



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

April 2007



Thanks For The Hamfest

Just in short, I would like to thank all who helped with the hamfest. This is a very big event for TMRA and the club members really came through with volunteering their time and effort.



As I looked out at the attendance it seemed to me that people stayed a little longer, shopped a little more, and maybe had a good time at it as well.

I am hopeful that we are going to see an increase in attendance for the hamfest in the future. For me it is more fun to actually look at what I am buying and talk (Eyeball QSO) with the seller.

Hope you found that item that you needed to add to your shack or maybe just picked up some supplies. I was able to pick up a 100 ft of 14 gauge zipcord and a couple of much needed connectors.

TMRA's next big event is the Dayton bus trip. If you want to sign up, contact Mike, WA8SYD and he'll put you on his list. Remember, Dayton Hamvention is May 19. Taking the bus there makes very good sense.

73
Steve, w8ter



Membership Notes

First off, and this is VERY important. If you don't get a newsletter next month, then you haven't renewed your membership and your name has been removed from the mailing list. Check with me before that happens if you have any doubt.

Next, thanks to all of the great volunteers for their help with all aspects of the hamfest, but specifically with the setup and tear down. It all went pretty smooth and didn't take a whole lot of time thanks to the many hands that

were there to help. I think it was a really good hamfest, and much credit goes to our chairpersons and volunteers.

Birthday wishes. I was late last month getting the list to our editor, but I am making sure to get it in this time. So here they are. Happy Birthday to our members (belated to some, sorry)!

March: 3 Bob, N8AJP; 5 Ray, KB8GNP; 10 Neal, WA8KMM; 13 Rick, K8RKS; 16 Brenda, KB8IUP; 18 Mike, KX8DOG; 19, Robert, K8CQC; 19, John, KD8BIN; 21, Mike, KC8RRM; 21, Mike, KT8UNA; 27, Ken, KC8CCO; 27, Tom, KB8PAI (me); 27, Dale, WA8WTZ; 31, Roger, W8CNJ.

April: 2, Pat, KB8OPA; 3, Ida, K8SER; 9, Robert, KC8ICW; 13, Joseph, KC8YBP; 13, Bill, KD8DWR; 15, Glen, KD8FNC; 18, Lana, N8PHD; 20, Paul, N8XDB; 20, Jerry, WJ8E

If there is anyone I have left out, or if my information is not correct, I am sorry. Please let me know so that I can make sure to get your information corrected.

73 de KB8PAI,
Tom Swartz, Membership Chairman
kb8pai@arrl.net

VE Sessions List

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2007 12:30

A lot happened in a short amount of time.

Thanks to all VE's who participated in the 3 VE sessions in 13 days. You know who you are.

New Generals 2/26/07: Joe, KC8YBP; Jerry, KC8QHD; Doug, N8WWM; Steven, KC8EQH; Ken, KD8DWO; Rod, N8OQH; Brian, KC8TRL & Colleen, N8TNV.

New Tech 2/26/07: Kevin, KD8FLN.

New Extra 2/26/07: Gerald, KC8LBO; Hiram, KC8URK/AB8XP & Chris, KC8UFV.

New Tech Class 3/3/07: Don, KD8FMW; Dave, KD8FMX; Jim, KD8FMY; Josh, KD8FMZ; Jim, KD8FNA; Mark, KD8FNB; Glen, KD8FNC; Ray, KD8FND; Cathy, KD8FNE; Tony, KD8FNF; Laurie, KD8FNG & Ruth, KD8FPA.

New General 3/3/07: John, KB8PFF.

New Tech 3/10/07: Charles, KD8FPB.

New General 3/10/07: Stan, KC8ZDH; Richard, KC8TCR; Richard, N8SPJ; Ray, KD8FND & Pat, KD8DJW.

New Extra 3/10/07: Doug, KD8CJU.

Steve KC8TVW VE Liaison

The Prez Sez

At the Northwest District Science Day (NWSDS), held March 10, 2007, at the University of Toledo, the three recipients of the TMRA awards were:

1st place: Kamran Salari, 10th Grade Sylvania high School: “A Comparison of Lossy and Lossless Image Compression Techniques on Quality and Size of Natural Images”

2nd place: Kyle Jurick, 12th Grade Hicksville High School, Hicksville OH: “Steerable Antennas: A Continued Research on the Benefits of Directional Antennas”

3rd place: Isolde Hannan, 8th Grade Bowling Green Christian Academy: “The Search is On! The Best Computer Search Engine”

Judging the projects entered for the TMRA awards were Mike, WA8SYD, Tom, KB8PAI, and Chuck, N8NIR.

