospital radio without having to go to a hospital. We will head across the street to get a bite to eat before the CW session at 1:00 p.m.

The **CW training** will be from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and geared toward the beginner. Please bring a straight key and a code practice oscillator if you have them. If not, we will have extras. CW elmers are also needed.

Both training sessions will be at Fire Station #2, 450 West Dussel Drive, Maumee, Ohio. For more information, contact Steve, KC8TVW or Brian, WD8MXR.

Dayton Hamvention®

The TMRA bus travels to the Dayton Hamvention® on Saturday, May 21, 2016. The deluxe motor coach leaves at 5:30 AM from the University of Toledo Scott Park Campus and returns about 9:30 PM the same day. The bus parks just outside the fence from the outdoor exhibitors and within easy walking distance to the indoor exhibits. The soft bus seats and air conditioning will be available all day when you want to take a break. You may bring food and beverages from home or buy them at the Hamvention®. We will stop for dinner on the way home. There is plenty of room in the bus storage areas for any treasures you may want to bring home from Dayton.

Tickets are still available for \$40.00 from Mike, WA8SYD, and include bus transportation only. You will need to purchase an admission ticket to the Hamvention, either in advance or at the door.

New Hams and Upgrades

A report from Steve, KC8TVW

Congratulations to the new **Techs**: KE8EBL, Daniel; KE8EBK, Richard; KE8EBJ, Brian; KE8EBQ, Michael; KE8EBP, Jason; KE8EBO, Christopher; KE8EBN, Brooke and KE8EBM, Kurt. New **Generals**: KE8CPW, Logan and KE8RIN, Mike. New **Amateur Extras**: KD8WBZ, Darin and AC8WS, Joel (Passed all 3).

Thanks to the VE's: KC8UFV, KE8UE, KD8EVN, KE8EF, WD8MXR, KV8P, KA9IVY, WA8SYD and KC8TVW.

Ohio NVIS Antenna Day

By Steve, W8TER

TMRA hams tested their emergency communications skills at Ohio NVIS Antenna Day on April 23, 2016 at Fire Station #2 in Maumee, Ohio. Over a dozen came to practice setting up special NVIS antennas, test their rigs, experiment with new techniques, and enjoy the food and fun!

NVIS antennas are designed to operate on the HF bands of 40 meters and below for emergency communications within and around a particular state. Set-ups included Steve, W8TER's low-to-the-ground "W" dipole design, Ron, N8RLH's long wire, and Brian, WD8MXR's horizontal whip dipole on a tripod and mast. Participants made voice contacts on 40 and 80 meters. The less than ideal band conditions made this a good test of equipment and operating skills.

It was especially nice to welcome new hams who came out to see the antennas and rigs, and to learn how experienced hams overcome the problems that are always a part of field operations. Thanks to everyone who participated, brought food, or just visited.

Special thanks to Dave, KD8EVN and his XYL, Candy, for preparing the hot dogs, cookies, and fixings.

National Parks On The Air

By Glenn, W8MUK

Do you miss the fun of Field Day and can't wait for June to come? I have good news for you! National Parks on the Air is an opportunity to practice your outdoor operating skills in selected national parks, including some in the Toledo area. TMRA members will be setting up in local national parks to test their field day skills, make contacts with other hams, and just have fun.

NPOTA is a year-long cooperative activity between ARRL and the US National Parks Service to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the national park system. Beginning January 1, 2016, hams may set-up in national parks to make contact with other hams. You can find the rules and other information about NPOTA at www.arrl.org.

Hams who wish to operate in a national park do so as guests who, like other visitors, **must obey the rules of the particular park in which they are operating**. This means you **must** know the rules about antennas, generators, tents, tables, and excessive noise. You must know if park rules prohibit hanging antennas from trees or driving poles in the ground.

You should contact the local park superintendent in advance to explain what you will be doing and to obtain permission. It is best to get this permission in writing, if you can. Also, not every park ranger may be aware of



Ron, N8RLH

- w8muk photo



Steve, W8TER with Larry, KE8BHX

-w8muk photo

NPOTA and may misunderstand what you are doing. This is why getting permission in advance is so important. Remember, you represent amateur radio and your professionalism reflects on every ham.

The first TMRA NPOTA is scheduled for May 7, 2016 at Fallen Timbers Battlefield Park in Maumee, Ohio. Ron, N8RLH and Glenn, W8MUK will be operating from 10:00 AM to about 4:00 PM. Come out and join the fun.

Field Day

In my prior articles, I talked about Field Day planning, erecting antennas, building your grab-and-go kit, selecting bands and modes, and why we have band captains. While there is a lot more to say, I thought I'd talk a little about the Field Day site for this year.

Once again, we are fortunate to get permission to use the grounds of the Wolcott House on River Road in Maumee, Ohio. They have been kind enough to allow us to erect antennas, set up tents and campers, bring generators, use their kitchen and bathrooms, and to stay overnight. It's hard to find locations where we have all these benefits. Take a moment to express your thanks to the staff at the Wolcott House.

Also, Steve, W8TER, will have an "antenna walk-through" at the Wolcott House grounds in early June. The purpose is to identify the best locations for antennas to minimize interference. We invite anyone participating in field day to join us. I will have more information in the June newsletter.

Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

Dale's Tales

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

MAY is here and soon we'll be enjoying the Dayton HamVention®. ARRL will host the ARRL EXPO again this year and we will include about 20 exhibit booths. We will also include booths from our friends at the Radio Society of Great Britain, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, Japan Amateur Radio League, and the Qatar Amateur Radio Society. The League is also presenting a number of forums this year. On Friday, we will host "The ARRL Laboratory- Behind the Scenes", and "Amateur Radio and the Law". Saturday will include "ARRL National Parks on the Air" and the "ARRL Member Forum". Sunday's forums are "Maximizing your ARRL Field Day Effort" and the "Amateur Radio Disaster and Emergency Communications Panel".

