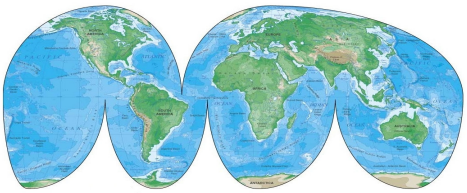
MOUNT VERNON

C  Q

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB August 2005

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE BIG BROTHERS OUTER LIMITS 7:00 PM
REPEATER FREQUENCYS: 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

PIO TidBits

Bicentennial

The Mount Vernon Bicentennial Celebration was a success. It was said that half of Mount Vernon saw the parade, and the other half were in it. 188 units. And, yes, the Shriners who stretched for a couple city blocks was ONE unit.

We had nine Hams helping with communications for the parade. Bob McBride, N8QPM served as net control. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD was at the beginning of the parade at Riverside Park. Spread out along the route were Bob Ready KC8RTC, Jack Koelbl N8JQZ, Ruben Clark KB2SAI, Zach McCardel KC8YLE, Emily Bain KC8YAE, Mike Deane KC8JEZ, and Phil Buble N1GTZ. All in all everything went smoothly. We reported changes in the lineup at the start of the parade and the parades progress. There was one break down which not only got reported but when he later re-entered the parade the announcer was prepared and had him right at the review stand. I got to spend the morning working with parade coordinator and Editor of the Mount Vernon News, Cheryl Splain. Cheryl repeatedly mentioned how impressed she was with our efforts. She also said she supported our efforts to become more involved with CERT and the Knox County EMA. So we have an ally in the press.

We also ran the Special Events station with 1x1 call sign W8V. Special thanks to Don Bunner KB8QPO, Don Russell WA8YRS, Zach McCardel KC8YLE and Mike McCardel KC8YLD for helping with set-up Friday night. Don was up early and ready to operate by 7:30am. Don is reporting more on this event in his column.

Parking was, well, pretty boring. We were asked to monitor six parking lots between 4pm and 9pm to aid in eliminating people driving around looking for parking. Well the rains must have scared people off because at 8pm there were 12 cars in the 6 lots combined. By 8:45 the lots began to fill for the fireworks display and we filled 4 of the lots fairly quick. We were able to relay to the festival committee as lots were filled and the Mount Vernon police showed just in the nick of time to keep people moving on to unfilled lots. I would like to thank Phil Buble N1GTZ, for being net control, Zach McCardel, whose bicentennial day started at 7am and who covered three lots. Extra thanks to the Newark Hams who came up just to help with parking, Tim Reed WA8PCP and his son Ben Reed KC8YBM. Poor Ben was at the Nazarene University lot and no one parked there. But, Ben showed the true ham spirit by setting up a little home away from home including a special mag mounted antenna easy chair and popcorn and beverage. Special thanks goes to Larry 'Doc' Helzer AA8WP for keeping us updated on the weather as he monitored weather maps from home.

What's next?

Don said if we start planning now we should be ready to go for the tricentennial.

So what about next, things drop off now after busy June and July. I encourage everyone to get on the air. How about learning to operate a new mode, learn morse code, or upgrade to a new class?
Plans for a fall tech class are still up in the air. The next VE test will probably be the first or second weekend in December. If you are

interested in trying some contesting try the Ohio QSO Party August 27-28 1600Z-0400Z. Visit their Webpage http://www.oqp.us.

I would like to see the club invest the time and effort in becoming involved in the Scouts Jamboree On The Air, October 15 and 16. This would be a great opportunity to introduce Ham Radio to a group of young mane and women while having fun. Their website is http://www.scout.org/wse/jota.shtml

Anyone for donating a book to library? The Mount Vernon Library has several books donated by the MVARC on the shelves. The only problem is they were donated 30-40 years ago. I was thinking of donating a copy of of the ARRL Handbook. Don, WA8YRS has several copies left over from the spring class the club could reimburse him for one and donate it. The ARRL, CQ Magazine and Others have several books, inexpensive books, for sell or we can raid our personal libraries and donate one we have read. This would be a good activity to get us some publicity while promoting Ham radio to the Community. We could collect these up at a future meeting then stage a special presentation to the library. This would be a great photo-op, and our President, Ruben Clark KB2SAI, is very photogenic. On a bright spot the Library does have some updated Ham materials including current issues "QST" magazine and the highly acclaimed children's book "Radio Rescue." Check it out and read it to your grandkids.

