



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

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



FEBRUARY 2005

## The Prez Sez:

Shortly after I wrote my article for the last issue of the *Beacon* we had another member become a silent key. Sadly, Don Lahote, K8IXL passed away right after Christmas day. Like those before him, he too will be missed.

We are almost into our busiest season. The Great Lakes Division Convention that we are hosting is on March 19th, our TMRA Hamfest is the next day, and Skywarn training sometime in the near future, and soon after that will be the related stormy weather. Mark these events on your calendars and please make it a point to be a part of one or all of these activities, whether it is as a volunteer or as an attendee. Either way, your participation would be greatly appreciated, and make sure to spread the word around!

At the last General meeting we had our drawing for the winners of the free membership for 2006. The two lucky winning members who were eligible because they renewed their memberships early were: Rita Baker, WB8FBG, and Larry Bennett, WA8SKA. Congratulations to both of you. We finished 2004 with 206 members, and are currently at approximately 124 for 2005. And for those of you who haven't renewed yet, it's never too late. But don't put it off too long, we'll soon have to drop you from the mailing list. Please don't let that happen!

Also at the last General meeting, after much discussion, we were able to pass some of the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Specifically, the 'By-Laws' section itself. We still need to finalize the details for passing the 'Articles' section. You should find that information elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter, and we should be able to complete this matter at the next General meeting. Soon after that another mailing will be provided to the membership containing the full By-Laws document, as I had noted before in the 'roster mailing packet' that was sent to all members.

And finally, I thought I would make mention of something I read that 'hit home' with me. If you belong to the ARRL (and I recommend that everyone should), you most likely get *QST* magazine. Now mind you, I don't take advantage of half of the benefits of ARRL membership, but I religiously believe that the ARRL is just about our only hope to ultimately protect our hobby, and that we should support them in every way. One way we can help do our part is by using these resources (frequencies) to show how we cherish what has been bestowed upon us. 'Use it or lose it', as they say. Along those lines, though I've gotten a little off track, if you take the time to read the "*It seems to us...*" article *QST, February, 2005, pg. 9*, you might be able to understand another way we can help ourselves by fostering the hobby. I don't know about you, but it made me think.

73 de KB8PAI

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

## A Good News/Bad News Product Review

Recently there has been advertised on television the "Cold Heat" soldering iron. I have been intrigued with the possibilities of using a battery-operated soldering iron. I ran across this soldering iron at Home Depot recently and decided to try it out. This is a product review.

The "Cold Heat" soldering iron operates on four AA batteries and has a durable plastic case. The actual element used for heating is a ceramic tip made from a patented material called Athalite. The tip resembles the shape of a cow's hoof. There is a distinct split through the center of the heating element. Just below the base of the tip is a bright white LED, which serves to illuminate the operator's work. The instructions clearly state that this particular element is designed for 18 to 20 gauge wire. Also available for purchase (not at Home Depot) is a conical element designed for 21 to 25 gauge wire. Upon learning this, I became skeptical about my chances for success with this tool.

Before revealing any of the results I experienced with the soldering iron I want to make something clear: The "Cold Heat" soldering iron is not a soldering iron; instead it is a small, battery operated arc welder. To heat a piece of wire the user must place the wire across both sides of the heating element. Only then does the current flow and begin to heat the wire. Tiny arcs of current can be seen jumping from the element to the wire. According to the directions, the operator then places the solder wire on the heating element completing the joint.

One who wishes to use this iron must discard most of his or her previously learned skills about soldering, as they do not pertain. Traditional soldering involves transferring heat from the electrically heated element of the iron to the wire or wires and solder. Having never operated an arc welder using this tool was a real challenge. I guess I expected more than this little tool can deliver. After soldering an end of a piece of 18 gauge stranded wire I found it difficult to even see if there was solder on the wire. Soldering two wires together was even more difficult. The current just was not able to heat the two wires and the solder to form a good bond.

I have been on an ARES operation before only to discover the need to repair a PL-259. I felt this tool would be a terrific component for a GO-kit. Just to say I tried, I attempted to solder a section of RG 58 to a PL 259. The "Cold Heat" soldering tool was unable to heat the center conductor of the PL-259 and the coaxial cable and the solder wire all at the same time.

In the television commercials, the company takes great effort to show that the tip can be handled just seconds after shutting off the current. This claim is true. The ceramic tip dissipates the heat very quickly.

Even though the "Cold Heat" soldering iron is not a bad product, I am a little hesitant to believe this tool is able to achieve some of its claims, such as attaching a piece of wire to a speaker. It does appear capable of very simple, light duty projects. However, in view of my requirements as an amateur radio operator, for soldering circuit boards, wire and PL-259's, this product is not capable of producing the heavy-duty joints I require.

