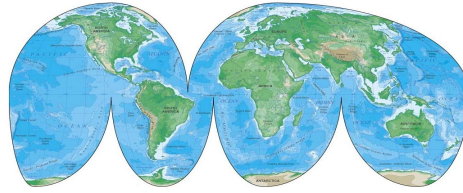


# MOUNT VERNON

# CQ



## AMATEUR RADIO

### CLUB April 2005

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE BIG BROTHERS OUTER LIMITS 7:00 PM  
REPEATER FREQUENCIES: 146.790 (-) K8EEN 444.750(+) KC8YED  
SPEED DIAL #S 7770=AAA (Howard St. Garage) 7771=Sheriff 7773=Police 7776=Highway Patrol  
7778=MV Fire 7779=Report Repeater Problem # to shut off Auto Patch

## Letter from the Editor

Oh where, Oh where has my e-mail gone? The MVARC e-mail server has been off again, on again for the past few days. Currently it's off again so I'll be using my webmailer to get this to Don for printing. Uploading even a small file to a webmailer takes a long time with Knoxnet so I have removed some pictures from the snail-mail version of the Newsletter to keep the size down. I will try to retain them in the online version, if possible.

### Attendance

March 14, 2005

Monthly Meeting

#### Name

#### Call

#### E-Mail (if not already on record)

1. Phillip Buble
2. Shawn Probst
3. James Chandla
4. Michael Deane
5. John Palser
6. Don Russell
7. Bob Ready
8. Ruben Clark
9. Don Bunner
10. Leon Bolender
11. Dave Rankin
12. Steve Dick
13. Rob Ruth
14. Zach M<sup>c</sup>Cardel
15. Mike M<sup>c</sup>Cardel
16. Adam Burley
17. Jeff Hall

N1GTZ  
KD8ACA  
KC8YAA  
KC8JEZ  
  
WA8YRS  
KC8RTC  
KB2SAI  
KB8QPO  
KB8YL  
K4AWO  
KC8YED  
KD8AZQ  
KC8YLE  
KC8YLD  
KC8QJR

k4awo@juno.com

adam@digitalcave.org

KC8WXL

### Minutes

March 14, 2005

Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm local time.

**Treasury Report: \$384.17 in checking, \$359.10 in savings minus \$72.30 for Laser cartridge and envelopes.**

**Old News:**

**Issue 1: Mike, KC8JEZ, is to keep doing trivia on the Sunday night net. It's well liked by the group.**

**Issue 2: Message traffic handling practice is still scheduled for September.**

**Issue 3: Skywarn training is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm local time. (see ad below) Since it's free bring all the friends and relatives you can, it is open to the public!**

**New News:**

**Issue 1: Ruben, KB2SAI, has added simple spam blocking to the MVARC mail server. It should not block regular mail.**

**Issue 2: It turns out both the Fox Hunt and tentative VE testing are scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>. The idea is to have the testing in the morning with the Fox Hunt scheduled in the afternoon. This way we should have a good turnout.**

**Issue 3: Sunday night net interference. This calls for a two stage response: First - add some extra equipment to our repeater. (a cavity and a filter) This may or may not help. Second - Contact the trustee of the 146.775 machine to see if specific individuals can lower their deviation. We'll need to check the individual calls of the worse offenders.**

Issue 4: Field Day is 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June this year. We're going to try to double last year's total. Set-up will be at the same place (the fairgrounds) as last year. Larry Hatton (EMA and SO) will be contacted and invited to attend. A vote was taken on whether we should hold the yearly picnic on Field Day. The vote was an overwhelming yes. Enough money exists in the field day fund for a Port-a-Potty.

Field Day committee: Adam, KC8QJR  
Ruben, KB2SAI  
Mike, KC8YLD  
Jeff, KC8WXL

Issue 5: Tornado Drill is scheduled for Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:50am.

**Issue 6: Two tickets for a Auto Show are being donated by Barry, N8PPF. First come - First served.**

**Issue 7: Relocating our 440 repeater to the 2 meter site was discussed.**

Issue 8: Application for coordination of our 6 meter repeater is in. More and better 6 meter equipment is needed and the club is looking for donations.

50/50 drawing was won by Mike, KC8JEZ, and was donated to the repeater fund. Thanks Mike!

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm local time.

**HAM RADIO CLASSES TO BE HELD**

**The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a course in Ham Radio beginning April 5 at 7:00 p.m. This class will meet each Tuesday night and will be held at the JVS Career Center. The course will last eight weeks and end with the necessary testing to allow students to obtain their Technician Class Amateur Radio license. A technician Class license allow hams to talk to other hams on the VHF (Very High Frequency) bands. These bands typically have a communication range of 50 to 150 miles and at times will allow world wide communications. Technician Class hams also have access to a number of Communication Satellites which are built and used by hams around the world. There are also internet web sites that only Hams have access to. From these web sites, Technician class hams can talk around the world.**

This course is free, however, there will be a charge for books. Technician Class hams may upgrade to the next license level, which is called the General Class, by passing an additional test. The General Class license allows hams to use the Short Wave frequencies in which world wide communications is an everyday occurrence. The Radio Club is planning a General Class course to follow this beginners course.

