



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

The Toledo Mobile Radio Association is an ARRL Special Services Club Serving Northwest Ohio Since 1953



FEBRUARY 2004

The Prez Sez:

Well, our time has come. As most of you already know, our negotiations with Teltec have ended. We were hoping for a reasonable and gracious offer from them, which we think they could have done very easily. Instead, they presented us with a contract for our rooftop location that had everything in their favor. We didn't have any way to end the offered three year contract short of paying for a full three years, albeit at a reduced rate. What they were asking for was about half of the normal rate they can get for such a site, with a lot of stipulations for us. But even still, we wouldn't be in a very good financial state at the end had we done that. So, we are now in need of a new permanent home for our machines. We need suggestions from all amateurs, members or otherwise, to help us make the best of the situation.

On a brighter note, on the topic of membership, we currently stand at 147 members. Not bad at all, so early in the year. Keep those renewals coming! The two lucky members who turned in their applications before the end of last year and are the winners of the free membership for 2005 are: James Head, WD8MOQ (new member) and Bob Taylor, WD8OJK. Thanks to all who renewed early and congratulations to James and Bob.

Besides our repeater situation, the next big thing in the works is our annual TMRA Hamfest. It will be held on Sunday, March 21. This event is especially important now that we may have to pay for a new location for our repeaters, we just don't know yet. But it is still crucial that we all pitch in and help to make the hamfest as successful as possible. Please make an offer of your services, every little bit can help. Check with Brian, WD8MXR, this year's hamfest chairman, or another member of the hamfest committee to see how you can help the club during our annual fundraiser.

Hopefully you can see how all of these topics tie together, and that none of this would be possible without you, the members. You contribute to help make the hamfest successful, which provides the necessary funds to benefit our club, and thus our society in several ways. Like our contributions to local colleges and the LCARES for example. Also, our communications capabilities (repeaters, etc.), and volunteer services for local events such as the Glass City Marathon. And our members also get gratification knowing that we provide such services, and reap benefits from them also. We get to enjoy dependable, good quality communications equipment purchased for the club, from the hamfest proceeds. I hope all of this makes sense to you, and makes you think about how your membership is more than just a card with your name on it. There is just so much more involved than that.

73 de KB8PAI
Tom Swartz, President and Membership Chairman
KB8PAI@ARRL.NET

Next TMRA Meeting will be on February 11. Electrical Industry Building, Northwood, OH.
Check into the TMRA Q & A Net at 6:30 pm, and the Swap-N-Shop Net at 7:30 pm, Sunday evening.



Steve, W8TER, demonstrates some of the equipment in the ARES truck and trailer, at the January meeting.

LCARES

Corner

by Brent Stover,
WD8PNZ

January's meeting was held at the #1 Fire-station where the ARES vehicle is stationed.

Mike, KC8FUG, announced that he would be resigning the position of Lucas County EC and that Brenda, KB8IUP, would be the new EC for Lucas County. A round of applause

and thanks from present members for the work Mike has put into LCARES was given as well as best wishes to Brenda in her new position.

All Skywarn net controls will need to fill out background check forms for the Lucas County Sheriffs Dept. for access to the 911 Center. This will be an annual procedure and forms will be available at February's ARES meeting.

Steve W8TER conducted training on the ARES vehicle and trailer, going over all the equipment and taking suggestions on storage of accessories and organizing the equipment that is on the vehicles. If anyone is interested in training to drive the ARES vehicle contact Steve for scheduling. The batteries for the Motorola Fire Department radios must be charged once a month and members signed up on a list for the last week in each month to come down to the #1 Fire Station to do this. If you are interested in volunteering to charge batteries contact Steve to see what months are still available.

February's meeting is scheduled to be at the #1 Fire-station again. Any changes will be announced on the LCARES net at 6:40 pm, on the 146.940- repeater.

OTHER TOLEDO AREA AMATEUR RADIO ORGANIZATIONS

ARES

Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of the month in the "Private Dining Room" in St. Luke's Hospital, at 9:00 AM. You are welcome to meet in the cafeteria for breakfast before the meeting.

Alternate meeting locations and information will be announced on the daily 6:40 PM net. Contact Mike, KC8FUG at 419-872-1880. **ARES NTS and Training Net** meets daily at 6:40 PM. 146.940- Alternate frequencies are: 147.375+ or 147.270+. **SKYWARN Net** as needed by the NWS, 147.375+ Alternate frequencies are 146.940-, 147.270+ or others announced by "net control".

GTARA (146.610-) Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM.

Contact Martha, KA8AA, 419-3822529. **SARA** Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Springfield Twp. Hall, 7617 Angola Rd. at 7:30 PM. Contact Tom, N8MAV, 419-826-7401.

TRAC (147.375+, 146.940-) Meets 1st Thursday of the month at the Springfield Twp. Hall, 7617 Angola Rd. at 7:30 PM. Contact Terry Caldwell, KC8HQB, 419-874-2173.

