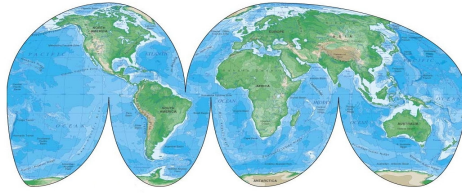


MOUNT VERNON

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

August 2004

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

My fellow hams,

Hello again. Welcome to another exciting edition of...'Letter from the President'! OK, maybe it's not so exciting, but I thought I would try. There isn't a whole lot that has happened this past month, but here's what's going on.

Earlier in the month, Jeff Hall (KC8WXL) and I went to the Knox County Citizen Corps meeting to show our support as a club. They were interested to hear about our SkyWarn involvement and our abilities to be able to help in any situation. We will most likely continue attending the meetings and we will let you know if anything develops.

At our next meeting, we are planning on issuing ID cards to all of those already on or wanting to be on our ARES/RACES list. If you want to be able to assist in an emergency situation, please plan on coming to this meeting! Without an ID card, you will not be granted access to facilities if needed. I have not heard from anyone that they will not be able to make it, so I am assuming that everyone on the ARES/RACES list will be there. If you are not going to be there, please let me know!

Now that field day is over, we need to start planning for next year. We should be voting someone in as field day chairperson at our next meeting. Make sure you come on out and give us your feedback!

OK..that's about it - like I said, not a whole lot going on. Please remember our meeting and also our Sunday night nets. Have a good one..talk to ya next month. :)

73's

Ruben Clark

KB2SAI

MVARC President

Letter from the Editor:

Hello everyone, Phil here. I'm helping Jeff compose and edit this rag now and naturally will bring my own kind of style to the work. For those that don't already know, my style tends to be on the lighter side and humorous. By which I don't mean to say I won't be taking the look of the newsletter seriously, I will, but what's contained within may sashay to the funny side from time to time. Have a look at Vacuum Tube Daze to see what I mean. At the other end of the spectrum "A Pause for Thought" will be exactly that and conclude each newsletter.

Alongside the hoped-for serious articles on things like home brew radios and antennas, contributions of the anecdotal kind are welcome, the more hilarious the better. As long as it's radio related. Anecdotes, not to be confused with antidotes, a few of which may be needed after I'm finished with this! And if your *really* good at spinning a yarn your anecdote could be complete fabrication, after all who would know? I'll still include it.

Because I'm also graphical in nature please don't be afraid to include pics. Just email them to me and I'll include them in the newsletter.

And if your *really* good at fabricating a pic I'll even include it with your fabricated story!

After all who would know?

(and that, my friends, is how *really* decent fiction is born.....)

Attendance

July 12, 2004

Monthly Meeting

Name

Call

Email (if not already on record)

1. Phillip Buble

N1GTZ

2. Richard Huggins

WD8QHY

3. Don Bunner

KB8QPO

4. Don Russell

WA8YRS

5. Barry Butz

N8PPF

6. Ruben Clark

KB2SAI

7. Bob Bruff

N8PCE

8. Barb Smith

N8SMP

9. Jerry Walker

KB8JAA

10. Mike McCardel

KC8YLD

11. Tim Reed

KA8PCP

treedy@netzero.net

12. Harold Rush

AB8BI

Minutes

July 12, 2004

Monthly Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:04 local time

Treasury Report: \$356.24 savings, \$265.04 in checking. Repeater fund is \$1031.74

Old News:

Issue 1: MVARC's website remains a work in process. Redesign phase is ongoing.

Issue 2: The future scheduling of MVARC's Newsletter was discussed. It will remain a monthly publication by popular opinion. I will take over composing and editing it while Jeff will mail it out. (email and snailmail) Those who wish the newsletter snailmailed only please make sure your on Jeff's list.

New News:

Issue 1: Citizen Corp meeting with be attended by Ruben, KB2SAI, Jeff, KC8WXL, and Bob, N8QPM. Larry Hatton and our relationship with EMA was discussed. Larry Hatton and his secretary will be added to the newsletter list.

Issue 2: CERT training: A \$6,000 grant was applied for to train Knox County personnel.

Issue 3: ARES/RACES ID photos will be taken next month.

