



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

March 2018



The Prez Sez

From Brian, WD8MXR, President

Our 2018 Hamfest will be Sunday March 18th at Owens Community College, with set up starting around 10:00am Saturday March 17th. Many of our usual vendors will be back, and we appreciate their support: as we hear from our major vendors, we'll list them on the website. Mark and Brenda's "Homestyle Concessions" will be providing the food service again this year, and we assume indoors again.

For the last time (this year!) - volunteers will be needed. As was mentioned several times on the net last Sunday, this is a "working Hamfest" for TMRA members – it provides us with a very large proportion of the Club's income. Contact Skeet, KD8KXD, for tickets; Chrissy, KC8UFV, for talk-in; Steve, KC8TVW, for VE testing; Tom, KB8PAI, for set-up/teardown (especially volunteers for teardown Sunday afternoon); Mike, W8MAL, for security (manning the doors). New this year is a need for extra volunteers during the Hamfest - with the prize drawings every 30 minutes from 9:00am to Noon, Mike WA8SYD and Chrissy (on the computer to display the winning numbers) need help relaying the information of the prize winners between them. Toby, KE8CZO, will appreciate help with his silent auction. All 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.

On page 52 of the AAA World March/April magazine issue, under the "Top Events" heading, is a great announcement describing our Hamfest. I don't know who sent it to the AAA, but to whoever did – many thanks.

For the 3 months ending January 30, 2018, the Kroger Rewards program is sending us a check for \$41.00 in Rewards for 9 persons who have signed up and designated TMRA for their rewards. Kroger doesn't tell us who those 9 are, but thanks from the club to all of them. If you shop at Kroger and haven't signed up for TMRA, please consider doing so – it literally is a rewarding experience.

73, Brian

**The TMRA Hamfest will be March 18, 2018 at Owens
Community College, Perrysburg, OH.**

ARES News

From Skeet, KD8KXD, Lucas County EC

The next Lucas County ARES Meeting will be held Saturday, March 24, 2018. The meeting location is 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 7:30pm for the latest information.



Congratulations to New Hams and Upgrades

From Steve, KC8TVW

Congratulations to Dave, KE8IMW who upgraded to General Class in February.

... And Technician License Classes

TMRA will be 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

The March and April VE sessions will **not** be the normal second Saturday of the month.

In March, the VE session will be Sunday, March 18, at 9:00 AM at the TMRA Hamfest at Owens Community College. Check-in will be at 8:45 AM. We will need nine VEs.

Then, on April 21, at 3:00 PM, the VE testing will be held after the Tech Class at the Lucas County EMS Training Center (see above).

... And CW Code Practice

The February code practice session was well attended and everyone had a good time. The purpose of the CW practice sessions is to learn how to form characters properly and have fun.

The next session will be March 24, from 1:00-4:00 PM at Trilby Methodist Church, 5918 Secor Road (Just north of Alexis). There will be many different styles of keys available to try. CW knowledge is not required.

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

TMRA Hamfest

It's finally here! Many volunteers will be needed for the TMRA Hamfest on Sunday, March 18th at Owens Community College. Set up is Saturday, March 17th.

Contact Skeet, KD8KXD, to volunteer for ticker sales; Chrissy, KC8UFV, for talk-in; Steve, KC8TVW, for VE testing; Tom, KB8PAI, for set-up and tear-down; and Mike, W8MAL, for security. If you have questions or suggestions for forums, contact Ron, N8RLH. There will be food vouchers for anyone who volunteers to help for at least one hour.

Happy Days Past . . .

Here's a photo of a TMRA work party from a few years ago. Can you identify anyone in the picture? Do you know who was the photographer? Let me know: w8muk@arrl.net



March Mobile Fox Hunt

There will be a fox hunt on March 24, after the ARES Meeting, weather permitting. For more information, contact Ron, N8RLH at n8rlh@arrl.net.

Tech Committee News

From Rob, KV8P

The Tech Committee has a few items to report for February.

