



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

January 2012



## The Prez Sez

First I want to thank Sandy (Claus), KD8HYS and her band of helpers, Brenda, KB8IUP; Rita, WD8FBG; Pat, KC8WQU; Rod, KB8OTP and Kathy (no call ?) for organizing a very enjoyable Christmas party in place of the December regular club meeting. If I've overlooked any other helper – my apologizes and let me know so that you can be recognized next month. Thanks to all who came and provided us with a great variety of great foods.



Lots of good food at the TMRA Christmas Party

kb8fxj photo

Our January meeting will have Steve, KC8TVW, and his educational program on soldering connectors onto coax. Steve is the Volunteer Examiner program Coordinator (VEC) for the club and he and the club would greatly appreciate having a larger pool of examiners available for the monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday) VE sessions; if you're interested, contact Steve for what's involved in getting certified and registered as an ARRL VE.

Hamfest preparations are well underway – the Hamfest is March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Owens Community

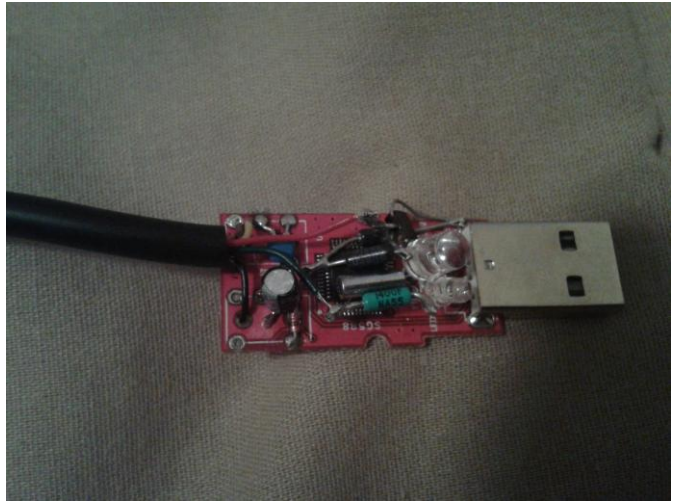
College Student Health and Activity Center (SHAC). It's registered with the ARRL and is an ARRL-approved Hamfest. I'll have promotional flyers at the January club meeting for anyone who would like to post them around town (not stapled to telegraph poles though!). The flyer is on the TMRA website, as is also the table application form. The Hamfest is our major source of income and anyone wishing to help can be sure of getting a warm welcome and thank-you from the Committee: we'll need ticket sellers Sunday morning; security at the doors Saturday and Sunday; set-up (tables, chairs, power cords, signs etc) on Saturday and take-down on Sunday; talk-in Sunday. Very important too are those who help the vendors move their stuff in and move their un-sold stuff back out – we have rubber-tired carts etc. for that purpose.

73, Brian WD8MXR

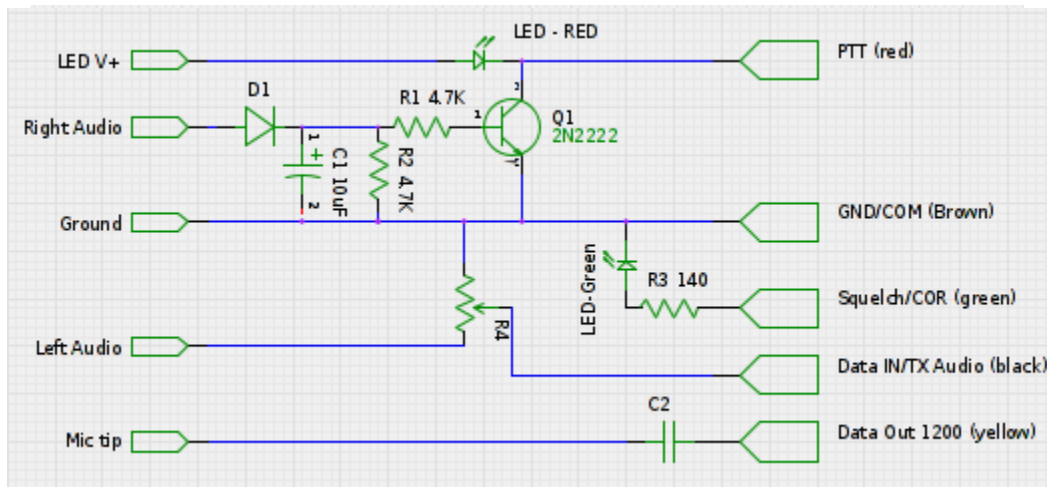
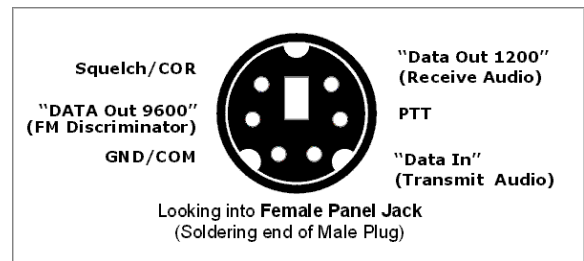
# DIY USB Rig Interface