I would like to thank everyone for there prayers, thoughts, and support for my and the Goare family of Danville. Staff Sgt. Shamus Goare was killed in action when his Chinook Helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan June 28. Shamus' brother, Kortney, is married to my daughter. The Goares are an extremely faithful and patriotic family. There loss is great but they are very proud of their son. As a non-vet, I would like to thank all the members of the club who served in the military and Vets everywhere.

73
de
E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Letter from the Editor

Here I am back in my old spot. I'll put Mike's excellent monthly PIO report up front from now on and Don's Repeater articles will stay right were they've always been. Keep up the good work everyone.

ATTENDANCE July 11th, 2005 MONTHLY MEETING

Name		Call	e-mail (if not already on record)
1. Phillip Buble		N1GTZ	
2. Mel Pruett			
3. Stephen Dick		KC8YED	
4. Ruben Clark		KB2SAI	
5. Bob McBride, Sr.		N8QPM	
6. Bob Bruff	N8PCE		
7. Dick Huggins		WD8QHY	
8. Dave Rankin		K4AWO	
9. Shawn Probst		KD8ACA	
10. Jeff Butz	N8SMT		
11. Don Bunner		KB8QPO	
12. Don Russell		WA8YRS	
13. Emily Bain	KC8YAE		

MINUTES July 11th, 2005 MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm local time.
Treasury report: $1020.20 savings, $117.64 checking, $360.53 checking/savings and $21.00 field day fund going to Bob to do with as he wishes.

Old News:

Issue 1: Should there be a need to bring up the Weather Net during the day we should relay with Mansfield on their 146.940 repeater.

Issue 2: Bicentennial event Sat, July 16. Parade to start at 10:00. We should be there by 9:00 am

New News:
Issue 1: Field Day class designator is determined as follows: Number of transmitters in operation(Full time generator = A) We had 3 transmitters in operation and a full time generator which made us 3A.

Meeting adjourned 7:40am local time

50/50 drawing won by Dick WD8QHY and donated to club field day fund.

REPEATERS AND STUFF
By Don Russell, WA8YRS

Status on the repeaters has not changed since last month. Everything is working well. The 2 meter Repeater did a good job while being used to provide communications during the bicentennial parade and the parking lot communications. During some foul weather I did notice static on the audio. Not exactly sure if that was weather related or something more serious. Maybe that cable has come loose again. I will keep an ear on it. I rely on local hams letting me know if they think something is wrong with the repeater. I can't monitor all the time, so if someone notices something strange, let me know about it. Of course the first notion is to blame all strange behaviors on the repeater. I do this myself but often find that the real cause has little to do with the repeater and more to do with someone's radio, weather, etc. For instance, there are times when the repeater seems to be ker-chunked more often than usual. I have monitored this to the extent of monitoring the input frequency. Yes, there is a signal there! It is very weak even with my beam pointed right at it. It drifts in and out of the receiver pass band causing the ker-chunking like symptoms. I am now convinced that it is a stray or spurious signal from some unknown, unlicensed product. It is rare that it keys our repeater up and most likely with the PL now on full time, I will never hear this again. And the FCC thinks BPL will be no big deal.....

The Special Event Station during the Bicentennial was great! The antenna was put up by Don (KB8QPO) and myself on Friday night, while Mike (KC8YLD) and Zach (KC8YLE) set up our shelter. The antenna was a windom cut for the 80 meter band. It also had reasonable SWR on 40 and 20 meters. Using a fishing pole, sinkers and twine, we were able to get the antenna up 30 or 35 feet into the trees. Saturday morning bright and early (7:00 A.M.), Dave (K4AWO) and I set up the equipment and started operating the Special Event Station. We used Dave's FT-900, which worked great. We ran off of a battery for about 6 hours. Then the vender whom we were "stealing" power from arrived and got things turned on. The battery was only about half discharged. Maybe we should think about a battery only Field Day? It would be nice and quite. The station was up and running on schedule at 8:00 A.M. About two hours into the operation we checked the SWR on all frequencies and found it to be much higher than it should have been. That is one problem with a built in antenna tuner. You don't really know what the SWR is on the line unless you go out of your way to check it. Turns out we had a bad coax cable. This cable was replaced and has since been repaired. After the cable was replaced, the SWR was under 2 to 1 on all bands we were using. Windoms are nice! I have all the antennas that we use on Field Day in one box. When we want do do a club operation it is no problem to just throw the box in the car and head out. Plenty of choices for antennas out of that box! I have another box that has rope and the coax cable that the club bought to use for Field Day, etc. These two boxes make it easy to quickly plan a field event, or even set up an emergency HF station.

