



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

October 2017



Prez Sez

From Brian, KD8MXR, President

Congratulations for Vice-President Rob, KV8P, on his selection as the TMRA Amateur of the Year recipient for 2017.

See the TMRA Facebook page for details of the TMRA foxhunts, scheduled to follow the LCARES meetings on the 4th Saturday of the months. Rob, KV8P, also has an online survey on thoughts on Foxhunts. Also, for upcoming General meeting programs.

Rob, KV8P, and Chrissy, KC8UFV, are keeping the Facebook page frequently updated with news and information about the Club and our activities – a very valuable source of information.

At the last Executive Committee meeting it was decided to create of new position in the Club, that of an Information Officer, basically to coordinate the flow of information within the Club – such as up-coming events (what, when, where, who, why), help needed for such events, programs, who to contact for events or to volunteer for any activity. This person would ensure that the information was on the calendar, on the website/Facebook page, in the Newsletter, announced on TMRA nets, email list, etc. Full details are still being worked-out. The Information Officer position is distinct and separate from the TMRA Public Information Officer – that position has not been filled for many years – any volunteers?

I'm still working on updating the TMRA Informational Booklet and am looking for any ideas for additions to what's already included – for example, more contact information for our various committees and activities.

Earlier this year TMRA enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program and in the Amazon Smile program. Both of these could be significant sources of income for the Club: for information, see Rob's, KV8P, posting on the TMRA Facebook page.

73, Brian

ARES News

From Lucas County EC, Skeet, KD8KXD

Please note that the Hospital Radio Test for October will take place on Saturday, October 14th at 10:00am. We will also be holding our SET (Simulated Emergency Test) at that time.

The next Lucas County ARES meeting will be held on Saturday, October 28th at St. Luke's Hospital, in the basement Private Dining Room near the cafeteria. The meeting starts at 9:00am.



Please tune into the Lucas County ARES in Brief Net, Sunday nights on the 147.270 repeater at 7:30 pm for the latest information.

TMRA 2017 Radio Amateur of the Year Congratulations to Rob, KV8P!

At the September TMRA meeting, Ron, N8RLH, last year's Amateur of the Year Award recipient presented this year's award to Rob Hall, KV8P.

As Ron noted in his presentation, Rob was first licensed in 1988 as a novice. Ron said, "Rob is a dx'er, enjoys building and the digital modes, and is actively involved in club activities. He is currently [TMRA] vice president and is very active on the tech committee. Rob is a VE and goes out of his way to help newcomers to our great hobby."

Ron continued, "Rob lives in Holland, Ohio with his wife Ania and daughter Kora. His other interests are motorcycles and being active in his daughter's activities. His wife is from Poland so they travel to Krakow often to visit."



From Ron and from all the members of TMRA:
"Congratulations Rob, you deserve the 2017 Ham of the Year!"

Museum Ships Presentation at HamCon 2017 By Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

TMRA can be justly proud of Dave, KD8EVN, for the fine presentation he gave at Great Lakes HamCon on October 8. A featured forum speaker, Dave showed about 100 power point slides that told the story of TMRA's activation of the special event station, K8E, for Museum Ships Weekend. The station was set up June 3 and 4, 2017, on the Col. James M. Schoonmaker, a retired lake freighter berthed at the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo, Ohio.

Dave's presentation gave the approximately 30 attendees a broad overview of using the Schoonmaker for Museum Ships Weekend. He reviewed prior activations by radio clubs in Adrian, Michigan, explained how he and the TMRA team organized activating the special event station, detailed setting up and operating the three sets of radios and antennas, identified who was part of the team and how they were recruited, and discussed how they addressed problems and will improve operations for next year.

A big surprise came when members of the SHIPS Radio Club who were sitting in the audience identified themselves and briefly discussed their work in activating the Schoonmaker station before TMRA became involved.

Thanks to all the TMRA members who made the drive to Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan to support Dave at HamCon. **Fine business, Dave!**

Tech Committee News

From Dan, KE8UE

First of all, congratulations to Rob Hall, KV8P, for getting the 2017 Ham of the Year Award at TMRA. It is well deserved as he puts in a lot of time for the good of the Club.