As the Great Lakes Division is the hosting division, I will have the opportunity to moderate the ARRL Member Forum and have booked the League's "Heavy Hitters" as guest speakers. We will hear commentary from ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR, ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF, 1st VP Greg Widin KØGW, 2nd VP Brian Milesosky N5ZGT and our International VP Jay Bellows KØQB. These people are on top of the latest happenings in our hobby and this is the perfect setting for everyone's introduction to the League's new



Field Day 2014

- from TMRA website

leadership team. We will also include a member Question and Answer Session. Last year's Forum was a full house, and with our new team in place this year, this is an ideal opportunity to introduce and discuss new ideas and plans. Every one of our guest speakers will also be spending time at the ARRL EXPO. Do take to opportunity to stop at the EXPO's Meet-and-Greet area to say hello.

We plan to have many of our Headquarters staff on hand as well. They will be present at the EXPO Booths to discuss your ideas and concerns and help you with your special interests. Here is the EXPO booth line-up: ARRL Development/Foundation, Education and Technology, ARRL Lab, Radiosport/DXCC, National Parks on the Air, Public Service, ARRL VEC, ARRL Store, ARRL Logbook of the World, NTS, Advertising, RFinder, ARRL News, Amateur Radio Parity Act, Scouting, Discover the HF Experience, US Bank and Liberty Mutual Insurance, Field Organization /Ohio Section, Youth Rally, and IARU. Remember the dates, May 20 - 22.

KUDOS to the Dial Amateur Radio Club as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Based in Middletown, OH, they recently hosted their Anniversary Party and displayed many interesting memorabilia from the club's history, including several hundred video slides collected and compiled for the occasion. Ohio SM Scott N8SY, Vice Director Tom W8WTD and I were pleased to attend and help the club celebrate.

NVIS Test: Ohio SM Scott Yonally N8SY reports that the planned NVIS event went very well last weekend. There were many participants cross Ohio and a number of neighboring states. The object was to simply have fun making contacts with an NVIS (near vertical incident skywave) antenna system and allow everyone to find out how well these low-to-the-ground antennas actually work. Scott's question is now: "Is there any interest in making this a national event?" Let him know at n8sy@arrl.net.

TOM'S COMMENTS: Comments from our Vice Director Tom Delany W8WTD

April was the month for club meetings –for me, at least. More than I usually go to in several months. But a good opportunity to observe the health of amateur radio around here. These were very different events, with a variety of topics and attendance. All of the participants were engaged and interested in whatever aspect of ham radio was being presented.

Two events stand out. One was a celebration –75 years for the DIAL radio club of Middletown, Ohio. There was a proclamation and a visit from the Mayor of Middletown, and some of us representing the ARRL were there as well. The club is aware of its history. They have a long tradition of education and helping people once they get licenses. They do Field Day and other events together. Seems like a strong club. All the best, ladies and gentlemen, and keep up the good work!

Maybe because it's a little more rural, I was surprised by the turnout at the Highland Amateur Radio Association's meeting. People came from several surrounding counties. But then when you look at the effort

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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.

they put into education, it's not so surprising. In the month or so before the meeting, classes were held, and the week before the meeting 28 people took tests, some of them for upgrades, and 18 new people got licenses. Given the level of involvement during the meeting and afterwards, I'd say that most of those people will be on the air and quite active in ham radio over the next year.

At two of the other meetings, there were technical presentations. We can't all be involved in all aspects of ham radio, but when people are willing to share new technologies, then we all find what interests us and what doesn't. That's what keeps us coming to meetings, and gets us on the air in new modes, or variations of old ones.

If you're reading this and you don't belong to a club, think about joining one. And if you belong already, pitch in, get active, and meet some of your fellow hams or help someone new in the hobby. With the Dayton Hamvention® coming up, stop by your club's table, or go to a forum and learn something new. And while you're at it, come and meet your Division and Section leadership teams, and meet some of the new ARRL leaders at the ARRL Expo. See you there!

73, Tom W8WTD Vice Director, Great Lakes Division

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: Our Legislative Action Team is continuing its efforts to achieve passage of these bills in the House and Senate. You can find the latest 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: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Our Legislative Action Team will hand deliver the letters, thus avoiding delays caused by the postal inspection system in DC.

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

May 7 - Cadillac - Cadillac, MI
May 14 - Chassell Hamfest - Chassel, MI
May 20-22 - Dayton HamVention - Dayton, OH
May 28 - Ashland - Ashland, KY
June 4 - Fulton County - Tedrow, OH
June 4 - Princeton Hamfest - Princeton, KY
June 5 - Portage Hamfair - Ravenna, OH
June 11 - Luce County - Newberry, MI
June 18 - Midland Hamfest - Midland, MI
June 18 - Milford Hamfest - Milford, OH
June 19 - Monroe Hamfest - Monroe, MI

73, See you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK, Director
Great Lakes Division

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 practice 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.
- TMRA hams will operate at Fallen Timbers Battle Field Park on May 7
- The FLDIGI Digital training and CW training are Saturday, May 14
- The TMRA bus to the Dayton Hamvention travels on May 21.
- The Toledo Memorial Day Parade is Saturday, May 28.
- The ARES Meeting is Saturday, May 28
- Field Day is June 25 - 26 at the Wolcott House Museum grounds, 1035 River Road in Maumee, Ohio.
- TMRA Membership dues are due by July 1, 216. Contact Ernie, K8EEE to pay your dues or if you have questions.
- The airshow at Toledo Express Airport is July 16 & 17
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

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