



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

April 2018



## The Prez Sez

From Brian, WD8MXR, President

I want to thank everyone who contributed in any way to our 2018 Hamfest: club members who helped in many ways, our vendors, and our attendees. It was another successful event and financially we did better than recent previous years. This is important as the Hamfest is a major source of revenue for us to better serve our members and the community with Amateur Radio services. I'll have full financial details at the Club meeting on Wednesday April 11. If you can't make it to the meeting, but would like to see the details, email me ([wd8mxr@gmail.com](mailto:wd8mxr@gmail.com)) and I'll send you the Excel file showing the Hamfest income and expenses for 2014 to 2018.

We're planning on Hamfest 2019 for March 17<sup>th</sup>, but we don't yet have confirmation in the form of a contract with Owens Community College for that weekend. Comments on this year's Hamfest and/or suggestions for future Hamfests are always welcome – send any that you may have either to me or to Rob, KV8P.

I've been reminded by a member that some time ago it was decided at a General Meeting that when we have a program, the presentation comes first, then followed by the business meeting: we haven't been doing that, but will in future – starting with Bruce's, AA8HS, presentation on Wednesday on scanners.

As Dave, KD8EVN, announced at our last meeting, the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio (HCNO) has awarded a \$3,500.00 grant to TMRA to cover the cost of one of our new repeater antennas. Dave was instrumental in putting that proposal together and getting it to them. Thanks go to Dave and to the HCNO. The Technical Committee report at our meeting this week will have updates and more details of the installation of the new antennas. (*Editor's Note: See the Tech Committee article on page three.*)

We've been getting really great turn-outs recently at our meetings – Rob, KV8P, has ideas and plans for future meetings that we can learn about and discuss on Wednesday (and maybe at future meetings) – so I hope we continue to have many of our members, and of course, non-members are welcome too, at our meetings.

73, Brian.

## ARES News

From Skeet, KD8KXD, Lucas County EC

The next Lucas County ARES Meeting will be held Saturday April 28. The Meeting starts at 9:00 am. **Please note the location change: The Meeting will be at the Maumee Fire Station No.2, 450 West Dussel Drive.**

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.



## **Congratulations to New Hams and Upgrades**

**From Steve, KC8TVW**

Here are the results from the VE testing at the March Hamfest. **New Techs:** KE8JGF, Shane; KE8JGG, Mark; KE8JGH, Dennis; and KE8JGJ, Robert. **New Generals:** KE8JGI, Thomas; N8GHY, Thomas; KC8VVY, Ronald; and KE8JBH, David. **New Extras:** KE8GMU, William; N8JBR, Jeff; and KE8EP, William.

Thanks to all of the VE's that made this possible

### **... And Technician License Classes**

TMRA is holding a two-day Technician License class on April 7 & 21, 2018. There is no charge for the class. A text book is required and costs \$25.00. At the end of the second class, students may take the FCC license exam. The cost of the exam is \$15.00.

The classes will be held at the Lucas County EMS Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Street, Toledo, Ohio 43624. Registration is required. Contact Steve, KC8TVW. Phone: 419-467-3734 or email: kc8tvw@arrl.net.

### **... And VE Testing**

Please note that the April VE session will be after the Tech Class on April 21st, at 3:00 p.m. The location is 2127 Jefferson. See the article, above.

### **... And CW Code Practice**

The next meeting of the CW practice group will be Sunday April 29, 1-4 p.m. at Trilby Methodist Church 5918 Secor Rd, just North of Alexis. **Please note the date change.**

We will be QSO'ing live on 144.07. If you can monitor, you may enjoy the trials of the new CW'ers.

For more information about VE testing or CW practice, contact Steve, KC8TVW. Phone: 419-467-3734 or email: kc8tvw@arrl.net.

## **General or Extra Class License Training**

**From Steve, KC8TVW**

I get quite a few requests each year asking for General or Extra training classes. There are several YouTube videos for all 3 license classes.

You may search: "ham radio general class license course" or "ham radio extra class license course".

