



October 2020

K8EEN VHF Repeater:
146.790 MHz
-600KHz with PL = 71.9 Hz

K8EEN-R Echolink Node:
809800

K8EEN UHF Repeater:
444.600 MHz
+5 MHz with PL = 71.9 Hz

Contact Us

MVARC
PO Box 372
Mount Vernon, OH
43019

Web Page:
mvarc.net

Email:
info@mvarc.net

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm on the K8EEN Repeater.

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MVARC Information

MVARC monthly meetings will continue to meet on the K8EEN 146.790 MHz repeater during the Covid 19 pandemic. The next monthly MVARC meeting is October 12, 2020.

Visit us on Facebook:

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Visit our Webpage:

<https://mvarc.net>

Email for inquires and information:

info@mvarc.net

MVARC

President

Louie Wilkinson, NT8I

Vice President

Greg Short, W8DOH

Secretary

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Treasurer

Terry Windsor, KI8N

Club Call Trustee

Don Russell, W8PEN

Equipment Trustee

Barry Butz, N8PPF

Directors

Chairman:

Frank Counts, KC8EVS

Greg Short, W8DOH

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Don Russell, W8PEN

Barry Butz, N8PPF

Emery Bennett, W8TW

Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ

Newsletter & Facebook

Editors

Frank Counts, KC8EVS

Terry Windsor, KI8N

Join us every Sunday night on the Mt. Vernon 146.79 repeater for our weekly ARES Net. Check-in's start at 9pm.

Cannot access the repeater from where you are located?

We are on IRLP (EchoLink) - Just look us up.

K8EEN-R Node 809800.

Ohio Traffic Nets

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

Ohio Single Side-Band Net; Ohio connection for what is going on in the Ohio Traffic System. The Net meets on 3.972.5 KHz at 10:30 a.m., 4:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. daily. Alternate Frequency for all sessions is 3.968 KHz

<http://www.cotn.us/>

The Central Ohio Traffic Net is a part of the Ohio Section of the National Traffic System. We meet daily to handle traffic; all licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to check in and to learn how to handle traffic. The Net meets daily at 7:15 p.m. local time.

Area Radio Clubs

Delaware Amateur Radio Association: <http://k8es.org/>

Newark Amateur Radio Assoc: <https://www.n8ara.org/>

(Mansfield) InterCity Amateur Radio Club: <https://iarc.club/>

The ARRL Ohio Section calendar lists many interesting events around Ohio.

<https://arrl-ohio.org/g-calendar/default.html>

Parks on the Air is a fun activity: <https://parksontheair.com/>

MVARC President's View



Louie Wilkinson, NT8I

As cooler weather starts to set in, I keep finding myself noticing things that need to get done before we start getting regular frosts. The only problem is, with this being Ohio, that could start tomorrow, or it could be 3 months from now. Seems every project I mark off the list is replaced with two more.

Over the past couple weeks my patio drain has flooded when the water softener would flush, so I knew there must be a blockage in the drain they share. With the help of WA8D we snaked the drain and determined where the blockage was. Of course, it was directly under my deck. So, a few cut deck boards later we had a small opening to dig through and try to find the issue.

Fortunately, our measurements were darn close, as we dug a hole barely wider than a shovelhead and found the problem. It seemed that one of the joints was never glued, so over time the pipe had shifted, separated, and settled so the two sides were no longer even close. One rubber boot later and we had the drain back in working order, add a few minutes to fill in the hole, repair the weed barrier and screw the deck boards back down and it was like we were never there. Now to see what items will replace that on the 'to-do' list.

September 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes



G. Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Opening (Louie Wilkinson NT8I)

The repeater was placed into Net Mode by Louie, NT8I Net Control / MVARC President at 6:59 PM with 5 members (including Net Control) checked-in. There were 4 additional check-ins during the meeting.

Reports / Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented in the MVARC Newsletter without objection.

Treasurer (Terry Windsor KI8N)

Not present.

Repeater and Mesh Report (Don Russell W8PEN)

Not present

ARES (Bill Stroud KD8WHQ)

Not Present.

Old Business

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA): Louie (NT8I) indicated that we did not open Mohican for this event. Frank Counts (KC8EVS) said that many of regulars that normally participate in this event were not going to be available.

