



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

August 2009



## The Prez Sez

First of all, congratulations to TMRA Member Jeff, KC8NNO, on receiving the LCARES Ham of the Year award for 2008 at the LCARES Ham of the Year "Banquet" on July 18. At our September General meeting we elect officers for the next year: as of now no one has volunteered to be on the Nominations Committee, whose function is to present to the membership at the August meeting those members who have agreed to run for any of the elected offices. Nor have I heard of any members volunteering to run for office in the absence of any gentle arm-twisting by our non-existent Nominations Committee.



Jeff, KC8NNO, receives the "LCARES Ham of the Year 2008" award from Becky, KC8ZNX, at the LCARES banquet. n8ajp-photo

We are waiting to hear from Owens Community College on the status of our application to hold our 2010 Hamfest on their campus - we've submitted the paperwork they asked us provide. Until our budget for the year 2009-2010, when we reduced our donations, we have for many years now included two scholarships to the Electrical Engineering department at Owens CC; when going through some paperwork and records in conjunction with our discussions with Owens CC about the Hamfest, we discovered that for some of those years we did not make the budgeted donations. Our rental of facilities at Owens CC does not depend on us donating to their scholarship programs, but I feel that we should re-instate our annual donations, especially as we have missed several years. At the August General meeting, I'd like to see us amend the 2009-2010 budget to include the scholarships to Owens - that proposal will be up for discussion and, I hope, a vote at that meeting.

Occasionally the Club is approached in connection with Ham equipment from the station of a deceased Amateur. The question maybe "what's it worth?", or "how or where can I sell it?" or "would the Club pass it on to a deserving Ham?" Sometimes the contacted member takes care of the situation; sometimes it gets passed on to the Club in general. We do not have a policy for how to handle such questions or requests. While the resale value of very recent equipment may not be a problem, pricing equipment for a deceased Amateur's equipment may not be easy, especially for some of the older equipment. To many people an old Heathkit transceiver or piece of test gear, for example - and there are many others - may have no value whatsoever, but to collector of HK it may have considerable value. And how do we define a "deserving" Ham? I'm sure at some time or other we all consider ourselves as deserving gifts. We discussed this topic at the last Executive Committee meeting, an article on this topic apparently was in QST a while ago - I've not been able to find it, but I'm still looking. If anyone knows the QST issue it was in, please let me know. Does the TMRA need a policy on how to handle questions or requests about deceased Hams' (and not just our members) equipment; should we accept some/all if offered to the Club and then handle the passing on of it to individuals - either by sale or donation? Could we, should we, identify to a deceased Ham's family members individuals who would be willing to help? We can discuss this at our meetings, or maybe some Letters to the Editor on this would be of interest as a way to see what people think.

73, Brian

## 2009 Ohio QSO Party Announcement

The Ohio QSO Party is a popular state QSO party, where Ohio hams become the hunted stations. The event is casual and fun, yet you can really rack up the QSOs with modest stations. It's fun trying to work all 88 Ohio counties as well as all the states and Canadian provinces.

Load up anything you have on 10-80m and you will make lots of QSOs! In fact, the best antennas for 40 & 80m are low dipoles. At this time of the solar cycle, most of the QSOs are on 20, 40 & 80m, though keep an eye out on 10 & 15m too. Skip on 10-40m is often "long", so if you are looking for other Ohioans, the best place to look is on 80m, even at the start of the contest in broad daylight.

Each year all 88 Ohio counties see some activity, though many of the lesser populated counties are activated by mobile stations which only make 10-30 QSOs per county. CQ stations in rare counties! Were especially trying to get hams in lesser populated counties to get on the air and make some contacts this year. A few hours on the air will make a big difference in generating activity in all 88 counties.

There are numerous awards (certificates and plaques) available – including a club competition. These are the plaques, available to the top scorers in each category.

