



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

September 2016



The Prez Sez

At our August 10th meeting, we had a presentation on Yaesu products by Chris, N0CSW, the Yaesu National Sales Manager. Thanks to all who came to the meeting, to Yaesu, to Chris, and to Rob, KV8P, for getting this set up.

At our September meeting we will have a presentation and demonstration of MESH networking for amateur TV by Steve, N8XSF: For LCARES. Steve had it setup at the airport for the recent airshow there. Also at the September meeting the recipient of the TMRA Amateur of the Year Award will be announced and the plaque presented by last year's AotY, Zack, N8ZAK.

Last month I put in a reminder that the old Yahoo Group for Lucas County ARES (LCARES) is no longer active, and that a new Yahoo Group has been formed, but I gave the wrong address for the new group: it is ARESlucascounty@yahoo.com.

Mike, WA8SYD, and Steve, KC8TVW, are preparing for a Fall introductory ham license training course again – so if you know of anyone who might be interested, let them know to contact either Mike or Steve.

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.

For our September, October, and November meetings, VP Glenn, W8MUK, will open both the building and the meetings as I will be arriving late. I thought that I had retired from BGSU after the 2016 Spring semester, but a full-time faculty member has taken a leave of absence, and I was asked to take over the course that he was scheduled to teach this Fall, and as I'd taught it before, I agreed to, but it meets Mon/Wed at 6:00 – 7:15pm.

73. Brian, WD8MXR

ARES News

The next ARES meeting is September 24 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.

Help Needed! From Rick, K8RKS

We have been asked to help with the Komen Race for the Cure again this year. The race is being held Sunday, September 25th in downtown Toledo. The race starts at 9:30 AM and should take less than 2 hours. If you would like to help out or need more information please contact me at k8rks@arrl.net or [419-471-0573](tel:419-471-0573).



ARES Ohio Statewide Conference

The ARES Ohio Statewide Conference will be Saturday, September 24th from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. There is a new location for the conference this year:

Marion Technical Collage
1467 Mt Vernon Ave
Marion, Ohio 43302

This campus is just west of Rt. 23 at the 95 exit.

Lucas County Hospital Net A message from Steve, W8TER

If you have not heard us on the air in a while it is because we have made some changes for the Hospital Net. As you may know, participants are asked to occupy all 8 of the hospitals here in Lucas County as well as the EMA office. Performing this each month was not an easy task so we are now rotating to once every two months.

We will be holding the Hospital Net on the first Saturday of the month in **October, December, February, April, June, and August**. Please join us as we prepare for this net. Make plans to check in from your county EMA/EOC and from your local hospital if possible.

We are working in conjunction with Kathy Silvestry of the NWO- Emergency Management Coalition.

Our next Hospital Net is **October 1st**. We will start on the 147.270 and change frequencies accordingly. Please let us know if you and your group are going to participate so we can make sure you get the Net Plan.

If you have any questions please contact me, W8TER@bex.net or Brian WD8MXR@gmail.com

Thanks for your time and cooperation.

Adrian Hamfest

The Adrian Amateur Radio Club Hamfest will be held on September 18th at a new location:

Lenawee County Airport
2651 W Cadmus Rd
Adrian, MI 49221

Grand Rapids Grahamfest Change

A message from Larry, WB8R, ARRL Section Manager, wb8r@arrrl.org

I just received notification from John Streyle, W8QZ, Grahamfest Co-chair, that due to a scheduling error, the date of the GRARA Grahamfest in Wyoming, Michigan, that was originally scheduled for September 24, 2016, has been rescheduled for **September 17**.

New Hams and Upgrades

A report from Steve, KC8TVW

Congratulations to the new ham and upgrades from the August VE Session. New Hams: Techs: KE8EXA, Ervin and KE8EXA, Charles. Upgrades: General: KE8CZP, Brad.

Thanks to the TMRA VE Team.

Tech Committee Report

From Dan, KE8UE, Tech Committee Chair

The Tech committee held a work party on July 29, at the University of Toledo Parks Tower site. We were able to get a lot of work done. We installed the new 220 Mhz. repeater and checked out the duplexers. They seemed to be good, except there is a problem with sum disease causing a hearing problem. We will keep working on that problem until we get it fixed. The 220 Mhz. antenna is working well with a good VSWR.

