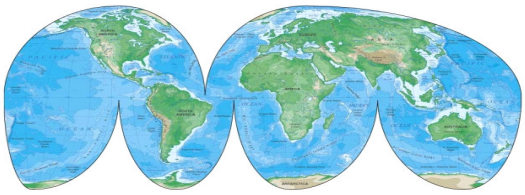
MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

C  Q

April 2006 Newsletter

MEETINGS SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RED CROSS ANNEX BUILDING,
300 N MULBERRY ST, MT. VERNON, OHIO
REPEATER FREQUENCIES: 146.790 (-) K8EEN /R 444.750 (+) KC8YED /R 53.790 (-) WA8YRS/R
SUNDAY NIGHT ARES NET AT 8:00 P.M ON THE K8EEN REPEATER OPEN TO ALL

FROM THE EDITOR

There is so much I want to put in this months Newsletter! Unfortunately, I need to postpone Part II of the MVARC Repeater history, and the second part of my article describing the equipment I used In the 1960's until next month. Mike, KC8YLD, has some really good information. There is also an excellent article by Jim Brooks, KY4Z, on 10 meter E-skip propagation.

Here are a few more web pages worthy of being checked out by club members:

http://www.pmillett.com/tecnical_books_online.htm

http://www.cet.com/~vdoerrhe/comm.html

http://www.ac6v.com/history.htm

http://www.geocities.com/w3hf/

http://www.ae7q.com/

http://www.rason.org/Projects/projects.htm

http://kb9ukd.com/digital/

REPEATERS AND STUFF BY DON RUSSELL, WA8YRS

One of the items that came out of our March meeting was that it is almost certain that we will be having Field Day at the Red Cross. This, I believe is a good thing for our club. It helps to solidify our position with the Red Cross. Being in town, as opposed to being out at the Fair Grounds, we should be able to obtain a bit more publicity than we usually pull in.

I would like to see us set up some demonstrations on the first floor of the building. This could be a demonstration of Morse Code, PSK-31, Slow Scan TV, Packet Radio, etc. We need people willing to help set this stuff up! We get extra points for a Public Information Booth, but we should be doing stuff like this because it is good for our hobby. So, please, knock down my door volunteering to help in this endeavor.

Setting up stations is going to be a real challenge. Mike, KC8YLD, and I have not done a walk around yet, but I think space will be limited for setting up masts or towers. I was planning on getting away from towers this year and going with the antenna masts we have available. The club has two 30 footers that were donated by Ruben, KB2SAI. I believe Jeff, N8SMT, has a 30 footer and a 40 footer available. That should be plenty. Lowe's sells the 30 footers at a reasonable price too. Just in case you are interested.

If readers remember, the last two years we have used two loop antennas for 20 and 15 meters. Each loop was used on both bands and they were placed perpendicular to each other. We used a coaxial switch to select which antenna was in use. The first year, these antenna worked very well together, allowing us to switch directions quickly. Last year, the antennas did not seem as effective. I am sure propagation played a role in the varying results. This year, I want to try something different. The 20 - 10 meter station will be using a dipole made out of Cane Fishing Poles. One of these poles is 14 feet long. Add a ¾ inch PCV pipe of about 4 feet long as a center to these two cane poles, and you have about 31 feet to run wires along. Just enough for a 20 meter dipole. The advantage of this antenna would be that no

supports would be needed at the ends and the whole antenna will be high above the ground, unlike that of an inverted "v" in which the ends would be lower to the ground. This antenna should fit nicely at the top of one of our antenna masts. I have already tried this concept out (without adding wires) and the whole antenna weighs less than a pound. I am really tempted to add a reflector to this antenna and have a really light weight beam, but lets wait until next year. The other advantage is that you would be able to rotate the antenna to whatever area you want to work into. If one remembers his/her antenna theory, a dipole has directional characteristics. The signal radiates broadside to the wire. In fact, a small antenna rotator would work just fine with this extremely light weight antenna.

