



TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

June 2016



The Prez Sez

Two important activities at our next general meeting – Wednesday June 8th – will be review of the proposed TMRA budget for our Financial Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, and election of officers for that same period. So far the only candidates are the current officers, but nominations from the floor will be open at the meeting, and can be made to the Nominations Committee - Glenn W8MUK and Ron N8RLH – before then.

Another important club activity coming up is Field Day – the weekend of June 25 & 26: co-chairs Steve W8TER and Glenn W8MUK will have details at the June general meeting. Also, see the article in this issue of the Newsletter.

As Glenn W8MUK reported last month, TMRA is scheduling activities at Fallen Timbers Battlefield Park in Maumee, Ohio for the ARRL National Parks on the Air. Ron N8RLH has organized two so far there with his Grab & Go station and is planning more. At the June activation, Steve KC8TVW had his G&G station working on 40m digital. Thanks to all operators who have made this club activity a success.

June 30th marks the end of our Membership year, so renewals are due by that date – contact Ernie K8EEE our Membership Chairman with your renewal form –it's available on-line at our website www.tmrahamradio.org . Please remember that if you meet the requirements for an over 70 years old complimentary membership, we still need you to complete and turn in an application form each year so that we can keep our “active member” list up-to-date. At our May meeting our membership reached 200!

Many of the amateur radio operators in our area who are active in, or who are interested in, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) are also members of the TMRA. Maybe not all know that the old Yahoo Group for Lucas County ARES (LCARES) is no longer active, and that a new Yahoo Group has been formed – ARESLucascounty.org. One function of the new group will be to disseminate information on LCARES activities, so if you're interested in LCARES and have not yet registered and joined the new group, go to the website and apply to join.

A reminder that the TMRA digital net meets on the 147.27/87 repeater Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm and usually runs for 90 minutes or so. We concentrate on Fldigi and Flmsg – the main aim of the net is to have operators familiar with and experienced with these 2 programs and so able to send and receive messages.

73, Brian WD8MXR

ARES News

The next ARES meeting is June 25th at 9:00 am at the Wolcott House grounds on River Road in Maumee, Ohio.



Tune into the ARES IN BRIEF Net on Sunday nights at 7:30 pm on 147.270. It is open to all. The Glass City Marathon was April 24, 2016. Thanks to all who helped out with communications.

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Toledo Airshow

A Message from Rick, K8RKS

We are looking for a large number of operators for the Toledo Air Show which is being held July 16th and 17th at the Toledo Express airport. We have assignments from 8:00 AM through 6:00 PM both days. Persons under 18 years of age are not permitted to help at the airport, but can be at the parking areas if accompanied by someone older than 18. If you would like to help out there is some information I have to have, specifically:

1. Callsign
2. Shirt size
3. Which day(s) are you available
4. What hours are you available on each day
5. How many hours are you willing to work on each day

Some of you have already sent some information to either Brent, WD8PNZ or Brenda, KB8IUP, which they have forwarded to me so I have some information, but I don't think I have everything I need from anyone. Absolutely no volunteers will be accepted after July 1st, 2016. So please let me know at either k8rks@arrl.net or 419-471-0573 if you'd like to help and provide the information in the list above.

New Hams and Upgrades

A report from Steve, KC8TVW

Here are the VE test results from the May 14, 2016 testing session. Congratulations to the following new hams and upgrades. New **Techs**: Jeremy, KE8EHW; David, KE8EHX; Robert KE8EHY; Mark, KE8EHZ. New **General**: Michael, KE8EIA.

Upgrades to **Amateur Extra**: James, KC8FPE. Upgrade to **General**: Charles, KE8DVM; Matthew, KD8MVV; Clint, KD8CEF.

Thanks to the VE's: KD8EVN, KD8NJY, WD8MXR, WA8SYD and KC8TVW.

From the Tech Committee

By Dan, KE8UE, Chairman

Hi All! It has been a long time since I wrote an article to let you know what the Tech Committee has been doing. I have a very active committee of eleven voting members and five to six other members that have had a lot of input to what we are trying to do. We are always open to suggestions and ideas. The meetings are on the second Monday of the month at the Maumee #2 Fire Station and are open to all.

Most of our analog systems are located at Parks Tower on the University of Toledo main campus. The D-Star systems are at the PNC Bank Building (PNC) in downtown Toledo, along with the 900 MHz repeater.