To sum up our Special Event Station operation, we worked all over the U.S. and Canada. This includes QSO's with Alberta, British Columbia, and California stations. One California station had a very strong echo added to his signal. I believe that we were first hearing his short path across land, and then receiving his long path around the world an instant later. Neat. I have run into this a few times, but it is rare. Interesting enough, his long path signal was equal to, if not a bit stronger than his short path signal. Early in the afternoon, 40 meters. fell to a lot of QRN (static) and it was difficult making a contact. Then 20 meters. closed up altogether for a

while. I hear that we had a solar flare that affected band conditions. We also had a number of storms and rain showers come through the area during the afternoon. The 20 meter band come back to life early evening and we were able to talk to France and the England as a high-light for the day. Or as "icing on the cake".

In all we worked about 115 stations. This was not a contest like Field Day so we actually had many very nice chats with the hams on the other end. We took our time and enjoyed the event. Those that did not participate missed out on a lot of fun.

Last week I mentioned wanting to try some **H**igh **S**peed **M**ulti-**M**edia work. **HSMM**. I have found a number of local hams interested in doing this too. I have also at last figured out how to do wireless networking at home. Armed with this experience, I am ready to take the next step and try to get some distance. I am looking for a good place to put an **A**ccess **P**oint. It should be high enough to be line of site to the majority of hams in Mt. Vernon, Fredericktown, Gambier, etc. That might be a lot to ask, but we are looking. Anyone with suggestions or offers please let me know. For now though an Access Point will be put at either my house or Barry's (N8PPF). Barry's would be the best location because it looks down on Mt. Vernon, except to the Northeast, and East.

Antennas for 2.4 GHz. seem fairly easy to make. Even with no test equipment, a parabolic dish can be made for $10.00 with a gain of 15 db or so. With a little more effort, a larger parabolic dish will give about 25 db gain. Of course you can also buy one for under $100. Omni directional antennas can be made using pieces of coax.

The down side to this is at the Microwave frequencies you are talking about huge feed line losses. Hard-line is the way to go, although it could be very expensive. Mounting the Access Point on top of the tower with a short feed to the antenna is another way to go. You would of course have to run power up to the Access Point.

Want to participate in this adventure? First thing to do is pick yourself up a wireless adaptor card. They are usually on sale somewhere. I picked mine up, including the Router from Office Max. After rebates, I am paying $20 each for the router, desktop wireless adaptor, and a laptop wireless adaptor. Make sure you get stuff with removable antennas so you can connect your outside antenna to it. This is not possible with the laptop cards, but there are a few articles on the web showing how to add an external antenna to a laptop card.

Next thing to do is let me know you are interested. I can provide some limited support. This is new to me too. Working together we can have a lot of fun and be successful too.

Till next month.....

VE Update

The local VE Team is now 6 people strong. N8JQZ Jack Koelbl has joined, WA8YRS Don Russell, AB8BI Harold Rush, K4AWO Dave Rankin, KC8YLE Zach McCardel, and KC8YLD Mike McCardel as the sixth member of our local Volunteer Examiner team. The six VEs are members of the ARRL/VEC that administer license exams. Jack, who is from Reynoldsburg, recently upgrade to Amateur Extra when he tested out in Mount Vernon in June. He since has participated with MVARC in Field Day and the Bicentennial operations this past week. Welcome aboard Jack.

The VE team will be planning to hold another test session in December. Depending on how fast the FCC moves on their Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in which they recommend doing away with the CW requirement for all classes, the December test session could be the first opportunity for Techs to upgrade to General without taking the code test. However, the FCC has been notorious slow in the past so the new rules may not go into effect for months longer.

