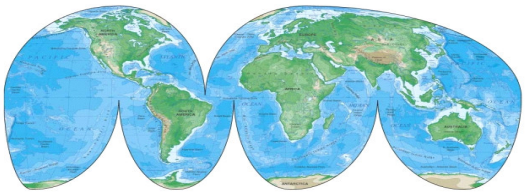
MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

C  Q

April, 2008 Newsletter

**MEETINGS SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RED CROSS ANNEX BUILDING,
300 N MULBERRY ST, MT. VERNON, OHIO
Local Community: K8EEN/R, 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz. with PL of 71.9 Hz.); KD8EVR/R 442.100 Mhz (+5 Mhz. with PL of 71.9 Hz)
SUNDAY NIGHT ARES NET AT 8:00 P.M ON THE K8EEN REPEATER OPEN TO ALL**

From the Editor, W8PEN

Welcome to the April edition of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Clubs Newsletter, "CQ". This months newsletter has been a pleasure to work on simply because there were quite a few contributors. So many in fact that you will not see my "Radio-Activity" column this month. I have postponed it until next month to allow others to entertain the readers. Thanks to all that participated. It really makes editing a newsletter fun.

I noticed one thing lacking in many of our recent newsletters. This was reports on ARES (or just general public service / emergency communications) activities both locally, Ohio, and Nation wide. I plan on rectifying this by having at least one article about emergency communications in each issue. This may be in the form of local ARES coverage, or excerpts from articles sent to me in the ARRL Letter, and the ARES Newsletter. Both these publications are available to ARRL members by e-mail, and I encourage all members to subscribe to one or both of these.

This month just a few web pages readers may be interested in. Also, check out the social events listed on page 6

Try these interesting sites:

http://kb6nu.com/
http://kb6nu.com/your-novice-accent/
http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/larson/

KV8Q Guest Speaker at the April 14th Meeting of the MVARC!

By Tony Spiegel, KC8UR

Tom Hain, KV8Q of Galloway, Ohio will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation at the April 14th meeting. Tom has been licensed since 1967 and is an enthusiastic CW contester. Tom has been certified to possess the ability to copy Morse code at an awe-inspiring speed of 45 words per minute! Tom is a member of the Delaware Ohio Amateur Radio Club and has been a CW contester for at least 28 years. During past Field Day Events the Delaware Amateur radio Club scored really high in their division due to his CW ability.

Prince Edward Island Canada VY2/KV8Q July, 2007

Tom and his wife Debbie KC8LYF drove to Prince Edward Island in July of 2007 to operate in the 2007 International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) HF World

Championship. Tom operated the 24 hour contest using the contest station at VY2TT and literally had a dream come true! The contest lasted 24 hours and Tom operated the entire contest and made a total of 1,964 QSO's all on CW! That figures out to an average of 82 contacts per hour! The final results in the March issue of QST indicate Tom finished in the **TOP FIVE** of all the US/ Canadian competitors. **His final score was 1, 183,884 total points!**

His was a contestant in the Single Operator High Power Division! A review of his logbook indicates he completed criteria to be awarded DXCC on both the 40 and 20 meter bands! Tom attributes his success in this contest to his supporting wife Debbie! What was most remarkable is that on the first day of the contest, it was Debbie's birthday! Tom made prior arrangements for Debbie to enjoy her birthday relaxing at a local health spa and going shopping while he operated the contest! What a woman KC8LYF is! We all wish and dream we had a supportive spouse like Debbie! I say she deserves a medal!

Antennas at VY2/KV8Q

Tom chose as his personal QSL Manager MVARC's own Tony Spiegel, KC8UR!

Congratulations to Tom KV8Q for his successful effort at Prince Edward Island!