We had five 900 MHz trunking repeaters donated to us and we have sold four, which has helped us to work on the following projects. We are updating some of the equipment for D-Star and APRS repeaters. We have a lot more equipment now than we did eight to ten years ago and are trying to be progressive in getting into these different modes of operation. However, we are not trying to have every mode out there.

We are continuing to help newcomers as well as some Elmers with workshops. People on the Tech Committee are teaching Fldigi, PSK, JT-65 and CW.

With the purchase of the three Icom ID-880 D-Star radios, we are going to setup a remote receive site down at PNC so that people east of the downtown area and those with handhelds can better access the 147.270 repeater. The remote receiver will have a separate PL tone for the input to 147.870. This will allow stations on the eastern side of Lucas County to have access to the 2 meter repeater. This is also going to help with events downtown. You will still be able to hear the 2 meter repeater with the PL tone of 103.5. The receiver at PNC will send the received signal to an ID-880 that will transmit via D-Star (which automatically transmits the station ID) to another ID-880 at Parks Tower. Then that signal will be inputted into the 2 meter repeater and out as normal. This is a less expensive way of having a remote receiving system than the voter systems. We are also thinking about putting a remote receiver somewhere in the western Lucas County area, but have not found a site as yet.

We are also working on getting the satellite system back up and running. I have setup a subcommittee to be looking into how we should precede and at this time we have two options: (1) a mobile setup with everything packed in a trailer or (2) in a school such as a technical school.

National Parks On The Air

By Glenn, W8MUK

Take one part beautiful day in May and mix with one part ham radio and one part national battlefield historic site, and what do you get? You get National Parks on the Air! To be more accurate, you get one fantastic day in one of the 483 national park sites in this year-long cooperative program between ARRL and the national park service.



NPOTA Banner

- w8muk photo

On Saturday, May 7, Ron, N8RLH and several other TMRA hams set up Ron's grab-and-go-kit in Fallen Timbers Battlefield National Historic Site in Maumee, Ohio. The cool air, sunshine, trees, and thick grass made a perfect setting to operate and share stories. Ron brought his Icom 7000, strung a 100 foot random wire in the trees in the form of an inverted-L, and tuned through a MFJ automatic tuner. Power was provided by several deep-cycle batteries previously charged using solar power. The set-up worked perfectly and was so quiet we could easily hear the birds singing.

Beginning at 8:30 AM and continuing through the afternoon, the TMRA team made 238 contacts in 39 states. States worked ranged from Texas to North Dakota, Maine to Florida. We even worked Quebec and Saskatchewan, Canada. Sometimes the contacts were coming in at three a minute! We took turns operating, logging, and greeting other park users who were curious about what we were doing. We also took turns eating the bagels, donuts, and pizza. All in all, it was a very successful day.



Ron, N8RLH at his rig

- kd8evn photo

If you want to interest a friend or family member in ham radio, this is the perfect opportunity. The goal is to have one NPOTA outing each month. All hams and visitors are welcome. Bring a lawn chair and come prepared to have fun!

Thanks to Ron, N8RLH; Dave, KD8EVN; Darryl, KD8BZN; Glenn, W8MUK; Skeet, KD8KXD; Steve, W8TER; Brian, WD8MXR; and Jim, KC8BAA.

Field Day

The big day will soon be here. Field Day 2016 is June 25 and 26 at Wolcott House Museum grounds on River Road in Maumee, Ohio. All of our plans and preparations will soon be put to work as TMRA and other hams participate in the biggest day in ham radio in the US and Canada. Here are some things to think about if you plan to operate, log, or to just come out and socialize.

First, if you are planning to operate, you may want to come to the antenna planning session at the Wolcott House grounds on June 17 at around 5:00 PM. We will be walking the grounds and identifying the locations of antennas to minimize interference on Field Day. We will also be discussing the placement of tents and campers in the somewhat limited space.

If you can't come on June 17, you are still welcome to operate, but subject to the antenna plan already established. Even if you don't bring an antenna, you may be able to use one of the antennas already set up when it is not being used by someone else. Also, you may operate even if you don't bring an antenna or rig – just be ready to take a turn when someone else gets tired of operating.



Field Day 2012 - a team event!

- w8muk photo

ARES will be holding its monthly meeting at the Field Day site at the usual time on June 25.

