



# November 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

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PO Box 372  
Mount Vernon, OH  
43019

Web Page:  
[mvarc.net](http://mvarc.net)

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[info@mvarc.net](mailto: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. The next monthly MVARC meeting is November 9, 2020.

**Visit us on Facebook:**

**Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club**

**Visit our Webpage:**

<https://mvarc.net>

**Email for inquires and information:**

## 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

[info@mvarc.net](mailto:info@mvarc.net)

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

Unable to 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 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**

No input this month.

## October 12, 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 7:01 PM with 10 members (including Net Control) checked in. There were 2 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)

The reports from the August and September were given and accepted as submitted. Copies of the reports are available upon request.

### Repeater and Mesh Report (Don Russell W8PEN)

Old repeater antenna has been repaired and reinstalled and it is doing a wonderful job on transmit. SWR on the antenna was improved from 2.8:1 to 1.3:1. The noise on receive was heard again when the antenna was put on the 1-5/8" hardline, but went away when the antenna was put on the 1/2" hardline. After the reinstallation, it was noticed that the receive may not be as sensitive as it used to be; Don W8PEN will pull the repeater at some point and ask Matt Mitchell KB8UVN to put it on a spectrum analyzer. The repeater has been in place since 2002, RF stages may need to be looked at. This will take the repeater down for 6 - 7 hours unless the backup is put into place. We have both antennas up, and plans are to run another length of 1/2" hardline to the backup antenna to make switching between antennas easier.

The 440 repeater is running well. The internet has not been attached to that repeater, yet, due to COVID-19 putting a damper on things.

MESH net is running well. We are behind at getting it installed on the Centerburg water tower because of the work being done on the 2-meter repeater and a setback from the Red Cross selling the building. We needed to get our equipment out of the building and that was done this past weekend by Don W8PEN, Terry KI8N, Frank Counts KC8EVS, and Barry Butz N8PPF. This included the antennas and the Mesh node that was at the Red Cross. All that is left is the tower, and that will probably be staying with the building.

### ARES (Bill Stroud KD8WHQ)

Not Present.

### Old Business

Frank KC8EVS is looking for recommendations, nominations, or volunteers for 2021 Officers. He has heard from 1 person but is still looking for other volunteers or nominations. He would like to have a slate of nominees for the various office by the next meeting. Please contact him by email if you would like to help the club out for 2021.

Louie NT8I asked if anyone was interested in having a Christmas Party this year with COVID-19 affecting things as it has this year. Don W8PEN said that this had been discussed at one of the Friday breakfasts and the consensus was to cancel it this year. Discussion included the possibility of trying to have something at the Red Cross, although it would probably be too crowded, and that restaurants are probably not taking groups as large as ours.

Don W8PEN asked how many Director seats are up for re-election this year. Frank KC8EVS will get back with that information and email the club with what he finds, but he added that there are several that will be rotating out of that group.

### **New Business / Coming Events**

Terry K18N let us know that all the equipment taken from the Red Cross was being stored at his place, with the exception of the Mesh-related gear, which is with Don W8PEN. Terry also added that the newsletter is looking for additional material, such as Member Introductions or any other content.

Frank KC8EVS wanted to support Don W8PEN's comments about the cancellation of the Christmas Party for 2020. He also asked if there were thoughts about having a Tech Class, although it is a bit early to be thinking about that right now. He added that they are doing testing for those that are interested (they did one a week or so ago at Foundation Park that yielded a new Technician-class license).

Frank KC8EVS also floated the idea of doing a local event, Knox County Parks on the Air, sometime early in 2021. There are 6 or 7 parks that we could activate some Saturday afternoon.

Louie NT8I asked where we might host Tech Classes, given that the Red Cross location is being sold. Barry N8PPF asked if there were any suggestions on where the Club might be able to move to.

Don W8PEN responded that Doug Peach (of the Knox County Red Cross) was looking for someplace to relocate in the area and that we would be welcome to share their facilities again once they were settled in. He added that the Salvation Army had allowed us to hold our Study classes at their facility in the past; we may be able to do that again and they may even be open to allowing us to have meetings there, as well. Someone at Apple Valley at one time had expressed an interest in hosting our meetings at one of the club houses, but this was not pursued because of the drive that would be involved.

