



**Ham Radio Rocks!**

# The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

## August, 2009 Newsletter



Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

### Local Ham Community

**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9 Hz)  
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz)**

**Sunday Night ARES Net at 9:00 P.M. on The K8EEN Repeater  
Wednesday Night Social Net at 9:00 P.M. on the KD8EVR Repeater**

## Tech Class Wraps Up; Exams Given: Five New Techs and One New General

(By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD)

Thanks to Don Russell W8PEN, Barry Butz N8PPF and Mike McCardel KC8YLD for teaching yet another Technician Class License course. This course started with six individuals. Brandon Hunt decided he was ready early and he took the licensing exam before the class ended, while vacationing in Florida. Brandon was granted call sign KD8LPP as a new Tech. The others in the class progressed through the work very quickly, allowing us to actually wrap up the class early and schedule the exam two weeks earlier than we originally planned.



The exam was held at The American Red Cross Training Center in Mount Vernon on Saturday July 25. Thanks to everyone at the Red Cross for letting us use the facility on such short notice.

Seven people sat for the exam five taking the Tech exam and two taking the General Exam. In all four of the five people taking the Tech passed and one of those taking the General passed. In additions to Brandon (KD8LPP) who passed his Technician Class exam in Florida, we congratulate Amy Blair (KD8LTB) of Mount Vernon, Jeffrey A. Butz (KD8LTD) of Sunbury, Patricia Myers (KD8LTC) of rural Frazeyburg, and young Tyler Penko (KD8LTA) of Mount Vernon as our newest Technician Class hams. Also Congratulation to Jon Penko, (KD8LFI) of Mount Vernon for his upgrade to General Class.

I judge we had a fine conclusion to another successful technician training class. In the near future, we hope to

*MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, August 10, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Tony Spiegel, KC8UR has a couple of Videos to present at the meeting. One is titled "Emergency Communications" and the other is "A Tour of ARRL Headquarters". We always have fun at our meetings, so please join us for this event.*

*Please remember to check into the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. on the K8EEN 2-meter Repeater.*

*Also check out the UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. and is a social net. Please join us for the fun of it.*

*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.*

*Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.*

**\*\*\*The next Breakfast will be August 8, 2009 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio\*\*\***

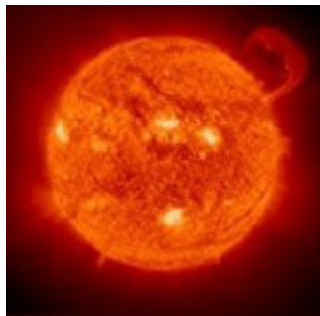
be able to stock exams and offer them on a pre-registration basis after our monthly meetings. We are already planning our next Tech Class which will be announced at a later date. We are, also, considering sponsoring a general class study group.

A special thanks to Dave Phillips (W8DEP), Barry Butz (N8PPF), Don Russell (W8PEN), Jack Koelbl (N8JQZ) and VE Liaison Mike McCardel (KC8YLD) for making themselves available as Volunteer Examiners.

## NASA, NOAA RELEASES NEW PREDICTIONS FOR SOLAR CYCLE 24

From the ARRL Letter, June 5, 2009

An international panel of experts -- led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and sponsored by NASA -- has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle: Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a below-average number of sunspots



<[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may\\_noaa\\_prediction.htm?list13\\_00638](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may_noaa_prediction.htm?list13_00638)>. "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78," said panel chairman Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center. This report clarifies a NOAA report from May 2009 that stated that Solar Cycle 24 would bring "90 sunspots per day on average"

<[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090508\\_solarstorm.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090508_solarstorm.html)>.

The latest forecast revises a prediction issued in 2007 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/07/100/>>. At that time, a sharply divided panel believed solar minimum would come in March 2008 followed by either a strong solar maximum in 2011, or a weak solar maximum in 2012. "It turns out that none of our models were totally correct," said Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center and NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The Sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

In 2007, experts varied in their predictions on when the solar cycle would peak and how strong it would be. In April of that year, NOAA, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or

mid-2012" <<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>>. In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

At a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in December 2007, David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, along with colleague Robert Wilson, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They said they believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past 50 years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

Right now -- June 2009 -- the solar cycle is in a valley, the deepest of the past century. In 2008 and 2009, the Sun showed some of the lowest sunspot counts on record, as well as weak solar winds and a low solar irradiance, going more than two years without a significant solar flare. "In our professional careers, we've never seen anything quite like it," Pesnell said. "Solar minimum has lasted far beyond the date we predicted in 2007."

In recent months, however, Pesnell said that the Sun has begun to show some small signs of life: Small sunspots and "proto-sunspots" are popping up with increasing frequency. Enormous currents of plasma on the Sun's surface are gaining strength and slowly drifting toward its equator. Radio astronomers have detected a tiny but significant uptick in solar radio emissions. All these things are precursors of an awakening Solar Cycle 24 and form the basis for the panel's new, almost unanimous forecast.