HAM HISTORY #17

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

Credit for this article goes to: International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
http://www.iec.ch/100years/techline/

Michael Faraday (1791-1867) was born into a working class English family. Largely self-taught, he made enduringly original contributions to electromagnetism at the Royal Institution in London. Appointed in 1813, he first assisted Humphry Davy's chemical researches and his development of the miners' safety lamp. As an acting superintendent in 1821 Faraday built a device that embodied Oersted's discovery in a rotation apparatus in which a current-carrying wire spun around a magnet. Ten years later as Laboratory Director, Faraday further pursued the complex reciprocity between electricity and magnetism. Linking two electrical circuits to opposite sides of a soft-iron ring, he found that a changing current in the primary circuit induced a current in the secondary circuit; he also found that moving a magnet near a coil of wire could induce a continuous current to flow. Dubbed electromagnetic induction, this principle was embodied in practical forms of dynamo by the time of Faraday's death and later still in the alternating current transformer. These technologies transformed the world by bringing electrical power, light and traction to homes and workplaces.

Although his discovery of electromagnetic induction is important enough in itself to earn Faraday a place in any hall of fame, his bequest covered many other aspects of electrical effects and concepts. In 1833 he investigated the chemical action of electricity, and found that in what he called 'electrolysis' the amount of current passing in metallic solutions was directly related to the masses of the metal deposited: by weighing electrodes standard determination of currents could be made. Corresponding with Cambridge University philosopher William Whewell, Faraday developed a new standard language for electrochemistry in which electrodes were either anodes or cathodes, and the conducting liquid electrolyte decomposed into ions – cations or anions.

During the 1840s Faraday concentrated on the action of magnetism and of electricity through space without the mediation of matter. Rejecting the idea that electricity or magnetism acted mysteriously 'at a distance', he developed the concept of the 'field' which acted through lines of force between electrical charges or magnetic poles. During the 1850s this notion was mathematized by William Thomson (later Lord Kelvin) and James Clerk Maxwell into the theory of the electromagnetic field. Finally, Faraday's success in using a strong magnetic field to rotate the plane of polarized light hinted to Maxwell and others that light might itself be an electromagnetic phenomenon.

Faraday is the only scientist yet to have two SI units named after him: the faraday for electric charge and the farad for capacitance.

(Credit for this article goes to the International Electotechnical Commission (IEC). For more information go to www.iec.ch/100years/techline/).

MVARC Member Profile:
Tony R. Spiegel, KC8UR

Tony Spiegel, KC8UR

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 very involved in the radio club at UC. The club's call sign was W8YX. The radio shack was located 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. The first hams I met in Knox County was Larry Ware, W8FOJ and Jim Woodland, WB8AYM. I also recall meeting Royce "Woody" Woodward (W8PEN). 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 actually 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 Yaseu 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 on a daily basis. 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 up 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 doesn't take a large investment to get started, there's plenty of room for everyone and plenty of activities to choose from.

Finding Electronic Magazines

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU'

No Electronics Magazines? Think Again.

Many old-time ham radio operators grew up with magazines such as Popular Electronics, Electronics Illustrated, and Radio-Electronics. Sadly, these magazines are gone now, but there are still electronics magazines out there that can help you keep up with what's going on in electronics. These magazines are written for practicing electronics engineers, so many of the articles will not be relevant to amateur radio or written in such a way to be nearly incomprehensible to electronics hobbyists, but you can't beat the price They're free!

The magazines I'm referring to are electronics engineering trade magazines. These magazines are sent out free to electronics engineers and others working in the industry, and are supported by the advertisers. You're not an electronics engineer? Don't worry. If you e-mail me, I'll tell you how you can qualify.

Let me give you an example of the good stuff you can find in these trade magazines. In the December 2007 issue of High Frequency Electronics (www.highfrequencyelectronics.com), there is an article titled, "Quartz Crystal Basics." Written by an engineer for a manufacturer of crystals, crystal oscillators, and crystal filters, this article describes how crystals are made and gives some tips on designing your own crystal oscillators.

Also in this issue is the article, "Power Combiners, Impedance Transformers, and Directional Couplers." This is the first of a series of articles to discuss these circuits. Amateurs frequently use transmission line impedance transformers (think baluns) to match an antenna system to the 50-ohm output of a transceiver.

The new products section includes items on RF parts and test equipment, as well as book reviews. You probably will not be purchasing the new Boonton 9103 7.5 GHz Portable Spectrum Analyzer ($11,000 and up), but you might be interested in the book RF Circuit Design ($41 at Amazon).