Frank (KC8EVS) announced that in the next newsletter would be a call for 2021 Club Officer Nominations, with a goal of having a slate of nominees by November. He clarified the Club Board of Directors do serve as the Nominating Committee and that they are now accepting recommendations, nominations, or volunteers for 2021 Officers.

Club website now has working secured members area. It has a newsletter archive, membership listing, and the Club By-Laws and Constitution. You can e-mail members@mvarc.net to get a login to the members area.

New Business / Coming Events

None presented.

Social Updates (G. Michael Jacobs KE8HGE)

Dinner at R&M Southside Diner, Wednesday; table in the Immediate Seating area, ordering at 4:45pm.

Breakfast at Ariel/Foundation Park, large shelter north of the lakes; bring your breakfast, gathering at 10:00am.

Meeting Adjourned

After all questions were answered, Louie, NT8I adjourned the meeting without objection. The Net was closed at 7:19 PM.

Club Officer Elections



Frank Counts, KC8EVS

Directors Note: **Call for MVARC Officer Nominations.**

It has been a while since you heard from me. It has been a crazy year with the outbreak of the corona virus. I should have put this out last month, but better late than never, a call for nominations for MVARC officers for 2021. If you are interested in serving as an officer next year let me know or one of the other directors. We will be putting together a list of nominees to appear in the November newsletter. We will then vote on them at the December meeting.

ARRL Election

Received from the ARRL:

Members are reminded that there is a contested election in the Great Lakes Division. ARRL does not use electronic voting. The only way you will be able to cast a vote is by U.S. Postal Service mail and, as a member driven organization, we urge you to participate by casting – mailing in – your ballot. Ballots will be mailed out to members, accompanied by photographs of each candidate and a 300-word statement (if provided by a candidate) by October 1, 2020. If you do not receive your ballot by October 16, please contact cpereira@arrl.org.

Scott Yonally, N8SY an MVARC member and current Ohio Section Manager is running for Vice Director, Great Lakes Division. Terry emailed Scott's and another contestant's campaign flyers to all club members.

The club directors voted to endorse Scott, N8SY for ARRL Vice Director, Great Lakes Division.

Radio Activity



Don Russell, W8PEN

What a September! Wow. I feel like I should get a T-shirt saying I survived September 2020!

My street got hit hard by the Labor Day storm that came through Mt. Vernon around 5:00 PM. Not sure how high the winds were, but in about five minutes I had several big trees either down or broken off about halfway up the trunk. Some of the limbs and trunks were more than fourteen inches in diameter. The street of Brookwood Road from the intersection of Newark Road up to the top of the hill going East had trees down on both sides of the road.

Last count, I had eight pine trees and two oak trees down. One of the pine trees hit the house, so I have a damaged roof. However, this tree landed between the fifty-foot tower and my solar panels without damaging those two items. One big pine tree landed on the small trailer that I use to haul brush out to the recycle center. It bent the trailer up but the axle was okay so I may decide to try and repair it. But I am leaning towards selling it to someone who has more tools to repair such a thing and just buying a new one. I feel lucky. My boat was about twenty foot from the damaged trailer and survived with just one big branch inches from the motor.

While the tower was not damaged, the tree came close enough to damage the TV antenna I had side-mounted and take out the mesh antenna side-mounted on the tower. The mesh antenna was a recent addition. My Windom antenna was also damaged, and I will have to repair it sometime.

During the storm, Darlene and I were hiding in the hallway of the house with all doors closed and all the animals we could gather up with us. We would have been in the basement, but I could not figure out how to get our three-legged, one eyed large dog (recently rescued) down the stairs. We heard some crashing outside so figured a tree or two came down, but it was much worse when we were able look.

Of course, we lost power for a bit over twenty-four hours. But we are used to losing power and that was not a problem. All the damage I was looking at was a problem!

After hauling nine pickup truck loads and two large trailer loads (big double axle trailer), we had not even made a dent in the mess. So, I decided to hire the cleanup done. It took a crew of six, three days to do a complete clean up. Frank Counts KC8EVS asked if he could have the hardwood. That took about a week and a half to cut up and transport.