### OTHER TOLEDO AREA AMATEUR RADIO ORGANIZATIONS

#### ARES

Lucas County Amateur Radio  
Emergency Service meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Brenda, KB8IUP at 419-866-5928. **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM. Contact Martha, K8AAC.

**SARA** Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at The Big Boy Restaurant, 1402 Reynolds Road, Maumee. (next to Hampton-Inn hotel ) Contact Paul Lentz, K8PL, 419-882-5906. Or email, [pelentzk8pl@juno.com](mailto:pelentzk8pl@juno.com)

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

Home Depot's price for the soldering tool was \$19.95. More information about the tool can be found at [www.ColdHeat.com](http://www.ColdHeat.com).

I returned the "Cold Heat" soldering tool for a refund. I still wanted a tool that gave me the ability to solder without my dependence on 110 volts. I found, also at Home Depot, the "BernzOmatic MicroTorch." This is a hand-held propane torch. The length of the flame can be varied. But what really attracted me to this tool is the inclusion of a soldering tip. This is a separate tip, which is fitted over the nozzle of the torch. When operated according to the directions, the soldering tip is heated to its nominal operating temperature in about 90 seconds. I tried it out on wire and on a PL-259. The results were perfect. The solder flowed neatly into the wire and the joints were strong.

As anyone who has done soldering can attest, even the simplest task almost inevitably requires a third hand. The one feature I really liked about the "MicroTorch" is the inclusion of a removable plastic base. This allowed me to use the torch hands-free to concentrate on handling the wires and solder.

I recommend the "BernzOmatic MicroTorch" for those needing a cord free soldering iron. Price: \$25.49.

James Easter  
WD8IOL

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## **FAR Scholarship Time**

*The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.*, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer fifty-five (55) scholarships for the academic year 2005 -2006 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds three of these scholarships. Ten are funded with the income from grants. The remaining forty-two (42) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2005 from: FAR Scholarships  
Post Office Box 831  
Riverdale, MD 20738

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

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS OF THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC., A CORPORATION NOT FOR PROFIT.**

Current as of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000-  
(With layout and typographical modifications made in September of 2002, by Tom Swartz, KD8PAI)

Current as of **November 18th, 2004 (pending / date of approval)**

**ARTICLES:**

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:**

ARTICLE I. NAME.

~~The name of this corporation shall be TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION.~~

The name of this corporation shall be TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION, **INC.**

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES.

The purposes for which this corporation are formed are:

1. The primary purposes are to operate a non-profit corporation for educational and scientific purposes as follows:
  - a. To educate and increase the proficiency of its members in the science of radio communication.
    - b. To provide for dissemination of information among its members concerning scientific advancement and progress in the field of radio communication.
    - c. To organize and train units of licensed radio amateurs capable of maintaining radio communications as a public service during periods of emergency.
    - d. To encourage and sponsor experimental activities in radio communication and electronics, to the end that skills and experience gained in amateur radio will further the application of electronics to the benefit of the public at large.
    - e. To promote the elevation of standards of practice and ethics in the conduct of amateur radio communication.
2. The general purposes and powers are to have and exercise all rights and powers conferred on a corporation not for profit under the laws of the State of Ohio, including the power to contract, rent, buy or sell personal or real property, provided, however, that this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the primary purposes of this corporation.
3. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III. NON-PROFIT PURPOSES.

This corporation is organized pursuant to the corporation not for profit laws of the State of Ohio, Section 17022.01 et seq Revised Code of Ohio. This corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof, and it is organized for non-profit purposes.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPAL OFFICE.

The place in the State of Ohio where the principal office of this corporation is to be located is at P.O. Box ~~273-9673~~, Toledo, Ohio 43697-~~0273-9673~~ **9673**.

ARTICLE V. MANAGEMENT.

The general management of the affairs of this corporation shall be under the control, supervision and direction of the Board of Trustees.

## ARTICLE VI. BY-LAWS.

The qualifications of members of this corporation, the different classes of membership, if any, the voting and other rights of members, the amount of dues payable, the number of trustees and officers and the method of their election, and other details of internal operation of this corporation shall be as set forth in the By-Laws.

## ARTICLE VII. DEDICATION OF ASSETS.

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to educational and scientific purposes, and no part of its ~~unbudgeted~~ net income or assets shall ever ~~insure~~ ~~inure~~ to the benefit of any Trustees, Officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private individual. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this corporation, its assets remaining after the payment of, or provision for the payment of, all debts and liabilities shall be distributed to The American Radio Relay League, Inc., if it is then still in ~~existence~~ ~~existence~~ and exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code: but if it is not then in ~~existence~~ ~~existence~~ or exempt, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS.

These Articles may be amended at any regular meeting of this corporation by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members (as defined in the By-Laws) present, with notice of the proposed amendment having been submitted in writing at a previous regular meeting.