To get 15 meters into the mix, I am planning on running ladder line as the wire elements for this antenna. The 20 meter antenna will be the top wire and will be tied to the cane poles using small cable ties or electrical tape. The second wire of the ladder line will be the 15 meter antenna. It is much shorter than the 20 meter wire and should add weight only where the cane pole is at its strongest.

The 10 meter antenna may pose a problem, as I do not think it wise to add more wires to the cane pole, but I may try it. I will know more when I build this antenna. Perhaps a wire loop antenna from the same antenna mast, but placed under the dipoles will work. This would be cut to the 10 meter band and matched to the feedline so that an antenna tuner would not be needed. Members having other ideas should let me know.

The 75 meter and 40 meter SSB station antennas may pose a problem too. There are several high trees we may be able to use as supports. One of the antenna masts will be used at the center and the trees will support the ends of the antenna. Or perhaps we can get really high by placing the center of the antenna on a high tree limb. Last year we used a windom antenna. This antenna was not cut right and gave us some problems, although I thought we made plenty of contacts with it. I re-cut this antenna and used it for our Special Event Station at Memorial park during Mt. Vernon's Bicentennial. It proved to be a very effective antenna. With stations so close together this year, however, I am leaning towards going back to individual dipole antennas. By its nature, a windom antenna radiates on its harmonics. This could possibly interfere with the 20-10 meter station.

I have not decided what to do about the CW station. Since my preferred mode of contesting is CW, we will certainly have one. The big problem is the interference issue. Remember, the CW station will be on the same bands as the SSB stations. At the Fair Grounds we were always able to separate the CW station from the pack. That may not be possible this year. Maybe a Vertical Antenna will help to reduce interference. We may also go back to QRP for the CW Station.

As I mentioned last month, I would also like to have a bigger effort toward making some satellite contacts. That would be an interesting public demonstration.

As one can see, Field Day is a major effort. Your help is needed to make it a success this year. Please make a commitment now to be there and help set things up and operate some. I think the Club Field Day Picnic is something we can and should do. We will actually be well protected this time if the weather turns nasty.

Oh, the repeaters are just fine. That is except for the 440 Repeater, which is still in the hands of KC8YED. It will be back on the air when the time comes. Barry, N8PPF, and I are having enough fun with the 6 meter repeater.

SKYWARN TRAINING

Monday April 10, 6:30 PM

American Red Cross Training Center 300 N. Mulberry, Mount Vernon, OH

Open to all, you do not need to be an Amateur Radio Operator to attend or participate in Skywarn

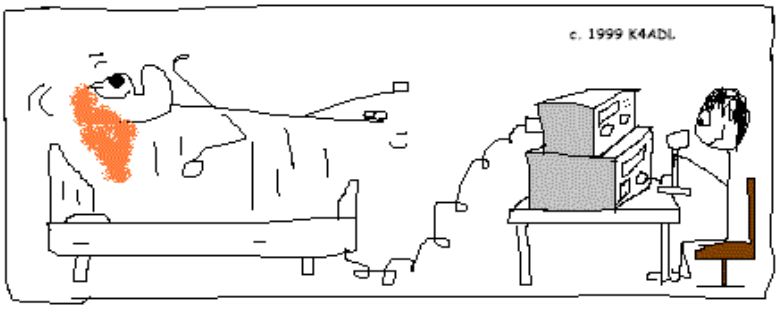
The regular MVARC, Business Meeting will follow the training.

MVARC and Red Cross agree to cooperate on communications project

During the March MVARC business meeting, guest David Gore, Director of the Mount Vernon Chapter of The American Red Cross (ARC), outlined his organization's communication needs. Gore reported that they were working on making their Training Center a Disaster Operation Center for local and regional disasters. The plan would include installation of a tower, antennas, communication radios, specifically set to National Red Cross frequencies with MARC capabilities, and an Amateur Radio Station. The building has already been wired for telephone and computer communications and has a gasoline powered back-up electrical system. The members of MVARC agreed to assist the Red Cross with the installations. Gore went on to invite Knox County ARES to support the ARC during a county wide SET May 13. The MVARC membership agreed to support the Red Cross in this event. Gore stated he was all in favor of cooperation with our group and invited MVARC into making themselves at home by using the Training Center for their meetings and events in the future. The club asked if we could hold this year's Field Day Event at the Training Center. Gore said he would enthusiastically support the event and suggested that the ARC would help support our needs during the event as a means of mass care training. The officers, trustees and others in attendance were impressed with the spirit of cooperation and exited about the communications project and a place they can call home.

