



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

February 2017



## Prez Sez

Our Hamfest - March 19<sup>th</sup> – is now only a little more than 5 weeks away and to volunteer to help contact Skeet, KD8KXD, for ticket sales, Chris, KC8UFV, for Talk-in, Steve, KC8TVW, for VE testing, Tom, KB8PAI, for set-up Saturday and tear-down Sunday, and Mike, W8MAL, for security (manning the doors). We'll have \$5.00 vouchers for food for all who volunteer at least 1 hour to help. As we get confirmation from our major commercial vendors, we'll list them on the website.

Thanks to Steve, W8TER, and Dave, KD8EVN, for organizing the TMRA Winter Field Day at the Maumee branch library, and thanks to all who came and participated. Over 40 persons signed the attendance log – there may have been more there too – to see a wide variety of equipment and demonstrations: it gets bigger and better each year.

Our Fusion repeater is off the air – having been sent back to Yaesu for an upgrade to WIRES-X: when we get it back, it will be setup to be on 2m on 146.835MHz. Currently on 442.850MHz is our 440 Icom FM repeater: Dan, KE8UE, and/or Rob, KV8P, will have more information at the meeting Wednesday Feb 8<sup>th</sup>.

73. Brian

## New ARES EC

Congratulations to Skeet, KD8KXD, the new Emergency Coordinator for Lucas County ARES. He replaces Brenda, KB8IUP, who has earned a “well done” for her service to ARES and the amateur radio community.

The photo shows Brent Stover, District Emergency Coordinator for District One, presenting Skeet with his certificate.



## An Interview with Skeet, KD8KXD New Lucas County ARES EC By Ron, N8RLH

Ron: Congratulations on accepting the position Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). How did you get the nickname Skeet?

Skeet: When I was 6 months old I had Colic, my Dad would sit in a chair or lay on the couch, and with his foot he would rock my cradle. The motion soothed the pain and stopped my crying. He started calling me his little Skeeter-Bump, and when I got older he shortened it to Skeet.

Brent, WD8PNZ, left, and Skeet, KD8KXD,  
- n8rlh photo

Ron: How long have you been a Ham Operator?

Skeet: I earned my first license in April 2009. Technician and I upgraded to General in April 2011. Thanks to Steve, W8TER, for telling me about the class and TMRA sponsoring it. I took the 2009 spring Tech Class taught by Mike, WA8SYD, and Steve, KC8TVW; passed the test and the rest is history.

Ron: What's your favorite operating mode, band, activity?

Skeet: I like operating 20 meters, SSB, phone. Also, the local repeaters. I love working special event stations and QSO parties. Just today in the mail I received a QSL card from N1NC a Girl Scout Troop I worked in New Hampshire. That is what is so fun about this hobby!

Ron: Is there anything you would like to tell those hams who are interested in emergency communications?

Skeet: GET INVOLVED! Join ARES and SKYWARN, and attend their meetings. As amateur operators we offer a service others cannot. There is no better feeling when a runner passes you whether it be at the Glass City Marathon, or another event and someone thanks you for being there. People do take notice!

Ron: What qualifications do you have to help you be our county EC? NIMS or ARRL courses?

Skeet: I love working with people and being in the "know". I was a fireman with the Maumee Fire Department during the late 1970's and 1980's (retired 1998 with 20 years of service) when the National Incident Management System (NIMS) started to come about. So I know how things can be done with all agencies work together. I have completed the NIMS IC 100,200,700, and 800 courses.

Ron: What is your vision for ARES? Where do you see it in one year? In five years?

Skeet: My vision for ARES in one year would be that we continue our great working relationship with the served agencies in Lucas County. Also, that we continue to grow our membership. And that all members complete the NICS IC 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses. As to five years, that we are still growing our membership. It is hard for me to even guess as things in the amateur radio world today are changing so rapidly.

## **ARES News**

### **From Lucas County EC, Skeet, KD8KXD**

The next meeting will be held on February 25 the (fourth Saturday) at 9:00am at St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Road in Maumee, Ohio, in the private dining room in the basement. We will critique the February Hospital Radio Test. Come early and have breakfast in the basement cafeteria at 7:30am.

Remember to tune into the ARES In Brief Net every Sunday night at 7:30pm on the 147.270 repeater. This net is open to all.



## TMRA Hamfest

Many volunteers will be needed for the TMRA Hamfest on Sunday, March 19, at Owens Community College. Set up is on March 18. We look forward to the return of R&L Electronics along with many of our usual vendors.

Contact Skeet, KD8KXD, to volunteer with ticket sales; Chris, KC8UFV, to help with talk-in; Steve, KC8TVW, for VE testing; Tom, KB8PAI, for set-up and tear-down; and Mike, W8MAL, for security on the many doors. Volunteers who help out for one hour or more will receive a food voucher good at the concession stand during the hamfest.

## CW Classes

Once again, Steve, KC8TVW, has generously given his time to offer Morse Code (CW) classes. The first two classes, January 21 and February 4, were well-attended and included a variety of straight keys and paddles to try. Steve's approach is patient and encouraging, so don't be afraid to come and learn something new. The next class is February 18. Contact Steve for more information.



CW Class

w8muk photo

## Winter Field Day

By Glenn, W8MUK

Every year, Winter Field Day seems to be more of a success than the year before. This year was no exception. Those who came were treated to a fine display of working antennas: everything from dipoles, to verticals on tripods, to a backpacker's antenna that would fit in the palm of your hand. There was a fine display of rigs, too, from numerous digital rigs, to several QRP stations, to CW. One QRP rig made a CW contact on the west coast using only three watts! Add to all that a selection of cleverly designed grab-and-go kits, hot dogs, cookies, and plenty of hot coffee. Enough to make any ham smile.

