



# TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon

November 2017



## The Prez Sez

From Brian, KD8MXR, President

As part of our reviews and considerations of the Club's finances, we have been looking closely at the insurance policies that we have. We discovered that we can obtain liability insurance as an ARRL Affiliated Club for a premium that saves us over \$500.00 per year with somewhat better coverage than the policy we had, and includes coverage for the Hamfest, so we have switched our liability policy. We have bonding insurance for those officers who can sign bank documents, it costs us over \$180.00 per year. The Executive Committee has discussed this and we are proposing a change in the By-Laws to allow us to simply require that an Officer be bondable, but not require that we carry bonding insurance. Several years ago when we thought that we might need such coverage, the policy was of no real help to us.

The proposed changes are:

*Currently reads: SECTION VI. OFFICERS.*

*1. The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and as many other officers as the membership may designate. The term for elected Officers shall be from July 1st through June 30th. Any officer that becomes a signatory for the Association shall be bonded.*

*6. The Treasurer. i. Treasurer and all signatories shall be bonded.*

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*6. The Treasurer. i. Treasurer and all signatories shall be bondable.*

The proposed changes will be presented at the November meeting, and again in the December and January Newsletters, for a vote at the January General Meeting.

As was mentioned at the October General Meeting and briefly discussed, the question of the TMRA offering life memberships has been raised: we briefly discussed various options at the October Executive Committee meeting and will place it on the agenda of the January Exec Comm meeting (no Exec Comm meetings scheduled for November or December – holidays). We need to have Ernie K8EEE Membership Chairman's input, plus any thoughts on the subject from any or all TMRA members.

Again, it's that time of the year where we have to be realists and acknowledge that there is the potential for snowy/icy weather conditions in the upcoming months, resulting in Snow Emergencies. It is TMRA policy that if there is in effect at 5:00 pm on the day of a scheduled TMRA General meeting, TMRA Executive Committee

meeting, and TMRA Technical Committee meeting a snow emergency declaration of Level 1, 2, or 3 in Lucas County and/or Wood County, that meeting is cancelled. The cancellation still applies if the snow emergency declaration is cancelled after 5:00 pm. This should avoid any confusion as to whether or not a meeting is still on, and who decides, and when, to cancel a meeting. While announcements of cancellations may be made on our 147.20 and 442.85 repeaters, please monitor local TV stations or any other source of information regarding a county sheriff's declaration. For detailed information about Ohio's snow emergencies, go to [www.buckeyetraffic.org](http://www.buckeyetraffic.org) or <http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/snowemergencyclassifications.aspx>.

73, Brian WD8MXR

## **ARES News**

### **From Lucas County EC, Skeet, KD8KXD**

Please continue to complete the (NICS) National Incident Command System ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 courses. It is imperative that this be done!

The next Lucas County ARES meeting will be held Saturday, November 25th, at St. Luke's Hospital in the basement Private Dining Room near the cafeteria. The meeting starts at 9:00 am.

Please tune into the Lucas County ARES in Brief Net, Sunday nights on the 147.270 repeater at 7:30 pm for the latest information.



## **Congratulation to New Hams and Upgrades!**

### **From Steve, KC8TVW**

At the October 14 VE Testing, Charles, KE8EXB, upgraded to General Class and Mike, WB8TNF, upgraded to Amateur Extra.

## **CW Classes**

### **From Steve, KC8TVW**

CW classes probably will be after the holidays due to my schedule. It would be nice to get one in before Christmas, but nothing in November.

## **TMRA Christmas Party**

TMRA will hold its annual Christmas party on the regular meeting night, December 13, 2017, beginning at 6:30 PM. The club will provide drinks and table service. Please bring a dish to pass.



Happy times from a past TMRA Christmas Party  
-w8muk photo

## JOTA

### A Report from Steve, KC8TVW

Steve, KC8TVW, set up an HF station at Camp Miakonda for the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air, which took place on October 21, 2017. Twenty-four scouts made on-the-air contacts while being observed by their parents and siblings. The scouts also received a certificate for sending their names in CW using a code oscillator.



Steve, KC8TVW, and the scouts on a fox hunt.  
- w8muk photo



Skeet, KD8KXD, helps a scout on HF.  
-w8muk photo

This year, TMRA obtained a special events station call sign, K8M, and the scouts made 65 HF SSB contacts. Steve also conducted several hidden transmitter hunts using a small portable transmitter that he hid in the woods. The scouts used a directions antenna to locate the hidden transmitter.

Special thanks to Steve and to Mike, N8GBU, Skeet, KD8KXD, Ed, KE8EF, and all the hams that came out to help and give support to the scouts.

## October Mobile Fox Hunt

### A Report from Rob, KV8P

We started the foxhunt promptly at 10:15 sharp. I had a gain antenna on top of my ford explorer and ran my FTM-400 mobile at 50watts (to start out). This ensured that everyone could at least get an initial reading. I later dropped to 25, then 5 watts.

