



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

May 2018



The Prez Sez

From Brian, WD8MXR, President

This is the time of our TMRA year when several committees are busy: the Audit Committee has met and reviewed the treasury records, and will have a report at the June General meeting of the Club; the Budget Committee has developed a proposed budget for our financial year 2018-19, and will present that to the Executive Committee at its May meeting before it is presented to the general membership at our June meeting. The Nominations Committee is looking for members to run for any of the 4 Officers' positions: nominees to date are Rob KV8P for President, Tom KD8WCD for Vice-President, Zak N8ZAK for Secretary and Rich KD8WCB for Treasurer; nominations are open until closed at the June meeting before the vote takes place. The Nominations Committee members are Ron N8RLH, Glenn W8MUK, and myself.

The Club has a policy of recognizing deceased members and hospitalized members: on behalf of the TMRA members I send a sympathy card to the family of a deceased member, and the Club makes a donation in honor of the member to where-ever or whom-ever is indicated in the obituary notice. If a memorial donation decision is left up to the donors, the TMRA makes our donation in the member's name to the ARRL Scholarship Fund. As far as sending "get well" cards to hospitalized club members, with the increasing tendency for very short hospital stays as in-patients, and many procedures that used to be "in-patient" procedures now being done as "out-patient" procedures, I don't always know about what is happening or what has happened, and so a get-well card is not sent. If a member has an ill-health situation and I'm informed of it, I'll send a card on behalf of the membership, but please do not feel slighted or over-looked if a card is not sent.

We have no scheduled program for our June meeting. It will be taken up with the general membership's review of the proposed budget, and voting on it; with the election of Officers, and with information on our Field Day activities.

Starting in June, all TMRA meetings, including the General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, will start at 7:00pm local time.

73, Brian WD8MXR

Field Day is June 23 and 24 at the Wolcott House Museum on River Road in Maumee, Ohio. All TMRA Club members and their families, all ham radio operators, and members of the community in general are welcome.

ARES News

From Skeet, KD8KXD, Lucas County EC

The Lucas County ARES Meeting for May has been cancelled due to the Memorial Day weekend.

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 April VE testing. New Techs: Dawn, KE8JQC; Ken, KE8JQD; Michael, KE8JQL; Derek, KE8JQA; Robert, KE8JQG; John, KE8JQE; David, KE8JPZ; Jodie, KE8JQK; Tom, KE8JQJ; Cecil, KE8JQF; Christa, KE8JQI; Noah, KE8JQB. New Generals: Dan, KE8JQH; James, KE8EEH; Dennis, KE8JGH; Allen, KE8HQQ.

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

Hamvention 2018

TMRA will again have a bus going to Hamvention at the Clark County, Ohio Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 19. The bus will leave from the University of Toledo Scott Park Campus at 5:30 AM and return around 9:30 PM. The parking area can be accessed using the Nebraska Avenue entrance. Contact Mike, WA8SYD, for more information and to sign up to go.

May Mobile Fox Hunt

From Ron, N8RLH

The April fox hunt went very well. We had three teams and they had to work together to find the fox, Brian, WD8MXR. It took them about two hours! Congratulations to Toby and Ron, who came in first.

In the photo from left to right: Ron, N8APZ; Jim, KE8IJU; Brian, WD8MXR; Toby, KE8CZO; and Rob, KV8P.

The fox hunts for May and June are cancelled because of the Memorial Day holiday and Field Day. Next fox hunt will be in July.



The fox and the hunters

- n8rlh photo

Glass City Marathon

Many thanks to all who helped with communications to make this event a success.

Help Needed!

From Rick, K8RKS

I finally heard from the Memorial Day Parade folks. The parade is Saturday, May 26th and takes place in downtown Toledo. We'll want to be in place about 8:00 AM and the parade ends about 11:15 AM. We need about a dozen operators to do this event.

If you can help out or need more information please contact me at k8rks@arrl.net or 419-471-0573.

