



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)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's View	1
Ham Radio News & Information	2
November Meeting Minutes	3-4
Radio Activity	5-6
Big Changes ahead for ARRL board	7
December / January Calendar	8

President's View

Good morning all, it happens to be morning as I write this, so...I couldn't think of a better way to get started. We are getting ready to start a new year and I'm interested in what you are interested in and what we can present at our meetings. It is great to see everyone sit and talk after the meeting. We are often there an hour after the meeting! I want to promote more "Show and Tell/Buy or Sell" so if you have built something, fixed something around your station (be it hand held, mobile or some small spot that you have in your home) show it off or if you have something that is excess to your needs (working or not) and want to get rid of it, bring it in. You never know if someone may have had the same problem or may have a better idea, especially if you are not satisfied with your fix, or may just want that piece of "junk" (equipment) that you want to pass on. It is great to discuss these things and I would like our meetings to be a place where this knowledge can be passed on.



Another item that I would like to bring up is our Friday morning breakfast meeting at Hardee's. We will start next week Dec 7 to meet at the club station at ARC. We can make coffee, if you want to eat, bring that in with you, what we will do is up for discussion. "Show and Tell/Buy and Sell", operate the club station, work on said station to improve the station, get familiar with this equipment and we all don't have to do the same thing as those who want to sit drink coffee and discuss radio or whatever can. We have plenty of room to do this. This is a trial to see how it works, if it doesn't we can move back to Hardee's, no problem, no hurt feelings.

Well that is about all for this month. Remember Sunday Dec 9 at 6p at the Fiesta Mexicana our Christmas Party (December meeting). Hope to see all there. Show up as you might just be on the ballot for an office, never know if you are not there. If I don't see you, Merry Christmas, and remember Jesus is what this holiday is all about.

73, Frank, KC8EVS

Interesting web sites:**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.

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/>

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.

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers**President:**

Frank Counts, KC8EVS
fcounts@gmail.com
Phone: 740-358-9131

Vice President:

Scott Fields, K8AEC
ballixxe@yahoo.com
Phone: 740-504-8204

Secretary / Treasurer:

Terry Windsor, KI8N
ki8n.tw@gmail.com
Phone: 740-507-6329

Call & Repeater Trustee:

Don Russell, W8PEN
w8pen@arrl.net
Phone: 740-397-0249

Equipment Trustee:

Barry Butz, N8PPF
n8ppf@mvarc.net
Phone: 740-397-7540

Directors:

Emery Bennett, W8TW
eabenn2002@hotmail.com
Phone: 740-397-8127

Greg Short, W8DOH
gsw8doh@gmail.com
Phone: 740-485-8449

Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ
bstroud52@centurylink.net
Phone: 740-625-5728

Scott Magers, KE8ANQ
smagers74@yahoo.com
Phone: 614-832-2851

Don Russell, W8PEN
w8pen@yahoo.com
Phone: 740-397-0249

Bill Bradley, KC8BB
kc8bb@att.net
Phone: 740-504-0414

Newsletter Editor & Facebook Editor:

Bill Bradley, KC8BB
kc8bb@att.net
Phone: 740-504-0414

November Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2018

By Michael Jacobs



Meeting was called to order by Frank (KD8EVS) at 7:05 pm with 12 Members present.

Minutes of the October meeting were accepted as presented in the November newsletter, moved by Louie (NT8I) with second by Bill Stroud (KD8WHQ).

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Frank (KD8EVS). Specifics available from Frank (KD8EVS) or Terry (KI8N). A motion to accept the report by Louie (NT8I) was seconded by Ken (KE8GGC).

Repeaters:

Don (W8PEN) was absent. No report of problems with either of the repeaters from the members present.

Mesh Net:

Don (W8PEN) was absent, no information regarding the Mesh Net.