If you are planning to stay for lunch or dinner on Saturday, we would appreciate if you would bring a dish to pass. Not a cook? Chips, pretzels, cookies, and other snacks are always welcome. We are planning a light breakfast on Sunday morning. Don't forget your stories of past field days or other operating events.

Camping is available on the site with some common sense limitations. Please ask before you set up. Remember, we will be sharing the site with weddings and other activities, so we can't just set up anywhere we want. Bathrooms and a small kitchen are available courtesy of the Wolcott House.

Don't forget to say "thank you" to the Wolcott House Museum staff for allowing us once again to use their grounds for Field Day. We are fortunate to have access to a suitable site so close to where many TMRA members live.

Glenn, W8MUK, Editor

Dale's Tales

Greetings everyone, welcome to "Dale's Tales" for June, 2016.

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT: Last week, the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology received a letter from Community Associations Institute (CAI) supporting the Amateur Radio Parity Act. Our Legislative Action Team has been working extensively with CAI and staff from the House of Representatives to reach this agreement. This action is a vital step in gaining support from Homeowners' Associations as CAI is the national advocate for those groups. Having this agreement is a positive step in securing passage of the Bill in the House of Representatives and improves the likelihood of similar action in the Senate.

You can find the latest information at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>. Thanks to so many of the Great lakes Division hams who have sent letters supporting the legislation. If you have not done so, you can find a sample on the listed web page. Please be sure to route your letters through ARRL Headquarters: ARRL, Attn: Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Our Legislative Action Team will hand deliver the letters, thus avoiding delays caused by the postal inspection system in DC.

DAYTON: From my perspective the Hamvention® went very well this year. As your Director, I spend much of my time at ARRL Expo to meet and greet as many Great Lakes Division hams as I possibly can. It is an important part of my commitment to the hams in the Great Lakes Division to be available to discuss your concerns about ham radio and then do what I can to help make any necessary changes. While doing this, I always wish I could get to more of the Dayton forums, there were a number of them this year that really were in my areas of interest. Perhaps in 2017.

I did have the pleasure of moderating the ARRL Forum this year and was pleased that we could include comments from several members of ARRL's new leadership team. I think it is important that our members have a good handle on who does what in the organization, and the Forum is a wonderful opportunity to hear from the folks who make some of the key decision on our behalf. This year we welcomed International Vice President Jay Bellows K0QB, Second Vice President Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, First Vice President Greg Widin K0GW, CEO Tom Gallagher NY2RF, and President Rick Roderick K5UR.

While we commonly think of these folks as the "leaders" of ham radio, it is clear that the true leaders are those such as yourself who constitute the real leadership of amateur radio. As you read this column, I remind you that you play a critically important part in the future of this hobby. You are active, interested, and concerned about the amateur radio. You are a most significant part of the leadership of ham radio. How this all plays out in the coming years absolutely depends on how you and I act today. We

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President, Brian, WD8MXR;
Vice-President, Glenn, W8MUK;
Secretary, Zack, N8ZAK;
Treasurer, Rich, KD8WCB.

Board Members: Steve, W8TER;
Skeet, KD8XKD; James, WD8IOL;
Dan, KE8UE; Dave, KD8EVN.

TMRA Home Page
www.tmrahamradio.org
Webmasters, Zak, N8ZAK &
Mike, N8ZLW

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.

emphasized this fact at the ARRL Forum in Dayton and encouraged everyone to "do something positive for amateur radio" that very day. And then, continue to do at least one positive thing for the hobby each week while encouraging others to do the same. Just do it.

TOM'S COMMENTS: Comments from our Vice Director Tom Delany W8WTD

I'm a pretty optimistic person, both in general, and especially about the future of ham radio. Of course there are some signs that don't point to a good future, but there are just as many or more that seem to indicate that ham radio will be just fine in the coming years. The Dayton Hamvention® is always a good barometer of what is happening and what will happen. And other events and experiences this month have also given me good reason for hope.

Whatever your particular experiences at Dayton, it's hard to ignore how much enthusiasm there is during the weekend. Maybe the crowds were down a bit. Or maybe not. There were a lot of innovative products on the market, and people were certainly in a buying mood, from all reports. And the experiences I had in the ARRL Expo were of people talking about possibilities, of training, of new projects. There was the individual who spoke of trying to revitalize the radio club in his area. There was the couple, not licensed, who came to the Hamvention to learn about ham radio and find out how to get their licenses. And of course, there was the Youth Forum, where many young people learned more about the hobby and what new things they could do with it.