Tech Committee News

From Rob, KV8P

The Technical Committee stayed pretty busy last month, focused on the antenna lift and work party scheduled for April 18th. An enthusiastic team did attempt an initial lift and place for the new 224.14 and 147.27 antennas in late April. However, upon further inspection, we found that the base we anticipated using for 224.14 was not quite large enough for the antenna and wind-loading. Therefore, after some calculations, we are currently researching options and pricing for the correct roof mount base size (between 6.5' and 10' on each side). We have that information in hand and will have it available to present at the May business meeting.

The new 147.27 antenna should work fine the way it is currently planned. The team mounted the new mast section inside the tower in preparation for the lift. However, the rain started a bit earlier and the wind picked up a bit too quickly, to a point that the lift could not be completed on April 18th. We stored the new Sinclair antenna temporarily and installed a temporary antenna. The spare Comet GP-9 was installed in place of the existing 224.140 antenna and its heliack feedline moved to 147.27 to keep it "on the air" in the meantime. With the good gain values of the GP-9, it should suffice in good order until we get the new Sinclair 147.27 antenna fully lifted next month. A few additional lessons were learned along the way.

1. **More horsepower is needed for the pull of the antenna:** We plan to use a block and tackle pulley system for the next lift which should significantly increase the pulling power.
2. **Any wind at all will cause the antenna to "drift" during the lifting due to the overall length of the offset arms:** We plan to have 4 people man tag lines attached near the top for the next lift to steady the antenna for the next lift.
3. **The antenna could benefit from being supported a little higher so as to provide more weight in keeping the bottom in place and the top from drifting out during the lift:** We plan to effectively raise the gin-pole by several feet by mounting it to a spare tower section which will attach to the side of the current tower section during the lift. This should provide us room to make a support adjustment as well as to better center the antenna up over and next to the mast when it is free hanging.
4. **More man-power will be needed to support the tag line functions during the next lift attempt:** We are planning some lead time and a weekend date of Saturday, June 9th for the next attempt at the lift. This should maximize our help and allow for additional people to support the operation as dedicated Safety Officers during the lift.

Also a new higher frequency and more robust RF control link was installed during the work party on April 18th. We are happy to say that, after some adjustments by Chrissy, it appears to be functioning well and has

brought more speed and consistency to net recordings, live audio availability, and several other routine functions. Thanks to Chrissy, KC8UFV, for spearheading that.

I'm also happy to say that some of the elevator work near and around our UT campus repeaters is starting to finish up, which should soon eliminate some of the construction related interference we have been experiencing. We were able to get in and clean some of the repeater equipment during the last work-party. We faired quite a bit better than the college radio station did during the work. The UT owned FM radio station was taken off the air due to damage during the lifting of the new elevator motors during the work and a new transmitter is planned for install for them in the coming weeks.

Ham Radio Question and Answer Session **From Rob, KV8P**

We held a new learning session/class on Saturday May 5th at Fire Station #2 in Maumee called, "I just received my amateur radio license. Now what?" The class lasted for about 4.5 hours and covered many of typical questions that new amateur radio operators may have, such as:

- radio selection and options,
- antenna section and options,
- feedline selection and loss calculations,
- connector fit and choices, connector soldering,
- RG-8 series connector tricks/tips,
- power supply selection,
- Making your first call and having your first repeater conversation
- RF Chokes and interference,
- the ins and outs of purchasing used and new radio gear,
- digital modes and perks/drawbacks,
- repeater use and finding frequencies,
- band propagation,
- ARES Events and support needs,
- best repeater operating practices,
- QSL cards,
- mobile use and installations tricks/tips,
- Vanity callsign selection,
- clubs and benefits,
- and some other topics and upcoming learning opportunities.

The room was full for the event which consisted of many new hams, some returning ham operators from years past, some folks licensed within the last couple years, and many of our elmers. We have received a great deal of good feedback that most people took away some good learning from the event and would like to see it repeated after all of our upcoming technician classes, which we will surely do.

**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.

Since this was our first session offering this follow-on learning opportunity, we also welcome feedback as to items that should receive less or more emphasis (like adding shack grounding, UTC time use, etc.). We also expect to have another session, likely in the late summer/early fall where we go more in to depth on a few of these topics. Big thanks that all who attended and to those that helped to create a great experience for our new operators, giving them a way to kick-start their amateur radio journey! We hope to have many new learning opportunities, like this, where we can continue to help our new amateur radio operators learn and feel welcomed!