Here are a few notes from the Tech Committee. The new antennas have been shipped and should arrive this week. The 220 antenna was shipped and should be arrive soon, also. The committee will be going over them at our next meeting and discussing their installation. We can get them in the elevator shaft at the PNC Bank Building to a level and then pull them up from that level by hand.

We did have a problem with the 900 MHz repeater and found out that the cooling fan on the amp had frozen up, so there was no harm done to the repeater. We are going to put in an AC squirrel cage style fan and plug it into our AS power strip so it can be monitored.

The Tech Committee has purchased a 6 meter repeater with duplexer, which was in the budget. This repeater will be downtown at the PNC site and should do well at that height. The repeater is a GE station master II and is in good working order. The transmitter is putting out 113 watts and the receiver is 125 dbm, which is great. We have coax and an antenna that I have new in the box. This repeater is crystal controlled, so we did have to order crystals. I am hoping to have it on the air at the earliest by the end of November and at the latest by the end of the year.

We did have a power supply problem at the Parks tower site, but Rob was able to lend us his 90 amp supply until we fix or replace. The Astron 50 amp supply I believe will be repaired. We discussed that we should have two power supplies at the Parks site so we can divide up the power that is needed there. The committee is working very hard to make all repeaters sound and working well. It does take a lot of time.

Big thanks to all my committee members and those other TMRA members that come to Tech meeting. Also, a big thank you goes out to all the Club members that support the Tech committee's efforts.

Dan, KE8UE

Tech Chair

JOTA

From Steve, KC8TVW

TMRA will again be sponsoring the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) at Camp Miakonda. This is our chance to introduce young Boy and Cub Scouts to our great hobby.

I will be setting up Friday, Oct 20th, and operating from 9:00 – 9:00 on Saturday the 21st. Tear down will be Sunday morning. The camp expects to have many scouts there that weekend, so I am looking for some help. If you can spare an hour or two, please come out and join the fun.

You are welcome to spend Friday and Saturday night there. We are in a heated cabin, the second one on the left after you walk across the bridge entering the camp.

Any questions? Contact Steve, KC8TVW, by phone at 419-467-3734 or by email at kc8tvw@arrl.net.

September Mobile Fox Hunt

A Report from Ron, N8RLH

On September 23, we had three teams participate in the fox hunt using triangulation and other techniques to find the fox. This was a nice change from August, when we had only one team. As before, we started from St. Luke's Hospital parking lot after the ARES meeting. I supplied maps and protractors, as well as the coffee and donuts for the hunters after they found the fox.

Brad, WB8RG, was the fox and hid at the Spring Meadows parking lot in front of Michael's (the old Kroger store). Congratulations to Rob, KV8P, who won because he travelled only nine miles to find the fox. He found the fox first even though he started 30 minutes late due to an extended meeting. The other teams had more difficulty and I had a great time teasing them in.

It was a great experience learning how buildings reflect the signal and make beam headings tough to get. We also learned the advantage of having an offset attenuator. Be sure to ask Rob, KV8P, to see his.

The next hunt will be Sat morning, October 28, after the ARES meeting at St. Luke's Hospital (about 10:00-10:30) and is usually over about noon. Come to the ARES meeting at 9:00 am, but join us for breakfast in the hospital cafeteria before. See you there.



September Fox Hunters: Dave, Brian, Ron, Rob, Scott, Joe and Brian.

- wb8rg photo

An Inexpensive Tone Control for the Shack

By Bruce, AA8HS

Everyone's ability to hear high and low frequencies is somewhat different and this ability changes as we become older. Our hearing affects our understanding of the words spoken by other people, particularly on the radio where there may be distortion, hiss, hum, or digital artifacts. Some of this problem is addressed in HF rigs with DSP or a software controlled equalizer function. External DSP devices or audio equalizers can also be helpful but these can be expensive, particular the higher end units. A simple, inexpensive tone control solution can be found in a completed kit board based upon the LM1036 chip and available for less than ten dollars on EBAY and other sources. This stereo circuit has been described elsewhere on the Net and includes controls that produce a severe cut or boost in the treble and bass regions. This item has been particularly helpful in reducing hiss from analog transmissions and enabling me to understand certain person's voices.