Apart from the Hamvention, there were the club meetings this month where people are trying new things and sharing their experiences. Speaking of licenses, I met a ten-year-old at a club meeting who is very close to getting his license. Once he does, he'll be an enthusiastic ham for many years to come! And beyond regular club meetings, I attended a "tech night" not held on the regular meeting night, where hams were sharing knowledge about the latest in digital technology.

I read about radio operators in the disaster areas of this country helping with emergency communications. And public service work continues, as the weather warms and the runs, walks, rides and parades all take place with many ham clubs there for support.

One last note about the future. More and more of us are turning to "social media" to share our experiences. Far from substituting for radio, its use is enhancing radio. The popularity of National Parks on the Air is one example. How many of you have used Facebook to find out when an activation is taking place? And news of local events, meetings, gatherings, as well as things of national interest from ARRL are out there on Facebook and Twitter. That's where the younger people are, and that's where we're trying to help them find us.

Our new ARRL President, Rick, K5UR, urged us all to go out and do something for ham radio. In that spirit, I'd also like to encourage everyone to do something good for ham radio. Summer is a perfect time for helping a new person with an antenna. But not just a new person. Maybe a ham you know hasn't been active in a while. See about helping them get back on the air. Or, as Rick said, just get on the air. That in itself will do a lot to keeping ham radio alive and well.

73, Tom W8WTD Vice Director, Great Lakes Division

ARRL SANCTIONED HAMFESTS: Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule covering the next few weeks. These swaps have received their sanctioning approval from ARRL HQ at the time of this publication. We have approximately 65 hamfests each year in the Great Lakes Division. I do encourage each Hamfest Chair to register early for ARRL Sanctioning. It is never too early to register your hamfest with Headquarters. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Help avoid date conflicts, do it early!

June 4 - Fulton County - Tedrow, OH
June 4 - Princeton Hamfest - Princeton, KY
June 5 - Chelsea Hamfest - Chelsea, MI
June 5 - NOTE: Portage, OH Hamfair - CANCELLED FOR 2016
June 11 - Luce County - Newberry, MI
June 18 - Midland Hamfest - Midland, MI
June 18 - Milford Hamfest - Milford, OH
June 19 - **Monroe Hamfest - Monroe, MI**
July 10 - 20/9 Tailgate - Austintown, OH
July 16 - GMARC Trunk Swap - Shelby Twp., MI
July 16 - NOARS Fest - Elyria, OH
July 17 - Van Wert - Van Wert, OH
July 30 - Big Sandy - Louisa, KY
July 30 - CMARC Outdoor - Lansing, MI

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Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director, Great Lakes Division

(Dales Tales was edited to fit the space available.)

Did You Know?

- The Lucas County ARES Informational Net is every Sunday at 7:30 pm on 147.270.
- The TMRA Newcomers and Elmers Net is every Sunday at 8:00 pm on 147.270.
- The Tech Committee meets the second Monday of each month at Maumee Fire Station #2 on Dussel Drive (in front of the water tower).
- The TMRA digital net is Tuesday at 8:00 PM to at least 9:00 PM on the 147.27 MHz repeater for voice and on 145.555 MHz simplex for the Fldigi.
- The TMRA general meeting is the second Wednesday of each month. June is election of officers.
- TMRA annual dues are due by July 1st. You must fill out a membership renewal form even if you receive a complimentary membership.
- The Lucas County Skywarn Net is the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the 911 Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.
- The Lucas County Siren Net is the first Friday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM on 147.270 + W/103.5 PL and 442.850 + W/103.5 PL.
- The Lucas County Hospital Net is the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM.
- The NORC Net is the first Saturday of each month. This net typically meets at 11:00 AM on or around +/- 7.200 MHz LSB.
- VE testing is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or kc8tvw@arrl.net.
- **Field Day** is June 25 - 26 at the Wolcott House Museum grounds, 1035 River Road in Maumee, Ohio.
- The **airshow at Toledo Express Airport** is July 16 & 17, 2016. If you plan on working the show, you must register no later than July 1st. Contact Rick, K8RKS at k8rks@arrl.net or 419-471-0573.
- The calendar at the TMRA website lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

**TMRA
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June 2016