Overall, I feel lucky that the house was not damaged any more than it was. More importantly, no one was hurt.

If there is a bright side, the trees that I mentioned last month as being “in the way” of the antennas mounted on my tower are no longer there. I can put that big 2-meter yagi antenna back up if I want to. Probably will.

Antenna Projects

So, I get to rebuild my windom antenna. Or will I? Well, yes. I will repair it, but I may not put it back up right away. With all those trees now gone, I have a nice clear path to putting up another horizontal loop antenna. I had this type of antenna up once upon a time and it worked very well. The last loop antenna I had up had low SWR on 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. If I put this antenna up, it will be more of a triangle loop rather than the four squared loop commonly found on the internet and ham magazines.

Local Mesh Network

The Centerburg water tower project has been put on hold while we work on the 2-meter repeater antenna. Hoping to get back on that soon. We are close to putting a node up at the Foundation Park. Simply waiting on final approval. The Fredericktown project is still in limbo.

I had to rearrange my mesh node set up at home. I found that the mesh was interfering with my operations on 6 meters. I have been looking for the source of noise I was having on 6 meters and finally realized it was the mesh node. I had to move the unit down the tower about twenty feet. I have a feeling this node was also causing me some problems on 80 meters.

2 Meter Repeater

The 2-meter repeater is still using the backup antenna we installed last month. Although, by the time you read this, I am hoping that the main repeater antenna is back in place.

Matt KB8UVN has had a heck of a time rebuilding the phasing harness for the repeater antenna. Neither of us thought it was going to be this difficult. Working on this antenna has delayed other projects on the mesh, but I think once the antenna is reinstalled it will prove to have been worth the wait.

I appreciate the many offers of donations to buy a new four bay antenna for the repeater. It may be that we will have to do so eventually. But for now, we are staying the course on repairing the current repeater antenna.

The backup antenna is a simple four-foot fiberglass antenna. It has proven to be effective for us, but not up to par with the main repeater antenna. We will be replacing this antenna with a Cushcraft G6-AR-270 dual band antenna, which may have a bit better performance if needed.

The reasoning behind installing a dual band (2-meter/70cm) is that we would have the advantage of adding a 70cm repeater if we needed to. Also, there is a possibility that we will put a packet digipeater on the antenna when not being used on the 2-meter repeater. That is another discussion though.

Speaking of 70cm repeaters. The clubs 70cm repeater located a KCH is working well. I understand that we now have internet run to the repeater. The plan is to install Yaesu "wires X" so we can access other repeaters using "wires X" via the internet.

That is a wrap. Hope to see or hear everyone at the October meeting, which will probably be held on the 2-meter repeater. 73..

Tips and Slips



Barry Butz, N8PPF

In my collection of things that should not be thrown away because they might someday be useful was an old power cord of the special kind that in the 60s was used for tube type TVs and tabletop radios. Its female end is a design not used anymore. The cord could (someday) be useful to an electronic tinkerer. The problem was the covering of grime, dirt, and gunk. It was almost too nasty to touch. What to do? Throw it away? Not yet. Give the dishwasher a try! WALA, along with the breakfast dishes, it came out bright and clean, ready to return to the junk, *correction*, storage box where it now awaits someday.

Do you have UHF connectors like SO-239s that are too dirty inside to depend on? Here is a way of cleaning tried by me that works well. Use a cotton swab, but first you must modify it. Out of the box the tip is too large to fit in the hole. Hold the very tip in your fingers and twist and pull until most of the cotton comes off. Depending on how much cotton is left, the fit can be snug or loose. Either way there is still enough cotton for scrubbing. Use with your favorite solvent to clean the hole.



Quick Updates



MVARC has had members request we publish repeater operation guidelines. Here is a list of a few general operating ideas. (I am repeating this again this month since it seems important.)

