



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

## APRIL 2017



### Prez Sez

Many thanks to all who helped and supported the Hamfest last month: we don't yet have the final billing from Owens Community College, but looking at the number of tickets sold, the number of vendors and the number of tables, it seems that this year was very similar to last year. I'll have more details at the meeting on Wednesday April 12. If you have any thoughts, ideas, comments, etc. about the Hamfest, please share them with me and/or any member of the Hamfest Committee. I'm trying to set a date for the Committee to meet in the near future.

If you didn't see the PBS Nova program "Search for the Super Battery" that was shown as one of the Hamfest forums – the Club has bought the DVD and it's available to members to borrow. I'll bring it to the meeting.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is an article about the ARRL books that TMRA has donated to the Lucas County library system, to be housed at the Maumee Branch. Thanks go to Dave, KD8EVN, who was instrumental in getting the books at a discount from ARRL and arranging with the Maumee Branch to have them based there.

We're a few months away from dues being due (membership year starts July 1<sup>st</sup>), but just a reminder that we changed our dues structure and those 70 and older, who in the past had a complimentary membership, will now have dues at \$5.00/year level, and family members of such a member will be \$2.00/year. We changed this partly to enable the Club to keep track of who actually were active members – we had numerous names of those with complimentary memberships, but who were no longer returning membership renewal forms. Now we should have a better handle on who is a member. This is important for insurance purposes and for our status as an ARRL Special Services Club and an Affiliated Club.

I have a Coleman 2Kw portable (on wheels) "Ultra 2500 Powermate" generator (non-inverter) that had been stored (not by me) indoors (warm and dry) for the last 10 years or so – but never run or serviced during that time. It's very reluctant to start, and after it has started, to keep running, so it needs a little work. I don't need it and we can have it available as a piece of Club equipment for members to borrow for short term loans. Any-one good at small engine servicing?

Please be aware that the TMRA Executive Committee no longer meets every month, but only when there is/are agenda item(s) to discuss. The next Exec Committee meeting will be this month – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the Maumee Fire Station #2 on Dussel Drive, Maumee. Meetings are open to all TMRA members.

73, Brian WD8MXR

### ARES News

From Lucas County EC, Skeet, KD8KXD

The next meeting will be held on April 22 (fourth Saturday) at St. Luke's Hospital 5901 Monclova Road in Maumee, Ohio in the private dining room in the basement. Come early and have breakfast in the cafeteria.



Please continue to complete the NICS IC 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses. Remember to tune into the ARES In Brief Net every Sunday night at 7:30pm on the 147.270 repeater. The net is open to all.

## TMRA Hamfest

Here is a general photo from the hamfest courtesy of Glenn, W8MUK, and a photo of Zack's forum courtesy of Ron, N8RLH.



## Congratulations to New Hams and Upgrades! From Steve, KC8TVW

Here are the new hams and upgrades from the VE session at the TMRA Hamfest.

**New Techs:** Andrew, KE8GMT; William, KE8GMU; Roger, KE8EMV; James, KE8GMW; and James, KE8GMX. **New Generals:** Heath, KE8EPM; Ervin, KE8EXA; Brian, KE8EBJ; Dan, KE8DSE; and Larry, N8PYA. **New Extras:** Brad, N3CZP; Greg, KG4USQ; Rick, K8PRG; Lucas, W6LDS; Adam, KE8DNU; James, KD8UXC; Scott, KE8CQC; and Donald, AC8YQ.

## Glass City Marathon From Rick, K8RKS

Spring is here and once again our help is needed with the Glass City Marathon. This year's race is on Sunday, April 23rd and start time is 7:00 AM. We have lots of positions to fill, some all day and some for just a few hours. If you'd like to help out or need more information please let me know at [k8rks@arrl.net](mailto:k8rks@arrl.net) or [419-471-0573](tel:419-471-0573).

## Museum Ships Weekend 2017

Mark your calendars for Museum Ships weekend on June 3 and 4, 2017. We will set up on the SS Col. James E. Schoonmaker in downtown Toledo. Many volunteers are needed to operate and log.

# Amateur Radio Knowledge Donated to the Toledo Lucas County Public Library

By Dave Shugar, KD8EVN

The TMRA has made a generous decision to promote Amateur Radio knowledge and education to club members and the public. TMRA budgeted \$300 to purchase 18 books that were donated to the Toledo Lucas County Library. This bookshelf collection of up-to-date radio knowledge will be a valuable resource to all current and future radio Hams. Since it will be at the library, it will be available for use by the public as a resource to understand our hobby.

Electronics, antennas, licensing, rules, FCC regulations, operation, power sources, and everything you need to get started in amateur radio is finally as close as your nearest library branch. Licensed Hams will have new information on digital modes, Raspberry PIs, and antennas at their fingertips.