## **Hamvention 2018**

TMRA will again have a bus going to Hamvention at the Clark County Ohio Fairgrounds. Contact Mke, WA8SYD, for more information and to sign up to go.

## Help Needed: Glass City Marathon

A message from Rick, K8RKS

Help is urgently needed for the Glass City Marathon on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The start time is 7:00 AM. If you'd like to volunteer or need more information please contact me at [k8rks@arrl.net](mailto:k8rks@arrl.net) or 419-471-0573.

If you have already volunteered, or are thinking about it, there are once again two volunteer training meetings/parties. They are (note the new location) both located at Mercy St. Ann's Hospital, 3404 West Sylvania Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43623.

Thursday - April 12, 2018 - General Volunteer party  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Rooms 1 & 3, 3rd Floor

Sunday, April 15, 2018 - General Volunteer party  
1:00pm - 2:30 pm  
Rooms 1-3, 3rd Floor

I plan to be available at both meeting. You may attend either meeting to help out, but please don't go to both. Thanks!

## TMRA Hamfest

TMRA held its hamfest at Owens Community College on March 18. Details of attendance, financials and other information will be discussed at the April 14 club meeting. Many thanks to all who volunteered, attended, or were vendors.

## April Mobile Fox Hunt

Congratulations to Brian, WD8MXR, who won the March fox hunt. He was first to find the fox, Glenn, W8MUK, who was hiding at Walbridge Park along the Maumee River. Brian will be the fox for the next fox hunt on April 28 after the ARES Meeting.

For more information, contact Ron, N8RLH at [n8rlh@arrl.net](mailto:n8rlh@arrl.net).

## Tech Committee News

From Rob, KV8P

**442.850 Updates:** The 442.850 repeater is now using the new Sinclair Antenna. On Wednesday, March 28th, Tom, KD8WCD, and I (Rob, KV8P) had an open opportunity, with good weather, to replace the mast and the antenna on the repeater. The new antenna is working well and had a flat 1:1 match upon install. There were immediate reports of 2-3 S-Unit increase with several distant stations. The old 442.850 antenna tested with a slight SWR issue (2:1) which might also account for the transmitter power issue the repeater currently is experiencing. It is currently transmitting about 1/2 power output, 18 watts out of the duplexers. The tech committee is currently working on

**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](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.

converting a 100 watt Motorola repeater that we may soon exchange it with while the Icom FR4000 repairs are made (possibly, permanently). We will inform everyone if/when that change takes place.

**Repeater Antennas:** Work continues on the final planning. We are still reviewing options for the downtown antenna lift and are currently working with a professional company to obtain a quote for it. More info to come soon.

**Build Sessions:** We are currently pulling parts lists and cost breakdowns together for some portable antenna builds. Look for information on these soon. The first build will be a 3 element tape measure yagi antenna, followed by a roll-up J-Pole antenna for 2 meters. More information to come on times/dates for these builds, but look for sign-up sheets at the general club meetings or let Rob (KV8P) know if you are interested in being included in the builds.

**Club Repeater Announcements:** Please let Rob, KV8P, know if you are interested in recording the introduction or "W8HHF Repeater" sign-off for these routine on-air pre-recorded club messages. We welcome the variety!

**Weather Radio alerts:** We are entering the spring storm season. As such, and as a reminder, weather alerts will be heard on the 147.27 repeater and the audio will override user audio when alerts occur. However, if Skywarn brings up a net, all weather radio announcements are disabled for the duration of the net (therefore, look to net control for any updates.

## **Ham Radio Question and Answer Session**

**From Rob, KV8P**

Relaxed Learning Session: I'm new to Amateur Radio! Now what?!  
Date/Time: **May 5th, 2018 from 9am-1pm**  
Location: Maumee Fire Station #2 (rear entrance of building)

Join Toledo Mobile Radio Association members at Maumee Fire Station #2 for a learning and Q&A session that should work to help newer amateur radio operators get started with some of the practical items that we all wish we knew when starting off in ham radio. This is going to be a very relaxed learning session which is a great place to get to know TMRA members and for newer amateur radio operators to ask questions related to items they are concerned about. We will go into more in depth when/if needed.