Is CW Dead?
With the recent announcement that the FCC proposes to drop the CW requirement for all classes does it spell the end of the CW

mode? I doubt it. CW is still an operating mode, the same as SSB, FM, and digital modes like SSTV, Pactor, PSK31, THROB, or Hellschreiber. The FCC never required a 200 WPM voice test, nor does it require you to build a functional yagi antenna to get a license, nor do you have to demonstrate how fill out a radiogram. All a ticket really gives us is the privilege to get on the air. The rest is up to us. Am I sad to see the CW requirement go? Yes, at least a little. Do I feel I wasted my time learning code? No I don't. Will I continue to practice and hopefully get better at this now Ancient Art of Wireless Communication? You bet! If nothing else I can always say to the new No Code General and Amateur Extras, "Well I remember back in ought 5 we had to pass a code test to get a General License," hi hi. CW has been, is, and will always be an art that is practiced in ham radio.

Does eliminating the code requirement mean we will have more people getting ham licenses? I don't think so. For some time now you didn't need to pass a code test to get your Tech license. The starting point hasn't changed, so I don't think people will storm the testing sessions to take the element 2 exam.
Do I think we'll see an increase in upgrades? Yes, but not as many as one may anticipate. What the FCC doesn't plan to change is the current structure of the various classes, at least not now. There will be no freebee upgrades. If Tech's desire to become Generals they will still have to pass the written test. The same for Generals who want to become Extras. Will the General Class be flooded with upgrades of people who are nothing more than glorified CBers? I doubt it. One, you will still have to pass the written test. Two, by the time you get your General ticket you gain more respect for yourself and the hobby. Third, it was my personal experience at field day, that there are a number Techs with excellent operating skills that adhere to good amateur practice that lack a general license because of "code fear," the perception of time it would take to learn code, or for some reason just can't connect with code. Perhaps not needing to learn code with remove some of the pressure points that block them from learning it.

There are still many questions to be answered. When will this all go into effect is one. None of this will become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a Report and Order (R&O) spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. Another is will the code test still be available? Will there be such a thing as a Tech with HF privileges (Tech+) or will that be a grand fathered status like Novice and Advance? The FCC declined in its NPRM to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement.\

73, de KC8YLD
Mike

AMATEUR RADIO: A VOICE IN THE STORM
Guest opinion submitted by Idaho Senator Mike Crapo

Communication has taken many forms: beacon fires alerting assassins to Agamemnon's return to Mycenae; a lone Athenian runner covering 150 miles in two days to request help from Sparta; Genghis Khan's invention of the "Pony Express;" Morse Code, the telegraph, telephone, radio, television; and now the Internet and increasing types of wireless communications. Perhaps most striking are the massive and complex changes that communication has undergone in the past century. It boggles the mind to consider that 100 years ago, radio experimentation was in its infancy, and now we have the ability to send digital information via electromagnetic waves across the world or into outer space.

Yet, as anyone knows who has had a cell call dropped or simply experienced radio interference while driving, the invisible waves that carry our vastly-increased communications load are not limitless. Years ago, the federal government deemed it appropriate to regulate usage of electromagnetic spectrum to ensure that those who use particular portions of spectrum have the right to do so free of interference. It is a scarce but renewable natural resource. Therefore, regulation is necessary in order to create "highest and best use" allocations for radio frequencies. The need for national regulation is further reinforced by the fact that spectrum is a national asset bound by international rules and regulations. It is impossible to "own" frequencies, but the federal government has determined that a system of allocation and auction will produce a climate in which the "highest and best use of spectrum domestically and internationally" can prosper in terms of innovation, efficiency, and rapid deployment. In an era of increasing demand for spectrum, there is a small but vital group of users whose allocations must be preserved.

One of the pioneers of modern communications was amateur radio. Amateur radio operators explored ionospheric propagation for world wide radio, developed early mobile gear for automobiles and aircraft, created the first civilian communications satellite, developed early linked repeaters, established wireless Local Area

Networks (LAN), developed the use of frequencies well beyond high frequency bands, and created new antenna configurations. Today, amateur radio still serves a vital purpose, especially in our post-9/11 world. Acting as volunteers, amateur radio operators provide assistance in numerous disaster relief efforts from the terror attacks in New York and Washington, to floods in Texas, hurricanes in Florida, earthquakes in Seattle and California, and fires in the West, and in my home state of Idaho. Amateur radio operators assist in search and rescue efforts and even place calls to Santa Claus on behalf of terminally-ill children! Many of the 650,000 operators in the United States take part in emergency preparedness exercises.