Christopher Hart, KC8UFV

I built this to act as a rig interface because I needed to use USB connectivity on my desktop (or replace the system board for one with more PCI slots), and I had the parts all laying around in my junk bin. I used a USB sound card that can be obtained for \$1-\$3 online at a number of locations. For PTT, I use an audio tone on the right audio channel, so I don't mess with the audio being transmitted. This significantly reduces the parts involved. I built it deadbug style on top of the USB interface after removing the connectors that were on board. As a bonus, I included a red TX LED (the 5mm LED) and a green RX LED (the 3mm LED) The RX LED simply follows the pin on the 6 pin connector, and the red follows the output of the transistor. (note, this design has not been tested with all radios, and some radios may cause the red LED to be on at all times due to a lack of isolation.) Part values are non-critical in this circuit. Pretty much any NPN signal transistor can be used as well.



The soundcard I used was a generic Chinese sound card (model SJ-588) based around the TP6911 chip. I have found the mixer settings for this chip to be rather inconsistent, if at all functional, and the signalling needs a minimum voltage to function anyway, so on the computer, the mixer is set at full blast. There is an adjustment pot on the bottom. Note that when building the circuit on this board, some of the solder rings from the audio connectors are isolated, and work great as a connection spot. For some parts, a little sandpaper works well to get thru the solder mask to get a ground connection. (This is how I took care of the ground side of the electrolytic capacitor)



## New Digital Information Net on 147.27

Starting Tuesday Jan 3rd, 8:00 p.m. we will be operating a digital net on the TMRA repeater. This will initially be highly informal. If necessary, we will also be using voice to help those who need assistance with their digital setup.

Since the net will be informal, anyone who is available at 8:00 p.m. may start the net. Please announce via voice that a digital net is about to start and that we welcome all digital traffic, club membership not required. The time is subject to change. We will try to keep you informed via the web, newsletter and emails.

W8TER & KC8TVW

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## FLDigi Workshop

Saturday, January 28, at 8:00 am, the regular monthly LC\_ARES meeting will be hosted by Steve, W8TER, in Classroom #1 at St. Luke's Hospital. Classroom #1 is located on the first floor near the Auditorium. The *FLDigi Workshop* will start at 9:00 in the same room.

Emergency Communicators and those who are interested in learning about emergency communications using digital software are encouraged to attend. This workshop is FREE and open to all amateur radio operators.

Why is digital software important for EmComm? What can Digital software do? These are just a couple of questions ARES members ask.

We hope to help you start operating or expand your understanding of DIGITAL SOFTWARE (Not D-star) Emergency Communications.

If you are planning to attend, Please Send me an e-mail with "FLDigi Workshop" in the subject line and include your head count if more than just you are attending.

If you come, bring a laptop if you have one and your 2 meter HT. We have a few extra laptops and encourage doubling up if you can.

We have extension cords for power.

Thanks for your interest.

73,

Steve Bellner  
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)  
Lucas County Emergency Coordinator  
419-367-1200  
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**The TMRA *Amateur Radio Beacon* is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #237**  
**Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, (poof-reeder) and Chuck, KB8FXJ.**  
**Email, kb8iup @ arri.net**

## VE News, Dec 10th Session:

Congrats to:

New Techs: Paul, KD8RKM; Frank, KD8RKN; Gary, KD8RKO

New General: Dave, KD8QBR

Thanks to Chris, KC8UFV and Brian, WD8MXR, for your time and assistance at the test session.

Steve, KC8TVW

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## Happy January Birthdays

ka8bft, Bill Kelleher 1/1  
kc8skp, Wes Busdiecker 1/1  
wd8c, Bernard Fine 1/5  
kd8doq, Shelley Hoelzer-Spahn 1/5  
kd8qbk, Sara Stearns 1/8  
k8of, Doug Wherry 1/11  
ab8xw, Douglas Creager 1/13  
kd8pas, Kenneth Tillman 1/18  
w8jjk, Derek Harrington 1/20  
kg8sc, John Kovacs 1/20  
k6jon, Jon Parton 1/21  
n8zbw, Forest Selleck 1/21  
wb8hhz, George Henzler 1/26  
kc8mc, Albert Radolec 1/27

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.

Board Members: Chris, KC8UFV; Joe, KJ0EYT; James, WD8IOL; Rita, WB8FBG; Dan, KE8UE.

TMRA Home Page [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org) Webmasters, Tom, KB8PAI & Joe, KJ0EYT

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)

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.