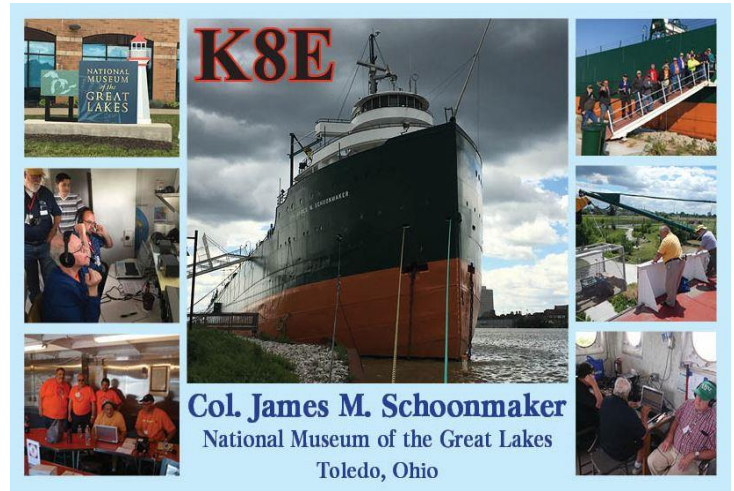
We'll discuss and help newer hams resolve some of the typical early ham radio challenges including (but not limited to) the following types of discussion items (no specific order):

1. Answer any early questions and discuss list of items that we all have soon after becoming a ham. (and worries that we each had)
2. Discuss Hand-held and mobile radio types / drawbacks and benefits. Who can help me program it?
3. What is needed to setup and use a mobile or "base" radio - in car or in home (and benefits and types).
4. Discuss Effective Radiated Power in terms of Antenna benefits - Discuss types of antennas indoor/outdoor options (and why). Horizontal vs. vertical antennas.
5. Types of feedline and what you will need (and for what) - and where to find it.
6. VHF/UHF vs HF - Who can I talk to and when?
7. Discuss using local Repeaters, internet linked repeaters, PL Tones, (repeater book/radio reference),
8. Discuss Simplex vs Repeater typical etiquette (just so you know) - Examples: Q signals, calling CQ, breaks, etc.

9. First Contacts – what to expect (most important, you won't be judged so don't "sweat it".... really...)
10. Hamfests + Ham Conventions. - Why bother?
11. Where should I buy equipment and what are the risks?
12. Useful websites
13. Foxhunting and Satellites - how/where?
14. Where to find manuals and information?
15. If there is time: Antenna Analyzers and SWR Meters - what are they and when do I need one?
16. If there is time: N vs PL-259, vs SMA, versus BNC connectors
17. Benefits of organizations/clubs
18. Foxhunts - what are they and how does it work? Do I need anything?
19. HF - club events (what can I participate with?) - Operating events.

## Museum Ships on-the Air 2018

By Tom KD8WCD



The Toledo Mobile Radio Association will be activating the Col. James M. Schoonmaker for the Museum Ships on the Air 2018 on June 2<sup>nd</sup> & June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. Our Special Event station call will be K8E, same as last year; with the “E” representing Lake Erie. The Col. James M. Schoonmaker is moored along the Maumee River in Downtown Toledo next to the Museum of the Great Lakes.

We will be allowed to operate onboard the ship during normal Museum hours on both days. This is not a contest, this is a Fun event! We will not be alone, 109 Museum ships participated in last year’s 2017 event, so we want the best station possible and to achieve this we will need all hands on deck!

In previous years we have operated 20m and 40m stations simultaneously, and we added a 2m station for last year’s 2017 activation. If there is time, and willing operators, there isn’t anything that says we couldn’t have stations for other bands.

One of the best aspects of operating onboard is we have our own “shack”, the “doghouse” located in the upper level of the aft section of the ship. We will be signing up operator times and scheduling pre-event meetings for planning and organizing. This includes gathering info on what equipment is needed to operate, such as radios and any amplifiers that are available to use.