Issue 4: Field Day report: 1051 contacts were made with the following band/mode breakdown:

SSB		CW	
162	75-meter	43	80-meter
356	40-meter	99	40-meter
164	20-meter	65	20-meter
109	15-meter	8	15-meter
38	10-meter		
5	6-meter		
1	2-meter FM	1	440 FM

Additional Points:

300 points for using emergency power.

100 points for publicities.

100 points for setting up in a public place.

100 points for the appearance of an elected official.

100 points for copying the W1AW field day message.

For a total of 2532 points

Issue 5: Bike Tour. Volunteers are needed to cover the Knox County part of the tour. Coverage time 11:00 am to 3:00 pm this Saturday. Please contact Tim Reed, KA8PCP, or email him at treedy@netzero.net or ka8pcp@yahoo.com if your interested.

50/50 drawing was won by Harold Rush, AB8BI

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm local time.

P.S. Barry, N8PPF, will organize all club paperwork this winter.



Robert J. McBride, Sr.
Knox County Emergency Coordinator
Amateur Radio Emergency Services

2855 Apple Valley Drive
Howard, Ohio 43028-9382
Phone: (740) 393-0970
Cellular: (740) 398-1277
Email: bobmcbridesr@earthlink.net
bobmcbridesr@yahoo.com

Monthly Report: ARES July 2004

July has been a quiet month for amateur radio. Everyone must be resting after a great field day. Field day is an important event for all amateur radio operators. I am great full that we had such beautiful weather for the event. I got to field day late on Saturday evening about 6:30P.M. and stayed until 1:00A.M. Sunday morning. We show at field day that we can operate with out power. Even the Fourth Of July Net was really slow. Everyone please note my email address has changed even though my old email address will be active for a few months, send all correspondence to both addresses. This way I can get my email, on the road or at home.

Sunday July 4, 2004 Net Control N8QPM Bob McBride, Sr.

Check Ins

KC8UTL Dave KF8ZL Howard AA8WP Doc KF8JZ Mike N8PPF Barry

Sunday, July 25, 2004 Net Control N1GTZ Phil Buble

Check Ins

N8QPM Bob KC8TCQ Keith KF8ZL Mike N8QHY Barbara KC8YED Steve
KC8EIR N8PPF Barry N8GTS Garry KB8STK Danny AA8WP Doc
KC8GBY Jerry

Please, remember to check in to the Sunday night ARES Nets at 9:00P.M.

I apologize for not having the check-ins listed. I will try to have the update for next month.

The Sunday night ARES nets schedule is as follows:

First Sunday Net Control: N8QPM Bob McBride, Sr.

Second Sunday Net Control: KC8WXL Jeff Hall

Third Sunday Net Control: KB2SAI Ruben Clark

Fourth Sunday Net Control: N1GTZ Phil

Fifth Sunday Net Control: KB8TEX Dan Crowthers

1. Please remember the tornado sirens will be tested the first and third Fridays each month at 12 :00 PM. We need NET Controls who can do check-ins for these nets. If you are available and you do not hear anyone else on the repeater, please take check ins and send me a report on all that checked in .

2. How many hams have a rain gauge? Please let me know.

73's from N8QPM and have a good month!

REPEATERS AND STUFF
By Don Russell, WA8YRS

It has been a couple of months since I have reported on our repeaters. Actually, most of it is good news. The new 450 MHz. repeater has proven to be very reliable. I would like to get it up on a large tower. That would increase our range and make it a much nicer repeater. However, nothing has come up as of yet. We may have to check this out more aggressively to see what we can come up with.

The 2-meter repeater continues its excellent record in reliability. Over the last two and a half years, I can only remember one serious problem that shut the repeater down. The repeater was up and running in a few hours though and has worked ever since. We do have a transmitter hang problem that seems to come and go. Barry and I will be checking this out to see if we can come up with a permanent solution. It is not a problem that will keep the repeater off the air.

As everyone knows by now, Field Day was very successful this year. More than one club member has ask me what was so different about this Field Day compared to past Field Days?

I would like to take credit for building the worlds best Field Day antennas, but that is only part of it. I believe the main reason why the weekend was such a success is the fact that the club has a bit of new blood in it. For once, operators manned the equipment almost the full length of the exercise. There was only about three hours where all transmitters were completely shut down so we could get some sleep.