The fastest way to get your hands all these books is to go on line and request them to be sent for pick up at the Library Branch closest to your home. If they are out being read, you can reserve the title and they will tell you when you the book is available for check out. The books were formally donated to the library April 5, 2017. They will be processed and available soon.

In June 2017, the Maumee Branch will feature a display of amateur radio equipment, information about Field Day 2017, and TMRA in the large glass showcase by the main entrance.

Thanks to Dave's wife, Candy, for the photo.

Below is the list of books TMRA donated:

- The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications
- The ARRL Antenna Book for Radio Communications
- The ARRL Operating Manual
- The ARRL Satellite Handbook
- The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual
- The ARRL General Class License Manual
- The ARRL Extra Class License Manual
- Understanding Basic Electronics
- The ARRL RFI Book
- Your First Amateur Radio HF Station
- FCC Rules and Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service
- Small Antennas for Small Spaces 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- Work the World with JT65 and JT9
- ARRL's Portable Antenna Classics
- Emergency Power for Radio Communications
- Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook
- Ham Radio for Dummies 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Wiley)
- Raspberry PI for Dummies (Wiley)



From left: Zak, N8ZAK; Skeet, KD8KXD; Dan, KE8UE; Dave KD8EVN, Allison M. Fiscus, Maumee Branch Manager; TMRA President Brian Harrington, WD8MXR; Rich, KD8WCB; Steve, W8TER; and Mike, WA8SYD; deliver the books to Toledo Lucas County Public Library Maumee Branch.

## Observations

by Ron, N8RLH

I just got home from the hamfest. Although I spent my time going between the forums and a table with some stuff that I sold, I believe that there were plenty of buyers walking around. I think that the attendance was pretty good. I took some old film equipment to sell, cameras and flash units and such, hoping someone would just have to have them, but I knew it was hopeless. I'll find a good home for them even if I have to give them away.

The forums were very well attended. Zack's, N8ZAK, overview of all the vhf/uhf digital modes came at the perfect time. Several groups came down from the far reaches of Michigan just to attend. Zack had guys following him around all day trying to pick his brain. He was very gracious and very helpful to everyone. Thanks Zack!

Rob's, KV8P, JT-65 forum was also well attended and was perfect for the decline of the sunspot cycle. I especially want to try this very interesting DX mode. Thanks Rob!

The final presentation, "The Search for the Super Battery" was not well attended but the guys who were there got a great show. I will have the DVD at the meeting to pass around. This is a must see program for anyone who uses batteries! If anyone has any suggestions for forums, now would be the time to speak up. Contact Rob, KV8P, or me to let us know.

The hamfest food was great! I had a chicken salad sandwich that was super. The coffee was perfect as well; I only wish we had some there on Saturday during set up ☺, and of course a few Wixi's donuts would make it perfect! I purchased several connectors that are expensive on line, especially when you pay shipping.

I just took possession of an Elecraft KX3 transceiver so stay tuned for what I think of this competition grade radio and what happens when I try QRP operation. Going from 1000 watts to 100 and down to 5/10 is going to be interesting. I have been reading the manual and all the stuff from Elecraft and so far, I am impressed. The radio is a Software Defined Radio, SDR, in a box. The concept has intrigued me since I first heard about them several years ago.

From time to time I'm going to share my observations with you here so stay tuned. If you would like to hear my thoughts on any topic just let me know at [rlhornbeck@att.net](mailto:rlhornbeck@att.net) or text 419-345-6382.

73, Ron, N8RLH

**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; Tom, KD8WCD;  
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.

## Tech Committee

By Rob, KV8P

A few updates from the TMRA Technical Committee:

Fusion Repeater Update: The club Yaesu Fusion Repeater has been under ongoing testing on the air on 444.2125(+), at a low profile location in Holland, OH, since returning from Yaesu on March 14th. It has been attached to Wires-X via an HRI-200 and a PC, and has been left linked to America Link via the Wires-X network. We have made some adjustments to the software and setup, and now feel that it is robust enough to deploy at our higher profile downtown Toledo repeater site location (after running weeks without interaction). The audio quality has been good both ways and we have had many QSOs since setting it up. The current plan is to have a small work party Thursday, April 6th to install it on 146.835 (-) in place of the current 2M D-Star (don't worry, the more widely used 442.750 (+) D-Star repeater will remain).

The repeater is/will be configured as **digital only** and will be able to be fully controlled and moved from room to room by users with a capable Yaesu radio. (Yes, you will have control!) The repeater will reset nightly and re-connect to America Link at 3am. We ask that, due to the large amount of activity, that users place the repeater back on America Link when done controlling it and using it elsewhere. This is done to support both the less experienced users, and those with FTM-3200dr 2M radios (that cannot control the repeater directly, but can use it) to enjoy the experience that America Link can provide them with their fusion radio. Throughout any typical day, many overseas stations check into the America Link room.