Museum Ships on-the Air 2018

By Tom KD8WCD

TMRA's "Team K8E" had its first of two organizational meetings at Maumee Fire Station #2 in preparation for the Museum Ships on the Air Event, June 2nd and 3rd, aboard the SS Col James M Schoonmaker. The Schoonmaker, a retired lake freighter, is moored at the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo Harbor.

We will primarily be operating 20m and 40m ssb phone, as well as 2m FM. The stations will be in the ship's "doghouse" and in the galley, as we did last year. All TMRA members are welcome to come and participate in the event, even if you have not been able to come to the planning meetings. New hams are welcome as well; and since there will be general and extra class licensee supervision, technician level members will be able to operate on the HF bands. This is not a contest, it is a fun event, so come aboard and have some fun and hang out with other hams.

Please remember that the doghouse is located on the upper deck, accessed only by a steep ladder, which is not handicapped accessible.

If you plan on operating, please sign up for logging as well. There will be an operating and logging sign-up schedule available at the next organizational meeting, the TMRA general meeting, and the day of setup. Please sign up for only one hour at a time. You may sign up for other operating/logging times, if available.

Our next and last organizational meeting will be Monday, May 7th at the Maumee Fire Station #2 at 7:00 PM to tie up loose ends and get a lesson on how to use the logging software.

Due to insurance reasons, all participants will need to be members of TMRA and registered with Team K8E. Because the doghouse is off-limits to the general public, no one will be permitted on the upper deck unless they are TMRA members with dues that are currently paid.

If any TMRA member would like to setup additional stations for other bands or modes, you may bring your own equipment and antenna to set up in the galley or in other rooms designated for operation. You may operate for any amount of time, even if it's only an hour or two. We ask that you keep a log of contacts so we can QSL contacted stations. Please contact me **in advance** so I can coordinate set-ups, operating time, and minimize operating interference.

We will be meeting at the ship on **Friday, May 25th at 10:00 AM** for antenna and station setup and testing.

On Saturday, June 2nd we are planning an early start to secure our place on the bands. We will arrive at 7:30 AM to test the stations once more and begin operations as early as we can. On Sunday June 3rd we will be operating from 11:00 AM until about 4:30 PM.

If you are interested in participating or just want more information, please email Tom, KD8WCD, at kd8wcd@yahoo.com to be put on the email list.

Field Day 2018

From Steve, W8TER

Greetings...

It is time once again for Field Day. I am ready to start putting assignments together and I need hams to undertake some tasks which will benefit our Field Day event. Below is a list of assignments.

Everyone is welcome to participate. Learn about being prepared by taking part in the food and the field day experience. Learn what it takes to operate in an emergency setup. Be successful by being part of the learning process.

If you can undertake any one of the tasks it would be most helpful and we need a lot of help to make field day a success. Last year's Field day was very successful and a great deal of fun. If you decide to manage one of the tasks, please reach out to a club member who may not have been active in last year's Field Day to assist and work with you, so the task can be shared. "Many hands make light work."

Elmers, and there are many of you, please let me know which task(s) you might be willing to manage. Field day was developed to test our preparedness for operating outside and doing it efficiently. I have spoken with Jack Hiles who is the curator for the Wolcott House site and he has given us permission to use any of the buildings we used last year.

Tasks that need to be done:

- Create a menu and organize the meals.
- Pick up items from the storage locker.
- Setup tent.
- Setup signage.

Tasks that will get us points:

1. Setup free VHF Station
2. Organize volunteer for the Get On The Air(GOTA) station
3. Operate and setup clubs' generators
4. Set up public information table
5. Send a formal radiogram message to the ARRL Section Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator.
6. Send 10 formal messages by radiogram to legitimate addresses
7. Attempt to make one satellite contact
8. Use solar panels and a battery to make 5 contacts
9. Copy completely the W1AW Bulletin
10. Organize an educational activity about amateur radio
11. Recruit kids under 18 to operate and make contacts
12. Promote our field day event using social media
13. Undertake the position of safety officer and complete a lengthy check list
14. Elmer and coordinate use of the 160 and 80 meter bands
15. Elmer and coordinate use of the 40 and 15 meter bands
16. Elmer and coordinate use of the 20 and 10 meter bands.

