

**The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 372 Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050**

November, 2018



**Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm
at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross (Annex)
300 North Mulberry Street Mount Vernon, OH 43050**



**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600KHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)
K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800
K8EEN Repeater: 444.600 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)**

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President's View

Hope you are all doing well. Thanksgiving is around the corner and we here in KC8EVS hamshack have a lot to be thankful for this year. Just last week the 12th grandchild was born, a month early. Nothing wrong with early, mom and child are doing fine. This means that if all the kids, spouses, girlfriends and grandchildren make it to Thanksgiving, there will be at least 27 and there are always a few more. Some that I know are related and always a couple that I'm not sure of the connection but there will be plenty to eat. This will be the second year that we will not be hosting the whole tribe as my daughter in Chillicothe has taken that on.



Thank you to Steve Salyers, KD8TNT and Don Russell, W8PEN for giving up a Saturday to help me take down a Don Blizzard's tower. Next step is to get it up at my place, I'm wondering if a 50 foot tower will be noticed by the XYL. To tell the truth it is not the tower as much as the stuff that will be adorning the tower that she will object to, well we have all winter to warm up to the idea.

I missed you at the Skywarn Class. Tom, KD8HSA and Mark, K8MTR were there along with a new guy to the area, Larry forgot his call (he stated that he planned to attend Monday's meeting). It was a very good presentation. Very different from the spring offering as he focused mainly on winter storm reporting. One fact that he pointed out was that November is one of the top three or four months for number of tornadoes. Learn something new every time I go.

Hope to see you soon in person or on the air. As most know there is a group that meets at 10am at Hardees every Friday, Wednesday's 5pm at South Side and the second Saturday of the month 10am at Barb's Diner. If you have time come join us. Of course I would like to see all at the monthly meeting November 12th at 7pm at the American Red Cross Training building on Mulberry Street.

73, Frank, KC8EVS

Interesting web sites:**W5KUB.com**

Amateur Radio Roundtable Live ham show every Tuesday night
@8:00 pm (CT)

Morse Code Course:

<http://www.hamwhisperer.com/p/morse-code-course.html>

Straight Key Century Club:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/>

FT8Call:

<http://ft8call.info/downloads/>

Antenna Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgMWtqzgFLE&feature=youtu.be>

This video is about a 3 element vertical antenna array built on vacation, how he modeled it, and how to make it reversible.

SDR:

<http://websdr.org/>

A WebSDR is a Software-Defined Radio receiver connected to the internet, allowing many listeners to listen and tune it simultaneously.

Go to the chart in the middle of the page and select Band, (any) if you want, then Region (North America). This will bring up 18 listening stations in the United States and Canada. Pennsylvania, Alabama and Utah are favorites for this area.

OSSBN:

<http://www.ossbn.org/>

Ohio Single Side-band Net.org, our Ohio connection for what is going on in the Ohio Traffic System.

Ohio Section of the ARRL:

<http://www.arrl-ohio.org/default.html>

Ham Info:

eHam.net

Ham radio on the net. Articles on Ham Radio as well as interesting topics for all of the Ham Radio hobby. Product Reviews, classifieds, Ham Radio News, propagation and upcoming events around to country.

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October Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2018
By Michael Jacobs



Meeting was called to order by Frank (KD8EVS) at 7:03 pm with 10 Members present.

Minutes of the September meeting were accepted as presented in the October newsletter, as moved by Louie (NT8I) and seconded by Don (N8GIJ).

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Frank (KD8EVS). Specifics are available from Frank (KD8EVS) or Terry (KI8N). A motion to accept the report by Louie (NT8I) was seconded by Don (N8GIJ).

Repeaters:

Don (W8PEN) reported that the 2m and 440 repeaters were in good working order, although the 440 repeater was seeing less use than the 2m.

Mesh Net:

Don (W8PEN) reported that the Mesh Net was in good working order. He also reported that it may be possible to have additional Mesh nodes mounted on the Academia Water Tower (where the 2m repeater is located) and on Gastin Tower in Foundation Park. If this could be done, it would vastly improve the range of the Mesh Net. Don also reported that Dave Phillips (W8DEP) had a 50' tower available as well as a couple of antennas. The asking prices for this equipment is unknown.