Remember that the advantage of this platform (Yaesu C4FM/Fusion) is that, if you can hear someone, you can talk to them (without configuring anything additional). This is what makes Wires-X, through C4FM incredibly fun and easy, even for newcomers. There is also a local room for W8HHF (40401). Feel free to check in and upload/download content related to local items there.

### New Repeater Features

Compliments of Chrissy (KC8UFV), we now have a new feature on the 147.270 repeater. There is a link on the main page of the [tmrahamradio.org](http://tmrahamradio.org) website to "Live Streams: 147.270 FM". You can click on and use this steaming feature to monitor the on-air activity on 147.27 on any computer, anywhere (it works well on my android phone as well). The feature has also been added for 147.270 on the Scanner Radio Android app (although, not fully tested there yet). Please let us know what you think of it.

Other items the committee is currently working or discussing are:

1. Fixing the fan noise (from the 440 repeater amp) on the transmitter of the 440 and 220 repeaters both. This will be fixed soon.
2. Discussion of antenna changes for PNC repeater site.
3. Potential of integration of a weather radio into the repeater(s) with disable option during linked Skywarn nets. (just discussion at this point)
4. Potential changes to courtesy tones on 147.27, 224.14 and 442.85 during nets. (reviewing)
5. Reviewing options and needs for possible future 2nd 70cm repeater frequency for UT campus repeater location and possible future 6 meter repeater options.
6. Build/construct project options for club participation. Please provide ideas to Dave KD8EVN.
7. Semi-portable Satellite setup for use at field-day and other presentation opportunities. Rich KQ6EF is working on this.
8. Work-party and site safety
9. Discussion of Dayton Hamvention® needs/wants.

## **Help Wanted!**

**From Mike, W8MAL, Ottawa County A.R.C.**

The Ottawa County A.R.C. is looking for someone to paint their 80 foot tower, which is located just east of Oak Harbor, Ohio. They have all the paint and supplies. They need someone to climb and paint the tower. If you are interested, please email the club at [k8vxh@yahoo.com](mailto:k8vxh@yahoo.com), or call Mike, W8MAL, at [419-913-0207](tel:419-913-0207).

## **Local Six Meter Nets**

**From Steve, W8ter**

Wednesdays at 9:00 PM (EST):

- First Wednesday of the month is on 50.400 AM mode.
- Second Wednesday is on 52.525 FM mode.
- Third Wednesday is on 50.125 USB mode.
- Fourth Wednesday is on 52.525 FM mode.
- Fifth Wednesday is on 52.525 FM mode.

There is also a six meter net on Thursdays at 9:00 PM (EST) on 50.255 USB mode.

**Please join us on the air!**

## **Dale's Tales**

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

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 ARRL hamfests each year in the Division. I do encourage each Hamfest Chair to register early for ARRL Sanctioning. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set.

Apr 1 - Portsmouth - Portsmouth, OH  
Apr 1 - Lincoln Trail - Elizabethtown, KY  
Apr 8 - Cuyahoga Falls - Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
Apr 22 - Chassell - Chassell, MI  
Apr 29 - Jackson County - Jackson, OH  
Apr 30 - Athens - Athens, OH  
May 6 - Cadillac - Cadillac, MI  
May 13 - Ashland - Ashland, KY

May 19 - Dayton Hamvention - Xenia, OH  
Jun 3 - IRA Hamfest - Hudsonville, MI  
Jun 3 - Fulton County - Tedrow, OH  
Jun 3 - Princeton Hamfest - Princeton, KY  
Jun 10 - Luce County - Newberry, MI  
Jun 17 - Milford Hamfest - Milford, OH  
Jun 18 - Monroe Hamfest - Monroe, MI

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

(Editor's Note: Dale's Tales was edited to fit the space available.)

## 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 general meeting is the second Wednesday of each month at the Electrical Industry Building, Lime City Rd., Rossford, Ohio.
- The Six Meter Net meets every Wednesday and Thursday at 9:00 PM (EST).
- 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.
- ARES meets the fourth Saturday of each month at St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Road, in Maumee, Ohio, at 9:00 AM.
- VE testing is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net). This month the testing will be at the TMRA Hamfest.
- The Glass City Marathon is April 23. Contact Rick at [k8rks@arrl.net](mailto:k8rks@arrl.net) or 419-471-0573 if you want to volunteer.
- Hamvention® will be held May 19, 20 and 21, 2017 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. The TMRA bus travels on Saturday, May 20.
- Museum Ships weekend is June 3 and 4, 2017.
- Field Day is June 24 and 25.
- Great Lakes HamCon @Michigan International Speedway is October 7&8, 2017
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

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