



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

September 2014



## The Prez Sez

At the August TMRA General meeting the members present voted to approve some changes in the TMRA By-Laws; one was that the Club's Statutory Agent be a member of the Executive Committee. At the August Executive Committee, Dan, KE8UE, volunteered to be our Statutory Agent, and as he is just starting his 5 year position as a Trustee – he'll hold the SA position for 5 years.

At the September TMRA General meeting, last year's TMRA Amateur of the Year, James, WD8IOL, will introduce the member who has been selected for this year's award.

Don't forget the TMRA 2m Sprint contest is on Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction with this, LCARES will be testing the hospital radios that evening – we're hoping that all 8 of the major Lucas County hospitals will be manned, and volunteers are still needed: I'll have the sign-up sheet at the TMRA meeting again, and at the September LCARES meeting, which is the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>. If you're not at either meeting, but want to help – email me at [wd8mxr@gmail.com](mailto:wd8mxr@gmail.com) There will not be a meeting of the TMRA Executive Committee this month.

73, Brian WD8MXR

## 2014 Findlay Radio Club Hamfest

7 JUL

The 2014 Findlay Radio Club Annual Hamfest will be held **Sunday September 7** (Gates open at 8 AM for the general public) at the Hancock County Fairgrounds. (1017 East Sandusky St., Findlay) General admission entrance this year will be from Sandusky Street *and NOT from Fishlock Ave. as has been used in years prior.* Admission is \$7 per person. (under 18 is free) Any questions about the hamfest can be sent to [w8ftfrc@gmail.com](mailto:w8ftfrc@gmail.com) We hope to see everyone there! (talk-in on 147.15+)

## Ohio QSO Party And TMRA Elmer Class

Saturday August 23rd was the Ohio QSO Party and TMRA put on an Elmer class as well as a demonstration of contesting. Early morning about 9 AM Hams were learning about dipole antennas as Steve, KC8TVW, did a hands-on demonstration of "How to build a Dipole antenna." Using the 234 formula and going into detail as to why and how dipoles work and how to hang them and tune them.

Steve also did a second demonstration of power poles and spent much time in demonstrating the power poles and their configurations not to mention their convenience. All of the elmering took us up to the noon hour when

Ernie, K8EEE, got on the air and started making contacts as the Ohio QSO Party started. The education

portion of the event was great. Adding to that was Tim, KD8IZU who brought the LCARES truck and trailer to the station for show and tell. The HF operation was good all the way around as Ernie and Skeet, KD8XKD, were making a good effort on 20 meters.



Steve, KC8TVW, demonstrates "Power Poles"

*kb8fxj, photo*



An informal "antenna" conference

*kb8fxj, photo*

After a setting glitch with W8TER's radio was corrected by Ernie, and W8TER started making contacts on Forty meters and the band lasted all afternoon as the pileup continued. With KD8EVN logging and W8TER operating they were able to make over 100 voice contacts on the 40 meter band that afternoon.

It was an excellent time for all during the mini field day/Ohio QSO Party. Hope to see you at the next Mini Field day.

73,

Steve / W8TER

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

## Ohio ARES Toledo Water Update

Date: Monday, August 04, 2014

Hello all! If you've been watching the water crisis in Toledo this weekend, you may be wondering what's going on with ham radio there.

Toledo water was tested to show dangerous toxins from algae blooms-prompting warnings that the water was compromised and dangerous. By Saturday the Ohio EOC was in full activation, guard troops and various retail shippers were transporting water to the 400,000 residents. Additional fire tankers were in position, pulled from the Fire Chief's "Emergency Response Plan" - after which our own Ohio ARES Response System (OARS) is designed. The best news, no one has become ill from the situation. That situation continues this morning.

