



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

August 2010



The Prez Sez

I'll start this month with "old business"; we're supposed to present a slate of candidates for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer at the August General meeting of the Club: as of the date of this writing, July 28, 2010 – we don't even have a Nominating Committee ! No volunteers to be on the Committee. We can live without this committee if members volunteer to nominate themselves as candidates. Nominations will be open at the August meeting – if you nominate someone other than yourself – be sure to have their approval in advance. Nominations are also open at the September meeting, at which we vote.

Be sure to keep up-to-date on the changes that Joe, KJ0EYT and Tom, KB8PAI are doing with our website and related activities

New. Starting with next month's issue of the TMRA Newsletter, we'll have a "News from the Clubs" section: we're inviting local amateur radio clubs to submit articles or announcements about their activities. What is "local" ? No hard and fast rules – clubs in the general area of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan – we'd like to hear about and publicize your activities.

New: We're going to try to help family members of deceased members with radio-related materials from their stations. The wives of two deceased TMRA members have recently approached other Club members regarding this – not so much the main items of equipment such as transceivers, towers, antennas, but the smaller "stuff" that we all seem to accumulate over the years. At the next General meeting we'll have some of these items from Jack, K8HNI and Jim, N8NLE; come and look them over and make offers to buy. What doesn't sell at the meeting, we'll store until the Hamfest. The families are not trying, nor expecting, to make large amounts of money from such items, but would prefer to see them be used by other Hams, rather than be consigned to the trash pick-ups.

I don't know who first raised this question, but if you take an antenna to a wedding, does it improve the reception ?

73, Brian
WD8MXR

VE Test Sessions

July 10 --Techs: KD8OOM, William A Sodeman Jr; KD8OOR, Alex D Sodeman, also, KD8JWO, Anthony Gallina upgraded to General

June 12 –Techs: KD8OIS, George Markle; KD8OIT, Michael Rhoades; KD8OIU, Bruce Vinecourt.
Congratulations to all and thanks to the VE test team.

A Letter to the Membership

Hello Everyone,

My name is Dan Cunningham KE8UE; I am your Tech Committee chairperson. It was about two years ago that I became the Tech Committee chair. I have been a ham for about twenty-five years. I have been a past and present board member. That tells you a little bit about me for those that don't know me,

The Tech Committee, which consists of 14 or so, people of diverse backgrounds which, really gives varying ways of problem solving. We meet on the second Monday of the month and have caught problems that have come up since the last meeting.

This is an update on projects that the Tech Committee has started what we have accomplished and things that need to be done. Two years ago we purchased a new Motorola repeater for two meters, and a new Icom 440 repeater. We had some problems early on with both radios, which took some time to get straightened out. The two machines had receiver problems. Bender sent the repeater back to the factory and the problem was straightened out at no cost to the club. The 440-machine came to us setup for the business band, which is not how we had ordered it. We had to send it back to have it aligned into the amateur band because the place we brought it from failed to put it in the amateur band.

Our next problem was determining where the best site would be. We tested out the site at Parks Tower on the campus of The University of Toledo. We don't have the intermod problems that we have had on the PNC Bank building in downtown Toledo so this seemed like a better sight for the 2-meter repeater. The tech committee then purchased a new Station Master Antenna and new hard-line. A used Rohn Tower was donated by WA8SYD. We then had to get the blessing from University of Toledo in order to install the new antenna and tower sections. The University personnel were very helpful with next phase of the project.



Part of the roof antenna team: (L to R) Howard, KB8NVF; Dan, KE8UE; Mike, WA8SYD; Chuck, KB8FXJ; Brian, WD8MXR; Dave, KD8JGQ; Dave, KB8EH; Rod, KB8OTP and Tony, N8WAC.

w8ter photo

The next step of the project was the installation of the new antenna, feed line, and tower. This is what we did this past weekend. .

1. On Friday July 30 a group of TMRA members met at Parks Tower to raise the new tower up to the rooftop of Parks Tower. The setup for the lift started at about 3:00 PM and the lift started at about 6:00 PM. I was told that lift took about an hour and was done with ropes and pulleys. We lifted 3 sections of Rohn 20 tower up the side of the building. The distance covered was about 200 to 225 feet. We had to do it this way because the

sections would not fit in the elevators or fit up the stairwell. Thanks to all who participated in this part of the project.