In 2008 the NWSDS will be held at the University of Toledo on Saturday March 29, 2008. Again, TMRA will be sponsoring 3 awards for projects involving radio, electronics, and computers.

I want to thank all that participated in our Hamfest, especially the HF Committee and the club members who volunteered to help the various Committee members with their various activities. Also thanks to all that attended, either as a potential buyer or a buyer, and thanks to those who came to sell – our vendors are a very important part of the Hamfest, providing as they do an extremely wide range of items for sale. From the ticket sales, we had over 1,900 people attend the Hamfest, a slight increase of 213 over last year’s attendance.



Next year’s Hamfest is scheduled for March 15, 2008 at the same place.

73, Brian, WD8MXR

MiQP For First-Timers

By Dave Pruet, K8CC
k8cc@comcast.net

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) is an operating event held annually with Michigan as the center of attention. This article is a quick overview for those new to MiQP, to explain what it is and to offer encouragement to jump in and participate.

First of all, what is a “QSO party”? Over the years, this term has come to define an on-the-air operating event focusing on a particular geographic area. Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area.

Perhaps the next question is: “Is the MiQP a contest?” Yes it is – the entrants are participating against one other and plaques/certificates are awarded after it is over. But don’t let that scare you off - the MiQP is a lot less intense than other contests you might be familiar with, such as Sweepstakes, DX contests, or even Field Day. The bands are not as crowded as during those other events, and the operating style is a lot more relaxed. It’s a great venue for a first-timer to get their feet wet.

Why might you want to participate in the MiQP? First of all, it's a great opportunity to hone your HF operating skills or work the bugs out of your HF station. MiQP can provide a concentrated dose of operating that will crack the rust off your CW ability or brush up on your phone operating techniques, skills that you can use in other on-the-air activities.

The fun thing about MiQP for Michigan amateurs is that we are the center of attention. When a Michigan station calls "CQ MIQP" there will usually be several replies. Many MiQP participants make several hundred contacts during the event, even with modest stations such as barefoot transceivers and dipoles. For many, there is a tangible feeling of camaraderie as you work fellow Michiganders, some located in sparsely populated counties with exotic names like Chippewa, Missaukee, or Presque Isle.

What does it take to participate in the MiQP? All it takes is to get on the air during the MiQP period and make contacts with other participants. When it's over, mail in your log if you like so that it can be checked and your score included in the results; you may even win a certificate or plaque. If you include your radio club's name in your entry, then your score will be tabulated along with other member's scores in a separate sub-competition to determine the top Michigan club in the MiQP that year.

When does MiQP happen? MiQP occurs the third Saturday of April every year. For 2007, the starting date for MiQP is Saturday, April 21st. The contest period begins at noon local time here in Michigan (1200 EDST or 1600Z) and runs to local midnight (2400 EDST or 0400Z on April 22nd). The contest period was deliberately chosen to be easy to fit into your weekend schedule – you can get up Saturday morning, get some chores or family activities done, and sit down for an afternoon or evening of operating.

Making MiQP QSOs is easy. You can operate on any of the "traditional" HF bands (i.e., no WARC bands) from 80 thru 10 meters. The exchange is your QSO number for that contact – i.e., the first is 001, the second 002, etc., plus your Michigan county. On CW, everyone uses the official county abbreviations from the list on the MiQP web site. Stations outside of Michigan will send their QSO number and state or province abbreviation.

Barring some sort of major propagation disturbance, you will find MiQP activity on 40M CW & SSB for the entire twelve hour contest period. This is a good band to get a mix of in-state and out-state coverage, plus it's popular with the mobile MiQP entries that move from county to county during the event. (Mobiles can be worked again when they change counties.). During the day there is usually good activity on 20M, and lesser amounts on 15M and 10M, depending on the solar cycle. Once darkness falls, there is a lot of MiQP activity on 80M.

Here's how your MiQP score is calculated. Each CW QSO is worth two QSO points while a phone QSO is worth one point. Your final score is equal to the QSO points you've accumulated multiplied by the number of multipliers (Michigan counties, non-Michigan states and Canadian provinces) you work. Multipliers are counted separately on **both** CW and phone. For example, if you work Washtenaw County (WASH) on both CW and phone, that's two multipliers.