One of the reasons the FCC created the Amateur Radio Service was that it recognized the value of the amateur service as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. Hams have embraced this aspect of their hobby, and many hams devote a good portion of their free time in serving the public by providing communications in times of disaster or emergencies. Locally, hams have been providing a weather spotting service for the National Weather Service for many years.

On the fun side, hams talk to exotic places worldwide and even bounce their signals off the moon to enhance their communication range. Using computers interfaced to their radios, hams talk to each other much like an internet chat room only there are no connection fees. Even in today's high tech world, many hams design and build their own radios, antenna, and computer interfaces.

Prospective hams should contact Don Russell at 740-397-0249 or email to [wa8yrs@arrl.net](mailto:wa8yrs@arrl.net). For more information on Ham Radio, check out [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) or [www.mvarc.net](http://www.mvarc.net) on the internet.

### **Vacuum Tube Daze**

A tongue-in-cheek look at the days when tubes ruled.

By Phillip Buble, N1GTZ

Episode 9: I'd walk a mile for a crystal.

Frequency agility, the ham buzz phrase of the 90's. Hmmmm what's so new about this? Old tube-type ham gear could be frequency agile, or crystal bound, it depended on the gear and how much one was willing to spend. In fact it could be even more so that today, there was nothing to stop them from transmitting out of band. I remember a typical set-up on the better tube gear was to have two separate VFO dials, one for receive, one for transmit. After tuning in a frequency on the receive VFO if one wanted to talk exactly on that frequency all one had to do was switch on the "spot," tune the transmit VFO to beat frequency, and you were "spot on!" This sounds difficult but it was easy and fast, if not quite as fast as PTT. On the other hand this was a natural for split frequency operation, something that may not be intuitive on a modern set.



Unfortunately one had to be fairly well off to afford gear like this so many memories of crystal bound operation abound. If someone was already using your frequency the scramble was on to find another crystal if one was going to operate that night. Crystal oscillator frequencies could be "pulled" slightly to one side or another by a variable capacitor so this was one way to gain some operating room. At least with a crystal set one didn't have to worry about "drift."

Frequency drift was the bane to all VFO operations in the days before the phase locked loop was placed on a intergrated circuit. The old sets were TOO frequency agile! Nowadays a single crystal can lock solid any VFO frequency through the phase locked loop right from a cold start but not so back then. A typical warm up time for the VFO would be on the order of 1/2 hour. My 1973 Drake TR-4 had a transistorized VFO, the rest of the set being tubes and it would drift ONLY 400 Hz from a cold start. It took about a 1/2 hour to do it then after that it was rather solid. Cheaper sets would drift on the order of KHz and perhaps never really stop drifting even after warming up. This made the tuning of SSB a real trick! Quack, quack.

The End.

**You've Got Mail!**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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|    |    | 11 |    |    | 12 |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 | 16 |    |    |    | 17 | 18 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |
| 20 |    |    | 21 | 22 |    |    |    | 23 |    | 24 |    | 25 |    |    |
| 26 |    |    | 27 |    |    |    | 28 |    |    |    |    | 29 |    | 30 |
| 31 |    | 32 |    |    | 33 |    |    | 34 |    |    | 35 | 36 |    | 37 |
| 38 |    |    |    |    |    | 39 |    | 40 | 41 |    |    |    |    | 42 |
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|    |    | 76 |    |    |    |    |    | 77 |    |    |    | 78 |    |    |