ARES:]

Bill (KD8WHQ) reported that Knox County ARES participated in an exercise over the October 5-6 weekend with Knox County EMS and Kokosing Construction. The 3-hour exercise focused on a mock chemical spill with victims contaminated by the spill. Frank (KD8EVS) was at the spill/exercise site in Fredericktown while Bill (KD8WHQ) and Don (W8PEN) were at the Knox County EOC. ARES passed several messages from the site to the EOC. The exercise was well worth the time and it highlighted several areas where improvement could be made in the future.

The Black Swan SET was also this weekend, and several club members listened in on the chatter from that exercise. Our chemical spill exercise was not related to Black Swan. Use of ARES Connect is starting to be actively encouraged with a contest to see who has the most activity. Prizes of some kind will be awarded.

Old Business

Nominating Committee:

- President: currently no nominees
- Vice-President: Scott (K8AEC)
- Secretary/Treasurer: currently no nominees
- Open Director slots: Louie (NT8I), Michael (KE8HGE)

Skywarn:

- A Fall Skywarn class is being held on November 5, 2018, at 6pm in the COTC building South Main St, Mount Vernon). This will most likely cover late-fall and winter weather events.
- A Spring Skywarn class will be held early next year but not in Knox County. Morrow County and perhaps one other nearby county will host that class.

Christmas Party:

Emery (W8TW) confirmed reservations with Fiesta Mexicana Express (Coshocton Ave, Mount Vernon) for approximately 40 people on December 9, 2018 at 6:00pm. The manager would like a better head count prior to the dinner to make sure that sufficient food is available. Those wishing to confirm their attendance can do so by contacting Emery.

Frank (KD8EVS) reported that no progress was made on Mark Regan's generator. He will look into the status of the generator and follow up at the next meeting.

Other/New Business

Louie (NT8I) suggested revisiting connecting the 440 repeater to the Wires-X network of repeaters. Doing this would require an internet connection of some kind. The 440 repeater is located on the roof of Knox Community Hospital, which has guest Wi-Fi network access. Louie (NT8I) volunteered to look into what would needed to be done (and possibly purchased) to connect that repeater to Wires-X. Michael (KE8HGE) volunteered to locate and put Louie in contact with the correct person in the KCH (IS) department to discuss this.

Frank (KD8EVS) said that the 911 Call Center has a Yaesu transceiver that needs to be hooked up. Bill (KD8WHQ) said that he could arrange for access to the Call Center so that club members could go in and get the system put together and tested. Also discussed was a project to test the EOC transceiver on simplex -- in case the 2m repeater should go down during an emergency. The project would involve both mobile and handheld units attempting to contact the EOC from various locations in the county to see from where contacts could and couldn't be made.

50/50:

Wayne (WB9WB) won the drawing and donated the proceeds to the club (\$12).

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm on a motion made by Louie (NT8I) that was seconded by Bill (KD8WHQ).

Respectfully Submitted,
G Michael Jacobs (KE8HGE)

By Don Russell, W8PEN



EME

This has been a really busy month for me radio activity wise. The majority of my time has been devoted to my EME or Moon bounce project. I am happy to report that things are still working well and I am having a ball working World Wide DX on 2 meters.

Improvements from last week mostly center around adding the extra antenna. I now have what might be called an average EME station. I could do with a bit more power but I am going to sit tight with what I have. Adding a different, higher power amplifier would add a whole bunch of additional problems I do not wish to deal with.

Most of the difficulty would be in how to mount an LNA (Low Noise Amplifier) at the antenna and being able to switch it in and out when running a high power amplifier. Right now I have about the highest power amplifier you can buy that has a built in LNA. The amplifier uses RF sensing to switch the LNA in and out of the antenna line. If I were to buy a higher power amplifier, I would have to provide for switching and probably a sequencer. A sequencer provides timing so that the transmitter does not come on while the LNA is still switched in.

Not only would a 500 watt or more Amplifier be expensive, but a coaxial relay plus sequencer capable of handling this extra power would be expensive. So hey, I am happy with what I have.

Maybe the easiest way to improve my EME station would be to add 2 more antennas. This would actually be like buying a 600 watt amplifier as it would be adding 3 db gain to the transmit signal. Plus I would get a bonus of having better receive.