KCARES/Skywarn Activated During Statewide Tornado Drill

The Knox County Amateur Radio Emergency Service was activated 29 March 2006 at 9:47 am in coordination with Skywarn and the statewide tornado drill. Mike McCardel KC8YLD, served as Net Control and reporting in from Olin Library in Gambier. Also checking in were Howard Horton KF8ZL, reporting in from his home Apple Valley, Paul Cline KB8NCQ, reporting in from near the Coshocton Ave/Gilchrist Intersection and Don Russell WA8YRS, reporting in from his work place at Ariel Corp. Sirens went off as scheduled at 9:50 am. Sirens located at Apple Valley, Newark Road and Gambier were reported heard. The net was closed at 9:54 am. KC8YLD then had to move from Olin Library to Bexley Hall to report into the Richland County net 146.94 to report the results of our net.



ONCE A COMMON PRACTICE FOR APARTMENT DWELLERS, LOADING UP THE BEDSPRINGS IS NOW CONSIDERED POLITICALLY INCORRECT.

ComPIOnents
By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

I just love this quote from the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society (NOARS) website.

"Amateur Radio isn't just talking ... Amateur Radio isn't just Morse code ... Amateur Radio is a fun learning curve where you can set the pace ... and it is a family oriented hobby ... where the toys can be built at home ... with or without help from friends ... Communicate across your hometown, into the next county or state ... another country and other continents ... Amateur Radio is so much fun words can't describe it all ... Yes, you can connect your computer to it ... and aim towards a satellite or the moon ... or use FM packet for local contact ... or contact an Astronaut inside a space ship ... Amateur Radio is just as much tinkering now as it was 60 years ago."

NOARS was the Ohio Section News' featured club for March. The above quote ended an article describing a source for the use of HAM I hadn't seen before. Visit their site at

http://www.noars.net/

If you haven't noticed (and looking at Sunday Night Net check-in stats, most of you haven't) we are beginning to see more traffic passed on the net. Beginning when I started checking into the Net in 2003 thru February of this year, only

one piece formal traffic in the form of a radiogram was passed. Since the last Sunday in February through March we have seen 4 messages passed. I think passing messages on the local is a great idea and I hope the trend continues. Note that MVARC members Dave Patton KC8UTL, Steve Dick KC8YED, Earl Paazig N8KBR, Tony Spiegel KC8UR and myself KC8YLD regularly check into the Ohio Single Side Band Net (OSSBN), where traffic is moved three times a day to points across Ohio and, through liaisons, across the US and to the world. They can relay any traffic you have. Hence, if you're looking for a way to schedule a contact, just say hello to an old friend or surprise a loved one with birthday greeting just check-in to the KCARES nets Sundays at 8pm and send a RADIOGRAM.

Speaking of RADIOGRAMS. One of my other interests is Geocaching. Geocaching's slogan is "The sport where YOU are the search engine." People into Geocaching hide caches filled with trinkets and post the geographic coordinates of where they hid it to the web. Then others, using a GPS, set out to find the cache. There are several caches to be found in Knox County. I have recently placed a geocache in Phillips Park in Mount Vernon. It is a standard cache except that finders are asked to log they are found via a RADIOGRAM. Radiogram forms are located within the hidden cache box, which I have also stuffed with CW Training CDs, ARRL decals, stickers and pins along with other goodies. To find out more about Geocaching visit http://www.geocaching.com (or read the letters to the editor in January's QST). To find caches hidden in and near Knox County visit the above site and type in 43050 under Search for Caches by Zip Code. By the way, the first to find my cache was MVARC member Bob Bruff, N8PCE.