Pesnell cautioned optimism, telling the ARRL that there is an "error bar of +/- 20." This means Solar Cycle 24's sunspot number could be as high as 110, or as low as 70. "Based upon my own personal research, I don't think we'll see 90 [sunspots in Solar Cycle 24]," he said.

When asked if such a low number foretold the beginnings of a Maunder Minimum

<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maunder\\_minimum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maunder_minimum)>.

Pesnell said that a Maunder Minimum takes several cycles to appear: "Sunspots [in solar cycles] leading up to the Maunder Minimum took several cycles to

disappear. I really can't predict what will happen in Solar Cycle 25. What we're seeing now is something that looks like a sunspot, but it looks as if someone has come along and 'stomped' on it, creating a multitude of little things. We don't have a name for this and we've never seen anything like it before."

There could be more surprises, panelists acknowledge -- and more revisions to the forecast. "Go ahead and mark your calendar for May 2013," Pesnell said. "But use a pencil." -- Some information from NASA

**Editors note: This article did not make it in last months Newsletter, but is of such importance to hams that I decided to print it this month, though it is now a bit dated. (w8pen)**

## MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes for the July 13B 2009 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

### Attendees:

|    |  |        |
|----|--|--------|
| 1  | Jim Jennessee                          | KD8UT  |
| 2  | Mike Langston                          | KD8JMZ |
| 3  | Arlin Bradford                         | KD8EVR |
| 4  | Jeff Butz                              | N8SMT  |
| 5  | Brandon Hunt                           | KD8LPP |
| 6  | Barton Hains                           | KD8LDT |
| 7  | Dick Huggins                           | N8RDH  |
| 8  | Steve Barr                             | KD8GRM |
| 9  | Charles Brenneman                      |        |
| 10 | Kelly Brenneman, A.R.C. Dir., Knox Co. |        |
| 11 | Leon Bolender                          | KB8YL  |
| 12 | Tom Evans                              | KD8HSA |
| 13 | E. Mike McCardel                       | KC8YLD |
| 14 | Austin Godber                          | KD7NMS |

President Bradford formally called the business meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

### EC Report, Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR:

Nothing else going on right now except a Citizen Corps meeting is coming up.

### Technician Class/Exam: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

One student couldn't wait so he took and passed his exam someplace else. We now have 3 adults and 2 children. The exam will be Saturday the 25th @ 10:00 A.M. anyone else who would like to take an exam is welcome.

### Repeater Report: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR:

The 2 meter repeater is working fine. the 440 repeater was hit by lightning last Saturday and burned up the power supply. The battery backup worked fine until it ran out this Monday morning. The power supply has been replaced.

### OLD Business:

#### Membership: Dick Huggins, N8RDH

Dick Huggins raised the question that he thought we had a policy of giving a club membership to new licensee's for the remainder of the year if they took the class from us. This was confirmed by Mike McCardel. Therefore Brandon Hunt, KD8LPP was welcomed into the club.

#### Emergency Trailer: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

Arlin has contacted the people that he submitted the application to and they have not yet made a decision, but they did say they have quite a few applications to review.

#### Knox County Community Fun Day: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

The event was a success, they had a good location and made many contacts throughout the U.S. and Canada. They had 6 children operate the radio and they passed out information pamphlets.

#### Field Day Committee: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Mike reported We made:  
626 phone contacts  
500 CW contacts  
820 bonus points  
Copied the W1AW field day message.  
Sent a radiogram to the State Emergency Coordinator.  
The Apple Valley Site was a great site and the general opinion was that we should go back there again next year.

#### Red Cross Tornado SET: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

We participated in the SET the morning of Field Day, June 27, 2009 in Gambier.

### New Business

#### Red Cross Antenna: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Barry was speaking on behalf of Don Russell, W8PEN who couldn't attend tonight asked about installing an

antenna at the Red Cross for emergency use/training or meeting night use, etc. He didn't know for sure what type of antenna Don was proposing, but assumed it would be some type of an HF wire antenna. Kelly Brenneman, A.R.C. Dir. said she had no problem with the antenna's installation so long as there was no cost to the Red Cross. She will take the proposal to their Board of Director's meeting with her recommendation and she asked for a sketch of the proposed installation that she could show the Board. Arlin said he would also like to install a dual band vertical antenna. Mrs. Brenneman suggested that after this was accomplished if we could come to a Board Meeting and give a demonstration. Arlin said that could be done.

#### **Red Cross Training Session: Jim Jennessee, KD8UT**

Jim moved to suspend the business portion of the October 12th. meeting and have Red Cross First Aid Training presented by the Red Cross. And to move the start time to 6:00 P.M. The motion was passed by voice vote.

#### **2009 National Night Out: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR**

Arlin stated that the Knox County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring the "2009 National Night Out". Tuesday August 4th. from 6:00P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the Mt. Vernon High School football stadium. Austin Godber, KD7NMS made a motion that the club participate at this event with a booth. the motion was passed by voice vote.