2. The second phase of the project was the actually installation of the tower, antenna and hard-line. The old tower, which was up there at least 30 years if not more, had to be disassembled. We cut those sections up and took them down in the elevator. We installed new brackets that Mike Kehr, WA8SYD designed to hold the tower in place. Note the old tower was only 20

feet tall and we added 9 more feet plus the antenna, which is about 20 feet tall. We were able to get everything installed and done by 6:00 PM. We had started at about 8:00am.

We do have some other problems to be checked out. The 440-antenna system has a high vswr and we need to check out the 220-antenna system. The next thing is to link all of the repeaters at Parks Tower to the Club Controller. After that we will check out the radio systems down on the PNC bank building which is our secondary site. This site can be used if we are doing some preventative maintenance at the Parks Tower site or in case we lose power at the Parks site.

I hope all of you enjoy the new two-meter machine and happy hamming to all.

Dan Cunningham, KE8UE
Tech Committee Chairperson



Steve, W8TER holds the new tower in place as Mark, KC8TVP secures it to the top mounting bracket. kb8fxj photo

Ohio QSO Party

The Ohio QSO Party (OhQP) is just weeks away, and the excitement is already building. Stations from across Ohio are making their plans to be on the air for one of the premier state QSO parties. Small stations from Ohio can make hundreds of QSOs during the short 12 hour event. Get on and call "CQ Ohio QSO Party" and run the pileups! We hope you will join us to make this the best event yet - our goal is to get fixed operations on from every county this year. If you are planning on being on, please let everyone know by posting your county of operation on the "Planned Operations" website at <http://ohqp.org/plannedOpsEntry.html>

For those who don't know what the OhQP is all about, it's a fun time for Ohio stations to be on the air and be the hunted station, or "DX". People from around the world are seeking out Ohio stations in this event, which is a nice change from most operating events. The OhQP occurs on Saturday August 28, 2010 from local noon to local midnight. In the basic QSO exchange, Ohio stations send a consecutive serial number + county, and non-Ohioans (who can only work Ohio) send a consecutive serial number and state/province/DX. Suggested frequencies are: CW: 3545, 7045, 14,045, 21,045, 28,045 kHz; SSB 3825, 7200, 14,250, 21,300, and 28,450 kHz. Don't be shy - try calling CQ in addition to searching and pouncing. Remember, the world is tuning the bands looking for Ohio stations - your CQ's will be answered! Full details and an OhQP operating guide can be found on the official website at: www.ohqp.org/.

This is a great event for a club activity or a training ground for new(er) hams. QSO rates are as high or higher than Field Day, and there's virtually no QRM in this event. Round up the club and have some fun. If you are in the mood to enjoy the great Ohio countryside, try operating portable or mobile from a rare county. Remember, the ultimate goal is to just get on the air and have some fun!

73 and we hope to hear you on the air,

Kenny, K2KW Ohio QSO Party PR Coordinator kenny.k2kw@gmail.com

Join The Fun !!!

What: MCRCA Foxhunt

When: Saturday, August 28, September 25 and October 23 2010, at 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: American Red Cross (where we have our monthly MCRCA meetings) 1645 N Dixie Hwy Monroe, MI 48162-5231

Who: MCRCA members, friends, family, curious onlookers, or anyone interested in foxhunting

Equipment necessary: 2 meter radio set to 146.46 MHz (simplex)

Advanced equipment could include (but not limited to – limited only by your imagination): Directional antenna, Attenuator, Map of Monroe County, Compass or Protractor and straight edge for drawing on the map.

Basic instructions: We will start in the parking lot at the Red Cross where you will be given instructions for the foxhunt. We will divide into teams in a random fashion. Each team will be given a sealed envelope – make sure it stays sealed!! Inside this envelope will be the location of where the fox is located. Your job is to find the fox without reliance on these instructions. If you open the envelope you will receive the same points as those who do not find the fox. On the outside of the envelope, write the call signs of the member of your team. Use the names of individuals who are not licensed. Write the starting mileage on your vehicle to the nearest 1/10th of a mile. If your odometer does not support 1/10th mile increments, use your trip odometer. The fox will transmit on 146.46 at one minute intervals (1 minute on and one minute off) Determine the direction of that transmission and find the location of the fox. When you find the fox, record your ending mileage on the envelope (the one that is hopefully still sealed) You will be given instructions for a place to go so others do not see you. The team that finds the fox in the least amount of mileage is the winner – regardless of how long it takes (within the time limit of the hunt). Points will be awarded to each member of the team as follows:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Points</u>	
1 st	7	This team will be the fox at the next hunt.
2 nd	4	
3 rd	3	
4 th and up	2	
DNF	1	
The Fox	3	