We are fortunate to have this kind of access to parts of the ship which are not open to the general public. Unlike other TMRA events such as field day, you will need to be a member of TMRA to access the doghouse onboard the ship. This is due to insurance and liability reasons.

If you would like to join the K8E Team, you can email this year's event chairman to be put on the email list at [kd8wcd@yahoo.com](mailto:kd8wcd@yahoo.com), please put K8E in the subject line so I can distinguish you from any spam mail.

Hope to see you on board!

*Photos courtesy of Tom, KD8WCD.*

## **Looking into a Ham Radio Mirror**

**By Mike, K8WZY**

Did you ever wonder what **you** sound like on the air to other hams? Did you ever wonder what a 599 signal report sounds like to someone else? What does "some QSB" sound like? I am happy to say that as a result of a recent QSO, I got answers to all of these questions.

Recently I had a CW QSO with Lou, N2JPR of Massapequa, NY which is on Long Island. Lou was operating QRP but had a solid signal here in NW Ohio. I was running my usual 40 watts on 40 meters with my attic dipole in a one story home. We had a nice chat about our rigs, antennas, weather, and QRP. I was experiencing a little QSB at my end, so we said our 73's and agreed to work each other again when band conditions were better.

During our QSO, I had pulled up his qrz.com page and noticed that he had quite a bit of information about his shack and quite a few pictures of his equipment. After our contact, I made an entry into my log noting that I enjoyed working him.

A few days later, I received an email from Lou thanking me for the contact along with an MP3 audio file attached. It was an audio recording of our entire QSO! I could hear my CW signal with all the surrounding static and noise (and QSB) the way Lou could hear me. I actually was able to copy myself sending CW and it was a real treat to hear what I sounded like. I also made some mental notes on how I can improve my CW in the future.

Lou really likes ham radio and QRP and sends out these MP3 files frequently. He told me that he has been recording them for over 5 years now and has it down to a simple process of pressing two buttons. By the way, I emailed Lou and got his permission to put this story into our newsletter and he was happy to have me mention his unique logging feature.

So, if you work CW and you hear N2JPR on the air, give him a call and you may get an audio file of your QSO.

## **Hamfests from Dale's Tales**

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

4/7/18	Lincoln Trail	Elizabethtown, KY
4/14/18	Cuyahoga Falls	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
4/21/18	Portsmouth	Portsmouth, OH
4/28/18	RCARA Tailgate	Ashland, KY
4/28/18	JCARC Hamfest	Jackson, OH
4/28/18	Chassell Hamfest	Chassell, MI
4/29/18	GMARC Hamfest	Madison Hgts, MI
4/29/18	Athens Hamfest	Athens, OH
5/5/18	Cadillac Hamfest	Cadillac, MI

5/18 to 5/20	Dayton Hamvention	Xenia, OH
6/2/18	IRA Hamfest	Hudsonville, MI
6/2/18	Fulton County Hamfest	Tedrow, OH
6/2/18	Princeton Hamfest	Princeton, KY
6/3/18	Chelsea Hamfest	Chelsea, MI
6/16/18	Midland Hamfest	Midland, MI
6/17/18	Monroe Hamfest	Monroe, MI

## 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 first Saturday of the even numbered months 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.
- The **April Mobile Fox Hunt** will be April 28 after the ARES meeting.
- TMRA will have a bus going to **Hamvention** in May. Contact Mike, WA8SYD.
- **Field Day** is June 23 and 24. Contact Steve, W8TER for more information.
- **VE testing** is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net).
- Register for **CW classes** by contacting Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net).
- **Ron, N8RLH**, has ham gear from the estates of silent keys. Contact: 419-345-6382 or [rlhornbeck@att.net](mailto:rlhornbeck@att.net).
- The calendar at the **TMRA website**, [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org), lists numerous ham radio activities each month.
- TMRA has a **Facebook** page.
- Don't forget to select TMRA as your Organization of choice for *Kroger Cares* and *Amazon Smile*. This results in a donation to the club as a portion of your purchase.

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Editor: Glenn, W8MUK  
Email: [w8muk@arrl.net](mailto:w8muk@arrl.net)

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

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