53.110 (-): Rich, KQ6EF, made a visit up to our downtown site late in February. He replaced the broken elements on the 6 meter repeater antenna (from the winter icing we had) and also worked with the facility personnel to do some prep work for our spring antenna work on the site. Much of the current efforts are related to upgrading/changing our feedlines, some connectors and planning for the actual antenna lift itself.

442.850 (+) : We did find the root cause for the audio issues that previously and occasionally showed up on 442.850+ repeater. The issue was tracked to a loose crimp on the audio pin that feeds into the repeater. The UT campus site is still very much under construction for the building renovations and the elevator room still has a lot of work left to be done there. We're keeping a close eye on the site to ensure the repeaters stay functioning well throughout, which included a little dust removal during our last visit.

147.27 (+): The Tech Committee has also been discussing some FM repeater function upgrades. You probably already heard the pre-recorded on-the-air announcements on 147.27. We welcome any input on them. We'll be attempting to keep the announcements changing and "current" and they will play daily at 7:30am, 3pm, 7pm and 10:30pm going forward. We'll be asking for our members to help us record some introductions and ID segments so that we can "mix it up". Rob, KV8P, and Brad, WB8RG, will be submitting the request specifics at the next general meeting. Big thanks to Chrissy, KC8UFV, for implementing a user friendly method of quickly and remotely updating/upload new announcements (making it easy for us to keep it current).

146.835 (-) : Art, K8XG, has expressed some concerns he has heard about related to the new implementation of the DG-ID functions for the Fusion radio line and how they may not integrate cleanly with the existing Wires-X installed repeaters. Art continues some research to determine the best path forward for us to ensure all operators can continue enjoying the Wires-X benefits and will make some recommendations in the near future (which may include leaving the system as-is, at least for now).

Hamfest: Chrissy is also working on the creation of some new Hamfest screens for ease in updating and displaying prizes. We sure appreciate her efforts!

Other group efforts continue on HF Radio Purchases for Field Day and other event use, antenna planning, amplifier work and research, 6 meter repeater audio mods and research, repeater controller standardization benefits and battery backup options for 147.27.

Dale's Tales

By Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Director Great Lakes Division

Greetings everyone, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for March 2018.

"So close and yet so far" as the 3Y0Z effort to put Bouvet on the air again has been delayed. The other interesting news is that the 3Y0I team who also has plans to activate Bouvet is continuing that effort. 3Y0I had delayed their schedule to allow 3Y0Z the earlier opportunity to activate. This may get very interesting as the 3Y0Y team turned down the offer from 3Y0I to collaborate for the effort.

A word about our QSL Bureaus. Two Bureaus serve the Great Lakes division as we fall into two different call areas, 4-Land and 8-Land. Each bureau operates slightly differently, but each provided the same service, getting our foreign QLS delivered to us. NO, it is not totally automatic; you must provide the bureaus with postage and/or envelopes to get your cards delivered. Each group will let you know the method they prefer. Still it all works very well and we owe a debt of gratitude to the many folks that work together to make this happen.

Basically, it typically works like this: the incoming cards are received at a central point for the respective call areas and are then sorted and bulk shipped to "Letter Managers". The Letter Manager completes the sorting process and stuffs the cards into individual envelopes we supply and mails them to us when enough cards have been accumulated. Sounds simple but keep in mind that there is an individual letter manager for the first letter in the suffix of the recipient's call. Mine is the "E" manager for example. 10 call areas times 26 letters means as many as 260 people sorting across the USA and each Letter Manager may have a couple hundred envelopes on hand. They really do deserve some thanks, don't they?

**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 Repeater;
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.

To learn more about the QSL Bureau service in the Great Lakes Division check out the following URLs. The 8th Bureau has its own web page and the 4th is linked to the ARRL page.