In the era of modern communications, we tend to forget that cell phone usage is dependent upon the viability of communications towers. Any smart military invasion strategy includes eliminating communications, and cell towers are primary targets. When the World Trade Center collapsed along with the cell tower atop the building, mobile phones were rendered useless in the area. Amateur radio operators stepped in and, from as far away as California, provided communication lifelines for rescue workers and aid agencies. A number of amateur radio operators' organizations have Memorandums of Understanding with the National Weather Service, FEMA, National Communications System, the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers, Inc., and the American National Red Cross.

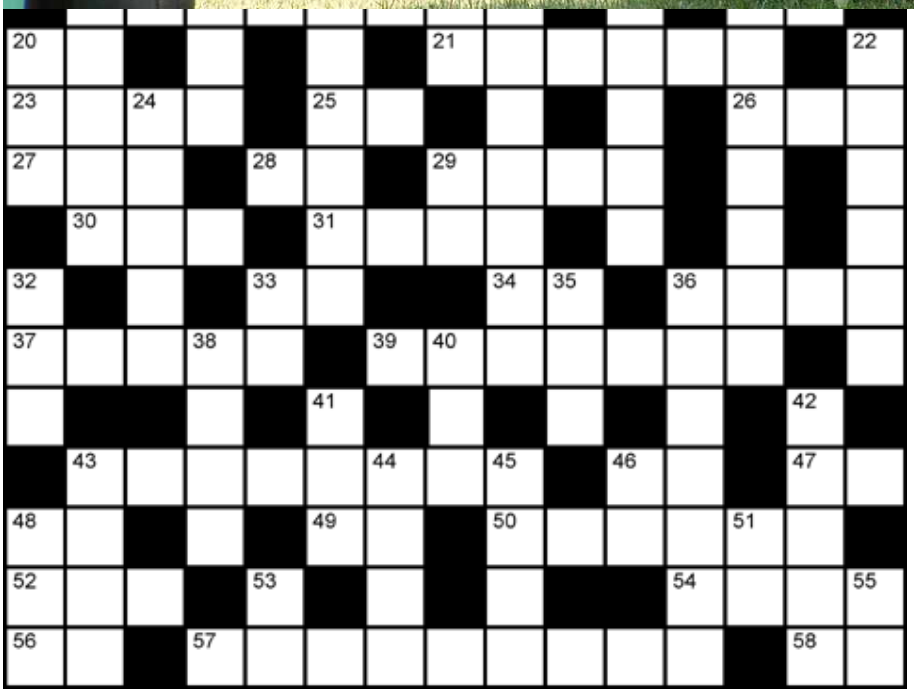
Since 1982, this vital and reliable communication information source has lost 107 MHz (the equivalent of 18 television channels, and 145 MHz is in danger of being re-allocated. The 1997 Balanced Budget Act authorized spectrum auctions, but amateur radio operators cannot participate in such auctions. In light of increasing numbers of new technologies requiring spectrum bandwidth and the ensuing competition by sources with larger financial resources, bandwidth allocations must be preserved.

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act will ensure the success of this vital link in our security communications infrastructure while continuing to encourage the innovation and creativity that is the historical hallmark of this field. The Act requires replacement of any amateur radio spectrum that is reallocated by the Federal Communications Commission or National Telecommunications and Information Administration. It maintains spectrum allocation flexibility by only requiring that the basic amount of spectrum allocated to amateur radio operators be maintained.

Together with my colleagues Senators Akaka, Bond, Baucus and Burns, I look forward to working toward this bipartisan solution to the problem of lost spectrum for amateur radio operators.