Radiograms are a form of public service. Were you aware that the ARRL has a Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR)? Every month in the QST Public Service column, ARRL recognizes Amateur Radio Operators who collect 70 or more PSHR points. (Our own Dave Patton, KC8UTL, is regularly listed in the column). If a Ham earns 70 or points for twelve consecutive months or 18 out of any 24 months, the ARRL will issue, a one time, PSHR Certificate. Points are earned by

1) *Participation in a public service net -- 1 point, maximum 40.*
2) *Handling formal messages (radiograms) via any mode -- 1 point for each message handled; maximum 40.*
3) *Serving in an ARRL-sponsored volunteer position: ARRL Field Organization appointee or Section Manager, NTS Net Manager, TCC Director, TCC member, NTS official or appointee above the Section level.* -- 10 points for each position; maximum 30.
4) *Participation in scheduled, short-term public service events such as walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, parades, simulated emergency tests and related practice events. This includes off-the-air meetings and coordination efforts with related emergency groups and served agencies. -- 5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent in either coordinating and/or operating in the public service event; no limit.*
5) *Participation in an unplanned emergency response when the Amateur Radio operator is on the scene. This also includes unplanned incident requests by public or served agencies for Amateur Radio participation. --5 points per hour (or any portion thereof) of time spent directly involved in the emergency operation; no limit.*
6) *Providing and maintaining a) an automated digital system that handles ARRL radiogram-formatted messages; b) a Web page e-mail list server oriented toward Amateur Radio public service -- 10 points per item.*

As an example just checking into OSSBN, the weekly KCARES net or daily COTN gets you 1 point for every check-in up to 40
For every formal message you originate, send, receive and/or deliver gets you 1 point, up to 40 points

Are you an EC, AEC, PIO or hold another ARRL appointment give yourself 10pts for each position held, up to 30 points

Participate in a scheduled SET (like the tornado drill KCARES net), public service event like parades, walkathons, race, or spend time organizing or helping with the Red Cross communication project net 5 points for every hour or part thereof. No point limit here.

Check into a Skywarn net during a weather watch or warning, or directly participate any other unplanned emergency operation, scores 5 points for every hour or part thereof. Again no max. point limit here

Do you maintain a Website or email list server oriented toward Amateur Radio public service. Scores 10pts for site, or list server. For example see http://www.mvarc.net, http://www.qsl.net/n8kbr/, or http://kc8yld.mccardel.net. Attention: Ruben KB2SAI and Earl N8KBR, I asked and the ARRL has already approved these sites as qualifying for points! For more information on the PSHR visit http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pshr/ or read the Public Service column in this month's QST.

How about an Each One Reach One Campaign? That is, if each member of MVARC would get ONE new member we could double our membership in one month. I suggest that we hold a June special and offer new members the chance to join for the remainder of the year for $10. And thinking of dues, since we have cut our expenses by over $400.00 a year by not having the phone patch on the repeater can we afford to lower dues for the 2007 membership dues? Most clubs around us only charge $10 to $15 a year for dues. Let's discuss these ideas at the next meeting.

It's time to start thinking about **Field Day**. It looks very possible that we will be accepting Dave Gore's offer and producing Field Day from the Red Cross Training Center on N Mulberry. Don Russell, WA8YRS and myself KC8YLD have agreed to be co-chairs for the event. We'll be asking for help, but please feel free to jump right in and volunteer. Do you have any comments on whether or not you like the idea of working from the Red Cross or any suggestions toward making Field Day successful or any ideas as to programs or demos you would like to see (or perform)? If so please contact Don or me.

KCARES NET meets every Sunday evening at 8 pm. You do not need to be a member of the Knox County Emergency Services, Skywarn or the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club to check in.

