



# **TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon**



**February 2008**

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## **The Prez Sez**

For family and personal reasons, Mark Collins, WB8OET, has resigned from the TMRA Technical Committee, of which he was the Chairman. As members of the TMRA, we all owe Mark a large debt of gratitude for the many years he has held that position and the many hours of his time that he has put into our equipment. Coincidentally with this development, and with the support of the Executive Committee, I had decided to make some changes in the Tech Committee. The present members of that committee are Chuck, N8NIR; Chuck, KB8FXJ; Jerry, WJ8E; Larry, WD8PKI; Dave, KB8EH; Steve, N8XSF; Tom, KB8PAI; Bill, KA8BFT and Mike, WA8SYD. The main changes I wanted to see happen were to add new members to the present committee and for it to become more active. So far I have asked Chris, KC8UFV; Ron, N8RLH, and Steve, KB9UPS to be on the committee, and they have agreed. I will ask some specific others too, and extend an invitation to all TMRA members who would be interested and willing to be an active member of that committee to let me know that, and they will be considered for membership. One concern is that the committee not become too large to be efficient, so possibly not all who volunteer will be appointed to membership at this time. Many of our club members have a great depth of knowledge, experience, and expertise; not all of these can be nor may wish to be on the Tech committee, but I want to see the Tech committee be willing and prepared to turn to such members on occasion if help or advice is needed. I can be contacted by phone, 419-385-5626 or email at bharrington@meduohio.edu.

We are also looking for someone to fill the vacant position of Program Chairperson. Anyone interested can contact me also.

The 2008 Hamfest is rapidly approaching: 5,800 announcement postcards have been mailed out, also flyers to 100 clubs within a 150 mile radius of Toledo, and table application forms to all who had tables in the last 3-4 years. The following Hamfest Committee persons are looking for volunteers: Brenda, KB8IUP, for ticket sellers, especially the morning of the Hamfest - sign up with Brenda for a one or two hour slot; Steve, W8TER for security - Saturday afternoon/evening while vendors are setting-up - and Sunday during the HF - again, a one or two hour slot; Tom, KB8PAI for set-up Saturday starting at noon, and Sunday after the HF when we have to take down what we put up Saturday - the more we have for that the faster it goes; Chris, KC8UFV for talk-in Sunday morning - also one or two hour slots.

Contact me and I'll put you in touch with the appropriate person, or contact them directly. Thanks for helping make our Hamfest a success again.

73, Brian, WD8MXR

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## **Can We Find Ohio Ham Scholars To Fill These Slots?**

I am challenging all Ohio hams to see if we can find successful applicants from Ohio for these scholarships. Please read the short note below.

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, has announced the upcoming February 1 deadline for applications for the ARRL Foundation Scholarships. Please help spread this reminder as you correspond with ARRL members and Amateur Radio operators the state.

The Deadline for ARRL Foundation scholarship applications is February 1, 2008. The Foundation has added four new scholarships for 2008. Up to 60 scholarships will be awarded in May. All the information about the ARRL Scholarships for FCC-licensed radio amateurs, including descriptions, application forms and instructions can be found on the web at [www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen](http://www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen).

That's it. Seek these Ohio scholars out. Thank you.

ARRL Ohio Section

Section Manager: Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE

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

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## The Missing W32A

I suppose a lot of you are a bit like me: I usually don't lose things, things get misplaced, but eventually they turn up in some of the most bizarre places. For instance, my Ipod vanished for about a week. I didn't realize how much of my gadget infested life depended on this gizmo until it took a hiatus. But then one evening, I was underneath my computer table rearranging some cables. I glanced up and, there it was, across the room, tucked neatly beside an unused computer monitor sitting on the floor. Somehow it had ended up on the floor and got nudged out of sight. It was missing for a week and a half and its absence really aggravated me.

I have had several handi-talkies over the years. By far the best one was my W32A dual band ICOM. At every ham-related function I attend such as field day or a hamfest I can count on seeing a steady stream of hams with these radios in tow. To illustrate how popular these radios are note that ICOM has discontinued them several times only to bring them back because of the demand for them. (Currently, they are in the discontinued phase.) And also, try to find one for sale at a hamfest or on Ebay--not likely.