- Ohio Single Operator High Power - sponsored by Findlay Radio Club
- Ohio Single Operator Low Power - sponsored by Cincinnati Buckeye Netters
- Ohio Single Operator QRP - sponsored by Kanga US
- Out of State Single Operator - sponsored by Muskingum Ham Radio Club
- Out of State Single Operator, Mountain/Pacific Time Zone -sponsored by Canton Amateur Radio Club
- Out of State Single Operator QRP - sponsored by Ohio Independent Contesters
- Single Operator DX - sponsored by Northern Ohio DX Association
- Ohio Multi Operator - sponsored by Wayne Amateur Radio Club
- Ohio Mobile - sponsored by Lake County Amateur R. A.
- Ohio Rover - sponsored by Joe Matt, W3AG
- Ohio Club - sponsored by Mad River Radio Club
- Ohio YL - sponsored by Buckeye Belles
- Ohio SSB - sponsored by Muskingum Ham Radio Club
- Ohio CW - sponsored by Fourty Over Club (K8FOC) of Cincinnati **\*\*New for 2009\*\***

With 100w and low wires or verticals, it's pretty easy to rack up many of the states for your WAS award including Alaska and Hawaii. Operate the full 12 hours, and you might find 300-500 QSOs in your log and might complete your WAS. One of the best ways to rack up the QSOs is to balance CQing with S&P. Since everyone is looking for Ohio stations, they will be tuning the bands for Ohio stations who are CQing. For working your fellow Ohioans, a combination of S&P and CQing is effective. An example CQ would be: "CQ CQ this is KB8ABC KB8ABC Ohio QSO Party". You will be surprised that modest stations can work 40-100 QSOs per hour by calling CQ - and you might have a few pileups on you too.

Please join us for the Ohio QSO Party on Saturday August 22, 2009. The OQP starts at noon local time and goes to midnight local. Ohio stations work anyone, and the exchange is a sequential serial number plus your county. Work SSB and CW only on 10-80m. For full rules and official county abbreviations visit [www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org) <<http://www.ohqp.org/>> . Submit logs to: [logs@ohqp.org](mailto:logs@ohqp.org)

We apologize for some confusing emails regarding the rules of the OQP. The rules have not been changed as one individual has suggested. The Ohio QSO Party is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club and not by any individuals. The official OQP website has been moved to [www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org) <<http://www.ohqp.org/>> . For up-to-date OQP news, there is a new OQP email reflector which may be subscribed to from the web site, or by sending an email to: [ohqp-mail-request@ohqp.org](mailto:ohqp-mail-request@ohqp.org) with "subscribe" in both the subject line and body of the message.

73 & CU on the Air!

Jim, K8MR. President, Mad River Radio Club

## Highlites From WEAVER'S WORDS

-- Summertime

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2009 14:46

+++ Ohio QSO Party +++

The Ohio QSO Party (OQP) will be August 22.

+++ Division Symposium Update Updated +++

By now, many members know that the Great Lakes Division Symposium is on September 12 in Findlay, Ohio. But, I haven't talked about the specific site for this gala event. I don't know why I've neglected to mention the site of the Symposium for so long, but here is the scoop on it.

The Symposium will be at the Findlay Center for Business and Technology, 1700 Fostoria Ave., Findlay, Ohio. The Business Center has tremendous facilities for our symposium. It is only 1.9 miles from the site of the Findlay Hamfest the following day.

The Business Center is located on the corner of Fostoria Ave. (Ohio S.R. 12) at Plaza St. The Findlay Hamfest is at the Hancock County Fairgrounds, 1017 E. Sandusky St. in Findlay the following day, September 13.

+++ H.R. 2160 Support +++

There is good news on the legislative front. H.R. 2160, the first step toward overriding anti-antenna codes, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs) continues to receive new co-sponsors. With the US House planning to begin its summer break in early August, we now can number Rep. Don Young of Alaska as the 19th co-sponsor.