Net Report for March 2006

March 5
N8QPM, BOB, NCS, EC
KC8UTL, DAVID
KC8YLD, MIKE, PIO
N8QHY, BARBARA
AA8WP, DOC
N8CIY, WALTER
N8PPF, BARRY
N8SMT, JEFF
N8KBR, EARL
N8EMR, GARY
10 CHECKINS, 1 TRAFFIC, 20 MINUTES

March 12
KC8YLD, MIKE, NCS, PIO
N8QPM, BOB, EC
KC8UTL, DAVID
WA8YRS, DON
KC8GBY, JERRY
N8QHY, BARBARA
N8PPF, BARRY
AA8WP, DOC
KF8ZL, HOWARD
KC8YLE, ZACH
WD8QHY, DICK
N8KBR, EARL
12 CHECKINS, 0 TRAFFIC, 18 MINUTES

March 19
WA8YRS, DON, NCS
N8QPM, BOB, EC
KC8YLD, MIKE, PIO
N8QHY, BARBARA
KC8AU, JIM
KD8CTF, NICK
AA8WP, DOC
KC8CSO, HOWARD
8 CHECKINS, 0 TRAFFIC, 17 MINUTES

March 26
N8QPN, BOB, NCS, EC
KC8UTL, DAVID
KC8YLD, MIKE, PIO
AA8WP, DOC
WA8YRS, DON
KF8ZL, HOWARD
N8QHY, BARBARA
7 CHECKINS, 2 TRAFFIC, 25 MINUTES

10, 6-meter bands now active via E-skip

From the Kentucky Amateur Radio News Service
By JIM BROOKS, KY4Z
Kentucky Section PIC

For many hams, both newcomers and old-timers, the 10-meter ham band appears mostly devoid of activity. If you tune across the usually active phone portion of the band — 28.300 to 28.500 — you'll hear little more than atmospheric noise.

It's true that long-distance communication on 10-meters isn't an everyday occurrence — but therein lies the challenge. The 10-meter band has periods of activity around the year, but the trick is knowing how to chase those elusive contacts and when to do it.

HF IN A NUTSHELL. The amateur HF bands are those from 80 meters (3.5-4 MHz) to 10 meters (28-29.7 MHz) and everything in between. Propagation, or the ability of signals to travel long distances, on each of these bands is unique to each ham band.

The lowest frequency HF bands offer their best DX opportunities mostly during hours of darkness. The higher frequency HF bands (which includes the 15, 12 and 10-meter band) are generally considered "daytime" bands. This doesn't mean you won't find DX on the bands at night, but it's more common during daylight hours.

As you'll find out, there are lots of factors that determine if an HF band is "open" for DX signals. These include the time of day, time of the year, but mostly good old Mr. Sun.

THE 10-METER BAND. The 10-meter band is an enigma to many hams, and opinions about it are usually polarized. In one group, you'll find hams who love the 10-meter band; in the other group, hams who think the band is a waste of spectrum.

The 10-meter band is a slave of sorts to the sun and the 11-year sunspot cycle. When the sunspot cycle is near its peak, the 10-meter band is open to DX around the world, even late into the evenings. Unfortunately, we are a couple years past the cycle's peak, and headed for the sunspot minimum predicted to come in late 2006 or early 2007 (Obviously, this was written a couple of years ago- Ed.). DX on 10-meters isn't totally absent, but it's much less common than it was. As we near the sunspot minimum, DX openings on the band will be fewer and further between.

But the 10-meter band is also subject to Sporadic E, or "E-skip" propagation during two periods every year. We're currently in the middle of the "summer" E-skip season. (This was written in the summer months--Ed.)

In the late spring and early summer 10-meters comes alive with signals, some strong, some weak, most within a 1400-mile radius. A few signals will show up from farther out, these usually are known as "double-hop" E-skip signals. Signals can show up suddenly and disappear quickly, or go strong and steady all day long. The signals can all be from the same geographical location, or they can be spread out all over the country.

Sporadic-E skip isn't dependent on the sunspot cycle; it occurs regardless of other conditions. Sporadic-E skip is caused by large patches of ionization in the E-layer of the ionosphere. Since the E-layer is about 70 miles high, single skip is limited to about 1400 miles.

Sporadic-E skip is most common between Mid-May and Mid-July, with a secondary season between Mid-December and January.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN THE BAND IS OPEN? There are several strategies for knowing when the 10-meter band is open, and there are several operating aids to assist your hunt for DX on 10.

BEACONS. There are dozens of 10-meter CW beacons scattered around the globe that operate continuously between 28.200 and 28.300 MHz. Beacons are automated low-power stations that send their callsign, power and often location in CW 24-hours a day on a set frequency. If you tune across the "beacon" portion of the 10-meter band and hear a CW beacon, you can identify where that station is and get an idea of the current propagation on the band.