As you can see, there's plenty of useful and interesting information in these trade magazines. In addition to High Frequency Electronics, you may also want to check out:

- RF Design (www.rfdesign.com)
- Microwaves and RF (www.mwrf.com)
- EE Times (www.eetimes.com)
- EDN (www.edn.com)
- Test&Measurement World (www.tmworld.com, I used to write for this magazine)

If you don't care to sign up for the print version of the magazine, you can always visit their websites and sign up for their e-mail newsletters. These newsletters will keep you informed of new articles and product information on the websites. You can then choose which ones you want to read.

When he's not trying to get free subscriptions to electronics magazines, Dan blogs about ham radio (www.kb6nu.com), teach others about ham radio, and is working to set up an amateur radio station at the Hands-On Museum (www.aahom.org) in Ann Arbor, MI. You can e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the March 10, 2008 Meeting.

By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1	**Doug Radabaugh**	**N/A**
2	**Mike McCardel**	**KC8YLD**
3	**Tom Evans**	**KD8HSA**
4	**Ruben Clark**	**KB2SAI**
5	**Don Russell**	**W8PEN**
6	**Don Bunner**	**KB8QPO**
7	**Tony Spiegel**	**KC8UR**
8	**Larry Helzer, DVM**	**AA8WP**
9	**Jeff Butz**	**N8SMT**

President Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, called the meeting to order at 7-ish.

Minutes were read by Don Russell, W8PEN. Move to accept minutes by Tony Spiegel, KC8UR. Seconded by Larry Heltzer, AA8WP. Motion carried.

Treasurers report was read from the March Newsletter in the absence of Barry Butz, N8PPF:

Income:
Dues: $ 0.00
Donations: $ 0.00
Interest: $ .09
50-50: $11.00

Expenses:
Refreshments at Kenyon program: $42.00

Balance on 2-29-07: $2136.84

Designated Funds
Year 2005 Repeater Fund: $653.94
Field Day Fund: $108.30

Note that December's year-end report should have shown the balance of $2097.68 being on 12-31-07, not 10-29-07.

Field Day Report: Doc Helzer, AA8WP.
The general consensus at the last meeting was that we will go to the Fairgrounds this year but if anybody has any other suggestions, let him know. Mike suggested a campground on top of Dutch Hill if we are not worried about not having public exposure. Mike can talk to the church that owns it, if we are interested. Another possibility discussed during the Club Breakfast was the Danville Fire Department Station. They have a conference room we may be able to set up in, plus a 60 foot tower and trees on the property.

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.
Ruben thanked Don, W8PEN, for running the Sunday Night Net in the absence of other net control stations. Other net control stations have been busy with weekend business and vacations. Things should get back to normal during the Month of March.

Ruben announced Sky Warn Training was scheduled for April 3rd, 6:00 PM at the EMA office.

The GOBA biking event is scheduled for June 16 through the 18th. The bikers will be camped out at the Mt. Vernon High School. Some operators will be needed to provide communications. If interested, contact Ruben.

Repeater Report: Don Russell, W8PEN.
The 2 Meter Repeater had quite a bit of scratchy noise during the last Sunday Net. It might be caused by equipment in the water tower, or a problem with the repeater. This noise is noticed once in a while, but always disappear as fast as it starts. Problem will be looked into by the repeater tech group when the weather permits.

The 440 repeater is up and running good. The courtesy beep is a bit loud and needs adjustment. Arlin, KD8EVR, and Don, W8PEN, plan on making adjustments when the weather warms up.

Mike KC8YLD commented that the Echo Link has been working great. Very clear and clean.

Old Business:
Mike stated that Kenyon College has again asked us to help with their Earth Day Marathon April 20th starting @ 7:00 A.M. the last runners should get in approximately 6 ½ hours after the start. We will need about 10 to 12 people to run the event. Mike wants to try to set up a local repeater for the event.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

The motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Butz, N8SMT, seconded by Doc, AA8WP and carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY ON APRIL 18

(From the ARRL Letter, April 4, 2008)

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day. On this 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the future of Amateur Radio with its theme, "Amateur Radio: A Foundation for Technical Knowledge."

It is no secret that many professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications and electronics have started their technical education as young radio amateurs.