We were pleased to welcome hams from Michigan who came to see the equipment and to operate.

Thanks to Steve, W8TER, and Dave, KD8EVN, and the many others who brought rigs, antennas, food, and fellowship. Thanks also to the Lucas County Library for letting us set up. A special thank you to the XYL's who made cookies, brownies, and other goodies.

Here are some pictures of the fun courtesy of Dave, KD8EVN.





## **DX – The DX QSO.**

**The fifth in a series of articles by Ron, N8RLH**



Now what? In December, we talked about the actual QSO. This month we're going to find out how to get credit for that contact. If you work a station, and put all that effort into putting up an antenna and buying an HF radio and accessories; if you go to the trouble to learn how to use it and actually make that contact; then why wouldn't you want to get credit for the contact? Some hams never log their contacts. It used to be required every time the transmit button was pushed, but the regulations have been relaxed so that operating is easier. But I really encourage you to log every contact if you can, 'cause someday you might want to get credit for it. I hear you; you're asking "Get credit? What Credit? Can I win a free trip to Disney Land?"

There are many reasons and ways to get credit for the contacts you make, but winning a trip to Disney land is not one of them! One of the reasons is to get wallpaper. What? Wallpaper is a ham term for certificates for various things. One could be for making contact with a special event station such as the Light Ship off the coast of Washington state. It's like a light house but it's an antique ship. There are enough special event stations to cover your walls with the (sometimes) beautiful certificates. There is the ARRL DXCC program where you can earn a certificate for working 100 countries. A DXCC country is not necessarily the same as a sovereign country. (Oh crap, now it's getting complicated again!) There are rules in the DXCC program that determines what is and isn't a country. For instance, Alaska and Hawaii are considered countries. They are considered states, too, for the WAS program (worked all states, another nice certificate!). But you can't get anything if you can't prove you made the contact, BUMMER!

Ok, how do I do that? You get a QSL card, another nice wallpaper! A QSL card is a proof of contact that hams exchange in one of several different ways. The old fashioned way is to mail your card to the DX and ask for a return one. Cards are nice because hams usually put images on them to personalize them. These are usually sent via airmail and include a self-addressed return envelope and some type of financial help for the DX station, usually 2 or 3 dollars. (He gets thousands of requests for cards; you are one of thousands for him, so you usually have to help in some way. He probably doesn't need Ohio!) HOLY COW, this could get expensive. Two bucks plus postage of over a dollar times over 300 countries could come to over a grand! WOW! Don't despair, there are FREE alternatives. If you want an actual card to hold in your hand and hang on the wall, then you have to make some cards or buy some. Then you can use the Bureau - - the Bureau is a service of the ARRL where they send cards to different countries in bulk, usually by ship. It's slow, sometimes taking a year or more, but is cheap. You pay by the pound. The ARRL has an incoming as well as an outgoing QSL Bureau. It works great; ask me about it and I will give you the details.

The ARRL has started a new way of proving contacts for all their awards; it's called *The Log Book of the World* or *LOTW* for short. You apply for and get a secure way of submitting a list of contacts to their computer. You up-load your logs and if the other station does the same, then the computer matches the contacts and gives you both credit, YEA! It can be difficult to set up but it works great when you get it going. You do have to keep a computer log of your contacts in order to up-load them. There are other systems out there where you up-load the contacts and get a virtual QSL card, but be very careful because you cannot use them for the big DXCC and WAS awards by the ARRL. Usually the DX station will tell you how to get credit, he will say QSL via bureau or via LOTW or direct or give you the call of his QSL manager. A QSL manager is another ham who handles the QSLs for the DX station. Hopefully it's stateside so you don't have to send money, just a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope). There are many ways of getting a DX station to send you a return card, including writing a nice note to go with card, making your card very nice, and including something personal in the envelope. Be very careful to ask when sending money, if he doesn't tell you, because if you don't follow his

directions, you could get him in big trouble or even killed. It is illegal in some countries to have foreign currency.

Working DX is a great part of the hobby and can be a lifetime of work and enjoyment! From building your own equipment to mobile operation to QRP, there are many, many ways that hams can operate, try them all.

73, Ron N8RLH

## **Regional Hamfests**

### **From Dale's Tales for February 2017**

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.

Feb 4 - HARA Swap - Negaunee, MI  
Feb 11 - Cherryland - Traverse City, MI  
Feb 19 - Mansfield - Mansfield, OH  
Feb 19 - Livonia - Livonia, MI  
Mar 4 - Cave City - Cave City, KY  
Mar 11 - Lowell - Lowell, MI  
Mar 18 - Crossroads - Kalamazoo, MI  
Mar 18 - MOVARC - Gallipolis, OH  
Mar 19 - Toledo Mobile ARA - Perrysburg, OH  
Apr 1 - Portsmouth - Portsmouth, OH  
Apr 2 - Lincoln Trail - Elizabethtown, KY  
Apr 8 - Cuyahoga Falls - Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
Apr 29 - Jackson County - Jackson, OH  
Apr 30 - Athens - Athens, 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; 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.

## 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 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).
- **The TMRA Hamfest is Sunday, March 19, at Owens Community College. Set up is Saturday, March 18. Much help is needed both days.**
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

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