



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

## January 2017



### Prez Sez

It's January again, and, as the media and press at this time of year look back at the famous people who died in the previous year, we in TMRA should look back and remember those members of our club who died in 2016 and the contributions they made over the years. Martha K8AAC, Hubert W8LRT, Ron KD8SEW, Bob KD8A, and Robert N8UPT. They all were active in one or more of club activities such as Hamfests, Field Days, and Technical Committee. In fact, we owe debts of gratitude to many of our members who have died – Ladies and Gentlemen, RIP.

Again, our December Christmas/Holiday party was well attended, it seems more than previous years; it was difficult to count people as there always seemed to be people moving around, but I think that I counted at least 60 (maybe a few “dupes”, or maybe I missed a few). Again, a great variety of excellent foods to sample, and proving that TMRA members certainly know how to use crock-pots. Thanks to Sandy KB8HYS and Brenda KB8IUP and all who helped.

Up coming events include the TMRA “Winter Field Day” at the Maumee branch of the Lucas County library, organized by Steve W8TER and Dave KB8EVN, on January 28th. Only the antennas will be outside in the cold. Bring your Grab&Go equipment or just stop by to see what's happening. We plan on having some demonstration/instruction of FLdigi with the LCARES Icom 880 radios and the Signalinks. Don't forget that the monthly LCARES meeting is also on that day – 9:00am at St. Luke's Hospital, with election of 4 Trustees for LCARES, Inc.

Hamfest update: It will be Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> at Owens Community College, with set up Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>. We expect many of our usual vendors to be back, including R&L Electronics. Mark and Brenda's “Homestyle Concessions” will be providing the food service again this year. We'll continue making considerable savings by renting tables from Toledo Trainmasters again this year – they have the train and toys show at OCC the Sunday before our Hamfest. Skeet KD8KXD for tickets, Chris KC8UFV for talk-in, Steve KC8TVW for VE testing, Tom KB8PAI for set-up/teardown, Mike W8MAL for security (manning the doors) will be grateful for volunteers to help with those activities: again we'll have food vouchers for all who volunteer at least 1 hour to help in any way.

73. Brian

### ARES News

From Lucas County EC, Brenda, KB8IUP

The next meeting is January 28 (fourth Saturday) at 9:00 am at St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Road in Maumee, Ohio, in the private dining room in the basement. We will be taking nominations for officers of LCARES. There will be discussion of how the SET went. 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.

## TMRA Hamfest

The TMRA Hamfest is Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Set up is the day before. Many volunteers are needed. Please see the Prez Sez on page 1 for more information.

## Christmas Party

If you missed the Christmas Party, you missed some fine food and fellowship. Thanks to all those who brought food to share, and especially to Sandy, KB8HYS and Brenda, KB8IUP for organizing the food and beverages. Thanks to those who brought their grab & go kits to display.

Here are some photos taken by Chuck, KB8FXJ.



## Winter Field Day

By Steve, W8TER

The Toledo Mobile Radio Assn (TMRA) will be setting up on Saturday January 28 at 11:00 am and operating a few stations at the Maumee Branch of the Lucas County Library until 5:00 pm. This happens to coincide with Winter Field Day which is held on the fourth weekend in January.

The Winter Field Day contest is sponsored by The *Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio* (SPAR) and was founded in 2007. It currently is not an ARRL sponsored event though it operates in a similar fashion to the ARRL Field Day operating event. It is primarily designed to allow for setting up and operating in adverse conditions and using rules similar to the ARRL Field Day.

We will be there Saturday only and will be operating from inside the Library. This is a good time to learn how you can help with emergency communications. You do not have to be a member of TMRA to participate.



Winter Field Day 2016

- w8muk photo

Though we will not officially participate in Winter Field Day, other than making contacts, it is a good opportunity to demonstrate amateur radio to the public.

I intend to use the time (From 11 am to 5 pm) to educate operators about using FLdigi soundcard modes, using them for emergency communications, and operation from the hospitals. Bring your laptop and we will get you operational using the soundcard program.

There is limited space for antennas, so you will need to contact me, W8TER, if you desire to put up an antenna for the event. Normally we can accommodate 3 or 4 antennas depending on the design.

## National Parks on the Air

By Glenn, W8MUK

We've heard much in the news about what a bad year 2016 was, but there was a bright spot that the news media has overlooked.

National Parks on the Air (NPOTA), a cooperative program between the U.S. National Parks Service and the American Radio Relay League, was a tremendous success! The program, created to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the National Parks Service, encouraged ham radio operators to set up and operate from over four hundred sites administered by the park service. The ham radio community responded with over one million contacts during the twelve month period the program was in operation.

TMRA members participated, particularly due to Ron, N8RLH, setting up his grab & go kit month after month at Fallen Timbers National Battlefield Site in Maumee, Ohio. From May to November, Ron and a dedicated group of TMRA hams were the center of numerous pile-ups making hundreds of contacts. It was like having Field Day each month, with much of the food and fun, challenges and satisfactions of the June event.

It was not only great training for setting up in the field, but it was a rare opportunity to be the center of the pile-ups rather than on the outside trying to get in. As an operator and logger, you received important insights on how a busy operator chooses which calls to answer. If you listened carefully, you observed the many techniques hams would use to break through the pile-ups. These are important skills to take to your ham shack back home.

And it was more than just operating. We demonstrated ham radio to the general public in a unique way. Hikers, joggers, dog walkers, and others would stop by the table to ask who we were and what we were doing. Many lingered to hear about ham radio and the NPOTA program. We also had regular visits from the park police officers who enjoyed seeing the equipment and hearing about our many contacts.



