



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

May 2012



The Prez Sez

Below is a “re-run” from the February TMRA Newsletter for 2 reasons – 1.) I’m late in getting something to Chuck for the May Newsletter and don’t have any new items except to remind everyone Mike, WA8SYD, has organized a bus to Dayton again this year, and 2.) I had no responses the first time we ran this about the TMRA nets. The activity on the 2 digital nets seems to have fallen off somewhat recently, but hopefully more of us will get involved and practice with the digital modes in the near future. The new radio equipment that LCARES has placed in the 8 Lucas county hospitals includes digital equipment and in the Toledo Airport disaster drill earlier this month, at those hospitals that participated in the drill, in addition to the regular FM, we used digital to send messages and pictures. I understand that Steve KC8TVW is not only planning on using HF digital at Field Day, but is planning on using the club’s new LCD projector to make it easier to see the contacts being made.

At the January TMRA Executive Committee meeting we had considerable discussion about the Club’s nets on the repeaters, primarily about the Sunday evening (8:30pm) informal “Information Net”, which used to be followed by the Swap and Shop Net. I’ll be the first to recognize that in recent years I rarely have checked into the Information net – either forget it’s on, or we have guests, or I’m working on something for Monday – but I’ll try to change my ways and check in more often, or take the Net Control Station position on occasion if need be. Mike, WA8SYD, has been net control for that net many, many times – for which we are grateful - but we cannot expect any one person to be able to be there every week. Sharing the load is a concept that we should adopt when it comes to having the net on a regular, weekly basis – which means having a pool of members who are willing to be net control station, and that means having some-one to act as a scheduler or net manager. A net manager with a list of members who are willing to be net control station once a month, once every 6 weeks, or take a block of 3 or 4 Sundays – the rotation and frequency would be governed to some extent by the numbers of volunteers – could set up a schedule, with a back-up net control for each Sunday. The point that I’m coming to is that, if the club members want an informal, information net on Sunday evenings – we need volunteers for net controls and an organizing scheduler so that the people involved know when it’s their turn – any offers ?

The Swap and Shop listings that are maintained on the TMRA website are extensive and probably too long for reading on the net every week in their present form. I know that when Mike has been net control, he has invited those with new listings to list on the air and he passes those on to Tom, KB8PAI.

Two important other TMRA nets – the Q&A Sunday evening net and the digital communications net. The Q&A net runs from 7:30-8:30pm – immediately before the Information net. The plan is (was) for 2 weekly digital training nets – one on Sunday evenings after the Information/Swap&Shop net, and one on Tuesday evenings starting at 8:00pm. At these times, the digital nets can be open-ended, which is an important consideration as there may be times when the net is helping participating station(s) with equipment and/or software adjustments or diagnosing problems – which can be time-consuming, but frustrating those seeking help if the net has to close because its time has run out and another net is waiting to start.

Brian, WD8MXR

Mailing Lists, Blogs, And Podcasts Are Good Sources Of Ham Info

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>). The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KD0BIK, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

Dan, KB6NU <cwgeek@kb6nu.com>

When he's not answering yet another e-mail, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Meet Some TMRA Members

Rita, WB8FBG, has sent along a few members bios from the membership apps.

Ken McCartney, KC8CCO, became a ham after 50 years of thinking about it. He likes international shortwave listening.

Wes Busdiecker, KC8SKP, seemed like the natural thing to do, he says. He likes technical stuff. He must, you should see his program on the astronomical sky seen via radio waves. To see the universe in ways not usually seen -- WOW!

Tom Tenney, W8OMJ, Tom is working toward DXCC. He has 92 confirmed so far. The bands are heating up Tom -- good luck.

Terry Minsel, WB8YRS, Claims that CB had a lower age limit, so he by passed CB and went into Amateur Radio instead. He likes to tinker and is looking for a mentor.

Franklin Hayward, KD8RKN, joined before he even had his call. He considers ham radio a great hobby. Electronics rate high also.

Greg Shuster, KD8NTU, enjoys emergency communications. Maybe that is why he is affiliated with Skywarn and Cert,

Michael Farkas, N8GBU, was encouraged by his uncle to get his ticket. He took electronic courses in high school. His main interests are satellite communications, Heli and packet. He would like programs on echolink and safety. Mike are u checking into the Sunday and Tuesday nets that are teaching digital communications.