World Amateur Radio Day provides an occasion to promote and publicize Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to find suitable ways of celebrating World Amateur Radio Day. Many ways can be considered -- inviting youngsters to visit radio clubs, showing up on the air with a special call sign, organizing a station in a public area with media coverage or publicly honoring amateurs who have made significant contributions. Whatever method is chosen, clubs should think about publishing a press release for the media, giving the background to World Amateur Radio Day and promoting the value of Amateur Radio as a foundation for a technical career.

The ARRL would like to hear how Amateur Radio clubs chose to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. Share your stories and photos with us, so that they may be shared with the Amateur Radio community. E-mail your submissions to ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor Norm Fusaro, W3IZ <clubs@arrl.org>. Please be sure to put "World Amateur Radio Day" in the subject line.

CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, Arpil 14, 2008 at the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. This Months Program will be presented by Tom Hain, KV8Q, describing his radio activities on Prince Edwards Island, Canada. Lets have a good turnout!

April 20 , 2008, the MVARC will be providing communications for the Kenyon College Earthday Marathon. We need volunteers to help make this event successful. Contact Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, at kc8yld@arrl.net or 740-599-6614.

Every Wednesday at 5:00 PM, MVARC club members meet at Wendy's, 522 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Dinner Coordinator Dick Huggins, N8RDH, reports good turnouts for this event.

Come share dinner with friends, or make new friends, by attending one or all of these events. Family and friends welcome. You do not need to be a ham or club member to participate in this event.

Come join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Each month we try a different place, so check the MVARC Newsletter for current information. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, can also be contacted for the latest news on the 2 meter or the 440 Mhz. Repeaters. Or tune into our ARES net each Sunday at 8:00 PM for current information.

******The next Breakfast will be April 12 at 9:00 AM at the R&M Southside Dinner, 620 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.******

HAMS ON HAND AS TORNADOS SWEEP THROUGH GEORGIA, DOWNTOWN ATLANTA

(From the ARRL letter, March 20, 2008)

When tornados swept through Georgia mid March, Amateur Radio operators were on hand to assist where needed. On Friday, March 14, an EF-2 tornado touched down in downtown Atlanta at 9:38 PM (local time). The National Weather Service said the twister was 6 miles long and 200 yards wide. Downtown Atlanta was a busy place that evening; not only was there a professional basketball game, college basketball fans were in town for the Southeast Conference tournament at the Georgia Dome. Due to the tornados, the final college game of the day was postponed until the next day. According to reports, the tornado blew off portions of the roof of the Georgia Dome.

An EF-2 tornado has wind speeds from 111-135 MPH. In such a tornado, roofs are torn off well-constructed houses, foundations of frame homes are shifted, mobile homes can be completely destroyed, large trees are snapped or uprooted, light-object missiles are generated and cars can be lifted off the ground.

ARRL Georgia Section Manager Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, said "William Chandler, KG4JTK, went from house to house in the wind and the rain checking for any injuries in the homes that had sustained damage by falling trees and debris. At the same time, he issued reports via radio to Barry Kanne, W4TGA, the Emergency Coordinator for neighboring DeKalb County, regarding fallen trees, billboards, power lines and other threats to public safety. Barry relayed this information to the Atlanta 911 center and to the Grady Hospital Emergency Operations Center." DeKalb County is directly to the east of Fulton County; Atlanta is the county seat of Fulton County.

The City of Atlanta Web site reported that "[e]xtensive damage has been reported to a number of landmark buildings in downtown, including the Omni Hotel, Georgia World Congress Center, CNN Building, the Georgia Dome and Phillips Arena and homes and businesses in nearby neighborhoods." The Red Cross opened a shelter at Central Recreation Center. There was "no external damage" to Hartsfield International Airport.

Eyewitness accounts said that "huge hunks of metal and broken glass were everywhere [in Atlanta], as well as overturned cars and benches in the road. Olympic Centennial Park is a mess." The high winds caused major damage to several other landmarks including the Georgia World Congress Center. Many hotels and office

buildings had their windows blown out. Grady Memorial Hospital, the major trauma center for the Atlanta metro area, had its 100 foot tall communications tower blown off the hospital roof, disabling communications with emergency medical personnel.