Another reason is that our operators were not shy this year. I heard more "CQ Field Day" from our group than ever before. As I have said in the past, If all you ever do is search for other stations calling CQ, then you are missing a large population of hams that are on during the contest. Most new contesters will not call CQ. There are lots of new contesters on the air during Field Day. We would never have worked those stations if we did not CQ ourselves. Of course, this takes a bit of experience. Our operators gained experience last year during Field Day, and the Ohio QSO party. Our operators were more prepared this year than in the past.

Beating this years score is going to be tough. Those that were at our last club meeting have read my suggestions for improving our Field Day next year. Most of it involves the antenna angle. Higher antennas, and a few extra antennas we can switch to when one antenna seems to have worked them all. That list will appear in this months Newsletter, if there is room. [Ed. note: It's below]

One thing I would like to see would be more General Class or higher hams participating in our Field Day. This may take care of itself if the FCC acts on the ARRL proposals. I prefer not to wait, and encourage the Technicians of the Club to start studying for their General Class ticket. I will help with the code and theory, but it is up to club members to get a group together that want to do this. Just let me know and we will plan it out.

That is it for now. Come join us at the meeting. Some of the discussions have been

very lively. You may find that you enjoy yourself.

Field Day Improvements **for 2005**

IN GENERAL:

- Paint Towers for better appearance to the general public and any official visitors we may have.
- Link computers (wireless). Then any station could use any band if needed. All computers would use the same log file.
- Put an eyebolt at the top of each tower/mast combination to assist in raising and lowering antennas.
- Run a natural power station for the 100 bonus points. This could be a solar panel. We only need 5 contacts to take credit for this bonus. We could do it on CW, where we operated QRP anyway this year.
- Set up a public display booth for 100 bonus points. That is an easy 100 points we should have been doing all along.
- Do a better job of documentation. Be sure to set up a visitor log, take pictures of the generator, public display booth, and any official that happens to visit. Also, invitations to public officials and agencies should be written and mailed, with a copy of the letter saved for Field Day submittal.

20 AND 15 METER STATION:

- Add a Vertical or ground plane for 20 and 15 meters to the mix.

80 AND 40 METER STATION:

- Add a 30 foot tower with 10 feet of mast pipe for the center of the dipoles for an apex of 40 feet. Then use the 30 foot telescoping masts at the ends. This will raise the antennas about 15 feet over this year.
- Add a second set of antennas perpendicular to the other one. With an antenna switch we could do much the same as with the 20 and 10 meter station and switch directions. At such a low antenna height for the frequency, it may not make that much of a difference though.
- Add a 40 meter vertical to the mix. May be easier than adding another set of dipoles because you will not need 2 more end masts. Could even make it an 80 and 40 meter vertical. Hmmmmm.

6 AND 10 METER, PLUS 80-10 METER CW:

- Use 10 meter loops. The loops would also work on 6 meters with an antenna tuner.
- Put a 2 meter ground plane (or better) at the top of the tower for FM simplex. Probably more activity than 6 meters. We could scan the simplex frequencies and answer FD calls as they came. The logger could do this while the other operator searches for stations to work on the other bands.
- Put the HF antenna right under the 2-meter antenna. Gain about 7 feet that way.
- Use 20 ft. poles at the ends of the 80-10 antenna rather than 10 ft. ones.

Vacuum Tube Daze

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

By Phillip Buble, N1GTZ

Episode 1: When radios smelled good.



Look up into the sky, a blue and red flash, was it a bird, a plane, Superman? No it was just another vacuum tube circuit failing. None of this new-age wimpy transistor failure mode stuff where tubes were concerned. Things melted, exploded, burned, sizzled and smoked with a mushroom shaped cloud forming above it to tell you when something went wrong. When a tube circuit failed you knew it - you saw it, you smelled it, you heard it and tasted it. Conversely on those rare occasions when all the circuits were working correctly that warm glow and smell of overheated wood, glass, carbon, paper, plastic, wax and metal told you so. It smelled good as it meant everything was working correctly. You could see the blue glow of Chrenkov Radiation within the tubes dance in tune with the output sound and picture. That is until something failed, the plates started glowing and you ran for the off switch before the imminent meltdown.