### **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 7:34 PM.

## Club Officer Elections



**Frank Counts, KC8EVS**

Directors Note: [Call for MVARC Officer Nominations.](#)

This is 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 vote during the December meeting.

## ARRL Election

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 mailing in your ballot. Ballots have been mailed to members. If you did not receive your ballot, contact [cpereira@arrl.org](mailto:cpereira@arrl.org).

Scott Yonally, N8SY an MVARC member and current Ohio Section Manager is running for Vice Director, Great Lakes Division. The club directors voted to endorse Scott, N8SY for ARRL Vice Director, Great Lakes Division.

## Radio Activity



**Don Russell, W8PEN**

Look at the bright side. Only two more months and 2020 will be in the history books. From my perspective, I call it terrible 2020. On my short list of personal problems I can list Covid-19 (no, have not gotten it yet), Well pump going out, washing machine breaking down, a Labor day storm that took out many trees and damaged the roof of the house, and a partial canceling of the annual fishing trip to New York (affected by Covid-19).

Club issues during 2020 are very limited participation in operating events (We did pull off a successful, though limited Field Day), a canceled Field Day picnic, over the air club meetings instead of meeting at the Red Cross, cancellation of the monthly Saturday breakfast and partial cancellation of the Wednesday dinners and Friday breakfasts. And the two biggies: Continuing problems with the 2-meter repeater and Red Cross selling their building forcing the club to remove all the equipment and antennas and start a search for a new home.

Certainly 2021 will be a better year? Well, we are about to find out.

### **2 Meter Repeater**

It took a while, but the 2-meter repeater antenna has finally been repaired and appears to be working well.

Of course, true to the year 2020, installation of the antenna did not go as smoothly as hoped. Main problem was that after installing the antenna and hooking it to the feed line, our noise that we have battled for several years was back. Luckily, we have installed new feed line to a backup antenna a month or so ago. Switching to this new hard line, the noise completely went away. The only thing we can think of, is that the original feed line has a problem. Not a surprise. This hard line has been there since 2002. Plans are to run another length of new hard line to connect to the backup repeater antenna. We are in a good place antenna wise. We have the main repeater antenna and a backup repeater antenna. We will need to run an additional feed line to the backup antenna.

So, you would think this would be the end of the problems with the 2-meter repeater. Yes and no. The repeater sounds good. Transmitter coverage is good. Receiver coverage is not as good as it should be (in my opinion). So, we still have work to do.

Over the next month or so, we will be taking several steps to improve receiver performance. First, Matt KC8UVN is going to give the repeater receiver a good tune-up. I personally think this will solve the problem, but I have been wrong before. Second thing we will do is check the repeater for desense. Desense is where a loss of receiver sensitivity is noticed when the repeater transmitter is turned on. I do not think this is the problem here, because Matt recently re-tuned the duplexer. But it is something to check. Third (if needed or may jump up to number one), we will set up a base unit at the receiver site, send a few mobiles out around the area and check antenna coverage without using the repeater. This would quickly tell us if there is an antenna issue or a repeater equipment issue.

Personally, I do not think it is an antenna issue because I can hear the repeater reasonably well out to about 30 miles in all directions when mobile. We will continue to work on these issues in the coming months.

### **70cm Repeater**

The 70 cm Repeater is still working well. We now have an internet connection available, but true to terrible 2020, the hospital is in lock down due to Covid-19 and it may be awhile before we can install Yaesu-Wires on the repeater. The Yaesu-Wires feature will allow us to connect to other “Wires” repeaters thru out the world. This will be a nice feature and may increase activity on this repeater.

Another thing I would like to try is a 440-receiver preamp on this repeater. I think this would improve coverage. However, the repeater does cover all of Knox County, so a preamp is not to top priority thing. If I see a preamp at a hamfest, I may pick one up.

### **Local Mesh Network**

The closing of the Red Cross building has set our local mesh system back a little bit. Even though the node at the Red Cross was low in height, it seemed to have particularly good coverage to the South.

Three other nodes have been affected by the Red Cross node being shut down. My node (W8PEN-MtVernon-South), Barry’s node (N8PPF-MtVernon-South), and Bill’s node (KC8BB-1).