As you start out in MiQP you might just want to make QSOs and have fun, but here are some suggestions to keep in mind which should increase your score. A station may be worked once on both CW and phone on each band, so try all five bands (and both CW and phone) to look for MiQP QSOs. The lower bands (80M & 40M) are usually better for in-state QSOs, and out-state QSOs out to 500 miles or so, but try the high bands (particularly 20M) to bolster your score with US states and Canadian provinces from out west. Also, while most people probably have a preferred mode they like to operate, because state and province multipliers are counted separately on CW and phone, in MiQP it's worth the effort to spend some time on the "other" mode to build up the multiplier count for a good score.

When MiQP is over, you have thirty days to submit your entry in order for it to count in the final results. (Note: If you make MiQP QSOs but don't send in a log, no harm is done; the people you worked still get credit for your QSO(s) with them.) Paper logs can be sent to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. Electronic log files (ASCII text only) can be e-mailed to LOGS@miqp.org.

What can you win for participating in MiQP? The Michigan winner in each majority category receives a beautiful 10" x 13" plaque, a total of eleven in all. The top single-operator score in each Michigan county making at least 50 QSOs wins a handsome certificate.

To learn more about MiQP, check out the Michigan QSO Party web site at <http://www.miqp.org>. There you will find a wealth of information including complete rules, contest forms (summary, log, and multiplier count sheets), a list of county abbreviations, past MiQP results, operating tips and links to free logging software.

Highlites From *WEAVER'S WORDS* -- Batter Up

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2007 18:05

-- *Patience Please* --

Several of you have written about concerns they have related to a revision of Amateur Radio rules requested by ARRL and that appear in RM-11306. The proposed revision is not really new. It stems from the Regulation by Bandwidth petition the League had previously announced quite some time ago and had publicized to amateurs for comment. There is definite confusion over the modified proposal. I will have a full explanation of the actual facts very soon and will distribute this promptly. In the meantime, don't take everything you have seen and heard at face value, please.

-- *Locations Selected for Pilot Field Study* --

Ten representatives of VE Teams interested in participating in a Pilot Field Study of a Code Proficiency Program met with me by telephone conference call on March 9. The proposed project was discussed among the group with suggestions made and details clarified. VE Teams representing Lexington, KY, Brighton, MI, Akron/Canton/Massillon, OH and Toledo, OH were provisionally identified to initiate the trial. A tentative starting date was set in July. The Field Trial will essentially follow the outline for Code Proficiency Testing that has been long-used by W1AW and will be compatible with it.

-- *Iraqi Government Pulls Plug on Amateur Radio* --

Word has been received from the President of the Iraq Amateur Radio Society that the Iraqi government has banned all Amateur Radio operation from country. The ban includes operation by all Iraqi nationals as well as foreigners of any sort. The ban is to remain effective until the current civil unrest in the country has come under full control.

Do you want Vice Director Johnston, KI4LA or me to attend a club function? Let us know. If we are available, we will attempt to accommodate you. Gary is at ki4la@arrl.org. I am at k8je@arrl.org.

73, tnx for your support of ARRL,

Jim, K8JE

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division
5065 Bethany Rd.
Mason, OH 45040
E-mail: k8je@arrl.org; Tel.: 513-459-0142

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 Steve, W8TER, at 419-754-9120. **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-, 147.120+ 103.5) Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM. Contact Martha, K8AAC.

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, KC8HQH, 419-874-2173.

QCWA Chapter 142, meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at The Big Boy Restaurant, 1402 Reynolds Road, Maumee. (next to Hampton-Inn hotel)

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

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

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What's Happening

April 15, -- Glass City Marathon. This event starts in downtown Toledo, goes out to the turn-around in Sidecut Park, (Maumee) and ends back in Toledo. Many Communicators are needed. A great way to spend a few hours, serving the community. Good communications are important to the safety and success of the event. Due to the length of the marathon there are both early and late assignments available. Call Rick, K8RKS, at 471-0573 for information and to volunteer.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673
President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, James, WD8IOL;
Treasurer, Chuck, N8NIR; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Howard, W8NEE; Bob, K8ADK; Steve, KC8TVW; Tom, KB8PAI

TMRA Home Page www.tmrahamradio.org Webmaster, Tom, KB8PAI.

- 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*