QCWA Chapter 142, meets 1st Saturday of the month at The Big Boy Restaurant, 6609 Airport Hwy. (Across from Spring Meadows) Contact Paul Lentz, K8PL, 419-882-5906. Or email, plentzk8pl@juno.com

FRAT (52.360, 146.835-, 224.280-, 444.650+) Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month. FRAT net follows the Rain Dialup and Amateur News Weekly on Thursday nights starting at 8:30 PM.

The **TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon** is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, and Chuck, KB8FXJ. Email, kb8iup@arrl.net

Selling your ham gear? To whom?

I recently took advantage of ARRL's Classified ads to list a FT-840 and matching power supply. I've done this before, listed items for sale through ARRL's ads. I works great. But recently I received this reply from some one wanting to buy my gear...or do they?

(Note. This is the original transcript e-mail that I received)

"We are interested in buying your above mentioned products at advertised rate. Goods to be picked up from your location for onward shipping to London. Cost and modalities of shipping to be born by us.

Payment for the purchase is by check through a debtor in US. The debtor owes us higher than our purchase. He will therefore be sending you a check for \$5,000 to cover the cost of our order, as well as the Shipping costs.

On receipt of the check, you will cash and deduct the cost of our order. The balance you will send as we would instruct you to the Agency that will ship the Goods to us. If this arrangement suites you fine, please send us your address where to send the check, as well as the name to be on it. Also send us your phone number for easy communication.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Best Regards

MR. JOHN MARLES."

Does this sound like a deal or what? Too good to be true? Yes it is.

I immediately sought input from the FBI because I thought there was something wrong and it did not seem like good business practice to me. They confirmed my suspicions. "Some one is attempting to defraud you" I was told. Then they explained how the scam works. First I receive the check, put it in the bank. The bank will clear the check. I then send the gear and the money to the previously arraigned address satisfied that I have my money. What happens is the check has to clear an overseas bank. It will not clear and they will go back on my bank who will come to me. Legally, I would be responsible for the money. They advised me to contact www.ic3.gov, which I did, and filed a complaint with them.

It was suggested to me not to respond to their requests. The only response I wanted to give them was "SORRY JOHN, BUT I DON'T SELL HAM GEAR TO THE UNLICENSED".

It occurred to me that if they tried to dupe me then they may have tried to dupe the other people selling on ARRL's site. I shot an e-mail off to The Great Lakes Director, Jim Weaver explaining the situation and asked if he could contact the folks at ARRL and let them know what was happening with this situation. He promptly notified them and put them on the alert.

That is why I'm writing this article. I want to put the rest of the hams on alert that there are people out there that may try to take advantage of us through our hobby interests.

When selling your ham gear, make it a point to try to know who you are selling to. I always ask the person who is buying from me at a hamfest or through ARRL, E-BAY etc. "ARE YOU A LICENSED HAM?" "CAN I SEE YOUR LICENSE?", I have been complimented several times for doing that. If they are carrying a radio

and intend to use it, then they should be carrying their FCC license too. If I deal with them through the internet, I look them up in the call book or through QRZ or the FCC data base. If I don't get a valid license, then I don't sell them the gear.

Stephen L. Bellner, W8TER
Maumee, Ohio

ARLB003 ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2004 1:05 AM

The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'"

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

The Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. Sumner said the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment should include basic Morse capability. Current Novice, Tech Plus and General licensees would receive lifetime 5 WPM Morse credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said. Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice reformatting" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter current HF subbands.

The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

See "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, for the specific subband allocations ARRL is proposing for each class.

Highlights of the Ohio Section News for February, 2004

FEBRUARY SECTION NEWS - By now you have heard the American Radio Relay League Board of Directors at the January meeting has proposed streamlining Amateur Radio Licensing. They also proposed a new Novice license with limited HF privileges. Read the proposal, complete with proposed new band plans. BUT REMEMBER THIS IS ONLY A PROPOSAL TO THE FCC. An NPRM will be assigned and I'm sure there will be plenty of comments to improve these proposals before any final FCC determination.

OHIO NET NEWS - Ohio Single Side Band Net has a new Net Manager. Ron West, N8OD, of Lagrange, had to resign for health reasons and William Baker, KC8OKJ, of Sebina, will finish out Ron's term. The semiannual meeting of the OSSBN will be at the 11 a.m. forum, Feb. 8 at the Mansfield Hamfest.

OHIO CLUB NEWS - Affiliated Clubs Coordinator Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, of Monclova, has been appointed Emergency Coordinator for Lucas County (Toledo) effective immediately. Due to the extra duties as EC (along with her running the Toledo Hamfest at Maumee in March), she is asking the ACC position be reappointed. Brenda said she will remain as ACC until a successor is named. If you wish to be considered, please write the Section Manager (<k8qoe@arrl.org>).

OHIO SECTION REMINDER - Check your amateur radio license. About to be expired? Time to update with the FCC. Also check your ham call automobile plates. Are these expired also?