The W8PEN-MtVernon-South nodes needs to have a good link signal into the mesh because it runs some applications available to users: A Bulletin Board, A PBX phone service, and an E-mail client.

We will be moving forward with the installation of a node at Foundation Park, which should return our good coverage to the South. I also have the option of a parabolic antenna on my tower to improve link quality.

### **Wrap Up**

I believe we are close to having all the 2-meter repeater issues under control. We will keep plugging away at this one.

One comment from Barry Butz N8PPF about the local mesh system is that we have yet to be able to do much with it. This is true. The main effort so far has been to get all the nodes working together. Honestly, right now there are a few things can be done with the local mesh. In future Newsletters, I will try to address this issue with several tutorials on how to best use the local mesh network. This will include help setting up a mesh phone, setting up an e-mail client, using the Bulletin Board, and anything else I feel is pertinent to this new type of communications.

As indicated in my column last month, I would like to organize some type of local ARES event in which the club utilizes the local mesh network.

73 all. Hope to “hear” you at the November meeting.

## Quick Updates



You should have read in Don’s article about the closing of the Mount Vernon Red Cross to MVARC. The building has been sold to a private buyer and we were forced to remove all MVARC equipment from the Training Center building. The amateur radio equipment and all items that were in the closet are currently stored at Terry’s (KI8N) home since we needed an immediate location. If any part of the former Red Cross station is needed, please contact Terry to arrange delivery or pick up. I also have both go boxes; HF and VHF/UHF.

There is a need for a new MVARC meeting location so if you know of a suitable spot please let Louie, or any of the club officers know what may be available.

Your 2021 club dues are due again. There is a membership form located on page 12 which contains the information regarding amount and where to send your 2021 dues payment. There are no changes to the 2021 membership dues.

## 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?

MVARC was unable to participate in an Ohio ARES SET exercise in October mainly due to not having trained personnel able to actively operate. This should be a cause of concern for all active club members since we, amateur radio operators, are supposed to be ready to work in emergency situations. Clearly, we are not at this stage of readiness. We should all be asking for Knox County ARES to stage local simulations, table top exercises, and demonstrations how to receive and send ARES messages.

Hope everyone had a chance to go out and view the trees as the leaves changed colors. Cathy and I went for a drive and the colors were so vivid this year on the hills especially with the evening sun shining on them. Sorry for those of you that must spend your weekends raking your yards!

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](mailto:info@mvarc.net).

## Member Profile



**Name:** Tony Spiegel

**Call Sign:** KC8UR

**Note:** This membership profile was originally published in the January 2015 Newsletter.

I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio and graduated from High School in 1970. My Father was a licensed amateur, so I grew up influenced by amateur radio. I can remember as a kid sitting in my Father's shack with his old Collins Receiver 75A2. His transmitter was a Johnson Viking II. My Father's call sign was W8ANT and he served in the second World War and was an instructor at the U.S.

Army Signal Corp Radio School located at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. I was first licensed in the fall of 1970 while a freshman attending the University of Cincinnati. I remember being involved in the radio club at UC. The club's call sign was W8YX. The radio shack was in room # 911 of the Old Chemistry Lab on UC's west campus. The club was first licensed in 1921 and My Father had also graduated from UC and operated from the same club station.

The station in 1970 had a Heathkit DX-100 transmitter and a Hammarlund HQ-180 receiver. The station antenna was a multiband vertical mounted on the top of nearby Rhodes Hall. The Novice exam was given to me by a licensed ham at UC, Professor Carl Osterbrock, Jr. I remember we were first given the 5-word per minute Morse code receiving test, then a sending test (which we had to bring our own straight keys to take), and finally the written, multiple-choice theory written test. I remember it was a 6 to 8 week waiting period to know the results! I was issued the Novice callsign of WN8HKS. Back in those days, if you failed the test, you received a form letter with your address typed on the outside of a normal business envelope from Gettysburg. If you passed, you received a "window envelope" with your address peeking out (it was your license!). The other clue that you passed was always a few days prior to getting your FCC license, you got a packet of sample QSL cards from The Little Print Shop in Texas. How this business got the "pass list" from the FCC is a mystery to me, but they always included your new call sign in the address so that you could order a fresh set of QSLs from them! Back then the Novice license was only good for a period of one year. So, by the end of 1970 I upgraded to Technician class.