KD8JHL, John Ocock, returned to ham radio after he retired and after a lapse of many years, His original call was WN9PAI.

Mike Essi, K8WZY, is looking to be a part of the groups that do digital modes.

Clarence Komorowska, W8WSB, originally was a Navy radioman. He continued when out of the service and enjoys 10-15-20M.

David McCanna, KD8NJY, is looking forward to continue working ARES, HF DX, Digital and D Star. TMRA hopes you will join them on Sundays and Tuesdays for the Digital nets. Just in case – TMRA has access to a Canadian D Star repeater.

John Dvorack, KD8BIN, used a very unusual stamp of his membership renewal envelope. It is a picture of a satellite and has his call on the stamp. Really neat! He just likes everything radio, but mostly DX and Emergency Services.

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Editors: Brenda, KB8IUP, and Chuck, KB8FXJ.
Email, kb8iup @ arrl.net**

TMRA Installs New APRS Digipeater/iGate

Hello all de KJ0EYT. Thanks to the approval of the TMRA Tech Committee, we now have an APRS Digipeater/iGate running on our downtown Toledo PNC building location (same location as the D-STAR repeater). Chris, KC8UFV and Rod, KB8OTP did the hardware install. We already had a functional radio previously used for the packet BBS as well as coax and an antenna. Chris supplied the TNC (a TNC-X). This was plugged into our D-STAR computer server, which was already running the software necessary to run APRS. Our D-STAR server already forwarded GPS info received from stations and forwarded it to the APRS network. So it was just a matter of telling the software we also have an analog APRS setup now, and off it went! FYI, GPS info received from D-STAR stations will also now transmit on analog APRS, too.

For the longest time Toledo didn't have a high-profile iGate, providing APRS info to the Internet (which can be viewed on sites such as www.aprs.fi). While we did have a high-profile digipeater, WB8NLS, this effectively went deaf a year or so ago. But this only digipeated packets locally via RF, leaving a local low-profile station, or the high-profile K8TIH APRS digipeater/iGate in Bowling Green to get this to the Internet. With the WB8NLS digipeater down, Toledo was left with little APRS coverage aside from several lower-profile stations (and a big thanks to those of you who provided this, without which we'd have none during this time!). The TMRA Tech Committee recognized this, and decided we could rectify this situation with only a very small investment in time and money.

We currently have \$110 invested in this. As noted above the radio and coax were already in place, as was the computer server. Chris provided the TNC. We're currently using an existing packet antenna, however this is in bad shape and we've purchased a new Diamond X50 antenna to be used for this application. This new antenna may be installed on the May 5th PNC work party.

For those of you not familiar with APRS, check out the following Internet links:

<http://www.aprs.org> - Information about APRS

<http://www.aprs.fi> - A Google Maps-based site visually displaying APRS data

Or turn your radio to 144.390 FM Simplex to listen. APRS is packet based digital data. If you've got a TNC, blow the dust off it, plug it in, and tune in!

73 de KJ0EYT

TMRA New Tech.

New members from the class. Please welcome 5 new members from the April 14th class.

Ron Degroff, KD8SEW, Tech 419-841-4937 Rondegroff@bex.net

Douglas Morrow, KD8SEY, Tech 419-697-9196

Rowland Rivero, KD8SEZ, Gen 419-509-6682 Rowland_rivero@hotmail.com

James Hudson, KD8SFA, Tech

Joe Wherry, KD8SFB, Tech

Telephone numbers and emails were added when allowed so that you old timers can call them and invite them over for an Eye ball QSO, to see an operating shack, to be a mentor. Let's keep their enthusiasm up.

When Filling out the TMRA Application Form, several did respond to the question, "Why did you become a ham?"

1. My Dad's a ham and I grew up around it.
2. For Emergency use
3. Communications in emergencies
4. To prove I could do it.

