



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon



January 2008

Dear TMRA Member,

The Challenger project is an undertaking that is occurring using TMRA resources and is intended to introduce, inform, and educate youth about ham radio. Get them while they are still young and you will have them for a lifetime.

In the summer of 2007 Steve, KB9UPS set up a scheduled contact between the Challenger Learning Center (CLC) and the International Space Station (ISS) using ham radio. This was my first encounter with the school. It is an amazing place, just ask anyone who has taken a tour of it.

This school has the potential to be a catalyst for introducing ham radio to youth. I believe that TMRA should pursue working with this school in an effort to further interest in ham radio and to help educate and inspire the youth and adults who attend. I believe that doing this is in the scope of TMRA's bylaws.

Over the years interest in ham radio at the youth level has declined. As far as I can tell there are no youth ham radio clubs at any local schools and what is known by the youth is very little. Schools these days it seems are more sports and music oriented when it comes to extra curricular activity. There seems to be a lack of interest with the schools to promote technical activities. I don't think there is a lack of interest with the youth. Instead I would be inclined to think they are not being introduced to what may not be considered a popular subject by their teachers. Here is where CLC comes in. They are in the business of promoting space flight, science, and math. I feel amateur radio fits right in there.

One of TMRA's purposes is according to Article II. paragraph "a" of the by-laws are: "To educate and increase the proficiency of it's members in the science of radio communication."

If we want to promote ham radio, I think we have to involve the youth of the area. TMRA is in a position to do this. By helping CLC develop a curriculum and by setting up a station for use by young hams and their elders, TMRA can influence and inspire young people to pursue many of the sciences. As you must know, most hams are experimenters by nature. What better way to promote science than by involving the youth in the sciences.

For years TMRA has been giving monies to scholarship funds and we intend to continue to do so as we can. Now is the time to direct some funds toward this venture involving CLC. They are dedicated to teaching sciences. They have a space camp program, a rocketry class, and are very interested in having ham radio as part of their curriculum.

What is so special about this Challenger Learning Center?

Challenger History

The Challenger Center for Space Science Education is a global not-for-profit organization created in 1986 by the families of the astronauts tragically lost during the flight of the Challenger Space Shuttle. Dedicated to the

educational spirit of that mission, the Challenger Learning Center develop education programs worldwide to continue the mission to engage students, employees, and communities in space, science and math.

Blast off to Learning

Using space as a theme and the power of simulation as a teaching tool, Challenger Learning Center programs create an exciting and cooperative learning environment that exposes students to the challenges and successes of teamwork, problem solving, communication, and decision-making.

CLC has classes for K-4, 5-12, and for adults, the corporate STAR program. To find out more about the institution it self try <www.challengerlc.org> I want you to look at this web site to see what it is all about.

I think we have an opportunity here to make a difference to youth who are interested in the sciences and I am looking for hams that want to help. I am looking for help from those who want to provide a means of influencing young people to pursue the sciences. Help can be in the form of volunteering time, talent, or equipment. We are going to be putting together a curriculum for the CLC classes. If you wish to participate please let me know. We can use help. Contact me at w8ter@arrl.net or call me at 419-367-1200

I will be sending this letter out in the newsletter in hopes that an affirmative response from club members will be forthcoming.

Thanks for listening.

73,
Steve Bellner, W8TER

Kids Day

Are you looking for a fun way to share Amateur Radio with your kids? Kids Day, created by the Boring Amateur Radio Club of Oregon, takes place on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Kids get behind the microphone and make actual on-the-air contacts with other kids across the United States and Canada. Kids exchange their name, age, location and their favorite color in a contest-style event. Custom certificates are available for free download for each child that participates! Kids Day is a great way to show your family just how much fun you can have with Amateur Radio.

You can find more information on page 39 of the December 2007 QST.

Make it your New Year's resolution to get on the air more. Be it CW, digital modes such as RTTY or PSK31, SSTV or simply using your microphone, there is something magical about radio. Make 2008 the year you rediscover what the magic is all about.

from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 26, No. 50, December 21, 2007

December VE. Test Session

This is Stacey, NS8W, with the results from the Sat. Dec 8th test session in Maumee. James, KD8FNA, upgraded to Extra. Timothy, KD8HLX, and George, KD8HLY, both earned their Tech licenses. Congrats to James, Timothy and George. Thank you to all the VE's who have helped all year.

The Prez Sez

First of all I want to thank Brenda and Pat for all their work organizing the TMRA Christmas Party again, and the club members who came and shared the delicious foods.