Imagine my cold dread last spring when I went to get my W32A and couldn't find it. A quick search yielded nothing. As the days went by the searches got longer and more thorough but with no results. A final step by step examination of my house from top to bottom and every box, unused coat pocket and shelf in between brought me to the cold realization that my '32 was gone for good. I must have had it with me somewhere, shopping or at a restaurant, set it down and left it behind. This was back in May. In June, at the Monroe hamfest, I purchased its replacement: an Alinco DJ5VTH. A good radio for sure but not quite what the '32 had to offer. Hardly a week went by without this loss gnawing at me...300 bucks gone.

Spring turned into summer, summer became fall... Oh, sorry, this is an amateur radio article, not a romance story...

My tenant, Tom, came to me in November and offered to clean out some perennial bushes in the back yard. Sure, less work for me, I thought. About 15 minutes later Tom reappeared at my kitchen door. "Didn't you tell me you were missing a radio?" Tom lifted up my mud-covered, sopping wet ICOM W32A. Apparently, it had slipped out of my bag or pocket and ended up in the bushes spending all of May, June, all of summer and the fall stuck in the dirt and mud under these bushes. I was pumped for the next three days at getting it back.

I used some detergent and a cloth and cleaned off the mud, let it dry, charged it up and it worked (and continues working) just fine.

Me and the '32 back together. Maybe this is a romance story after all.

James  
WD8IOL

## Where is TMRA Going??

The Toledo Mobile Radio Association is an organization based on amateur radio activities. The TMRA is the largest of 5 similar organizations in the Toledo, Ohio area. The organization was originally founded to provide emergency communications should some type of disaster occur.

Amateur radio activities are one way we practice for times when we will be needed for our skills. How can we have skills if we don't practice? Are you familiar with the Lucas County EMA? CERT? How about Skywarn?

Keeping in mind that amateur radio is a hobby first and is always second to our family and other duties, participation in the ham radio community is something we need to maintain. Even if it is once a year it is a good idea to attend a meeting, activity, check into a net, write an article, or in some way get yourself known in the amateur radio community by contributing in some way. It does not matter to which club you belong, it only matters they know you are active and able to participate. You can do this by simply checking into any net.

Provide emergency communication should some type of disaster occur... What are we going to do for the public? Reconnect their cell phones if they have stopped working? Times and communication needs are changing. We no longer follow the police chief or fire chief around with our hand held portable two meter so they can communicate with others. Because of hurricane Katrina and other disasters they are now making local communications more bullet proof. Our job as communicators is turning into something other than just communication providers.

We supply communications. We are communicators. We don't direct traffic at the 5 K runs. If we want to provide useful communications we need to advance our abilities to the point that we can provide communications that they cannot get. This may mean we need to step into the area of data communications and video communications. Packet, PSK 31, Winlink 2000, ATV, SSTV, Echolink, IRLP, Satellite, and good old reliable Morse code are all items the local infrastructure cannot provide. We on the other hand have the ability to undertake these tasks.

The Red Cross and the Salvation Army are called upon during times of disaster. These like many ham clubs are not for profit organizations and do not have resources to cover the costs for all their needs. We can easily be used by them and often are.

If you have not been around any disasters lately you might not know that to properly man a communications station for a day it is going to take about 12 hams to cover a 24 hour period. That's 3 operators for every 6 hours. How would you like to be at the radio alone for 3 or 4 hours without a break? That might not seem too tough. How about 6 to 8 hours? The relief organizations run 24 hrs a day. They never close as long as they are needed. You never know when they are going to need communications. Sometimes we cannot get 12 people to attend activities for a 3-hour period.

Emergency communications are too important to put off. If you are not up to speed with proper protocol you may end up being useless during a time when you are actually needed. This a very good reason to get on the air!

I present to you these situations to try and get you to take your hobby more seriously. Interaction between members of the ham radio community is good but it could be better. Ham radio activities are the time to bring out your special ability in any area of ham radio and share it with the other hams.

Not all hams have the equipment to try new modes of communications. Equipment is expensive. Not all equipment can be built on breadboards as it was in previous times. Unfortunately the good olde days are still in

the past but... these are the good olde days too. When you were soldering up those components of years ago did you use an electric soldering iron, or a manually heated tinning iron? Did your radio drift off frequency until it was well warmed or did you only have one frequency to use with that home brew?