ARRL Georgia Section Traffic Manager Charles Pennington, K4GK, served as Net Manager during the storms: "After several hours of recovery and damage assessment, it became obvious that while Atlanta had received major damage to downtown area, there were no fatalities reported and amazingly only 21 persons were treated for injuries." Two fatalities were reported in northwest Georgia.

In Effingham County, near Savannah on Georgia's coastline, Swiderski said a tornado "took down six power towers during the annual St Patrick's Day celebrations," thrusting the community into "total blackout conditions."

"A local 2 meter SKYWARN net, with Greg Tillman, N4VAD, serving as NCS, provided a vital link with the staff at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah. Dr Ra Meguiar, N4RVM, a physician and senior hospital administrator, later sent a letter of appreciation in recognition of the local hams 'for staying with us through the weather and the power outage.' He said that this was his first experience in participating in a severe weather net and the 'support was invaluable,'" Swiderski said.

According to Swiderski, reports came mostly through the linked repeater system, "usually from a liaison from one of the many local nets that were going on in county after county, but there were also reports from stand-alone hams who had the misfortune of being in an affected area. There were reports of wall clouds, funnel clouds and hailstones -- large hailstones, sometimes as large as baseballs."

Tillman said that two mobile homes were completely destroyed and one was "tossed like a rag doll, rolling over numerous times 100 feet from its foundation where the anchors were pulled up from the ground." Nearly a dozen other homes and automobiles were damaged; five people from Effingham were transported to the local hospital for treatment and evaluation, he said.

"In some of the counties, this event was a true 'baptism under fire' for brand new Emergency Coordinators," Swiderski said. "I'm pleased to say that they all conducted themselves and all of the challenges admirably."

ComPIOnents April 2007

By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

MVARC to assist marathon April 20

The club will once again support the communications of the Earth Day Challenge Marathon. The race will begin at 7am near the Dan Emmett Hotel and proceed down the Kokosing Gap Trail to Gambier where it will loop around Gambier onto Danville and back to Gambier via the Trail. Finish line will be on the outdoor track. The last runner is expected to finish by 2pm. We will locate at the aid stations and offer communication support as needed. Typically we relay race information, requests for supplies, and anecdites back to the finish line. One unit gets to ride behind the last runner. I plan to have a time table for when we need to be at each station Last year about a dozen local hams showed up to assist. We are hoping for as good a turn our as possible.

Guest Speaker at April 14 meeting

Tom Hain, KV8Q of Galloway, OH will talk about his and his wife Debbie's, KC8LYF, Prince Island radio-contesting vacation. See related story elsewhere in the newsletter. It sound like a great story.

Traveling with radios

During a recent vacation my wife, Judy, and I flew from Columbus to Milwaukee, to visted my son in Wauwatosa. After a flight back to Columbus we then flew round trip to Greensboro, NC to vist my daughter in Hillsborough. In my carry on I had packed two handi-talkies, a GPS unit, wall warts to charge each, a ladderline j-pole, and a computer. Four trips trough security and not once did anyone bat an eye. I went right through each time. Judy however had her bag search all four times. It seems the bag of change she carries attracts more attention than a couple of transmitter.

The fun part of waiting in the airport was using the handies as scanners and listening to ground traffic, airport and other snow plow crews, incoming and outgoing air traffic, local repeaters and even some aprs packets. Much of the ground traffic was airport related, security, baggage handlers cab and shuttle communications. I kept myself quite entertained as I waited. I was quite dissapointed in the lack of repeater traffic in Milwaukee and Hillsborough. Not once did anyone come back to me. I like to think we are a lot friendlier up here.

One interesting thing was the APRS network in

Milwaukee and Wauwatosa. Jeff's house was about 4 miles from a local digipeater and it only took about 30 minutes before the buffer that my TH7A(G) uses to record up to 40 received packets began overwriting old packets. I kept it on most of the time up there noting information like Local weather, messages to other hams, speed of mobiles, direct and distance they were from me. Saturday I receive a real surprise when suddenly there was voice on 144.39, the APRS frequency. It seems they have a regular APRS Net. I wish some one had returned my calls out, I would have liked to learn more about the local APRS network.