As Equipment Chairman, I have a couple of items: I changed the combination of the lock on the Club's storage unit - I'd lost track of all who had the combination, so I decided to start afresh: If I haven't informed you of the new combination and you feel that you need to know it - contact me.

Most members know that the Club has an antenna analyzer for members to use - the MFJ 259 (with manual): Maybe most members do not realize that we have other equipment that members can borrow - typically for a few weeks at a time.

This includes :

A Kenwood HF transceiver - TS830S with MC50 mike and external speaker (with manual);

An Astron 35 amp PS - RS35A;

The AEA Morse Tutor - MM3 (with manual);

The MFJ Morse Tutor - MFJ-411 (no manual, but it's easy to operate);

An Icom 440 HT - IC-4AT, and an Icom 220 HT - IC-3AT - the NiCads with these two old HTs are not in good condition.

If you would want to borrow any of these - contact me.

73, Brian, WD8MXR

Winter Weather Watches, Warnings And Advisories- What Do They All Mean?

The National Weather Service uses specific winter weather terms to ensure that people know what to expect in the coming days and hours. But what do they all mean?

A Winter Storm Watch means that severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may occur in your area, but how much, where and when are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued to provide 12 to 36 hours notice of the possibility of severe winter weather.

A watch is upgraded to a **Winter Storm Warning** when 4 or more inches of snow or sleet is expected in the next 12 hours, or 6 or more inches in 24 hours, or 1/4 inch or more of ice accretion is expected.

Winter Weather Advisories let you know that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, advisory situations should not become life-threatening.

A **Blizzard Warning** means that snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill.

WINTER WEATHER TERMS

Some winter weather terms you should be familiar with:

BLIZZARD: Winds of 35 mph or more with snow and blowing snow reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mile for at least 3 hours.

BLOWING SNOW: Wind-driven snow that reduces visibility. Blowing snow may be falling snow and/or snow on the ground picked up by the wind.

SNOW SQUALLS: Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant.

SNOW SHOWERS: Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

SNOW FLURRIES: Light snow falling for short durations with little or no accumulation.

RAIN: Frozen precipitation melts into rain

FREEZING RAIN: Frozen precipitation melts in warm air or rain falls and freezes on cold surfaces as a sheet of ice

SLEET: Frozen precipitation melts or it refreezes into sleet before hitting ground

SNOW: Snow falling into cold air never melts

Wind Chill is not the actual temperature but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin.

BEFORE the Storm Strikes, Be Prepared

Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!

Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.

A WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT should be in your vehicle and should include:

- Mobile phone, charger, batteries
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Knife
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- Large empty can to use as emergency toilet. Tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope
- Battery booster cables
- Water container
- Compass and road maps.

Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Avoid traveling alone.

Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

At Home and Work

With a winter storm, most people will get stuck at work or at home. Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. Here is a list of some of the things you should have available:

Flashlight and extra batteries.

Battery-powered NOAA Weather

Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information. These may be your only links to the outside.

Extra food and water. Have high energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.

Extra medicine and baby items.

First-aid supplies.

Heating fuel. Refuel before you are empty. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.

Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater.

• Use properly to prevent a fire.

• Ventilate properly.

Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm.

- Test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.
- **Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.**

Becky, KC8ZNX

Foundation for Amateur Radio Invites Scholarship

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) is now accepting applications for 55 academic year 2008-2009 scholarships to assist radio amateurs pursuing higher education. The deadline to apply is March 30, 2008. FAR fully funds three of the scholarships and administers 41 others without cost on behalf of various club and individual donors; grant income funds the remaining 11 awards. Amateur Radio licensees pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply. Scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$3000, and preference in some cases goes to applicants living in particular geographical areas or pursuing certain studies. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. FAR encourages clubs -- especially those in California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin -- to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on their Web sites. More information and an application form may be requested by letter via e-mail <scholarships@farweb.org> or by sending a QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2008, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. Headquartered in Washington, DC, FAR consists of more than 75 area Amateur Radio Clubs. FAR is devoted to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

TMRA UHF Repeater

The TMRA 442.850+ repeater is off the air at this time. It will return to service as soon as repairs are completed.

LCARES Meeting January 26

Please try to attend the January Lucas County Service meeting on Saturday, the 26th at 9:00 AM. room" in St. Luke's Hospital. Come early and enjoy cafeteria. For more information, contact Bill, WN8RUG,



Amateur Radio Emergency
The location is the "private dining breakfast with your friends in the at 4198827337.

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 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 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 Becky, KC8ZNX, 419-290-3511.

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.

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January 2008

***HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE
TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION.***

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 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.