**By H. Ward Silver, N0AX  
March 15, 2005**

**Across**

**Down**

1. Hostile angry email content
5. Simplest text format
8. Unusual
11. Transfer a program to memory to run
13. Send a copy also
14. Person applying a program
15. Open and look at
17. Roger's companion
19. Next door to Latvia (prefix)
20. Angular distance from the horizon (abbr.)
21. Mark or change
23. Connected
26. Fi or Max
27. Smallest of the 48 (abbr.)
28. Occupied
29. And so on (abbr.)
31. Put together to send
34. Go ahead only (CW prosign)
35. Between VT and ME (abbr.)
37. Two components of RF
38. Email replaced these
40. Characters that make up the message
42. From (CW prosign)
43. Our continent (abbr.)
45. Net master (abbr.)
47. Send on
51. Prevent or stop
53. Where a receiver's gain stages lie (abbr.)
54. Prototype program for show
56. Closing identification
59. You're shouting in this case
62. Non-volatile data storage (abbr.)
63. Skyhook (abbr.)
64. One of the Maritime provinces (abbr.)
65. Soft, conductive metal (chemical symbol)
66. Type of malware
68. Reproduce
70. Used in the old days with ink
72. Store
76. Respond to
77. Metal that rusts (chemical symbol)
78. Unwanted email
1. Device or program that protects a computer
2. Chicken or mode
3. Person that approves content
4. Spanish prefix
6. Your identity at a bank or data service
7. Symbols that represent data or programs
8. Program that runs the computer (abbr.)
9. Removed
10. Not wet
12. Don't drink or else you'll be cited for this (abbr)
14. Prefix meaning single
16. Top-notch or highly trained
18. The network and computer department (abbr.)
22. Cubical random number generator
24. This cat was an early Web surfer
25. The most easterly US ARRL Division (abbr.)
28. Break (CW prosign)
30. Spelling and call sign testers
32. That (CW abbr.)
33. Between a minute and a day (abbr.)
36. Language that defines Web pages
39. Measure of signal versus noise (abbr.)
41. Example (abbr.)
44. Destination
46. Type of company (abbr.)
48. Non-profit company email suffix
49. Australian peer to ARRL (abbr.)
50. When Jill came tumbling
51. Rejection of email
52. The key to get out
55. Computer designers (abbr.)
57. Not doing anything
58. Month of Sweepstakes (abbr.)
60. Oscillator tuned with inductor core (abbr.)
61. One of the Hudson Division sections (abbr.)
67. Where you get on the Internet
69. Type of email server (abbr.)
71. Number (abbr.)
73. One of the armed services (abbr.)
74. Canadian prefix
75. In charge of a section (abbr.)

**Blast from the Past**





T A L I N C O T S P M U



**Solution to last month's puzzle**

## **A Pause For Thought**

**Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.**

**- Mark Twain**

**Weather Spotting Training**  
**Monday**  
**April 11, 2005 - 6:30 P.M. at the Big Brothers, Big Sisters**  
**building in Mt. Vernon**

**Sponsored By:**  
**The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club**  
**And**  
**The National Weather Service Office, Wilmington, Ohio**

**Open For All Emergency Responders**  
**And**  
**The General Public**  
**FREE**

The Knox County Emergency Management Agency is pleased to host the "2005 Weather Spotter" Training for all Emergency Responders and Ohio Residents. The training is being instructed by the National Weather Service Office in Wilmington, Ohio / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This training will allow a person to be a registered Spotter with the National Weather Service.





=====  
Membership Form

Club dues run from Jan. 1 until Dec. 31 and are collected during the last quarter of the year.  
You can mail in the dues to the address below or bring them to a meeting.

Dues Schedule:

\$20 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family

\$10 for over 65 yrs. of age

\$15 for those living outside Knox County

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Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 372

Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call-Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Donation (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one?

No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

If yes please enter password \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments

## WHAT DO HAMS DO?

**Hams (Amateur Radio Operators) communicate with other Hams around the world to promote international friendship.**

**Hams voluntarily provide communications for public events such as Christmas parades, charity drives, and bike races.**

**Hams put their communication skills to work during local and national emergencies: Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Flooding, Forest fires, etc.**

**Hams send free messages as a public service. Thousands of messages daily are delivered through the National Traffic System. This free service prepares hams for when their skills are needed during Local and National emergencies.**

**Hams still use morse code. A fun way to communicate.**

**Hams use various "modes" to communicate with each other, not just voice and morse code. Using a computer and sound card, hams talk to each other much the same way that the general public uses "chat lines" on the Internet. There is no connecting fee or service charge!**

**Hams have set up their own computer network called "Packet Radio". There are Radio Bulletin boards that send and receive messages. Some of these Bulletin boards can relay messages to the internet. Many hams in remote locations keep in touch with their internet friends without the need of phone lines or microwave dishes.**

**Hams bounce signals off of meteorite tails to communicate thousands of miles on frequencies that usually allow only a hundred miles!**

**Hams use the moon as a passive reflector. They bounce their signals off the moon, this allows world wide communications on frequencies normally reserved for less than one hundred miles.**

**Hams have designed and built their own satellites. Satellites are used regularly to extend communication range and to pass computer generated messages back and forth.**

**Hams talk to the International Space Station. Many of the astronauts have obtained their ham license and get on the air frequently. There is a permanent "Ham Station" set up on the International Space Station.**

**Thousands of Hams get on the air using equipment costing less than \$200! How much have you spent racing cars or playing computer?**

**The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a Ham Radio Class beginning April 5, 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon JVS Career Center. Electronic Theory and Rules and Regulations will be taught. These classes are free of charge. The Course book will be \$20.00. Morse Code CD's are available for \$8.00. Morse Code is an option and will be taught later. You no longer need to learn morse code to become an Amateur Radio Operator. Contact Don Russell at 740-397-0249 or wa8yrs@arrl.net for more information.**

**Classifieds**

Only Need to Ask, Inc  
24 South Clayton Street  
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

740-625-6659  
740-625-6649 fax

[onlyneedtoask@core.com](mailto:onlyneedtoask@core.com)

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