ARES:

- Bill (KD8WHQ) attended a Knox County Planning Meeting. During the meeting, they worked out a rough time table for the next 3 years worth of activities (as requested by the State). Most of the planned activities are going to be table top exercises, but there will be 1 live exercise each year. The live exercises will be along the lines of the event that took place in Fredericktown last month, but they do not have any specifics yet on what those events will be.
- Bill added that for Tier I ARES certification, there are 2 courses that need to be taken: level 300 and level 400 ICS training. Study and testing sessions for these two courses are available, but there is generally a cost and there can be a waiting list for an open session. He says that there are a series of online courses that can be completed for free that are recognized equivalents of the 300 and 400, and completing those courses will also grant Tier I ARES certification. The Ohio Section ARRL Newsletter lists the online courses.
- The 911 Call Center has all of the components for their new radio, including cable and antenna. They are having a new computer system installed this weekend. Once that is installed, they will have the new antenna installed professionally. After that, we can finish connecting and testing their new radio. Once the radio is in place, we will need to set up a schedule of people that can go in and perform a monthly check on the radio.

Old Business

Generator:

Frank (KD8EVS) has the diesel generator and is in the process of giving it a once-over.

Nominating Committee:

No changes since the last meeting.

Skywarn:

- The Fall Skywarn class was held on November 5, 2018, at 6pm in the COTC building (S Main St, Mount Vernon). It covered late-fall and winter weather events, which surprisingly includes tornadoes. The class had 15 attendees.
- A Spring class will be held early next year. Morrow and Richland Counties are the most likely candidates to host a Spring Skywarn class in this area.

MVARC Meeting Minutes, continues on page 4

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 rough 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.

Wires-X:

Louie (NT8I) has looked into adding Wires-X to our 70cm repeater, which is on the roof of Knox Community Hospital. He has identified the 3 things that are needed: a Wires-X interface, a server, and an internet connection. The interface will have to be purchased and will cost approximately \$125.00. A computer to act as server can be obtained by a donation. The internet connection will be the most problematic and Louie has opened dialog with the Information Systems department at KCH to see what can be done about an internet connection for our repeater. Once we know what will need to be done for that, we can decide whether to proceed with Wires-X.

Web Page:

Michael (KE8HGE) reported that he was figuring out the code needed to create website members and isolate members-only pages from the public.

Friday Morning Breakfast:

- Hardee's has had some staffing changes and the breakfasts have not been what they used to be for some time. A suggestion was made to consider meeting at the Red Cross Education Building for Friday breakfast, maybe every other week. This will be discussed at the next Friday Morning Breakfast.
- On a related note, R&M Southside Diner will not be open on Thanksgiving Eve, so that dinner will be at an as-yet-undetermined location.

Mount Vernon News:

Michael (KE8HGE) noted that the MVARC meeting notice in the Mount Vernon News had outdated contact information (Mike McCardle). Michael will contact the Mount Vernon News to see about updating the contact information, listing with Terry Windsor (K18N) as our contact.

Tech Class Study Sessions:

Michael (KE8HGE) has the Tech Class study materials ready to go. We are looking to start our next class session in the end of January, running weekly on Thursday nights, with testing in early March. We will have to get the dates set early enough to put out news announcements for the class.

Upcoming Dates:

Frank (KD8EVS) listed out several upcoming dates to keep in mind: Winter Field Day (Jan 26-27), NVIS Day (to be determined), Field Day (Jun 22-23), Dan Emmett Festival (early August), Ohio State Parks on the Air (Sep 7). He also mentioned the Mansfield Hamfest (Feb 17) and Hamvention (May 17-19).

Contests:

- There is an upcoming contest this weekend (ARRL Sweepstakes). The event runs from Sep 17-19 but participants can only work the contest for no more than 24 hours. The specifics on the contest are available on the ARRL website.
- Barry (N8PPF) offered 3 suggestions to help encourage those who might have "Mike Fright" to start getting on the air: 1) taking up CW, 2) building a basic comfort-level by connecting with friends on local nets, and 3) contesting. With contesting, there isn't the pressure of having to have a conversation with anyone, you are just exchanging quick contact information and moving on.
- Frank (KD8EVS) also mentioned that there was, on the ARRL's Ohio Section website, a video that Scott Yonally made of a group school students contacting the International Space Station.
- Frank (KD8EVS) also encouraged members to sign up for the ARES events that are now listed for Knox County on ARES Connect.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm on a motion made by Louie (NT8I) that was seconded by Barry (N8PPF).