Many thanks to the TMRA hams who came to operate, log, bring food and beverages, and just socialize. Special thanks to Ron, N8RLH, for setting up each month, uploading the log so our contacts could get credit, and generously offering his equipment to any ham wishing to operate.

At Fallen Timbers in Maumee, Ohio - w8muk photo

And thanks to Metroparks Toledo who manages the Fallen Timbers sites, and kindly gave us permission each month to set up and operate in the park.

NPOTA was one of those programs you just hated to see end.

## **Special Event Station, K7Z**

**Condensed from a Press Release from Bruce Sperka, AD7MM**

Special Event Station K7Z will commemorate Zane Grey's birthday on January 28-31, 2017. Zane Grey was an author and master of the American western novel.

This special event is sponsored by the Tonto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. and the Northern Gila County Historical Society that operates The Rim Country Museum and The Zane Grey Cabin. Members of our amateur radio association will be active from January 28 - 31, 2017, using the call sign K7Z from their own QTHs as well as from the Zane Grey Cabin in Payson, AZ. Preferred frequencies will be in the general band segments.

A special QSL card will be available for the event: <https://www.qrz.com/db/k7z>. Send a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) for a commemorative QSL card to: Tonto Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc., PO Box 765, Payson, AZ 85547. Direct Only: Your card and SASE. Sorry, no eQSL, LOTW, or bureau. Non-USA, please enclose 2 US dollars for return postage.

## Tech Committee

### By Tom, KD8WCD

The tech committee made the decision to replace the old 1974 era 220 MHz repeater after having several issues with it due to age. The 220 antenna had been replaced the prior summer in an attempt to improve the performance of the old repeater. Additionally, the aging and fraying fiberglass portion of the Hustler antenna allowed water to get into the antenna. Water was found in the hard line as well. We also ran new hard line from the repeater cabinet up to the new antenna. Unfortunately, performance had not improved, so the tech committee made the decision to replace the old machine.

We purchased and installed a Bridgecom BCR/220 repeater over the summer of 2016. It took several visits to the Parks Tower site to adjust the audio levels in and out of the controller using Rob, KV8P's, service monitor. We also checked the duplexers for any needed adjustments due to what appears to be some desensing issues when the amplifier was installed. We pulled the notch filters from the PNC site and installed them at the Parks site and did not find any real improvement, but they did add some loss on the receive side so the notch filters have been removed from the system.



Working atop Parks Tower - tech committee photo

For now, the repeater seems to be working fairly well and we have been having good reports from users. However, the location of the antenna, on a side arm and being close to the tower, may be causing a null to the east. This might be resolved by moving the antenna onto a support frame located more in the middle of the roof area away from the tower. Additionally, the amplifier is being checked by Rob, KV8P, before being reinstalled. Currently, the repeater is putting 20 watts out into the duplexers and has been heard at mile-marker 23 on I75 North. Several stations have been able to access the machine with their HTs from as far away as Perrysburg and Springfield. It has been a pretty long road in getting 220 back on the air in Toledo.

The 1.25 meter band (220 MHz) is interesting and underutilized having characteristics of both 2 meter in range and 70 cm in penetration. This makes 220 Mhz. an all-around great band to experiment with. Several manufacturers have decided to re-enter the 220 MHz market there are now more radios available than ever.

Those who participated in working on the 220 repeater are, Rob, KV8P; Art K8XG; Dan, KE8UE; Mike, Kc8rdj; Chris, KC8UFV; Bruce, AA8HS; and Tom, KD8WCD.

**The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #296**  
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## Field Day 2017

By Glenn, W8MUK

As I sit at my computer this evening the outside temperature is plunging toward zero with even lower temperatures forecast for the interior counties of Ohio and Michigan. So can you blame me if I think of the warm days of summer? And that means Field Day 2017.

At TMRA, planning for field day has already begun and, as usual, it is difficult. Why? Because field day consists of competing objectives that can't always be reconciled. Confused? I'll try to explain.

One objective of field day is to practice and demonstrate our emergency communications capabilities. That means making contacts: as many as possible, on as many bands as possible, in as many modes as possible. The simplest way to do this is enlisting old-timers using tried-and-true methods on the most productive bands at the best times.

Another objective of field day is to welcome and encourage new hams, and hams with unproven equipment, to participate. For this to be meaningful, they need plenty of access to the most productive bands at the best times. Generally, this results in a lower contact tally and some equipment failures. Do you see the conflict?

Another challenge is emergency management protocols. Fire, police, and other emergency services now want ham radio operators to follow the National Incident Management System terminology and techniques. Field day is an opportunity to practice this. However, some hams see field day as more of a social event and resist using NIMS protocols.

Then there's antenna placement to minimize interference, finding someone to operate on 10 meters although it's almost never open, and even the field day site can be controversial.

TMRA's field day organizers are already struggling with these and other potential conflicts. As we try to craft a field day plan to reach our objectives and make this an enjoyable experience for everyone, we ask that you be understanding. We really want to please everyone. We just don't exactly know how.

Remember, your comments and suggestions about field day really are welcome and appreciated.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO  
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43697-9673

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.

## Regional Hamfests

### From Dale's Tales for January 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. Tom and I are already committed for several dates in 2017 as are our Section Managers Scott N8SY, Alan KY1O and Larry WB8R.

Jan 15 - SCARF Hamfest - Nelsonville, OH

Jan 29 - TUSCO Hamfest - Strausburg, OH

Jan 29 - Hazel Park - Hazel Park, MI

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

## 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).
- **Winter Field Day** will be January 28 at the Lucas County Library in Maumee, Ohio.
- Due to the Holiday Season there will not be a Lucas County Skywarn meeting till the first Thursday of February.
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

**TMRA  
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**January 2017**