We received word of the crisis Saturday morning while at the Ohio Section Conference. Lucas County EMA was first to be involved and several other counties EOC's were activated, but there were no calls for amateur radio. This is not a communications emergency of course, and MARCS radio systems reported no problem in handling a minor up-tick in usage in that area. Two talk zones were dedicated to the situation for statewide communication. EC's for each county involved were quickly in touch with their county agencies and DEC Brent Stover, WD8PNZ, has been on the phone regularly with updates. ASEC Mark Griggs, KB8YMN, is our representative to VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters). He has been watching the event and has participated in conference calls intended to help coordinate volunteer response. W8SGT has not been active, but they like our organization are watching closely. Water testing is going in the right direction, but the water system is not declared ready yet until levels come down throughout the region.

So for us thus far- nothing, right? Not so! Even though this is not a situation that has required ham radio, it's been a great test of our own internal communication. The take-aways for EC's include: make sure your Assistant EC's are ready to step in! As luck would have it, EC Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP, was forced to participate remotely while she was out of town. AEC's stepped up to make the local contacts. Even so she was all over it, and provided updates from her location to DEC/SEC. Great work, and kudos to the AEC's for stepping up and for the EC's in the other counties involved.

This has kicked off other more generalized discussions about our best procedures to handle activations such as these. The condensed version of one of these: The "We do not self-deploy" mantra means we as individuals don't spontaneously race to Toledo in our reflective vests with yellow lights flashing. Got that. But I submit this does NOT apply if you're an EC, for instance, when your county EOC is activated or activation is even being considered. Do we EC's or organization managers just sit at home hoping for a phone call if someone remembers us? I believe it's simply good management and partnership to check in with your agencies if to do nothing more than trade status information. In my home county, for example, we have found it a win-win to have amateur radio on the 'first call' list- any time the EOC is activated we are on the list to put a person at the EOC to be a resource. It's good to have someone in place to immediately activate the ARES group if needed and it's a great way of keeping amateur radio "on the radar" with the public safety community. remember, this is part of a relationship!

This has been a great opportunity to show that we can communicate internally- keeping everyone in touch and up to speed through text messages, email and phone calls. just as we're doing with this email.

The situation in Toledo is nowhere near complete as this is being sent- but people in Toledo are approaching it with a good attitude, official agencies have worked without stop (and in some cases without sleep) during the weekend. It isn't a typical disaster scenario but one that affects a large number of people, came up unexpectedly and unfolded very quickly. Sounds like a training opportunity to me! To bend a well-known TV commercial, "What's in YOUR water supply?"

Our best wishes to all involved in working a remedy for the situation. `

Stan Broadway, N8BHL  
Section Emergency Coordinator - Ohio  
ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio  
broadways@standi.com  
614-562-3130

## Dale's Tales For September

Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 20:55

Greetings everyone,

You have doubtlessly heard of the national effort working towards passing HB 4969. This is known as the Amateur Radio Parity Act and is aimed at directing the PRB-1 style "reasonable accommodation" provisions for Amateur Radio antennas to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants, hence the term "parity". "CC&Rs" (covenants, conditions and restrictions) are the prohibitions and limitations placed on properties by builders or home-owner associations (HOAs) which prevent licensed Amateurs from erecting even modest antennas. As Congress is returning to Session in early September, ARRL is asking for your personal assistance in contacting your Congressperson to ask for support for HB 4969.

Full information can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>. This page will also allow you to identify your congressman and his/her address. There is a link on this page that will allow you to download the draft of a letter to use as an example. I urge you to write and ask your Congressperson to support this request for reasonable accommodation for our antennas.

Now, this is really important to accomplish. The number of residents now living in HOAs has grown significantly in recent years. In many regions of the country, there are few opportunities for home ownership outside HOAs. Thus, the impact upon ham radio antennas has become significant. Some HOA "contracts" do not allow any sort of outdoor antenna. Somehow, it seems absurd when one considers they do not allow a ¼ wave UHF mag-mount sitting on a rain gutter...The HOAs really do need to get "reasonable".