Respectfully Submitted,
G Michael Jacobs (KE8HGE)

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Merry Christmas everyone! I hope to see all of you at the clubs Christmas dinner Sunday, December 9th, 6PM at the Fiesta Mexicana on Coshocton Road, Mt. Vernon.



I have been very radio active the past month. Mostly on EME and Meteor Scatter because my HF antenna has been down while I have some trees around the tower trimmed.

New HF Antenna

The trees around my tower finally got trimmed. Been meaning to do this for about a year. However, in order to get the 160 meter window out of the way of the tree trimmers, I had to cut it down! I mean right at the feed line! Wires were hung up in the tree and I had to break a limb or two and then actually cut the wires off the balun so I could get the wires out of the trees. What a pain!

Of course, the big problem with cutting the wires is now I have to repair the antenna. Well, since I had it apart anyway, why not modify it to hopefully make it a better antenna? At least give it a try.

So, I was thinking. If I replaced the balun and coax at the antenna feed point with a standard center insulator and ladder line, it would take a lot of stress off the antenna. That balun and the coax coming down add a lot of weight to the whole antenna system. Ladder line weights almost nothing when compared to coax. True, this commercial window antenna was designed to take advantage of radiation from the coax coming down and thus have some vertical elements in its radiation pattern. While this would be good for DX, I am not much of a DX'er, so this part of the antenna I was not too concerned about.

This is exactly what I did. I replaced the balun with a standard insulator and fed the antenna with ladder line. The antenna is still cut as a window antenna, so it should be an easy match for the antenna tuner in my Kenwood TS-590S. I mounted the balun on the tower. So, I now have ladder line going to the balun that is mounted on the tower next to the remote antenna switch. A short piece of coax goes from the balun to the antenna switch and then into the shack with about twenty feet of low loss 9913 coax.

I am able to tune the antenna with the rig's internal antenna tuner without a problem. In fact, I have less than 3:1 SWR on all bands except 160 meters at the radio. Unfortunately, the rig will not tune the antenna on 160 meters so I will have to use my external manual antenna tuner. I don't think that will be a problem. I only work 160 meters during a few contests and with the ladder line, I don't think I will have much loss. Time will tell.

As a bonus, I was able to get the antenna up in the air much higher than in the past. One end of the antenna is at about 45 feet and runs over to the tower at 48 feet. Then it goes to a tree at the other end of the property at 35 feet. This antenna should rock and roll.

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

By Don Russell W8PEN

I have not many any contacts yet, but I seem to hear stations really well. Stay tuned next month for an update.

Local Mesh Network

I have heard from a couple of new club members that are really interested in the Mesh Network. I plan on getting together with them and put some renewed effort into making our mesh network something usable to the local ham community.

I did some extensive testing on the Mesh Network a few days ago. I found that everything is still working after almost a year of being ignored by me. Yes, I was checking it monthly, but had not done much with it since my interest in Meteor Scatter and EME.

The web page I created still works, but needs updated. The phone system still works without a hitch. The email server may or may not be working. I need to get an email client running so I can check it out. RF nodes that are working: K8EEN-Red Cross, K8EEN-AUX, K8EEN-KCH, W8PEN-MTV, W8PEN-Server, and N8PPF-2. All nodes have good signals and are running flawless. We have two nodes that are down. KC8BB-1 and KD8WSI-1. I will have to get together with Bill and John and get these two nodes back up.

All nodes that were being tunneled via the internet are down. Mainly because I do not have internet connected to my node at the moment. This will change once I figure out how I did it the first time!

I am also getting ready to re-install my mobile node so that I can check out possible sites.

I have also found that I need to upgrade all the nodes to the current firmware. I am a bit behind here. I will be working on that.

Looking forward to having some help on our local mesh project. I still have several nodes available, but am limited on the antenna side.

Echolink

The Echolink computer we have been using on the K8EEN repeater has been a problem child for several months now. Our Echolink system has been running off of an old netbook computer which still has XP installed. Seems like every time our Sunday Night Net came around, the Echolink would be down.