I generally ran 45 sec on air and 60 seconds off (which was just enough to keep the transmitter cool). I took the opportunity, as the fox to talk about some of my favorite fox-hunting tools and tricks while transmitting. Hopefully it was helpful to even those that were listening, but not able to participate, in giving some folks ideas for equipment for future hunting. I ran the foxhunt from the car from the parking lot of Fort Meigs Shopping Center in Perrysburg (corner of Louisiana Ave and W. South Boundary St.).

It took only an impressive 32 minutes for Tony, N8WAC, to home in and pull in next to me. Tony was operating solo for the hunt and must have had rockets on his car to get to me that quick. Nicely done Tony!

Next in was Dave, KE8DVM, using his newly assembled arrow antenna with the fantastic VK3YNG foxhunt receiver (with auto attenuator) attached. He really has it tuned in well and it looks sharp! (I'll be copying his strategy for mounting the receiver to the antenna boom!.....slick!) Jim was riding along with Dave for the hunt. They would have found me earlier except I pushed the rules for fox placement and located just a bit outside the boundaries of Lucas County.....(Oops...Just seeing who was paying attention..haha)

Next in for doughnuts and coffee was Glenn, W8MUK, and Ron, N8RLH, also thrown off my Wood county Shenanigans

Art (K8XG) started very late, but couldn't resist hunting even though he only had his handheld and "body-shielding". It was effective and his skills definitely got him there quickly. He caught up quick! I told him that last place required that he take and eat all of the remaining doughnuts, but he wasn't buying it...haha

Fun time. Looking forward to the next hunt on the 25th!



KV8P (The Fox) and the hunters -w8muk photo

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The next hunt will be Saturday morning, November 25, after the ARES meeting at St. Luke's Hospital (about 10:00-10:30). It is usually over about noon. See you there.*

## **Net Controls Needed for TMRA Newcomers & Elmers Net** **By Dave, KD8EVN**



On December 14, 2006, I was granted my Amateur Radio Tech License. I immediately ordered my first radio a Yaesu VX-6 hand held as an early Christmas present. December 21, 2006, I made my first and the best contact I have ever made, Steve, KC8TVW.

In the next six months of my radio hobby I was lucky to talk often with another Steve, W8TER, and Mike, WA8SYD. Lucky for me as they were all teachers (Elmers) and they all took the time and effort to answer my questions and keep solving my problems as I learned more about the hobby. They all gave me an invitation to join them on Sunday nights on the TMRA Question and Answer Net. This well run, friendly, helpful net helped me learn and form a healthy respect for amateur radio and the people that make the hobby so great.

Looking at my log book over the next six months I checked into the net 20 of the 24 possible weeks! That says it all on how important the net was to me being a newcomer to the hobby. One of the interesting notes in my log was the score on how much of the CW that I copied correctly from the net later in 2008. Watching the score go from 60% to 90-100% made a record of all of my time and effort and of KC8TVW passing the knowledge of CW on to new hams. The Q & A Net introduced me to LCARES, JOTA, HF, the Dayton Hamfest, CW, FLDIGI, VE, Contesting, building and improving my station antennas, and so much more.

I got to listen to a lot of different net controls and appreciated the different strengths of wisdom and radio knowledge each of them brought to the net to pass on. Mike, WA8SYD, always had the answer to any of my questions. Steve, W8TER, nudged/recruited me into being a net control for the LCARES Siren Training Net, which I still consider the best way to start to learn how to be a net control. That led to me being the net control for the Toledo Express Airport Disaster Drill and finding out the skills you must have to be a successful net control in an emergency situation.

Did I make mistakes? Oh yeah, lots of them, but as in anything in life you learn from the mistakes and try to improve and do better. You cannot learn to be a net control by just listening or checking into a net. Start to take

the plunge by copying down check-ins and net information as you listen to the net. Next be the Alternate Net Control live on the air. When you feel ready take the opportunity to be a net control.

This is not once and done. Net Controls need constant practice to keep their skills sharp and ready. Anything can happen during a net: power failure, radio failure, antenna failure, repeater shutdowns, bad propagation. There are so many possible problems that you are thankful for a net with no issues and for having an Alternate Net Control.

Net control skills are forged by time and tempered by experience. You can never have enough experience and practice. Amateur radio exists for public service. Public emergencies require trained ready to go net controls for VHF, UHF, and HF. Are you ready?

Nets and net controls all need help. Any commitment to a time and date has to be respectful of family and other social obligations. That is why the more net controls the better. The strength of any net is a pool of net controls to share their different radio knowledge strong points/backgrounds, and the time it takes to operate any net. It is better for the health of the net and its listeners.



Photo courtesy of Dave, KD8EVN

### **November 17 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Current TMRA Newcomers and Elmers Net.**

- It was started because the TMRA Q & A Net burned out running out of net controls, and an idle repeater on Sunday nights. I missed the Sunday net.
- Keeping fellowship and knowledge alive on local repeaters is a foundation of the hobby.
- Pay it forward and pass the hobby on to future hams. Think about and learn more about amateur radio.
- Learn and become a net control and keep your skills sharp by doing a net every other month.

I sincerely thank all who have been controls and alternate controls over the past four years and the faithful Elmers. Help is needed for the coming years. ***We must have new net controls to keep the net going.*** If you can help contact Dave KD8EVN at: [kd8evn@arrl.net](mailto:kd8evn@arrl.net) or 419-893-8811.