I also had a chance to visit the AES Store in Milwaukee. It is the mother store of the AES franchise. Other stores are in Cleveland, Las Vegas, and Orlando. Most impressive was there antenna array outside the store which is just one store in a small strip mall. The most impressive was the VHF/UHF array set up for satellite communications. Inside they were short handed and unusually busy for the time we were there. I was hoping to ask some questions and see there operating setup but because they were busy and was there with three non-hams. I just walked around and got a few things that I needed. I'll visit again when I make my way back up to see Jeff. Only next time I'll make sure I have my camera with me and plan to take more time. The Cleveland store is just a few miles North of my daughter, who lives in Akron, so I plan to hit them in the near future.

While in Hillsborough I installed Echolink on my daughters PC and was able to cennect to the K8EEN repeater via the KB2SAI link maintained by Ruben Clark, KB2SAI. I plugged Jenny's headset into her Mic and spaeker outputs. To transmit I just pressed the spacebar and then hit the spacebar again when I was done to listen. I could have set up the program to so that to speak I held down the spacebar and releasing it stopped transmittion, but Jenny's headset was too small for me and I had to hold them in my hand and listen and speak independently. I could hear the conversations as if I were operating locally and my reports back were all favorable.

All in all we had a great trip. It was even 76 degrees and sunny our second day in North Carolina, Much better than the piled snow of Milwaukee. As well as getting some radio play in we shopped, read Dr. Seuss to classes at the school where my daughter teaches, ate extremely well and just put the regular world behind us for a week. And just a plug, the whole idea of taking the vacation when we did came when Skybus announced service to Milwaukee a few months back. I checked their rate calendar and found that for the week between Feb 27 and March 5th we could get our tickets for $10 each way. So, the trip from Columbus to Milwaukee, WI and back and the one to Greensboro, NC and back for my wife and me cost us a grand total of $178 including taxes and fees. We couldn't have driven for that for sure.

73, Mike, KC8YLD

Ham Radio Deluxe Impressive!

At the March meeting, Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, presented a program on a computer program entitled “Ham Radio Deluxe”.

Ham Radio Deluxe is a windows suite of programs to assist the operator in a number of ways, including setting up your radio without going through complicated menu systems. The program provides computer control of most commonly used transceiver and receivers such as frequency tuning, scanning, setting PL tones, etc.

The program also contains a mapper, which is actually a stand alone mapping program which allows one to plot stations, country prefixes and will print the maps on multiple sheets of paper.

Some of the key benefits of using Ham Radio Deluxe is using the built in logbook, integrated DX Cluster, Customizable Band Layouts, Satellite Tracking Interface, and scanning. You can also synchronise up to ten instances of the program, meaning you can have ten radios connected and tune all of them by tuning one radio. Not that you would want to. Three maybe!

Mike first gave a program demo using his Yaesu FT-857 as the radio of choice. Mike showed club members how he can change frequencies a number of different ways, set up the scanning feature, and also change radio menu settings without having to leave the program itself. One can also program the radios memory via Ham Radio Deluxe.

Mike gave a demo of the PSK operating mode available in Ham Radio Deluxe. Unfortunately, we were working into a dummy load so could not receive signals. But you could see the display. You can actually monitor several PSK 31 QSO’s in progress at the same time you are chatting with someone else. Neat.

Then Mike set the program up on his brand new Kenwood TS-2000. Sorry Mike, I took a picture, but can’t fit it in this article.

All in all, it was a very interesting program. Members who stay away from our meetings are missing some very interesting programs.

Those wanting to download or learn more about Ham Radio Deluxe should visit their web site:

http://hrd.ham-radio.ch/default.htm

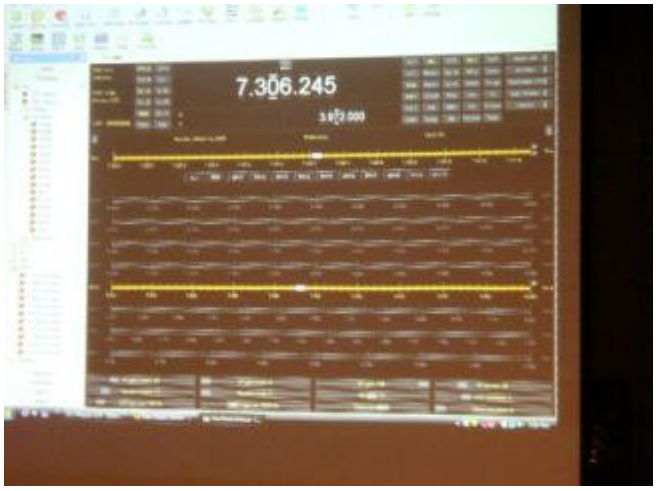
Ham Radio Deluxe will do everything but talk for you.