-First Published in *The Hill* on July 13, 2005

Antennas and More



Filters For Fun

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX
July 11, 2005

Across

1. Work all fifty to get this award
4. Parallel tuned circuit
8. Stop
10. Wheel used for lifting
11. Number of filter sections
12. Another term for broadcast band (abbr.)
13. Filter made from inductors & capacitors (abbr.)
14. Capacitor-and-clock filter
19. From (CW abbr.)
20. Correct
21. Variations in a filter's passband
23. The type of -pass for removing low frequencies
25. No good (abbr.)
26. Rotate opposite to 58 Across
27. Medical technique using RF to form pictures of the body
28. British term for high voltage (abbr.)
29. A filter with a large bandwidth
30. What 23 Across removes from a television
31. Change or correct
33. KP4's section abbreviation
34. Frequencies below RF (abbr.)
36. Adjust for maximum output
37. A filter that dissipates a lot of signal
39. Can-and-coil filter
43. Transfer of signal from filter section to section
46. Between a second and a microsecond (abbr.)
47. CW chuckle
48. You're (CW abbr.)
49. Light (abbr.)
50. Filter that requires power
52. Twin filter circuit
54. Tool for holding
56. Rotate opposite to 26 Across
57. Attach a load
58. Old abbreviation for a unit of frequency

Down

1. CW speed (abbr.)
2. Chemical symbol for element used to plate connector surfaces
3. Reduce speed
4. Measure to evaluate performance
5. RTTY tuning signal
6. The rating of a filter's ability to handle large signals
7. Document interchange format (abbr.)
8. Filters are used to reduce this (Q-signal)
9. Not used or busy
12. Unit of inductance common in audio filters
14. Term for filter's shape
15. Suffix meaning "like"
16. The frequency of a narrow filter's maximum response
17. Filtering with software
18. Counterpart to a filter's lower 3 dB frequency
19. Logarithmic ratio used to evaluate filters
20. Discoverer of fundamental electrical law
22. Small adjustments
24. A formula ..... an answer
29. State of a famous college fight song (postal code)
32. Treatment filters deserve
33. Host country for WRTC-2006 (prefix)
35. Repair
36. Filter that works without power
38. Transmission line filter
40. Long period of time
41. Filter that passes everything
42. Confirm presence or operation
43. Team that operates a ship or craft
44. One component of a list
45. Amplification
46. Empty (abbr.)
48. World time (abbr.)
51. Neighbor possession to 33 Across
53. Semiconductor similar to Silicon (chemical symbol)
55. Local ARES leader (abbr.)

The Next Generation

1 S	■	2 C	E	3 R	T	4 I	F	5 I	6 C	A	7 T	8 E	9 S	■
E	■	A	■	O	■	O	■	10 M	A	■	11 R	E	A	12 D
13 C	14 U	R	E	S	■	T	■	15 P	M	■	A	■	16 F	I
17 O	I	L	■	18 T	19 R	A	20 N	S	P	21 O	N	D	E	R
N	■	22 O	23 B	E	Y	■	O	■	■	24 F	S	■	25 T	T
D	■	26 A	I	R	■	27 I	D	E	28 A	■	29 F	L	Y	■
30 E	31 T	D	■	■	32 R	■	E	■	33 N	34 M	O	■	■	35 G
36 D	X	■	37 E	38 D	I	39 T	■	40 H	Y	D	R	41 I	42 D	E
I	■	43 A	M	I	G	A	■	O	■	■	44 M	R	E	■
45 T	46 D	■	47 E	S	■	48 D	49 O	N	50 A	51 T	E	■	C	■
52 I	C	53 E	■	54 C	B	■	55 C	O	L	O	R	56 B	A	57 R
O	■	H	■	O	■	58 I	■	R	■	R	■	B	■	O
59 N	60 O	■	61 A	U	62 R	O	63 R	A	■	64 C	W	■	65 P	L
■	66 F	A	R	N	S	W	O	R	67 T	H	■	68 P	L	Y
69 C	T	■	70 M	T	■	A	■	71 Y	O	■	72 I	S	S	■

Solution to last month's puzzle

A Pause For Thought

“I don't give a damn for a man that can spell a word only one way.”

Mark Twain
1835-1910

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Membership Form

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

Dues Schedule:
$20 regular
$10 for second member in the same family
$10 for over 65 yrs. of age
$15 for those living outside Knox County

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 372
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Name_____Call-Sign_____

Street_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Phone Number_____License Class_____

ARRL Member (Y/N)_____E-Mail_____

Extra Donation (Optional)_____

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

If yes please enter password_____

Other Comments

Classifieds

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