In 1980, I relocated to Knox County. With the address change came a new callsign, KA8LUO. In 1981, I became involved in the Ohio Army MARS program and to this day remain an active member. Some of the highlights of my ham radio career was being awarded the DXCC award in 1982 all on CW, Worked ALL States (WAS) all on CW and the 5 band DXCC award all on CW! Also, in two consecutive years in May 1988 and May 1989 I was chosen to be a CW operator for the annual Armed Forces Day and had the opportunity of operating CW from Fort Meade Maryland. I remember the antenna was a Log periodic at 180 feet and I was transmitting on an assigned military frequency and listening in the amateur bands for calls. From Ft. Meade, I remember operating for the first time in my life an RF amplifier. It was an Alpha with 8 ceramic tubes and the power output was 5,000 watts!

I upgraded to the Extra class license in 1982 and received my current callsign. I remember my first actual transceiver was a Heathkit HW-16 with an HG-10 VFO. The rig had one TV sweep tube for the final which was a 6GE5 driven by a 6LC6. The rig was CW only on 80, 40 and 15 meters. The output was about 50 watts. My first solid state transceiver was a Ten Tec Century 21, then I progressed to a Yaesu FT-301, then an Icom IC-745, then a Yaesu Ft-767, Icom IC-718 and my current station is a Ten Tec Jupiter. In November of 2007 I retired from active employment after working 34 years as a State of Ohio public employee. I continue to be active on HF in the amateur bands as well as the MARS frequencies daily. I am active on CW and the PSK-31 modes. Also, during the winter months I monitor the AM Broadcast band to try to log DX. Amateur radio has been a lifelong interest to me, and I still am fascinated with the hobby. I have developed many longtime friendships including John Champa K8OCL, Tom Hain KV8Q and Mike Warner WB8OJS. I also have many friends overseas, Dave Strange G3NYA located in Birmingham about 100 miles Northeast of London in The U.K. and Yoshi Hayashi, JA1UT who resides in Tokyo. Over the years I have had an opportunity to have QSO's with several well-known Hams: K7UGA Barry Goldwater, WB6ACU Joe Walsh, Don Wallace W6AM and Katashi Nose, KH6IJ. For me, amateur radio has opened a new and exciting world. It is an avocation you can follow the rest of your life and continue to find something new and interesting to do. It does not take a large investment to get started, there is plenty of room for everyone and plenty of activities to choose from.

## Miscellaneous Rambling



**Terry Windsor, KI8N**

Work continues on my 56' tower installation. I have purchased most of the items needed to get the antenna operational. This month I have been putting together the tripod assembly needed to winch the tower to an upright configuration. Next week I plan to install the mast, antenna, coax and begin winching the entire assembly into its erected position.



I have been making new coax RG-213 jumpers for my shack and RG-8 sections to go from the antenna past the rotator and bought a DX Engineering crimp tool to install the connectors. This is such an easier method of installing coax connectors and only having to solder the center pin. In 40+ previous years I had mostly soldered on connectors and everyone knows this can be difficult especially ensuring not melting the insulating section – crimping makes this a non-issue. With this new tool I will be putting connectors on two 50' LMR-400 coax cables to connect the RG-8 to the remote coax switch at the base of the tower.

## MVARC Calendar

# November

# 2020

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

## Membership Form

### MVARC Membership Form

Club dues run from January 1 to December 31 and are collected the last quarter of the year. You can mail your dues to the address shown below, bring to an MVARC meeting, or give them to any club officer. Visit our web page at [www.mvarc.net](http://www.mvarc.net) for further club information.

Regular membership dues are \$20.00. Membership dues are \$15.00 for personnel who are retired, over 65 years of age, additional members in the same family, or who do not hold an active FCC Amateur License.

**Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club**  
**PO Box 372**  
**Mount Vernon, OH 43050**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Suggestions for possible meeting programs:

## Final Takeaway

I injured myself measuring  
radio frequency yesterday...



It still Hertz

Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win!

If you replace “W” with “T” in “What, Where, and When”, you get the answer to each of them.