- Always listen to the frequency before you start transmitting. If in doubt, then ask if the frequency is in use before you transmit.
- Identify with your callsign at least once every 10 minutes.
- Pause between transmissions to allow emergency breaks and to reset the repeater timer. The repeater times out at 3 minutes. If you do not hear the courtesy tone, then please note that the repeater timer has not reset.
- Use the minimum amount of power necessary to carry on reliable communications.
- If you have an emergency, then use a double break followed by your call sign
- Please DO NOT use "for ID" after your callsign. It is not necessary; we know what you are doing.
- If you are unable to hold the repeater or people cannot understand you, then wait until your conditions improve.
- No business on the repeater at any time.
- Never just kerchunk the repeater (keying the mic without identifying) for the sake of kerchunking. If you are testing your equipment remember to identify.
- Remember that Broadcasting is strictly forbidden by the FCC. Sometimes we broadcast without realizing we are, for example when we key up to announce that there is a traffic accident for anyone who is listening, then clear off. This action is broadcasting.
- Before blaming the repeater for a problem, first check your equipment, then check to see if anyone else is experiencing the same thing.
- Always be aware of your language over the air. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club **WILL NOT** tolerate bad language, off-color jokes, or inappropriate behavior on its repeaters.

Editors Notes



Frank and I would really like to hear from you as to layout, articles, ideas for new content and anything else you would like to read or write about. Please have all written input to us by the fourth Friday of the month for inclusion into the next monthly newsletter.

We had a suggestion for a club activity next summer – activate all Knox County parks at the same time. This could be done as a special event on a Saturday with portable stations in the parks and we offer a certificate for people that contact X number of the parks. Anyone think this would be an activity worth considering?

Another suggestion was a monthly member profile. If you would like to be one of the first to let the others know about you send the editors a brief statement telling the following.

- Name and callsign
- Amateur radio license class and when first licensed
- Radio activities you like to participate in and any other hobbies you enjoy

- Most memorable amateur experience
- And any other facts/information you would like to include.

Did you know MVARC was donated a large open-air tent/shelter that Greg, W8DOH used at Field Day this year? Terry is storing at his house, but it is available for club members to use. Just let Terry know if you need to borrow it and he can arrange so you can stop by to pick it up.

All MVARC members should have received an email September 11, 2020 from “members” with your username and password to access the Members Only area on the MVARC web page. If you are unable to access or did not receive this email please send an email to: members@mvarc.net stating the problem/issue you are experiencing.

We hope to add more photos and content as we learn more about what we are doing and especially after receiving your feedback. Please reply to us via the club’s email: info@mvarc.net.

Member Profile

Here we go with our first member profile. This month I will go first so everyone can get a glimpse of what could become a regular item for our newsletter.

Name: Terry Windsor

Call Sign: KI8N – I have had this call sign since March 2018, but I initially was issued KE8ANS. I requested the change so it would be easier to send in CW.

First licensed: March 2015

Class: Extra

Radio items I enjoy: I like building and testing wire antennas. I built all the dipoles I currently use. I also am having fun activating and hunting Parks On The Air. I like working contests when other club members work as part of our team, Radioho.

Most memorable radio activity: I mostly remember Field Day 2015 since this was the first time I was involved with a MVARC club activity. Jim Williams, N8IBR (SK) taught me a lot about operating and logging. Then he let me run his station for a couple hours. It was a blast with the constant exchanges and catching the barrage of call signs.

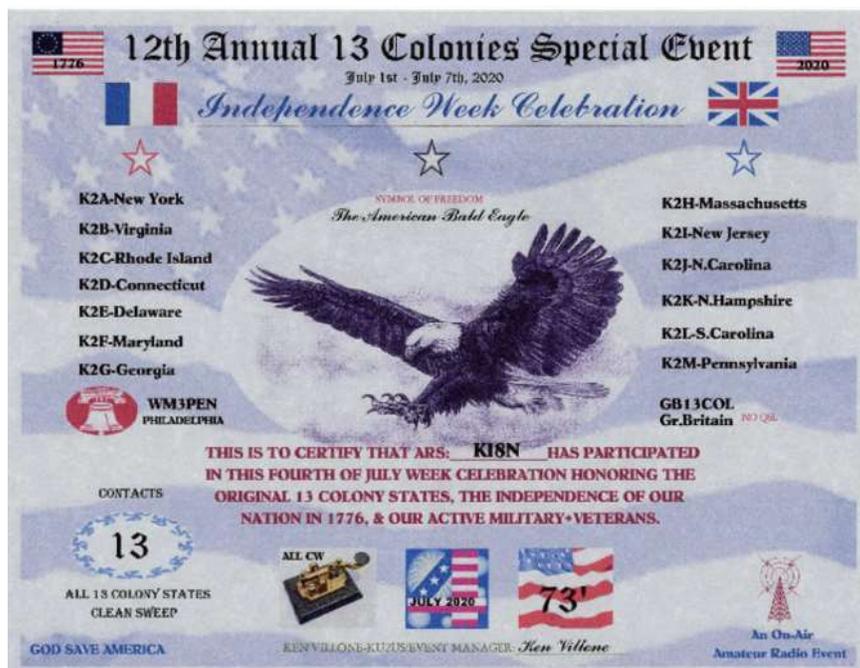
Other hobbies: I enjoy several other hobbies, motorcycle touring, fly fishing, bicycle riding, working on my old Mustang, and we just bought a Winnebago motorhome, so I am enjoying camping.