Adding two more antennas though presents its own problems. Buying the extra antennas would be roughly the same as buying a 500 watt amplifier. Then I would have to redesign my antenna structure and make an "H" frame to support four antennas. That would run around \$100. I would also need to buy a four port power divider for another \$100 plus. Did I mention I would have to buy a bigger antenna rotor?

Lets not forget about the work it would take to put four antennas on an "H" frame up in the air.

I can dream all I want. But I think the station I have right now will be with me for awhile.

Thus far I have made 54 contacts via the moon in 22 countries. It only took 69 years, but I finally accomplished a life long dream of mine.

Meteor Scatter

Unfortunately, my EME project has taken away from my meteor scatter activity. Truth be told, there are a lot more active stations on EME than there are on meteor scatter.

[Radio Activity, continues on page 6](#)

By Don Russell W8PEN



There are about five days out of the month where EME conditions are really good. Since I have a small station, I am planning on doing the majority of my EME operating during these five days. The rest of the time will be devoted to meteor scatter.

Speaking of meteor scatter, there has been a major update of the WSJT-X digital software. The updated software WSJT Version 2.0 is not backward compatible with the older WSJT-X Version 1.9. Presently, on 6 meters the hams that want to use Version 2.0 are operating on 50.280 Mhz. Those using Version 1.9 are staying on 50.260 Mhz. On 2 meters, both versions use 144.150 but the operators announce what version they are using on the meteor scatter chat page. Eventually Version 2.0 will become the standard. The true transition from Version 1.9 to Version 2.0 is scheduled for around December 10, 2018.

New Antennas

For the first time in like forever, all my HF antennas are down. I am having some tree trimming done around the tower and elsewhere and had to take my 160 meter windom down until they are finished. Hopefully they won't be too long.

To get the windom out of the trees, I had to cut antenna legs at the center balun. Not a big problem, but it will need repaired.

However, I thought I might try some different antennas just for the heck of it. I have been playing on that 160 meter windom for ten or fifteen years now.

I am thinking of a simple 80 meter double fed with ladder line. This antenna will be strung between two trees, but the center will be supported by the 50 ft tower. The ladder line will go to a 4:1 balun and then into the shack using a short run of RG-8 type coax. I am hoping the internal antenna tuner on my radio will match this antenna to all bands 80 – 10 meters.

I also intend on putting up an 80 – 10 horizontal loop antenna. Lastly, I will put up an inverted "L" antenna for 160 meters. This antenna may be something thrown up "field day" style and used only for contests.

Local Mesh Network

Lastly, the Mesh Network has been on the back burner for a while. I plan on shoring up this system in the coming months.

Honestly, ignoring the Mesh Network has been a good test. It has been running on its own for about a year with very little interference from me. This actually means that it is a very reliable network. I would really like to find a way to make this a useful network for local hams.

See you meeting night

That is a wrap for this month. Looking forward to seeing everyone meeting night.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Club dues run from January 1 to December 31st, and are collected the last quarter of the year. You can mail in your dues to the address shown below, bring them to a meeting, or give them to any club officer. Visit our web page at: www.mvarc.net for further club information. Dues are \$12.00 regular membership. They are \$10.00 for those over 65 years of age, 2nd members in the same family, and for those living outside of Knox County.

The Mt Vernon Amateur Radio Club

P O Box 372

Mt Vernon, Ohio 43050

NAME _____ CALLSIGN _____

STREET OR PO BOX _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

ARRL MEMBER (Y/N) _____ E MAIL ADDRESS _____

DONATIONS (OPTIONAL) _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE MEETING PROGRAMS:

November, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB – Bill	5	6	7 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	8	9 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	10 9:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road
11 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	12 7:00 p.m. MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red Cross Annex	13	14 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	15	16 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	17
18 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HGE –	19	20	21 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	22	23 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	24
25 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HNF – Louie	26	27	28 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	29	30 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	1 December
2 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB – Bill	3	4	5 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	6	7 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	8 9:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road
9 6:00 pm Annual Christmas Diner/ Election of Officers @Fiesta Mexicana 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net W8PEN – Don	10	11	12 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	13	14 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	15