Remember back to the people that helped you become a better radio amateur. As a net control maybe you will be remembered as the next KC8TVW, W8TER, or WA8SYD Elmer.

### **Six Meter Nets From Steve, W8TER**

The Six Meter Nets meet every Wednesday at 9:00 PM according to the following schedule:

- 1st Wednesday of the month is on 50.400 AM mode.
- 2nd Wednesday of the month is on 52.525 FM mode.
- 3rd Wednesday of the month is on 50.125 USB mode.

- 4th Wednesday of the month is on 52.525 FM mode.
- 5th Wednesday of the month is on 52.525 FM mode.
- 6th Wednesday of the month does not exist so....there is also a 6-meter net on Thursday at 9pm on 50.255 USB mode.

## Dale's Tales

By Dale Williams, WA8EFK, Director Great Lakes Division

CONGRATULATIONS go out to all of the Great Lakes Division award winners announced at GL HamCon. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, attended and presented former ARRL Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, with the George S. Wilson, W4OYI, Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of outstanding service to amateur radio. Stan Broadway, N8BHL, received the Great Lakes Division Amateur of the Year Award. Christopher Brault, KD8YVJ, was named the Great Lakes Young Amateur of the Year. The Great Lakes Technical Achievement Award was presented to Bob Dixon, W8ERD, while the Portage County (OH) Amateur Radio Assn, received the Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Newsletter Award. All of these awards are presented bi-annually at our Division Conventions and the winners are selected from nominations offered by the general membership.

THE BANDS seem to be holding their own, CQ-WW is running in the background as I am writing this and the activity sounds reasonably good on all bands. We'll see what the scores bring in, but it is nice to hear all of the activity. November Sweepstakes is coming soon (Nov 4-6 CW and 18-20 phone) and those seems to be the traditional favorites for many hams in the Great Lakes Division. Let's all hope that every Section is back on the air for SS and the opportunities are there for a clean sweep. Club and contesters alike, this may be a great time to introduce contesting to some of our newer club members. Have at it.

GL HAMCON: This was the first ham radio event to be held at Michigan International Speedway. What a venue! The HamCon team, 21 regional ham clubs, went over the top to make this a successful effort. The reviews were glowing and importantly, the booking requests for space at the 2018 HamCon are already arriving. Larry WB8R reports the 2018 dates are October 6 & 7. Will there be some things done differently? Most certainly. This was a very large venue, the first effort and anyone's expectations for absolute perfection might be a little high. The sponsoring clubs that make up the Great Lakes Amateur Radio Assn., have offered their ideas and input for next year's effort, noting it is resoundingly positive, resolute in optimism and loaded with excitement for the future. It'll be Great in 2-0-1-8.

**THE TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 9673, TOLEDO, OH 43697-9673**

President, Brian, WD8MXR;  
Vice-President, Rob, KV8P;  
Secretary, Zack, N8ZAK;  
Treasurer, Rich, KD8WCB.

Board Members: Steve, W8TER;  
Skeet, KD8XKD; Tom, KD8WCD;  
Dan, KE8UE; Rich, KQ6EF.

TMRA Home Page

[www.tmrahamradio.org](http://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.

HAMFESTING: We have approximately 65 ARRL hamfests each year in the Division. I do encourage each Hamfest Chair to register early for ARRL Sanctioning. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set. Here is the current Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest Schedule covering the next couple of months. These swaps have received their sanctioning approval from ARRL HQ at the time of this publication.

11/4/17	Grant ARC Hamfest	Georgetown, OH
12/2/17	Fulton County	Delta, OH
12/3/17	Lanse Creuse	Madison Heights, MI
1/14/17	SCARF Hamfest	Nelsonville, OH
1/28/17	Hazel Park Hamfest	Madison Heights, MI
2/3/17	HARA Hamfest	Negaunee, MI
2/1/17	Cherryland Hamfest	Traverse City, MI
2/18/17	InterCity Hamfest	Mansfield, OH
2/18/17	Livonia Hamfest	Livonia, MI

*Editor's Note: Dale's 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 **Fldigi Net** meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM at 147.27 MHz.
- The **TMRA general meeting** is the second Wednesday of each month at the Electrical Industry Building, Lime City Rd., Rossford, Ohio.
- The **Six Meter Net** meets every Wednesday and Thursday at 9:00 PM (EST).
- 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 second Saturday of this 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.
- **ARES** meets the fourth Saturday of each month at St. Luke's Hospital, 5901 Monclova Road, in Maumee, Ohio, at 9:00 AM.
- **Mobile Fox Hunt** will be November 25 after the ARES meeting.
- **VE testing** is each month. Contact Steve, KC8TVW at 419-467-3734 or [kc8tvw@arrl.net](mailto:kc8tvw@arrl.net).
- **CW classes** began in September
- **Ron, N8RLH**, has ham gear from the estates of silent keys.
- The calendar at the **TMRA website** lists numerous ham radio activities each month.

The **TMRA Amateur Radio Beacon** is published monthly by the Toledo Mobile Radio Association. #306  
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**November 2017**