Our drive to gain still more co-sponsors continues. If you have not yet sent a letter to your US representative to encourage him/her to support H.R. 2160, please do this very soon. A boilerplate letter can be obtained at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818>. Click on sample letter in paragraph three. Copy and save the letter. Once it is in your computer memory, modify it to personalize it for yourself.

The name and address of your US Representative can be found at the Member Only page of the ARRL web site. The name and address appears on the opening screen of Members Only.

Once you have printed and signed the letter, please send it or a signed copy of it to John Chwat, Chwat & Co., 625 Slaters Ln., Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314. John heads our congressional contact service. He will combine your letter with others going to your congressman and hand-deliver them to him. This will ensure the letters will receive the greatest attention possible.

+++ GLD Member offers iPhone/iTouch Applications +++

Carlton Yaffey, K8NU of Columbus, Ohio has developed two apps that can be downloaded using itunes on a PC or Mac. The apps are a chart of the Amateur Radio bands and a grid square map.

Details of the apps are at:

<http://www.carl-yaffey.com/hambands.html> and

<http://www.carl-yaffey.com/igridsquare.html>.

+++ Ohio State Parks on the Air +++

The Portage County (OH) ARS (PCARS) is sponsoring the Ohio State Parks on the Air operating event again. The second running of this contest will be from noon to 8 PM, EDT on Saturday, September 12. The objective is to put as many Ohio state parks on the air and to work as many of the parks as possible.

Prizes and awards are given for top finishers! Non-park stations in Ohio as well as outside of Ohio can also compete.

Complete information, including rules, forms and FAQ's are at <http://parks.portcars.org> or contact the contest chairman, Chuck, W8PT at [w8pt@portcars.org](mailto:w8pt@portcars.org). Check the web site for updates as the contest nears.

### A Few Good Hams Needed

For the Sylvania tri-athlon on Sunday, Aug 9. Contact Rick, K8RKS, at 4194710573 or email at [sharpe@buckeye-express.com](mailto:sharpe@buckeye-express.com) He could use about 10 more operators.

In case you wish to consider taking the family along or staying overnight, Information on park facilities is on Ohio Department of Natural Resources web site, <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/default/tabid/80/Default.aspx>.

+++ Manuals Online +++

I believe most active amateurs realize the value of the Internet whether they use it for sending and receiving e-mail, for submitting QSO records to Logbook of the world (LoTW), spotting DX, getting help from a friend . . . or finding a manual that's disappeared and is needed to repair a rig. During recent days, local club reflectors have listed two sites where manuals for rigs, rotators and other pieces of equipment can be found and downloaded at no cost. The web sites listed are <http://bama.sbc.edu/> and <http://www.radioamateur.eu/schemari.html>.

These seem to be active sites leading to many operating manuals and schematics. Being a cautious individual, there is one watch-out I will mention about sites such as this.

Most of these are not owned or operated by the manufacturers or sellers of the equipment related to the manuals they feature. This means that their posting online and offering them for downloading may likely to violate copyright law. Unlikely though it may be, downloading copyrighted material without first obtaining permission from the copyright owner could result in legal action against the person who violates this law.

The fact that no fee is charged to download a copyrighted item does not make downloading and using the item legal.

As I mentioned above, this is just a watch-out.

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## TMRA Ohio QSO Party

TMRA members and families are invited to get together on August 22, at Monclova Park. (Monclova Rd. & Albon Rd.) for the Ohio QSO Party at 11:00 a.m. At 6:00 p.m. there will be hamburgs, hot dogs & drinks. Please bring a dish to pass. See you there. More information at the TMRA meeting on Aug. 12.

THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH. 43697-9673

President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Ron, N8RLH;

Treasurer, Rita, WB8FGB; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Chris, KC8UFV; Steve, KC8TVW; Tom, KB8PAI; Brenda, KB8IUP

TMRA Home Page [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org) Webmaster, Tom, KB8PAI.

TMRA W8HHF Repeaters; 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.