Welcome guys. Congratulations

Rita, WB8FBG

Field Day 2012 and NIMS

June is not far away and it's time to begin thinking about Field Day, June 23-24. This year we will be using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as our organizational structure. Why NIMS? Because emergency management agencies throughout the United States must follow NIMS and its Incident Command System (ICS). These agencies expect the amateur radio community to understand and follow the ICS structure when assisting at disaster sites and in preparedness drills. Because Field Day is our most important emergency preparedness function, it only makes sense to utilize ICS as our organizational structure.

Fortunately, ICS is not hard to set up or to use. Once you understand the operating principles and terminology, it makes perfect sense. And it easily fits in with the ARRL requirements for Field Day. For more information, you may want to read "Incident Command System at Field Day", an article in the June 2011 issue of *QST*.

We hope to have more information about NIMS and ICS to share at the club June meeting.

Getting Ready for Field Day

If you've never participated in Field Day, you're probably at a loss as to how to begin. Fortunately, there are many experienced hams that will be happy to show you what to do. Plan on coming to Field Day, study their rigs and set-up, and assist them in logging and making Field Day contacts. Also, the ARRL website has information about Field Day and the rules we will be following.

If you are planning to set up a station at Field Day, please contact Steve Bellner about your band and mode selection. The somewhat close operating conditions at the Field Day site have the potential to cause in-band interference due to antenna placement. A little planning now will prevent problems later.

A Family Event

Although our emphasis is on emergency preparedness, don't forget Field Day is also a family event. What better way to introduce your children and their friends to the excitement of ham radio! Are your neighbors and coworkers curious about your hobby? Invite them to Field Day. Join us for good food and fellowship. You'll go home with new friendships, many practical ideas, and lots of worthwhile experience.

Steve Bellner, W8TER, Field Day Chairman

Glenn Ingersoll, W8MUK, Assistant

Airport Drill

Several Lucas County ARES hams participated in the Toledo Airport disaster drill last week. This was a required drill. It involved airport agencies and most emergency services in the area. Steve, W8TER, sent some pictures of the event preparations.



The left picture is of Rob from Maumee, he is a Lucas County Communications Unit Leader. (COML) Rob is also KC8YCC.

The picture on the right shows some of the equipment.



Life then to now....sort of

Saturday evening, Nov. 19, 2011

Dear Group,

I attended the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Hamfest today. Last year, I had driven three times to Fort Wayne, for a Smithsonian Art Exhibit, from about 1934, just as FDR was elected, in the middle of the depression. Had regularly visited the Defiance Library, so the journey to Fort Wayne was only a few more miles.

Today, I was in the Fort Wayne area, in only two hours. Expressway. Ohio turnpike US 80 and 90 to just over the Indiana Ohio state line, then US 60 South to Fort Wayne. I used EZ Pass and I Zoom, with a special 3 inch by 4 inch, windshield mounted automatic pass, for the Ohio Turnpike and Indiana turnpike. Weather was mostly good, a little rain on the way back to Toledo area. The Fort Wayne hamfest is a two day event, Saturday (today) and Sunday (tomorrow). This is my first time to the Fort Wayne hamfest, and I am not returning Sunday. I may have passed one TMRA member at the Fort Wayne hamfest, not sure.

For my Ohio Professional Engineer license renewal, I found one more hour of continuing education, so I have 30 hours, for the calendar year 2011. Only 15 hours required each year, but you can carry up to 15 extra hours into the next calendar year. I found out that the continuing education requirement, although a fairly new requirement for the state of Ohio, is one of the things that Ohio regulators can catch an Engineer on, if they have not properly completed the continuing education requirement, and are a licensed, Ohio Professional Engineer. They do audit some license renewals. For me, I am just happy to be able to maintain my Ohio Professional Engineer license, even though I am retired. Requires something like an Engineering Degree, about 5 to 7 years experience in Engineering type jobs, and passing a standard, two part Engineering exam in Columbus, Ohio. I obtained the Ohio Prof. Engineering license in year 1974. Passed both parts of the one or two day test, the first time. This was when I was working as a research tech, in Anesthesiology Dept., Medical College of Ohio,

11 years period of job, 1971 to 1982.

Thomas Tenney, W8OMJ

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 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)

D-Star Repeater: 442.750

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.