I replaced this computer with a still old, but usable Windows 7 computer. Thus far, the Echolink has been working much better.

With a little luck, this will continue to be the case. If anyone notices a problem with the Echolink, please report them to me.

Meteor Scatter / EME

Not much to report on here. Things have been quite routine. I am up to about 70 contacts in 24 Countries via EME, plus a few states.

I did get into the ARRL EME contest in November. Made 10 contacts in 9 countries and 1 state. I think I beat out all the other Knox County hams for the local top score.....

73 all.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The results are finally in. No, I'm not talking about the national mid-term election results. As I'm writing this, some of those votes are still being counted. I'm talking about this year's ARRL board elections. ARRL members have spoken, and they have elected four new faces to the board in what was the most hotly-contested election in a long time.

Three of the five incumbents, plus an incumbent vice director running for the Northwest Division director position, were defeated by candidates calling for more transparency and for changes in the way that the ARRL operates. Here are the results:

Central Division Director

Kermit Carlson, W9XA 1,898
Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L 1,755

Hudson Division Director

Ria Jairam, N2RJ 1,292
Mike Lisenco, N2YBB 1,239

New England Division Director

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR 1,432
Tom Frenaye, K1KI 1,383

Northwestern Division Director

Mike Ritz, W7VO 1,589
Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ 1,308
Horace Hamby, N7DRW 495

Roanoke Division Director

George Hippisley, W2RU 1,891
Dr. James Boehner, N2ZZ 1,365

In the only two contested vice director elections, Mark Tharp, KB7HDX defeated Daniel Stevens, KL7WM and Delvin Bunton, NS7U in the Northwest Division and in the Roanoke Division, William Morine, N2COP defeated John Humphry, W4IM. All newly elected officials will take office at noon on January 1, 2019.

I was kind of surprised here that Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, failed to win in the Central Division. She has certainly made many contributions to amateur radio, both in the DX/contest community and on *Ham Nation*. Apparently, though, she made some statements that she was forced to retract, and that probably hurt her campaign, and as some pointed out to me, Kermit Carlson, W9XA, was well thought of in the Central Division and in the VHF/UHF community.

Overall, though, I'm very pleased with the results. Although some of the margins of victory were small—K1VR won by only 49 votes and N2RJ won by 53 votes—I think it's pretty clear that the members want change. Now, it's up to the board, including its newest members to effect that change. As always, I'm ready to help in any way that I can.

When he's not keeping up with ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands, and lately some digital modes as well. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. Please email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Election Ballot for MVARC Officers December 9, 2018

Current 2018 Officers

President Frank Counts, KC8EVS

Vice President Scott Fields, K8AEC

Secretary / Treasurer Terry Windsor, KI8N

Proposed Officers for 2019

President Frank Counts

Vice President Scott Fields

Secretary / Treasurer Terry Windsor

Current Directors

Term ends

Emery Bennett	W8TW	2020
Greg Short	W8DOH	2021
Bill Stroud	KD8WHQ	2021
Scott Magers	KE8ANQ	2021
Don Russell	W8PEN	2021
Bill Bradley	KC8BB	2018

Proposed Directors (additional) 3 year Term

Louie Wilkinson	NT8I	2022
Michael Jacobs	KE8HGE	2022
Barry Butts	N8PPF	2022

December, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 TBD Hardee's or Club Station	15
16 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HGE -Michael	17	18	19 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	20	21 10:00 am Breakfast at TBD Hardee's or Club Station	22
23 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN NT8I – Louie	24	25	26 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	27	28 10:00 am Breakfast at TBD Hardee's or Club Station	29
30 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8DOH – Greg	31	1 January 2019 Happy New Year !	2 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	3	4 10:00 am Breakfast at TBD Hardee's or Club Station	5
6 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB – Bill	7	8	9 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	10	11 10:00 am Breakfast at TBD Hardee's or Club Station	12 10:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road
13 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net W8PEN – Don	14 7:00 p.m. MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red Cross Annex	15	16 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	17	18 10:00 am Breakfast at TBD Hardee's or Club Station	19