If you don't find the fox by the end time of the hunt (12:00 pm) open the envelope and go to the fox. Points awarded will be accumulated for the season contest. We are here to have fun. Be safe. Promote amateur radio to those who may not have their ticket yet.

Hope to see you all there !!!

Rita, WB8FBG

Adrian Amateur Radio Club - 38th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show

Sunday, September 19, 2010 - Event Starts at 8:00 AM

Talk-In: 145.370 - 85.4 pl. Tickets are \$5.00

Will be having VE Testing, - More Information can be found at www.w8tqe.com

73 de Brian, KG8CO

**Notes from our acting Affiliated Club Coordinator,
Scott Yonally, N8SY:**

Hi Gang,

Tonight I'm sitting in the hot tub on my back deck just watching the wildlife while dictating this on a wireless mic that I have connected to my computer. I just speak into the mic and the computer types what I'm speaking. Technology.. Absolutely amazing!

Summer is in full swing and that is the time that hams are usually the busiest, with marathons, bike races and especially Skywarn. Are you helping your club with any events?

I again want to report on the Ohio Section website. Our Section Manager, Frank has been circulating around the state these past months and has asked the many clubs that he's visited how often they use this website. It's a great resource for the latest information on what's happening around the state as well as within the League. Is there something about this site that you don't like and would use more if it were changed? Let me know if there is something that I can do to make it more appealing to you. Make sure that you check it out at:
<http://www.arrloho.org>

Did you know that there is a page on the arrloho.org website with local ARES and club net data listed on it? There is! It's a map of all 88 counties of Ohio with each county having a hyperlink from the map to a special individual webpage just for that county. It describes the net frequency, times and even PL information. The information for this map comes from YOU. I need your help. I have heard from a few counties with updated information, but we have 88 counties that I should have heard from by now and I haven't. How's about helping out by taking just a little time and sending me an email with your club information. You can list your club meeting times, dates (if they repeat) and so forth. Club contacts are a good one to put there as well. Does your club have a website? Send me a link to it and I can put that there as well. Now don't forget that we also have a Section Calendar on our website too. Just fill out the form and it will get posted. What a great way to advertise your special event or club meeting. The best thing about all of this is that it is FREE!!

The Wayne Amateur Radio Club is reporting the arrival of the USS LST-325 in Marietta on September 9th through the 14th. If you've never had the privilege of seeing a LST before, here's a great opportunity for you to get a "hands-on" view of one. This particular ship is the only fully operational memorial ship that is listed with the National Register of Historic Places.

DELERA (Delaware Amateur Radio Association) reported that their Field Day exercises were a really big hit this year, especially when they cranked up their 100' "portable" tower for the operation. Yes folks, it's not a misprint, they actually have a 100' portable tower! They had a tri-bander, a home-made 40 meter rotatable dipole and various other wire antennas hanging from it. You can bet that they have some fun operating.

The Buckeye Belle's report that their Annual Picnic will be held on August 7th at Byrness's (W8LE) home starting around 12 noon. If you need directions, please contact her.

The Q-Fiver from the Cincinnati area has a good article in it about the upcoming National Scout Jamboree. It will take place the week of July 26th through August 4th.

That's it for this month. Please don't forget to pay your dues to your local club and don't forget to keep your ARRL membership active as well. Club Officers - make sure that you keep the information about your club up-to-date with the League and the A.C.C. as well!



Steve, W8TER and Mark, KC8TVP attach the 440 antenna to a new sidearm.

kb8fxj photo

TMRA Tower Raising Pics are posted on this picture gallery.
<http://this.tmrahamradio.org/gally/thumbnails.php?album=25>

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President, Brian, WD8MXR; Vice-President, Steve, W8TER; Secretary, Ron, N8RLH;
Treasurer, Brenda, KB8IUP; Public Information Officer, Steve, KC8TVW.
Board Members: 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.