See Program pictures on the next page.

Long-Delayed Radio Echoes Resolved!

By Ailean Mac an Daroch
Contributing Editor
April 1, 2008

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD



Ham Radio Deluxe Screen Shot

Back, left to right: Ruben Clarke (KB2SAI), Tom Evans(KD8HSA). Middle: Tony Spiegel (KC8UR), Doug Radabaugh. Front: Jeff Butz (N8SMT).

Long-delayed echoes (LDEs) have puzzled radio operators since the very beginnings of radio itself. For a history of this, see the work of Bill Continelli, W2XOY, in installment #31 of "The History of Amateur Radio" on www.ham-shack.com. Everything from tropospheric ducting for a dozen or more times around the earth to little green men from another star system has been postulated. LDE's have been popularized in Frank Edwards' *Stranger Than…* books and in Ripley's *Believe It or Not*. More recently Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, wrote about them in his "Surfing" columns.

Sverre Holm, of the Centre for Imaging, Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, has studied LDEs and wrote his findings in Oslo. Rather than commit to any one theory, he presented a fistful of ideas, each of which might just happen at a given time, for a specific frequency, and if conditions are just right in the cosmos. But he too added the little green men concept to the mix.

Until early in the 21st Century, the physics simply was not there to explain the phenomenon. However emerging results from the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC), secretly built in the late 1980's in Ellis County, Texas, under the direction Roy Schwitters, a physicist at the University of Texas at Austin and Harvard University, showed that the elusive "Higgs' boson," a particle predicted by the Standard Model, could actually be created.

While bosons exist in our world for only microseconds before reverting back into energy, their transdimensional effect on surrounding electromagnetic waves has been studied and documented.

Modern "String Theory" initially postulated that the most basic form of matter was a "string" which is right on the borderline between matter and energy. The characteristics of the particulate matter depend only on the frequency by which the string vibrates. Mathematically this model works out well and resolved many physics problems. It was a major step forward in understanding the Grand Unified Theory (GUT), but in doing so it was found to first require 7 and later 11 dimensions. (Human experience is limited to only four -3 directional axes plus 1 of time.) However, despite our own sensory limitations, these extra three or seven dimensions also resolved the "sponge-like" properties of the boson by which it captures and later releases surrounding electromagnetic energies.

"It's actually more like a spleen than a sponge," claims

Dr. Juan O'Callaghan of Hamilton University. "Sponges just soak up things until squeezed. The boson takes electromagnetic energy, transfers it into a different dimension plane where it resides until brought back to its original state. Since there is no consistency to time in these different dimensions, the delay perceived on our side of the dimensional divide can be microseconds or months. Maybe eons. Examples of this are the unexpected re-appearance and reception of the 1937 television signals clearly showing Goebbel's meeting with Hopalong Cassidy."

Indeed, it was only after the recognition that the actions of bosons and the multi-dimensional properties of strings were interrelated with the **magnetic monopoles** predicted by GUT, that the mystery of the Long Delayed Echoes of radio finally was resolved and formulated as (Some say this equation can be reduced further to eIeI?) Future research is focused on humanitarian efforts by increasing the longevity of the boson particle effect but Riley of the FCC cautioned that, "There is a real problem with a radio transmission whose station callsign may only be heard once every few millennia." Other possibilities include the return and reassignment of many past DX and contest awards whose contact information has yet to return and also the home use of boson particles to delay the receipt of bad news or chore lists until after the weekend.

April Fools from KC8YLD!

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Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to ham radio, with an emphasis on local activities, equipment reviews, and personal experience to w8pen@arrl.et or Don Russell, W8PEN, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

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