Our new Vice Director, Tom Delaney W8WTD begins his monthly commentary with this introductory article:

Over the last few months, both Dale and Jim (K8JE) have written some kind words about me. Now you get to hear from me directly. I look forward to meeting many of you in the division, and representing your interests in ham radio. So I'll start with some reflections on the past few months. As you know, I was appointed in early July, and so I had the chance to attend not just the Board meeting, but also the centennial convention in Hartford. It was a very busy time, and provided a more unusual introduction to the board than most people will ever have. I was very lucky to join the group at such a time.

### *The Centennial Convention*

Most of the time, there are a lot of people I know at a hamfest. After all, Dayton is close, and a lot of friends from Cincinnati travel up there. When I looked around in Hartford, there was almost no one I recognized. And yet, we're all hams. Soon I realized that the interesting exhibits, the friendly chats, the technical questions were all the same. Like meeting new people on the air, you quickly discover how much you have in common. And the highlights of the convention, like the keynote speeches and some of the forums, were just as inspiring, and the topics were things I've thought about or talked about for years. After a few minutes, you stop wondering who this speaker is, and instead wonder if you haven't met somewhere before.

### *Thoughts on the Board meeting*

Even for someone who has been a long-time member of a group, the inner workings of an organization can be somewhat of a surprise. ARRL is a very large organization, and keeping it on track can be a challenge. I'm impressed with the board and the quality of individuals who have been elected. Like many of us in the hobby, they come from a variety of backgrounds, but all with a strong commitment to ham radio. They have the best interests of the League in mind in doing their work. It's great to be associated with such people.

## *Hamfests in the Division*

This fall, I'll be making the rounds of the hamfests, getting to those that I can, in an effort to try to meet lots of folks in the three states. I started with Columbus and the State Convention, and will soon be at Greater Louisville and the Kentucky State Convention, and then a number of other ones, including the one at home in Cincinnati with OH-KY-IN. Hope to see many of you in the next several weeks.

There's a lot for all of us to learn at the forums. I attended the one on ARES in Columbus, and found the presentation on HSMM fascinating. The folks that are trying to pull off a network for Columbus have got some great plans. I hope that it goes well for them, and I'm interested in following up.

I'll be interested to hear just what interests you in ham radio, and how the League can help you achieve those goals.

73,  
Tom Delaney W8WTD  
Vice Director

*Here is the current ARRL Hamfest Schedule for the Great Lakes Division:*

Sep 6 - Greater Louisville Hamfest, Shepherdsville, KY -- KY4Z, W8WTD -- QSL Checking  
Sep 7 - Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH -- WA8EFK, N8SY  
Sep 13 - GRAHamfest, Wyoming, MI -- QSL Checking -- WB8R  
Sep 13 - Richmond Hamfest, Richmond, KY -- KY4Z  
Sep 14 - Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI -- WA8EFK, WB8R  
Sep 21 - OHKYIN ARS Hamfest, Cincinnati, OH -- W8WTD, QSL Checking  
Sep 28 - Cleveland Hamfest & Computer Show, Cleveland, OH -- QSL Checking -- N8SY  
Oct 4 - 'Vette City Hamfest, Bowling Green, KY -- QSL Checking -- WA8EFK, KY4Z  
Oct 18 - Muskegon Color Tour Hamfest, Muskegon, MI -- WB8R  
Oct 19 - Conneaut ARC Hamfest, Conneaut, OH  
Oct 19 - Kalamazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI -- QSL Checking - WB8R  
Oct 25 - Hazard KY Hamfest - Hazard, KY -- KY4Z  
Oct 26 - USECA Hamfest - Madison Heights, MI -- WB8TKL  
Nov 2 - Massillon ARC Hamfest, Massillon, OH -- QSL Checking - N8SY

73 all, see you on the bands.

Dale Williams WA8EFK  
Director, Great Lakes Division  
wa8efk@arrl.org

## **National Traffic System Training School.**

Tune in and train to handle traffic every Sunday evening at 7:00 PM with W8MAL for the National Traffic Training School. The training starts immediately after the Traffic net closes. The frequency is 146.610- with a PL of 103.5. The alternate frequency is 146,790-

## Terry Recommends

Terry, WB8YRS, has suggested some articles and information that he has found on the internet. Take a look at some of these and maybe there will be something for you.