- 8th AREA: http://arrl-greatlakes.org/8th_bureau.htm
- 4th AREA: <http://www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service>

TOM'S COMMENTS: Comments from our Vice Director Tom Delaney, W8WTD

February saw me attending more club meetings than normal. I was trying to get around and discuss some of the changes at ARRL. Thank you all for your hospitality and your willingness to discuss issues of importance to you and the League. I was especially pleased to get your reactions on some of the work the various committees are doing on advancing education, both for our newest hams, and for all of us. I'd say more, but for the past several days I have been working mostly full-time with the Red Cross on the Disaster Relief operation for the Ohio River flooding. So these brief remarks will have to do for this month.

CONVENTIONS: Hamvention® will host the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention this year, by special request, May 18-20. Be sure to get it on your calendar. Hamvention's new venue in Xenia worked well last year and another building has been added for vendor use. Check out their web site for the latest information. <http://hamvention.org/>

In even numbered years, the Great Lakes Division's three Sections normally host their individual State Conventions. Kentucky's ARRL State Convention will be hosted by the Greater Louisville Hamfest in Shepherdsville, KY on September 8, 2018. See <http://louisvillehamfest.com/> Michigan's State ARRL Convention will be held at HamCon Brooklyn, MI on October 6-7. <http://glhamcon.org/>. While not a state convention, Ohio will be holding the Ohio Section Conference in conjunction with the Columbus Hamfest on August 4, 2018. See <http://columbushamfest.com/>

HAMFESTING: Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule covering the next couple of months. 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.

3/3/18	Cave City Hamfest	Cave City, KY
3/4/18	NOARS Hamfest	Elyria, OH
3/17/18	Crossroads Hamfest	Kalamazoo, MI
3/17/18	MOVARC Hamfest	Gallipolis, OH
3/18/18	Toledo Mobile R.A.	Perrysburg, OH
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	Chassell Hamfest	Chassell, MI
4/29/18	GMARC Hamfest	Madison Hgts, MI
4/29/18	Athens Hamfest	Athens, OH

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.

Field Day 2018

By Glenn, W8MUK

Last month I wrote about Field Day and suggested that you should start preparing now. You might want to start by thinking about the bands and modes on which you would like to operate.

Typical field day bands are 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 2 meters. The bands you choose will be partly determined by what time of day you want to operate and the band conditions at that time. TMRA is fortunate that the Wolcott House Museum, which lets us use the museum grounds and parking area, also allows us to operate all night. If you are willing to stay up late, you can work many stations that might not be available during the day. Just remember that you will need to coordinate the times you operate with other hams who may also want to operate on the band and mode you select.

Typical modes are voice, CW, and digital. You will have more opportunities to operate with the CW and digital modes because there will be less competition for bands and times. As you can guess, voice is the most popular and has the greatest potential for interference.

Interference? Unfortunately, when two or more operators want to use the same band at the same time, there will likely be interference because it is difficult to provide proper antenna separation and orientation at the field day site. The solution? It is important that every operator at field day coordinate his or her antenna location, band and mode selection, and operating times with the other operators at the field day site.

Field Day Chairman, Steve, W8TER, will help with antenna placement and coordinating operators to insure interference is minimized and everyone gets a chance to operate. For more information, contact Steve at stevebeller@gmail.com or Glenn, W8MUK, at w8muk@arrl.net.

Hamvention 2018

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



Two photos from Field Day 2013

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 at St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Road, in Maumee, Ohio, at 9:00 AM.
- The **March Mobile Fox Hunt** will be March 24 after the ARES meeting.
- **The TMRA Hamfest will be March 18, 2018 at Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH.**
- TMRA will have a bus going to **Hamvention** in May.
- **VE testing** is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or kc8tvw@arrl.net.
- Register for **CW classes** by contacting Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or kc8tvw@arrl.net.
- **Ron, N8RLH**, has ham gear from the estates of silent keys. Contact: 419-345-6382 or rlhornbeck@att.net.
- The calendar at the **TMRA website**, 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.

The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #310
Editor: Glenn, W8MUK

Email: W8MUK @ arrl.net

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

March 2018