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## Annual Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> QSL Bureau From It's New Location

By Jay Slough, K4ZLE, West Chester, Ohio (Bureau Chief)

The year 2004, was the first full year that the 8th Area QSL bureau (Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia) was been located at the former VOA Bethany Relay Station in West Chester, Ohio. The QSL Bureau facilities are now part of the new VOA Radio Museum being developed by local ham radio operators and local Veterans groups under the sponsorship of the West Chester Division of Parks and Recreation.

Upon receipt cards are first bulk sorted by the first letter after the numeral. This is being done by members of the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, who also operate ham radio station WC8VOA at the VOA location. Once every 4 to 8 weeks the sorted cards are boxed and mailed to the letter managers where they are further sorted and placed into your envelopes. Once your envelope is full, it is then mailed to you.

Last year the bureau handled 135,000 cards, down 15,000 from the 150,000 in 2003. More detailed information on how the bureau operates can be found on the web at <http://home.fuse.net/jslough/w8buro.html> .

Your individual letter managers are listed on the web site. Remember all of your bureau workers are volunteers. These men and women, some are not even active DXers, love the hobby enough to freely give their time and effort as a service to the DX community. Their desire is to provide first class service and for the most part, they do. Sometimes family commitments, vacations and work schedules impose an additional delay in the distribution system. However, in the big scheme of things where it takes an average of more than one year to turn a card around through the bureau system, that occasional week or two additional delay is minimal. If you appreciate your letter manager's effort, let 'em know. The positive feedback they receive is not adequately proportional to the positive work they do for you.

Bureau correspondence can be directed to the bureau manager, Jay Slough, K4ZLE at: [k4zle@arrl.net](mailto:k4zle@arrl.net) . C U in the pile-ups.

ARRL Ohio Section Section Manager: Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE

[k8qoe@arrl.org](mailto:k8qoe@arrl.org)

## Highlights of the Section News

(Ohio Section) for February, 2005

February Section News - By now everyone should be aware that late-December/January was a most active month for our ARES program in the Section. SEC John Chapman, WB8INY, acting on reports from the nine District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) said from December 22 when the snow and freezing rain hit; Ohio residents were served by most county ARES organizations in closed roads, downed power lines (some power was off six days in Central Ohio) and flooding. Some 57 (of 88) Ohio counties were declared disaster areas for some weather related problem in the past five weeks. For comparison purposes, normal flooding affects 15 to 20 counties and not until mid-March. Reports are still coming in, but agencies served include EMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army and others. The Red Cross opened over forty shelters during the period. Thanks to all who assisted!

Riley Coming Here - March 19 in Toledo for the Great Lakes Division March Convention. Riley, K4ZDH, our chief enforcer at the FCC will not only be the evening banquet speaker but will conduct an hour long FCC Seminar in the afternoon sessions. And it is the Seminars which are the hallmark of a Division Convention. Quality Seminars which will be scheduled allow you to attend four of the seven offered. Beside the FCC conducted by Riley, this year's lineup includes: (1) DX Seminar by Wayne Mills, N7NG/1; (2) High Speed Multi-Media (HSMM) by John Champa, K8OCL; (3) Setting up Your HF Mobile Station by Darrell Pace, N8NTS; (4) WinLink 2000 by Ohio SEC John Chapman, WB8INY; (5) PSK-31 by Ed Triplett, KT8U and (6) Ham Radio Clubs conference organized by Michigan ACC Dan Romanchik, KB6NU. Remember your Convention ticket is a free pass to the Toledo Hamfest next day

Ohio Section Club News - ACC Mark Rising, WM8R, Mainville, has resigned for personal reasons. The SM hopes to fill the position by March. Thank you Mark for your service to the Section - as we all must remember, family comes first. Anyone who wishes to become a candidate, please contact SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE, ([k8qoe@arrl.org](mailto:k8qoe@arrl.org)) by February 14.

Milford ARC has offered the winter issue of the Ohio Section Journal on its club web site. Good idea. For other clubs with web sites, the OSJ can be downloaded from <[www.iarc.ws](http://www.iarc.ws) <<http://www.iarc.ws/ohio/default.html>> >. Or E-mail Ohio PIC Scott Yonally, N8SY, [n8sy@iarc.ws](mailto:n8sy@iarc.ws)

The Sandusky Radio Experimental League (W8LBZ) officers for 2005 are: President; Luther Gantz N8HC; Veep; Gene Schumacher, W8VMW, Sec/tres. Don Ohlemacher, K8RPU; and Transmitter Trustee Tom Troike, WA8VOE.

Ohio Section Remembers - District Emergency Coordinator (Dist. 5) Jim Miller, K8EIO, (SK) who also served as EC of Summit County (Akron). Jim died in late December. His outstanding service will always be remembered.