OHIO SECT CONGRATS (A) To Jim Foote, K8KSN as the recipient of the 2003 TUSCO Member of the Year award, (B) To Lucas Vega, N8VL as Mahoning Valley ARC Ham of the Year for 2003, (C) To Earnest Howard, Sr., N8EH (formerly WD8DEZ), retiring as Monroe Chief of Police after 42 year career in law enforcement including long time Assistant Chief of Middletown Police Department, (D) To Kevin Halloran, W8PKH, for story in the Kenton Times and his work in informing local civil officials about the benefits of ham radio.

OHIO SECTION FEBRUARY HAMFESTS... Feb. 1, Northern Ohio ARS in Lorain. Feb. 8, Mansfield.

TMRA General Meeting –

January 14, 2004

Electrical Industry Building Rossford, Ohio

- ▶ The meeting was called to order by President Tom Swartz, KB8PAI at 1945 hours. After the Pledge of Allegiance and member introductions, minutes of November general meeting were approved upon a motion by Jon, K6JON, which was seconded by Bob, K8ADK.

- ▶ Treasurer's Report: Chuck, N8NIR presented the Treasurer's Report for the period 11/12/03 to 1/14/04.
- ▶ President's Report/Membership Committee: President Tom Swartz, KB8PAI, reported that we now have 217 members. The drawing for 2 free memberships for 2005 will be tonight
- ▶ Vice President's Report: Steve, W8TER, thanked all for a great '03. He looks forward to a great '04. He also has stickers bearing the club logo are on sale for \$1. He also congratulated Tom, KB8PAI on doing a super job as membership chairman. He also said that the Sunday night net is going very well. VEC testing at Maumee Fire Station #2, near the w8ter tower.

- ▶ ▶ Committee Reports:
 - ▶ Technical: Chuck, N8NIR, reported that we have a contract now from Teletech. It's not very encouraging. We cannot afford to stay! Chuck will take a copy of the contract to the Club attorney. When and if we find out anything more on the situation he will call for an emergency board meeting.
 - ▶ Hamfest: Brian, WD8MXR, reported that we still need volunteers for the hamfest!
 - ▶ A. R. E. S.: No meeting in December. Next meeting will take place January 24th at 9:00am
 - ▶ Newsletter: Chuck, KB8FXJ, Wants everyone to just keep on sending him articles. The newsletter will soon be available on the TMRA website in a PDF format.
 - ▶ Programs: Jim, KC8BAA, Will have some future programs on scanners and short-wave radio. This evenings program will be on cell phones, with Mike Ball, N8KLZ. Mike also became our newest member of the club tonight.
 - ▶ Public Service Projects: Bob, K8ADK, informed us that he is looking for someone to take over the position of Public Service Coordinator. Chuck, KB8FXJ made the suggested that someone take the job of coordinator and have a chairman of each event.

- ▶ ▶ Old Business: None.
- ▶ ▶ New Business: Drawing for two 1 year free memberships. Winners were James, WD8MOQ and Robert, WD8OJK

- ▶ Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2145 hours upon a motion by Scott, N8BIR, which was seconded by Scott, KC8TVO .

Respectfully submitted,

Randi, KC8IVV
Secretary

There are no items to list on the Swap-N-Shop page this month.

TMRA
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43697-9673

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February 2004

Mark your calendars and sign up to help with these events this year.

March 14, -- Churchills ½ Marathon, 1:00 pm, Monclova area. Contact Ron, 419-841-7117.
April 25, -- Glass City Marathon, 8:00 am. Contact Bob, K8ADK, 419-382-2529.
June 6, -- Tour de Cure, 8:00 am. Contact Chuck, KB8FXJ, 419-866-5928.
June 20, -- Maumee Bay State Park Tri-athalon, 8:00 am. Event Chairman needed.
July 25, -- Ohio/Michigan 4 Mile Run, 8:30 am. Event Chairman needed.
August 14, -- Sylvania Superkids, 7:30 am. Event Chairman needed.
August 15, -- Sylvania Tri-Athalon, 7:30 am. Event Chairman needed.
September 26, -- Toledo Classic 10K, 9:00 am. Event Chairman needed

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673
President, Tom, KB8PAI; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Randi, KC8IVV;
Treasurer, Chuck, N8NIR; Public Information Officer, Paul, N8XDB.

TMRA Home Page www.tmrahamradio.org Webmaster, Corey, KC8HQQ

TMRA W8HHF Repeaters; 29.680-, 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) Please "ID" before using phone-patch.
(10 digit dialing, *up and #down)

TMRA W8HHF Packet BBS Frequencies 51.780, 145.690, 223.480, 441.060

The TMRA meets at 7:30 PM every second Wednesday in
The Electrical Industry Building, Lime City Rd. Rossford, Ohio.

The TMRA information net meets every Sunday night at 8:30 PM, followed by the "Swap 'N-Shop" net on the linked
147.270+ and 442.850+ repeaters. All amateurs are invited to check-in. Voice Mail 419-535-6594