On the circuit board, you can avoid using an AC supply or 15 volt DC supply by using a 13.8 regulated DC supply to the plus and minus terminals. Connect the headphone output from your radio to one of the RCA jack inputs using a suitable adapter. The audio output leads on the LM1036 circuit board should be then connected to a suitable audio amplifier and speakers or headphones; good computer speakers may also work. I have three of these units and I find that it gives me real time control of the audio from a variety of radios and it's well worth the investment.

One of the kits is found here:

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/New-LM1036-Luxurious-Volume-Control-Completed-Tested-Tone-Board-1000UF-25V-Pro-/311357564637?hash=item487e5b66dd:g:sY8AAOSweW5VUGOy>

and an inexpensive audio amp here:

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/DIY-TDA2030A-Audio-Amplifier-Board-Kit-Mono-Power-18W-DC-9V-24V-/172743320406?epid=12004276972&hash=item28384de356:g:vw4AAOSwTf9ZS6ZW>

Good luck!

Some Thoughts on Emergency Preparedness

By Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

In September, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) asked for 50 volunteer radio amateurs to go to Puerto Rico to assist with disaster communications. Fifty qualified hams quickly stepped forward to go for the three-week assignment. We can all be proud of this rapid, generous response.

In reviewing the ARRL request, I noted the specific qualifications the volunteers must meet. I found them instructive for our own, more local, disaster preparedness activities. The short list of qualifications is:

- General class license or higher
- Familiarity with WinLink, HF voice, and VHF simplex communications
- Strong technical skills
- Ability to work under difficult conditions
- Ability to deploy for three weeks [or as long as needed]
- Ability to work as part of a team

How many of us have these qualifications? More importantly, how many of us have demonstrated that we have these qualifications by participating in ARES, disaster drills, simulated emergency conditions such as field day, or actual disaster experience?

You might be thinking, "So what! I'll be ready when the time comes." To this I respectfully reply, "No you won't."

It's not that I doubt your sincerity or your technical skills. But my observations of Field Day, Winter Field Day, National Parks on the Air, Museum Ships Weekend, and other field-based operating events are that only *experience* in planning, setting up, and operating under field conditions will properly prepare you for the real thing. Those of you with military experience understand this much better than I do.

You may disagree and that's fine. There are always exceptions and you may be one. But take another look at the short list, above. To be selected to work communications in Puerto Rico, ARRL and the American Red Cross required these qualifications. Will local emergency coordinators want less? Do the members of our community who look to us for communications help in disasters deserve less?

I sincerely hope the kind of disaster Puerto Rico is experiencing never happens here. But if it does I sincerely hope we will have the trained and experienced team of hams that will be needed.

And I know that we must do much more than hope to make it so.

Regional Hamfests

From Dale's Tales for October 2017

10/7/17	Cave Run Hamfest	Moorehead, KY
10/7/17	Vette City	Bowling Green, KY
10/7 & 8	Great Lakes Div. Convention	Brooklyn, MI
10/7/17	Scioto Valley	Chillicothe OH
10/15/17	Conneaut Hamfest	Conneaut, OH
10/21/17	Muskegon Color Tour	Muskegon, MI
10/22/17	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo, MI
10/28/17	Hazard	Hazard, KY
10/29/17	Massilon	Massilon, OH
10/29/17	USECA	Madison Hts, MI
11/4/17	Grant ARC Hamfest	Georgetown, OH
12/3/17	Lanse Creuse	Madison Heights, MI

**THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO
ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673,
TOLEDO, OH
43697-9673**

President, Brian, WD8MXR;
Vice-President, Rob, KV8P;
Secretary, Zack, N8ZAK;
Treasurer, Rich, KD8WCB.

Board Members: Steve, W8TER;
Skeet, KD8XKD; Tom, KD8WCD;
Dan, KE8UE; Rich, KQ6EF.

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.

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 **Fldigi Net** meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM at 147.27 MHz.
- 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 second Saturday of this 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.
- **Mobile Fox Hunt** will be October 28 after the ARES meeting.
- **VE testing** is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or kc8tvw@arrl.net.
- **CW classes** began in September
- Ron, N8RLH, has ham gear from the estates of silent keys.
- The calendar at the **TMRA website** lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

The *TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #305
Editor: Glenn, W8MUK
Email: [W8MUK @ arrl.net](mailto:W8MUK@arrl.net)

**TMRA
P.O. BOX 9673
TOLEDO, OH
43697-9673**

OCTOBER 2017