Miscellaneous Rambling



Terry Windsor, KI8N

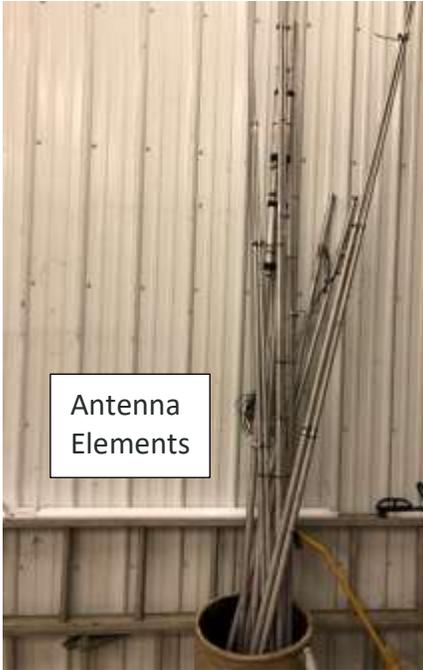
I participated in the 13 Colonies Special Event this year and completed a sweep of the 13 states plus Philadelphia via CW. However, I was not able to contact the station in Great Britain. I never heard them on either SSB, CW or FT8. I did all but one state on SSB and on FT8, guess I should have tried to do more.



Work continues on my 56' free standing and tilt over tower installation. Up to this month I had the tower put together but laying horizontal on the on the ground attached to the pad. This month I installed new bearings into the Hy-Gain rotator and tested it on the bench. Everything worked well so I installed the rotator into the tower and located North and aligned the controller.



I also cleaned and started putting together the Yagi antenna that goes on the tower. It is a Cushcraft X-7 with the X-740 add on. However, the elements are too long to assemble in the building before mounting it on the tower so that part of the assembly process must wait until the 18' boom is attached to the mast. The task I just completed before writing this was driving in an 8' ground rod next to the pad and connecting it to a tower leg.



My next activities will be installing a remote antenna switch, routing coax and control cables, and getting a winch for raising it from horizontal to vertical. I am really hoping to have all of this completed before the weather turns cold and I lose my ambition to be outside working on it.

One fun thing I did this month was activate four parks, Mt. Gilead State Park and Delaware State Park in Ohio, Dingman Marsh and Mackinaw State Forrest in Michigan. Dingman Marsh was an All Time New One (ATNO) and a beautiful area. I used my Icom 7100 with a Chameleon EMCOMM II antenna to make approximately 50 contacts in about an hour at each of these entities.



MVARC Calendar

October

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 10:00 AM Breakfast @ Foundation Park Large Shelter	3
4 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	5	6	7 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	8	9 10:00 AM Breakfast @ Foundation Park Large Shelter	10
11 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	12 7:00 PM MVARC Monthly Meeting	13	14 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	15	16 10:00 AM Breakfast @ Foundation Park Large Shelter	17
18 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	19	20	21 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	22	23 10:00 AM Breakfast @ Foundation Park Large Shelter	24
25 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	26	27	28 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	29	30 10:00 AM Breakfast @ Foundation Park Large Shelter	31

Final Takeaway



We have all probably been in this category and wished our antennas were better. If only this really worked!!



Coffee is vital for survival. Dinosaurs didn't have coffee, and look how that turned out.