Thanks to this hobby we have been able to continue to improve our equipment and our skills. Not all hams are able to work with surface mount components, nor do all communicate with Morse code however, The new hams of tomorrow will be dealing with the advances in technology that have been made. Hams have always been on the cutting edge of communications. This is what we do.

Young or old we have one thing in common... we are communicators. We like to send information over the airwaves. Let us share what little we know with the next hams and as technology grows past our personal scope, look to the amateur radio community to share what it knows so it might increase our understanding.

73,  
Steve, W8TER

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### Hamfest Time Is Upon Us Again!

Please set aside time to help with the setup and teardown of the TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION'S 2008 HAMFEST. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours, TMRA requests your assistance for this special event!

I am in need of help with security for the hamfest.

I need help on Saturday from 3:30 PM until 7:30 PM to provide security for the vendors set up.

I need help on Sunday morning from 5:30 AM until opening time, which is 8:00 AM.

If you can give a couple of hours to provide security for the hamfest please contact me by e-mail or phone. If you have worked security before, you may have the spot of your choosing if I can accommodate you.

If you have not worked security before, I can tell you it is not difficult. All you need is a two meter handie talkie, and if you don't have one, I could scrounge one up for you.

Remember, the setup for the hamfest is Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> and the hamfest it's self is Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for your time.

Steve Bellner, W8TER  
TMRA Hamfest Security

### 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 Bill, WN8RUG, at 419-882-7337. **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 3100 W. Central, 7:30 PM. Contact Martha, K8AAC.

**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 Becky, KC8ZNX, 419-290-3511.

**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)

**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.

## TMRA Swap 'N Shop

Contact me to create, remove, or edit a listing at [KB8PAI@ARRL.NET](mailto:KB8PAI@ARRL.NET) or by phone at 419-724-8672.

Current as of January 22, 2008

### *For Sale:*

Harold, K8MRE, 419-435-1374 (Fostoria), Icom IC-718 HF transceiver with DSP and 60m (\$360.00); MFJ 969 Roller inductor tuner (\$100.00); Astron RS-12A 12A power supply (\$40.00); Heathkit HS1661 oval speaker (\$39.00); All in excellent condition with manuals and boxes

### *Looking For:*

Josh, KD8ENQ, [penguin\\_621@sbcglobal.net](mailto:penguin_621@sbcglobal.net) , Older version of the Icom 706 and a used Buddi-Pole

Ted, W8PDY, 419-729-3980, Integrated Circuits: Number CA3055 or RCA3005, and Number SK9036

Jim, W8WDL, 419-474-2470, Betamax VCR

The TMRA Swap 'N Shop is a service of the Toledo Mobile Radio Association, and open to all amateurs or interested persons in the coverage area of the repeater, newsletter, or website. The TMRA reserves the right to decline to accept any listing. Any descriptions of items listed are those of the person listing the items. Items are kept on the Swap 'N Shop list for a period of four weeks, or five Sundays on the air after which they are dropped from the list. Renewals are welcome, but please notify me promptly when there is no longer a need to continue a listing. When the TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon is published each month, the then current Swap 'N Shop listings are included in the newsletter (at the editor's discretion.) Prices are not mentioned over the air, but if known, will be shown in the newsletter or on the website.

There are several ways to list items of Amateur Radio interest:

Check into the Swap 'N Shop Net Sunday evenings after the Information Net (approximately 9PM EST.) on 147.270/147.870 Mhz

E-mail me at [KB8PAI@ARRL.NET](mailto:KB8PAI@ARRL.NET)

Call me at 419-724-8672

Mail the information to me through the USPS

73 de Tom, KB8PAI

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## News From NOAA

On Monday, March 3, the Toledo's NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards transmitter will change it's local frequency from 162.550 Mhz to 162.500 Mhz. The new upgraded transmitter will also increase the output power to 300 watts, resulting in a larger coverage area.

Check your weather radio to see if it will receive this frequency. The old three channel receivers will not work on 162.500 Mhz.

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

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

February 2008

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**2008 ANNUAL SKYWARN TRAINING, SATURDAY MARCH  
29  
10:00 – 12:00 ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL AUDITORIUM.  
MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND AND BRING A FRIEND.**



THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673  
President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Ron, N8RLH;  
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](http://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.