Ohio Section Suggests - More ARES groups and/or local ham radio clubs copy a recent report by the Stark County ARES (Canton/Massillon) under the leadership of Emergency Coordinator David Beltz, WD8AYE. The group made public a complete local manpower report - all the stats. These stats have to be collected for monthly reports. But the final numbers are often reported to the SEC but are unknown throughout the ham community. Making public these stats not only reinforces the worth of ham radio but also encourages everyone to increase the numbers (ARES participation).

Ohio Section Net News - Henry Koenig, WD8Q, invites all who wish to practice CW operation to the Ohio Slow Net (OSN) each night at 6:10 p.m. (1810) on 3.708 MHz. Speeds generally range 10 to 12 WPM but will slow down for those who need the practice. This is a traffic net as well.

Ohio Section February Hamfests (6, Sunday) NOARS Winterfest by the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society. Official web site is <[www.geocities.com/k8krq/winterfe.htm](http://www.geocities.com/k8krq/winterfe.htm)>. Other info, contact: Tom Porter, W8KYZ, 161 Herrmann Drive, Avon Lake, OH 44012, phone: 440-930-9115. And (13, SUNDAY) Mid\*Winter Hamfest and Computer Show by the InterCity ARC. Official web site <http://www.iarc.ws>. For more information, contact: Deane Wrasse, KB8MG, 1094 Beal Road, Mansfield, OH 44905, Phone: 419-522-9893 or E-mail <<mailto:%3Cdeanwrasse@yahoo.com>> [deanwrasse@yahoo.com](mailto:deanwrasse@yahoo.com) .

de Joe Phillips, K8QOE,  
Ohio Section Manager

## Here Is An Easy Way To Promote Ham Radio

Last week Toledo, Ohio residents heard regular 30 second ham radio announcements on a commercial radio station. These public service announcements (PSA) were given to Toledo Radio Station WSPD (1370KHz) by TMRA Public Information Officer Steve Stalker, KC8TVW. Steve had discovered and utilized one of the easiest methods to promote our hobby. You can do it too.

Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, asks that hams all over Ohio do the same thing - getting a ham radio message regularly broadcast on commercial radio. "FCC rules obligate commercial radio stations to play for free these PSA announcements as one requirement for holding a station broadcast license," said SM Phillips. "The ARRL has made it easy to obtain 30 second ARRL PSAs and to make available to your local radio station."

The method could not be easier. Just go to the main ARRL web site located at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and locate the menu item - media resources. Click on media resources and the procedure for downloading PSA announcements is explained. Make computer disk copies of these announcements and deliver to your favorite radio station. These stations are ever on the look out for fresh PSAs to run. These new public service announcements were produced by Alan Pitts, W1AGP, who recently took over the ARRL Media Relations Office at Newington. They were recorded broadcast quality and use professional talent.

ARRL Ohio Section  
Section Manager: Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE  
[k8qoe@arrl.org](mailto:k8qoe@arrl.org)

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## TMRA Swap And Shop:

Current As Of January 23, 2005

### *For Sale:*

Don KC8EHC 734-693-4337: Yaesu all mode 2/440/6m + HF tcvr # FT-847 with manual. Yaesu 10m tcvr # FT-890. KLM RF power amp 160w out.

Date renewed 1/2/05 \*\*\*

### *Free-For-The-Taking*

Steve W8TER 419-893-9106 Toshiba copier # BD8510 – 3 different sized letter trays, sorter, stand, large capacity tray and operating manual.

Date renewed 1/2/05 \*\*\*

The Swap and Shop is a service of the TMRA, open to all amateurs or interested persons in the coverage area of the repeater. To list items of Amateur Radio interest, check into the Net Sunday evenings after the TMRA Information Net on 147.27/87, or call me at 419-385-5624, or mail to my address, or leave a message for me on the TMRA packet BBS W8HHF, or if you see me in person, or to my e-mail [bharrington@mco.edu](mailto:bharrington@mco.edu)

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**Attend the next TMRA meeting on Wednesday February 9.**



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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Toledo, OH  
Permit No. 906

February 2005

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Congratulations to Herb, W8LRT, who has earned his Extra Class ticket.

Just a short ride to the east will find you in Mansfield, Ohio. On Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, *The Mid-Winter Hamfest and Computer Show* makes that trip worthwhile. This hamfest is sponsored by the Inter City ARC. More info is available at their official web site <http://www.iarc.ws>

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673  
President, Tom, KB8PAI; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Pat, KC8WQU;  
Treasurer, Chuck, N8NIR; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Ed, WA8BHO; Scott, N8BIR; Brian, WD8MXR; Howard, W8NEE.

TMRA Home Page [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org) Webmaster, Becky, KC8ZNX.

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 Q & A net meets every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, followed by the TMRA "Information & Swap 'N-Shop" net at 8:30 on the 147.270+ repeater. All amateurs are invited to check-in. *TMRA Voice Mail 419-535-6594*