Tom, KD8WCD and Dave, KB8EH worked on the Station Master Antenna and did some repair, but it did not need to be checkout for VSWR. We installed new power strips at Parks Tower and at the PNC Bank Building that can be remote controlled. They checked out all of the repeaters, adjusted audio levels, and checked the duplexers. One interesting thing that we think might be a problem is grounding the cabinets with the building ground.

We are planning a work party at the PNC Bank Building to lift the 900 Mhz. repeater up another 10 to 12 Ft. This will get that antenna above a satellite dish that maybe shadowing the antenna to the Southwest. We will be installing the Hustler G-7 2 meter antenna from the Parks



The antenna farm at Parks Tower – w8muk photo

Tower site for the APRS repeater to get it back on the air. We used the APRS antenna for the 147.270 link radio. We will be doing other maintenance on the equipment that is down there.

National Parks on the Air

This month's TMRA NPOTA is scheduled for September 20, 2016 at Fallen Timbers Battlefield Park in Maumee, Ohio. Ron, N8RLH, will begin operating at about 3:00 PM. Loggers and operators are always needed. Come out and join the fun.

Yaesu Presentation

By Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

At the August general meeting, TMRA was pleased to welcome Chris Wilson, N0CSW, the National Sales Manager of Yaesu, USA. Chris spoke to a packed room of 52 attendees about Yaesu, *System Fusion*, its product offerings, and new developments in its digital product line. A wealth of knowledge, Chris expertly explained those product features particularly developed for the ham radio community.

After his main presentation, Chris answered questions about many Yaesu products. He clearly has a broad and deep technical understanding of Yaesu products and their applications. He was especially helpful in answering numerous questions about repeaters and in suggesting solutions to a variety of problems.

We are grateful to Chris for working us into his busy schedule. He can be reached at c.wilson@yaesu.com. Yaesu owners can obtain technical assistance by calling (714) 827 7600.

Our special thanks to Rob, KV8P for coordinating all the necessary arrangements. And thanks to Yaesu for making Chris available. His visit was appreciated and will be long remembered.

More Information about AES Closing

By Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

In the July 2016 *Beacon*, I reported that Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) was ceasing operations by the end of that month, according to CW Magazine. The ARRL reported in its September 1, 2016 letter that Ham Radio Outlet has refurbished and reopened the former AES Milwaukee location. AES closed its Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Cleveland, and Orlando outlets on July 28, following a surprise announcement four weeks earlier that it was going out of business after 59 years as a ham radio equipment supplier. Several former AES Milwaukee employees are now working for HRO, ARRL further reported.



Chris, N0CSW, at TMRA

- n8rlh photo



Brian, WD8MXV, Chris N0CSW and Rob, KV8P

n8rlh photo

DX – An Overview

The first in a series of articles by Ron, N8RLH

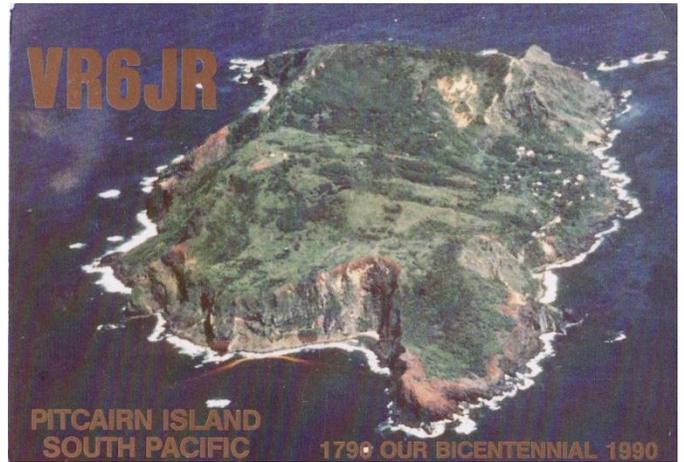


DX, what is it? Where did it come from and why is it so coveted in Amateur Radio?