<http://www.4sgrp.com/HiPerMite.php>

<http://www.w5dor.com/Building%20a%20Homebrew%20Receiver%20W5DOR.pdf>

<http://www.w5dor.com/W5DOR-Arduino-XCVR.html>

[http://www.analog.com/static/imported-files/application\\_notes/AN-557.pdf](http://www.analog.com/static/imported-files/application_notes/AN-557.pdf)

<http://www.k7qo.net/lab.pdf>

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html>

Terry has also recommended this **CQ Amateur Radio** article in the August digital edition.

*"Doing the 'Unthinkable' to Coax" By Vernon R. Harris, W7GGM\**

Through the Lucas County Library you can get Zinio which has CQ digitally to your computer or tablet. Best part it is no cost to you if you belong to Lucas County Library.

## Adrian Amateur Radio Club

*42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hamfest and Computer Show*

Sunday, September 14, 8:00 AM until the event ends. Lenawee County Fair Grounds. Tickets; \$5.00, Talk-in on 145.370 (84.5 pl) [www.w8tqe.com](http://www.w8tqe.com)



Lucas County Communications Truck and Trailer at the TMRA Elmer / QSO Party Event  
*kb8fxj, photo*

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: Glenn,  
W8MUK; Joe, KJ0EYT;  
James, WD8IOL; Dan,  
KE8UE; Dave, KD8EVN.

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)  
D-Star Repeater:  
442.750  
APRS: 144.390

The TMRA meets at  
7:30 PM on the second  
Wednesday of every  
month in  
The Electrical Industry  
Building, Lime City Rd.  
Rossford, Ohio.

## LCARES Hospital Radio Test and TMRA 2m Simplex Sprint Contest

Test of hospital radios: Saturday Sept 27, 2014 Time 6:00 – 7:00pm

In conjunction with TMRA's 2m FM Simplex Contest – after the testing of the hospital radios (see below), the operators will remain at the hospitals for 7:00 – 9:00pm period to participate in the contest. As the hospital stations are “Bonus Stations” worth 5 points – it is hoped that contestants will take this opportunity to see how well they can contact the local hospitals on simplex.

Need coverage at:

The Toledo Hospital    Mercy St. Vincent Med Center    UT Medical Center  
Flower Hospital        St. Lukes Hospital                    Mercy St. Charles Hospital  
Baypark Hospital        Mercy St. Anne Hospital  
Wood County Hospital (check with Bob W8NYY – ARES EC for Wood County)  
Preferably at least 2 operators at each hospital.

The test will also include the radio equipment (the same as at the hospitals) in the LCARES communications truck/trailer AND the EMA/911 building.

If you can participate, please contact Ron or me, stating which location you can go to.

Ron, N8RLH, Steve, W8TER, and I will serve as NCS operating portable, emergency power, with the “Grab-and-Go” set of equipment from a remote (non-hospital) location

Planned activity for the test:

1. Check and document SWR of the antenna installation – 2m (and 440MHz if possible):  
Operator will need to take appropriate meter(s).
2. Roll call, with SWR report, on 147.270 repeater
3. FM contacts on 2m and 440MHz:
  - i) Through several local repeaters
  - ii) On simplex
4. D-STAR contacts on 2m and 440MHz on simplex
5. D-STAR contacts through 440MHz repeater(s) and TMRA 2m D-STAR.
6. Confirm reception of NWS broadcasts from local NWS station
7. ***If time permits*** - pass digital traffic (operator will need to take computer with Fldigi)
8. Confirm that the information in the hospitals radios files (posted on Yahoo) is up-to-date and still correct for each hospital (except Wood Cy Hospital – no file for that).

Any other issues/concerns ?

73, Brian WD8MXR, Ron N8RLH  
LCARES AECs for the hospitals

*At 7:00, TMRA will begin the local 2m Simplex Sprint Contest. Go to the TMRA website for details and contest log forms. [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org)*

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