Troubleshooting tube circuits was different than nowadays, the tubes themselves gave you so much information just by looking at them. Was the filament glowing a nice shade of red? If not you found your trouble. Was a nearby resistor or capacitor blown to smithereens? Time to find out why. Tubes were stern task-masters, if an external component was to fail due to no fault on the tubes' part, the tube itself made sure that gimpy component paid for it with its life. There would be no question later on as to where to lay blame, thank you very much. Did lightly tapping the chassis cause half a dozen tubes to literally sing out in benign harmony. Good. Did it cause them to cry out in pain. Not good at all.

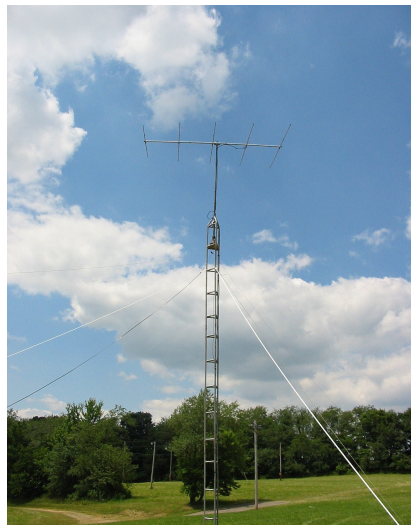
Tubes were a living thing, not nearly as clinical as a transistor. As a living thing it imparted its own uniqueness to pin-out voltages, sound and picture. This is now called "distortion." It's an unflattering name unless one is into either distortion or hard rock music. There's little difference between the two, which explains why some people swear by their tube-type stereo amps and others swear at them. Personally I swear by mine most of the time then swear at it every few months when it needs a repair. Since it's nearly as old as I am I retain the right to call it any name I wish. (I'll be 48 this month)

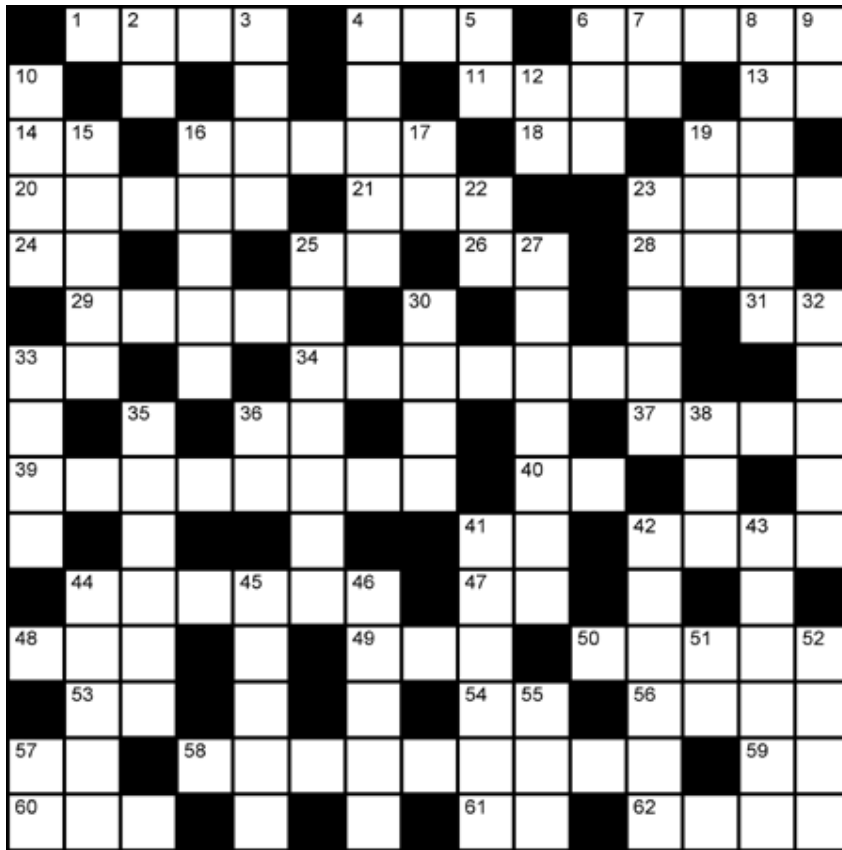
Tubes in amateur radios were a breed apart. Due to the requirements of radio frequency operation nearly all those tubes needed to be in special resonant circuits also known as "tank" circuits. None of the broad-banded design you see nowadays. That meant those poor tubes were tanked most of the time. This, perhaps, is the main reason why older hams have such fond memories of the vacuum tube daze.