If you go to any of the forums at the Dayton Hamvention, you'll know that the DX forum is always in the biggest room with the most attendees. DX is that illusive something, of which, those who work it are very proud and those who don't are envious. In the next few months we are going to take the mystery out of that obscure, mystifying DX. We're going to talk about what it is, what you need to work it, how you go about working it, and what to do to get that QSL card after you work it.

In the simplest of terms, DX is just all those foreign stations on the air in the HF bands that are willing to work Americans. Why do we Americans want to work them; what do we get out of it and why would they want to work us?

First off, there are the awards. The ARRL offers the DXCC program of awards for working as many different countries as possible, starting with one hundred different countries, which is the DXCC main award. Of course, there are the 'bragging rights' for those of us who chase DX, but on a deeper level there is the chase itself and logging the contact. When I wear my headphones and tune up and down the bands looking for a "new one", I feel like a submarine hunter, listening for the enemy who you know is out there waiting for us to appear. For years it eluded me why a foreign station would want to work us Americans and put up with all the bull crap that happens on the air when a pile-up occurs, but then I *became* DX and saw the light. It's fun!



But DX can be a lot more than only foreign stations and can create lots more fun. I think that DX is any station that lots of people want to work and in most cases creates a pile-up on the bands. A pile-up is pretty self-explanatory, but it usually is a large group of stations, all on the same frequency, calling the same station at the same time, over and over again: it is utter chaos.

During the recent National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) events, we became DX to all those stations who wanted to work Fallen Timbers Battlefield. Ask the guys who were there, it was loads of fun! I actually experienced being DX before I became a ham when my cousin set up

a station in a remote part of West Virginia, close to a county line. He taught me how to 'run' a pile-up on the county hunters net. I was up all night working stations using his call.

So who can work DX and what license do you need to become involved? DX is usually on the high frequency (HF) bands, but sometimes can be on VHF/UHF bands such as the contest that Dave, KD8EVN, set up for simplex contacts. But HF is where the 'real' DX hides and where the fun never stops. Techs can work some of

the HF bands using Morse code (CW, continuous wave), the digital modes, and just a little bit of the 10 meter band using voice (SSB, single side band). However, the general class license is the real work horse of DX and the HF bands the place to search.

Stay tuned and we'll tell you how to be a real DX'er and how to become one of the elite!

Dale's Tales

By Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Director, Great Lakes Division

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

HERE WE ARE 2/3 of the way through 2016 and that means 2/3 of the way through the National Parks on the Air operating event. Have you been active? There really is plenty of opportunity get involved in the action before the event times out at the end of the year. Check out the official NPOTA web page to see the latest listings, you just might find a few of your contacts already listed there. Just set your browser to ARRL.ORG and select the "National Parks on the Air" link. You can review the Leader Board and see who leads either nationally or in any selected state.

As a personal aside, I have a couple of close friends who are really into this NPOTA event. (They shall remain nameless as I have a sincere fear of retribution). But the point is, I check the NPOTA standings quite regularly to see which of the guys is ahead. These standings change often, sometimes daily, well actually, sometimes multiple times daily. Today, one could not predict which will lead when the final bell rings at year's end. I do wish them both success - it is just politically sound to do so (again, fear of retribution)! That all being said, NPOTA is all good fun and an exciting challenge. Our National Parks system celebrates its Centennial in 2016 and amateur radio is there helping everyone gain knowledge of both.

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. Tom and I are already committed for several dates in 2017.

Sep 10 - GMARC Trunk Swap - Shelby Twp, MI

Sep 10 - Louisville Hamfest & KY ARRL Convention - Shepherdsville, KY

Sep 11 - Findlay Hamfest - Findlay, OH

Sep 17 - OHKYIN Hamfest - Cincinnati, OH

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO
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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.

Sep 17 - GRAHamfest - Wyoming, MI - NOTE DATE CHANGE
Sep 18 - Adrian Hamfest - Adrian, 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

(Dale's Tales was edited to fit into the available space.)

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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 1st. 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 every other 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.
- The next TMRA NPOTA operating session is September 20.
- The Komen Race for the Cure is September 25.
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

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