Hearing a beacon doesn't automatically mean there will be anyone actually on the air from that area of the world. Frequently you may hear a beacon quite well, but the phone portion of the band may be appear silent. Some years ago I copied very strong signals from a beacon located in the country of South Africa, but the phone portion of the band was totally dead. My mistake, however, was that I did not go ahead and call CQ in order to attempt to stir up some activity.

Beacons are useful even during Sporadic-E openings, because beacons in the U.S. can help locate propagation paths. A list of beacons is available at www.ten-ten.org/beacons.html

SIX METERS, TOO. If you're a Technician Class ham who hasn't passed the Morse Code exam, you can enjoy E-skip conditions that occur on the 6-meter band. E-skip on 6-meters — also known as "The Magic Band" — occurs in the same manner on it does on 10. In fact, when you hear E-skip on 10, most hams also check 6-meter band for activity.

On HF bands, hams give out their location by state; on VHF, you use something called a "grid square." A grid square is an alphanumerical number that represents a 1-degree-by-1-degree longitude/latitude block on the globe. Nelson County is in EM77 (Mt. Vernon is EN80. Ed.).

If you are hearing 10-meter stations closer than say, 1,000 miles, that's a good indication conditions may be favorable for an E-skip opening on the 6- or 2-meter band. Generally the shorter the skip distance on 10, the more likely it is you'll hear E-skip on the higher bands.

OTHER HINTS. One indicator for finding Sporadic-E openings is to scan across the 11-meter CB band, which is subject to the same short-skip conditions as are found on the 10-

meter band. Another excellent way to observe for E-skip conditions is to watch TV channels 2 or 3. If there's interference or other stations showing up, you'll find openings on both 10 & 6-meters.

FINALLY ... Check 10 meters often in the afternoon and early evenings, you'll be surprised by what you might hear.

Federal Reports Laud Amateur Radio in Katrina Response (From the ARES E-Letter)

US Congressional reports complimented ARES in "A Failure of Initiative"--the final report of the Select Bipartisan Committee to investigate the preparation for and response to Hurricane Katrina (see <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/02/17/2/>).

From the report: ". . . the National Communications System (NCS) coordinated the frequencies used by the nearly 1000 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers across the nation who served in the Katrina stricken area providing communications for government agencies, the Red Cross and The Salvation Army." "Emergency communications were conducted not only by voice, but also by high-speed data transmissions using state-of-the art digital communications software known as Winlink."

The report further noted, "In Mississippi, FEMA dispatched Amateur Radio operators to hospitals, evacuation centers, and county EOCs to send emergency messaging 24 hours per day. Cited were comments by Bay St Louis Mayor Eddie Favre that Amateur Radio volunteers "were especially helpful in maintaining situational awareness and relaying Red Cross messages to and from the Hancock County EOC."

According to the report, radio amateurs at airports in Texas and Louisiana "tracked evacuees and notified families of their whereabouts," while the Red Cross "deployed Amateur Radio volunteers at its 250 shelters and feeding stations, principally in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida."

["A Failure of Initiative" addressed failures of governmental response, which have been iterated enough, and I won't re-hash them here. The White House report, "The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned" <http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned.pdf> also cited Amateur Radio as an example of "What Went Right:" "Amateur Radio operators from ARES monitored distress calls and rerouted emergency requests for assistance throughout the US until messages were received by emergency response personnel," the report said. -ed.]

SPACE QSO HELPS INTRODUCE AMATEUR RADIO TO GERMAN STUDENTS

Twenty-one soon-to-be radio amateurs attending the Evangelisches Gymnasium in Lippstadt, Germany, talked shop with ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, on March 8. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program arranged the direct VHF QSO between DN2LP at the school and NA1SS in space. The school incorporated ARISS lesson plans into its curriculum, and all of the participating students had already passed their Amateur Radio exams and are awaiting their new call signs. One student wanted to know if McArthur had ever taken an insect into space by accident.

