



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

December 2009



The Prez Sez

In last month's Newsletter I listed the various TMRA committees, but in the Technical Committee I missed two members, Tony N8WAC, and Joe KJOEYT.

The December General meeting on Wednesday 12/9/2009 will be the Xmas Party – Sandra KD8HYS is organizing it and would appreciate knowing in advance who is planning on being there. Format is the same as previous years – bring a dish to share. I know that some members are planning to bring a meat dish, and although we didn't include it in the Budget for this year, the Executive Committee at its November meeting was moved by the spirit of Christmas (or was it the thought of a vegetarian meal ? – not that there's anything wrong with that !), and club will be providing a ham for the party.

I don't know the actual number but there are several local amateurs, some are members of TMRA and some are not, who are Volunteer Examiners (VEs) and who help the TMRA VE Coordinator Steve KC8TVW at the monthly (second Saturday of the month) examination sessions at the Maumee fire station on Dussel Drive. The regulations require that there be at least 3 VEs at each session, but unfortunately at the November session only Steve KC8TVW and I were able to attend and so the session had to be cancelled, disappointing the 2 persons who had come to take a test. We know that not every VE can make it to every session, and I think that this was the first time a session had to be cancelled for lack of VEs, but if Steve had a larger pool of VEs – there'd be less likelihood of it happening again. To be a registered VE, the ARRL has a study guide and an open-book test for those wishing to be registered: I'd urge anyone who'd like to help with VE sessions to contact Steve for more information.

As has been mentioned before several times by me and by others, the 2010 TMRA Hamfest will present us with some new challenges with the new location at Owens Community College. Not least among these will be the fact that no vehicles can be driven into the actual halls where the tables are situated; this will most likely result in some vendors being disappointed at least, and possibly upset – although this limitation will be explained to them when they reserve table(s). We will need more volunteers the day before and the day of the Hamfest than at previous Hamfests to offer to help vendors transport their "goods" to their tables (and the unsold items back to their vehicles) – we're thinking a having some carts or trolleys with rubber-tired wheels available for this, and we'd prefer, even if vendors want to load them and push-pull them themselves, that a TMRA member stay with the cart at all times. If any members have suitable carts/trolleys that they would be willing to allow us to use at the Hamfest, contact me or Tom KB8PAI, Tom's the Hamfest set-up/take-down Chairman. The bottom line is that we need to keep all our vendors happy, we rely on their business, and especially on their repeat business, to keep our Hamfest a success each year.

73, Brian WD8MXR

**TMRA annual Christmas party Wednesday, December 9, at the regular meeting place.
Call Sandy, KD8HYS, at 734 847 1208 for info and to let her know you are attending.**

Membership Notes:

Hi, I hope you are all having a good holiday season so far. But make sure to remember that it is that time of year again... time for membership renewal season to begin. Once again I have a goal to have all the memberships renewed and processed by the time the TMRA hamfest rolls around in March. We didn't quite make it this last year, so please help me out. Here is the task at hand, please renew your membership. Simple as that. We are trying something different this year and aren't requiring membership applications for renewals. As long as your pertinent information hasn't changed, you can just pay your dues and that is it! Makes life easier for everyone, doesn't it?

And thus, life is good! Congratulations to the winners of the complimentary membership for 2010: Glenn Ingersoll, W8MUK, and Chris Hart, KC8UFV. Just another reason to get your renewals taken care of early because you could be a winner for next year.

Thanks for your continued support of the Club, and if you have any questions at all about membership, just ask!

-Tom, KB8PAI
TMRA Membership Chairman
KB8PAI@ARRL.NET

Toledo Television Covers ARES Drill

On Tuesday, November 17, 2009, Lucas and Wood County ARES Members conducted an H1N1 SET Drill on the worst case scenario that emergency workers could not report for work because of the flu and a communications breakdown.

In the drill, ARES was called upon to provide backup communications. The drill was based from the Lucas County Emergency 9-1-1 Center and included amateur stations at local hospitals.

WTOL News 11, Toledo, featured the drill on their 11 P.M. Newscast. Video shot in the Lucas County Emergency Communications Truck/Trailer showed Jeff Pryor, KC8NNO, working as W8MTU Net Control; Doug Creager, AB8XW, interacting with the Winlink Radio Email computer; and Joe Thielen, KJ0EYT, with his VHF PSK31 digital station.

Jeff, KC8NNO



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Carts For A Start

TMRA members, as you know, after presenting the TMRA hamfest in Maumee for the last 54 years, we have moved. Our new hamfest home is at the Owens Community College. (OCC)

This move means that everything we did in the past has changed. One of the big changes is the floor surface we will be working with. We will be in an athletic facility. The floors here are no longer made of concrete but of wood and cushioned tile. These floors are used for basketball and other sports. There will be a thin protective cover over the floor, they are sturdy and able to handle foot traffic but they are also somewhat delicate and easy to damage. Metal wheels and sharp objects would not be good for them so care must be taken to prevent damage. Therefore the suggestion has been made that we make some safe carts available. Balloon-tired carts and carts with larger rubber wheels are needed along with their owners to keep an eye on them. We would not touch or handle the wares of the vendors or even push the cart, just guide them to their table while “loaning” a safe cart if necessary. Vendors will no longer be able to drive into the building.

On Saturday, before the Hamfest, the site will open for vendor setup at 3:00 pm. We will need volunteers for setup before that. Plans are now to start at noon. (subject to change)

If you have any questions please contact Brain, WD8MXR; Mike, WA8SYD or Steve, W8TER.

Steve, W8TER Hamfest Security



af8cs photo

On Friday, November 20, the TMRA ARISS team assisted 12 students at the Bennett Venture Academy make contact with the orbiting International Space Station. The students were able to ask 20 questions. Steve, KB9UPS, and the team did a great job setting up the equipment and everything worked out successfully.

General License Classes

Sandusky Radio Experimental League will be presenting a class for the General Class License at the club house 2909 W Perkins Ave. Sandusky, Ohio.

Classes will take place on each of the Mondays starting on January 4th thru February 15th, 2010. The time of the classes will be 6:30-9:30 pm each evening

Materials needed: ARRL General Class License Manual 6th Edition that will be provided at a cost of \$24.95, also a scientific calculator with square root and log functions, TI-30 or equivalent. (Preferably one that you know how to operate.)

Please make reservations for the class by Dec 21, 2009 with Bob Heim, K8HLH, 419-684-9837 or k8hlh@bex.net or Gene Schumacher, W9VMW, 419-307-0494 or schuhere@roadrunner.com giving your name and how you can be contacted.

Digital Communications

Are you interested in digital communications? If so contact Steve, W8TER, or check into the TMRA Q & A Net any Sunday evening at 7:30 on the TMRA 147.270+ repeater. The net is open to all Hams in the area.

TMRA Wishes Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

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

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

Treasurer, Brenda, KB8IUP; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.

Board Members: Dave, KB8EH; Chris, KC8UFV; Steve, KC8TVW; Tom, KB8PAI; Rita, WB8FBG; Dan, KE8UE.

TMRA Home Page 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.