Help is needed.

Our Debt to the Past

[From the Editor: At the April TMRA general meeting, Mike, WA8SYD, spoke about our debt to the ham radio operators who came before us. He urged us to remember and honor them. His comments were well taken. If you have stories you would like to share about ham radio of the past, I would like to put them in the newsletter. The following article is reprinted from the December 2015 Issue of The Beacon.]

Recently, Ron, N8RLH, and I visited an old-timer retiring from ham radio to pick up several items of equipment he wanted us to sell and anonymously share the proceeds with TMRA. During our visits and in an email, he shared some of his ham radio and military radio experience. He entered the hobby in 1957 and earned his amateur extra license in 1963. He was active in local emergency communications and in MARS radio for the military. To honor his elmer, he proudly obtained his call sign when it became available.

As I thought about his story, it reminded me we owe a great debt to those hams who worked hard to develop their skills and to safeguard our hobby for future generations. Men like him (and my father, too) loved ham radio and benefited from the experience. We can enjoy ham radio because of those who came before us and the tireless work of ARRL. In this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we should take a moment to be grateful. Just as we should say thanks to our military veterans for their service, we should also say thanks to those ham radio “old timers” for their service to our hobby.

Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

Happy Days Past . . .

Here’s a photo of a TMRA work party from a few years ago. Thanks to Brenda, KB8IUP, for identifying Mike Kehr, Bill Kellor, Pat Kehr and grandson Stephen.

Can you identify anyone in the picture? Do you know who the photographer was? Let me know: w8muk@arrl.net



Remember, beginning in June the TMRA General Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

EME to Europe From Tony, N8WAC

I thought you would like this story for the newsletter about my EME contacts.

My station consists of a Kenwood TS2000, a W6PQL 1200 watt amplifier running at 500 watts, an 18 element Yagi, a Mirage in-shack preamplifier, and 170 feet of LMR400 coax. A far cry from an expected EME station. The W6PQL amp was purchased a few years ago from a fellow that was at the Dayton hamfest.

The QSL card from Germany was my second 144 MHz EME contact. My 1st was on Jan 20, 2018, with I2FAK in Italy. I haven't received my QSL card from this contact as yet.

DK4RC /p /m Roland Becker
Gartenstraße 8
08496 Neumark/Sachs., Germany

IS CONFIRMING OUR QSO YOUR SWL REPORT

TO RADIO			VIA			
D	M	Y	UTC	MHz	2-WAY	R S T
30	I	2018	23:15	144,143	JT65b	-0-
/	/	/	/	/	/	-20dB

REMARKS: 70ft. 4x m2 XP20
PT: 50846, LNA: 17F5443
TU FT FB EME-QSO

TNX FR NICE QSO ES HPE CUAGN
 PSE QSL TNX QSL

PSE QSL DIRECT OR VIA DARC QSL BUREAU
LINDENALLEE 4 34225 BAUNATAL GERMANY

73 Roland

CG ZONE 14
ITU ZONE 28
LOC JO60EQ
DOK X 28

Neumark

This spring I will be building a dedicated EME antenna consisting of stacked 9 elements with elevation, 80 feet of 7/8 inch hardline and the preamp at the antenna. This setup should make me many EME contacts.

Hamfests from Dale's Tales By Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Director Great Lakes Division

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

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
7/8/18	20/9 Radio Club	Austintown, OH
7/21/18	GARS Hamfest	Germantown, OH
7/21/18	Gladwin Hamfest	Gladwin, MI
7/21/18	NOARS Fest	Elyria, OH
7/22/18	Van Wert	Van Wert, OH
7/28/18	Big Sandy Hamfest	Louisa, KY
7/28/18	CMARC Hamfest	Lansing, MI
7/29/18	Portage Hamfest	Ravenna, OH

[Editor's Note: Dale's Tales was edited to fit the space available.]

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. **New meeting time is 7:00 PM.**
- 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.
- 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.
- The next **Mobile Fox Hunt** will be July 28 after the ARES meeting.
- **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.

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