"Yes, on shuttle missions we would very often see mosquitoes, because Florida is a place that has so many," McArthur responded. "They seem very confused and die very quickly."

Other students at the school--which accommodates youngsters and youth between the ages of 10 and 19--were curious about the effects of microgravity. One girl wanted to know if it was possible to have a runny nose in zero G.

"Fortunately, we don't get sick on orbit very much and therefore don't get runny noses," McArthur explained. "But we do experience head congestion because of the shift of fluids from our legs to our upper body and head."

McArthur also told the students that a candle cannot burn in space because microgravity prevents the necessary convection currents from forming, and if you were to cry, tears would not be shed but gather around the eye instead.

All of the students at the church-run school have been studying physics. One of the QSO participants asked how much of the ISS depends on electricity.

"Everything we have onboard is electrical," McArthur replied. "The primary uses of electricity are heater and our fans and pumps." The solar arrays on the ISS can produce approximately 18 kW of power right now. When the space station is completed, its power production will jump to 110 kW.

One student stumped McArthur with his question, "Which state law is recognized on the ISS?" Responded

McArthur to the amusement of the students and the audience: "You got me on that one. I just don't have an answer."

Some 900 students attend the school, located in the state of North Rhine-Westfalia. Control operator Ralf Karrasch, DF4DC, and teacher Daniel Ahrens, DO7DAN, supported the participating students in preparing to take their ham radio license examinations, reports ARISS Mentor Peter Kofler, IN3GHZ, noting that everyone who took the test passed. "Congratulation to the new members of our worldwide radio ham family!" he commented.

A team of radio amateurs from local clubs set up the satellite station at the school that included automatic antenna tracking on the primary station, Kofler said. The station equipment was located in the huge assembly hall, where an audience of 400 students, parents and teachers followed the contact. The NA1SS signal was loud and clear throughout the nearly 10-minute contact, which drew cheers and applause from students and audience as it ended.

The QSO attracted the attention of German news media. Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) TV and radio and Hellweg Radio covered the ham radio event, which was broadcast live on the two radio channels. An article touting the successful ham radio contact appeared the following day in the local newspaper Der Patriot.

The Lippstadt contact marked the 30th ARISS school QSO McArthur has handled--by far a record for any ISS crew member.

ARISS <http://www.rac.ca/ariss> is an international educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the March 13, 2006 Meeting.

Meeting held at Mt. Vernon Red Cross Annex, 300 N. Mulberry St. @ 7:30 P.M.

Attendees:

Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
Dave Gore	Dir of Knox Co. Red Cross
Dave Patton	KC8UTC
Don Russell	WA8YRS
Barry Butz	N8PPF
Jeff Butz	N8SMT
Bob McBride	N8QPM
Larry Helser	AA8WP

The February meeting minutes were read by Jeff Butz, N8SMT, and accepted as read.

Ruben Clark, KB2SAI, advised that Skywarn Training will be given at our next monthly meeting on April 10th @ 6:30 P.M.

Emergency Coordinator's report:

Flood Safety Awareness Week March 20-24
Severe Weather Awareness Week March 26 - April 1.
Statewide Tornado Drill March 29. Mike will take Check-ins on our 146.79 repeater at 10:45 A.M.

April 7th Severe Weather Symposium at The OSU Faucet Center for Tomorrow @ 8:30 A.M.

Bob advised to keep a sharp eye out for severe weather this year since Mother Nature has been kind to us the last few of years we are overdue for some nasty storms.

Repeater News:

440 Repeater:
Barry, N8PPF, reports that Steve, KC8YED has not completed his repair of the repeater.

6 Meter Repeater
Barry reported that they have installed a new receive antenna that has 6 dbi gain and they are continuing to tweak it.

The 2 Meter Repeater Continues to perform flawlessly.

Field Day:

The June Meeting will have a workshop to network all the laptops that we will have at field day. Don, WA8YRS, will bring some sample data that we can use to make sure all the computers are working correctly. Since we haven't been doing the Fifty/fifty drawing (Phil N1GTZ has the tickets) there is only about $10.00 in the field day fund. Since there was so much hoopla about renting a porta-potty last year Jeff, N8SMT, volunteered to donate the amount necessary to rent one. Don, WA8YRS, said he missed not having the picnic we normally have during field day and wanted to make sure we have it this year. He proposed the club provide the meat and members can bring additional items to supplement.