The End.

P.S. Anyone wishing to shoot the author has to go to the back of a VERY long line.

Field Day Memories: A few choice pics from Field Day.





“What's
My
Line?”

by H. Ward
Silver,
N0AX

Across

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Same load across the band | 4. Observe visually |
| 6. Short sections of transmission line | 11. RF feedback makes a speaker do this |
| 13. First two letters of satellite designator | 14. Overload (abbr.) |
| 16. Measures power | 18. Unit of time (abbr.) |
| 19. Switches xmtr and rcvr (abbr.) | 20. Graph versus azimuth |
| 21. A length of transmission line or a wire antenna | 23. Group by similar characteristics |
| 24. Sporadic-E (abbr.) | 25. First two letter of male UHF connector |
| 26. Friendly term for male operator (CW abbr.) | 28. Prefix meaning "before" |
| 29. Chart for solving transmission line problems | 31. Receiver oscillator (abbr.) |
| 33. Rare seventh-district state (abbr.) | 34. Connector that converts types or joins |
| 36. CW abbreviation for AND | 37. Joins ropes together |
| 39. Slower in a transmission line | 40. Hardware (abbr.) |
| 41. Gas that holds up balloon antennas (Chemical symbol) | 42. Electric shock |
| 44. Instrument that measures X and R | 47. Education (abbr.) |
| 48. Amateur | 49. Web address (abbr.) |
| 50. Wasted material | 53. Series inductance (abbr.) |

54. Base current (abbr.)

56. Praise or compliment

57. Conductors are made from this metal (Chemical symbol)

58. Characteristic of transmission line

59. Elevation (abbr.)

60. Best ratio of load to line Z

61. Capacitive reactance (symbol)

62. Neatly arranged#

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. Component in a matching network | 3. Layer |
| 4. Part of a UHF cable connector that goes on first | 5. Two components of radio energy (symbols) |
| 6. Measure of matching (abbr.) | 7. Transmission line (abbr.) |
| 8. Double female connector | 9. First two letters of UHF receptable |
| 10. Used to hold antennas up | 12. Overhead (abbr.) |
| 15. A cable that loses or dissipates energy | 16. What an expert works |
| 17. Prefix meaning "again" | 19. What AM and PAC have in common |
| 22. Opposite of no-go | 23. First transmission type |
| 25. Arranging antenna or line currents | |
| 27. When all of the line energy is transferred to the load | |
| 30. A large number of things | 32. Group of eight |
| 33. How energy travels in space and in transmission lines | 35. The wrong loads sets these off |
| 36. ARES leader (abbr.) | |
| 38. Capacitor whose value is stable with temperature | 41. Type of line with a spiral center insulator |
| 42. Coating on the outside of a line | 43. With load attached |
| 44. Coax-to-two-conductor transformer | 45. Load that simulates an antenna |
| 46. Blind mathematician who discovered the relationship between exponentials and trigonometry | |
| 51. Russian prefix | |
| 52. Prefix of plastics used as transmission line insulation | 55. Popular low-power RF connector type |
| 57. Prefix meaning "with" | |

Editor's Note: I'd like to thank the ARRL website (www.arrl.org) for supplying this month's crossword puzzle. Answers can be found there and will be posted here next month. I'd also like to thank Steve, KC8YED, for a most excellent idea and for his crossword help. Steve will generate next month's puzzle from the General License question pool.

A Pause for Thought:

Neither Out Far Nor In Deep

The people along the sand
All turn and look one way.
They turn their back on the land,
They look at the sea all day.

As long as it takes to pass
A ship keeps raising its hull,
The wetter ground like glass
Reflects a standing gull.

The land may vary more;
but wherever the truth may be-
The water comes ashore,
And the people look at the sea.

They cannot look out far.
They cannot look in deep.
But when was that ever a bar
To any watch they keep?

Author Unknown

Classifieds

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Your total communication shop.
2way radio Sales & Service

Nextel authorized representative

Special right now, Free Phone and Free car charger with every NEW activation of 2years.