Red Cross Project:

Dave Gore, Director of the Knox County Red Cross, has three Primary objectives for the communications center to be located upstairs in the Red Cross Annex.

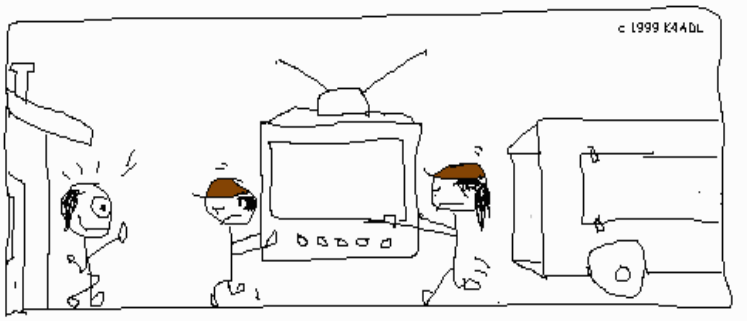
1. Communicate with people in the field during local disasters.

2. Work with EMA so he can get into the MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communications) System.

3. Provide an area for the Amateur System so it will be available for a partnership during a disaster.

The National Red Cross Region that Knox County is a part of has designated Knox County as a hub for disasters in southeast Ohio. Dave would like a system that will be able to communicate with southeast Ohio as well as the Red Cross National system via the Columbus Center. The National Red Cross has a frequency license so logically he will want to work within that license.

There is a countywide full disaster exercise scheduled for May 13th. Dave believes the scenario will be a chemical spill. He would like to see at least some of the radio system up and running by then.



UNAWARE THERE ARE 14 HAMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OPERATING ON 6 METERS, VICTOR TAKES DELIVERY OF A 60 INCH TV, COMPLETE WITH RABBIT EARS.

Note from the Editor

With the current interest in message handling, as noted in KC8YLD's column, I thought it might be a good idea to give club members access the ARRL message form. This has been placed on the last page and may be copied or scanned by members who wish to have a supply of them on hand for emergencies or our net. Maybe this will be followed by some instructions on how to fill them out. In particular some information about the Precedence, Handling instructions, and ARL numbers.

73,
Don, WA8YRS

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 years of age, and $15 for those living outside Knox County.

Mail Dues to: **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)___ EMail_____

Extra Donation (Optional)_____

Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address.

Would you like one? No_____Yes_____

If yes please enter password_____

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Newsletter, CQ, is published monthly by the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club. Editor: Don Russell, WA8YRS

President: Ruben Clarke, KB2SAI
Vice President: Don Russell, WA8YRS
Secretary: Jeff Butz, N8SMT
Treasurer: Bob Bruff, N8PCE

Credits: Clip Art and Cartoons thanks to http://wm8c1.50megs.com/radio_clip_art.htm, http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/, http://pages.prodigy.net/kg0zz/clipart/ham_art3.htm, http://www.arrl.org/,

The ARRL letter is a weekly e-mail publication by the ARRL. You may read the entire ARRL letter by visiting the ARRL Web page at http://www.arrl.org/. Other News from: http://ky4ky.com/fyi.htm and http://www.kyhamradionews.com/
Project OSCAR is a monthly column written for Newsletter Editors. Columns will appear as space permits. You may download all the articles yourself at: http://www.projectoscar.net/beacon.php

The American Radio Relay League
RADIOGRAM
Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date

To

This Radio Message was received at:
Amateur Station_____ Date_____
Name_____
Street Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

Telephone Number:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

From Date Time	To Date Time
REC'D	SENT

A licensed Amateur Radio Operator, whose address is shown above, handled this message free of charge. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating, a "Ham" Operator can accept no compensation. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225, Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is the National Membership Society of licensed radio amateurs and the publisher of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Operators. To that end, The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

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Name_____
Street Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

Telephone Number:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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