#### **Knox County Fair: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR**

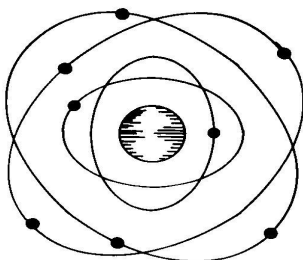
Arlin wondered if we wanted to do anything this year at the fair. The general consensus was that this would be too large of an affair for us to handle.

#### **Fox Hunt: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR**

Arlin said he had been too busy in June to set up a fox hunt and asked if we would like to set one up at a future date. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD made a motion to have the fox hunt right after the club breakfast on the 2nd. Saturday of October (October 10, 2009). The motion was seconded by Austin Godber and was passed by voice vote. Arlin stated the winner will receive a Yaesu VX-3R handheld radio provided by Universal Radio in Columbus. The motion was passed by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved by voice vote.

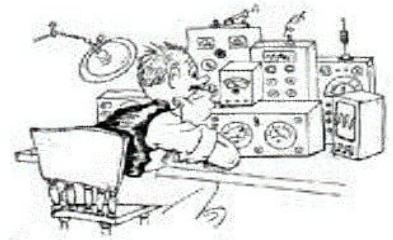
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45P.M.



## **Ohio QSO Party August 22, 2009**

Dear Ohio Clubs,

We are sending this email to all the club leaders in Ohio we could find, hoping you would spread the news and excitement of



the upcoming Ohio QSO Party on August 22, 2009. This is the ARRL's "Year of the State QSO Party", and we're hoping to generate the largest Ohio turnout ever!

The Ohio QSO Party is a popular state QSO party, where Ohio hams become the hunted stations. The event is casual and fun, yet you can really rack up the QSOs with modest stations. It's fun trying to work all 88 Ohio counties as well as all the states and Canadian provinces.

Load up anything you have on 10-80m and you will make lots of QSOs! In fact, the best antennas for 40 & 80m are low dipoles. At this time of the solar cycle, most of the QSOs are on 20, 40 & 80m, though keep an eye out on 10 & 15m too. Skip on 10-40m is often "long", so if you are looking for other Ohioans, the best place to look is on 80m, even at the start of the contest in broad daylight.

Each year all 88 Ohio counties see some activity, though many of the lesser populated counties are activated by mobile stations which only make 10-30 QSOs per county. CQ stations in rare counties! Were especially trying to get hams in lesser populated counties to get on the air and make some contacts this year. A few hours on the air will make a big difference in generating activity in all 88 counties.

There are numerous awards (certificates and plaques) available -- including a club competition. These are the plaques and their sponsors, available to the top scorers in each category.

- Ohio Single Operator High Power - sponsored by Findlay Radio Club
- Ohio Single Operator Low Power - sponsored by Cincinnati Buckeye Netters
- Ohio Single Operator QRP - sponsored by Kanga US
- Out of State Single Operator - sponsored by Muskingum Ham Radio Club
- Out of State Single Operator, Mountain/Pacific Time

Zone -sponsored by Canton Amateur Radio Club

- Out of State Single Operator QRP - sponsored by Ohio Independent Contesters

- Single Operator DX - sponsored by Northern Ohio DX Association

- Ohio Multi Operator - sponsored by Wayne Amateur Radio Club

- Ohio Mobile - sponsored by Lake County Amateur R. A.

- Ohio Rover - sponsored by Joe Matt, W3AG

- Ohio Club - sponsored by Mad River Radio Club

- Ohio YL - sponsored by Buckeye Belles

- Ohio SSB - sponsored by Muskingum Ham Radio Club

- Ohio CW - sponsored by Fourty Over Club (K8FOC) of Cincinnati **\*\*New for 2009\*\***

With 100w and low wires or verticals, it's pretty easy to rack up many of the states for your WAS award including Alaska and Hawaii. Operate the full 12 hours, and you might find 300-500 QSOs in your log and might complete your WAS.

One of the best ways to rack up the QSOs is to balance CQing with S&P. Since everyone is looking for Ohio stations, they will be tuning the bands for Ohio stations who are CQing. For working your fellow Ohioans, a combination of S&P and CQing is effective. An example CQ would be: "CQ CQ this is KB8ABC KB8ABC Ohio QSO Party". You will be surprised that modest stations can work 40-100 QSOs per hour by calling CQ – and you might have a few pileups on you too.

Please join us for the Ohio QSO Party on Saturday August 22, 2009. The OQP starts at noon local time and goes to midnight local. Ohio stations work anyone, and the exchange is a sequential serial number plus your county. Work SSB and CW only on 10-80m. For full rules and official county abbreviations visit [www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org) <<http://www.ohqp.org>> . Submit logs to: [logs@ohqp.org](mailto:logs@ohqp.org) We apologize for some confusing emails regarding the rules of the OQP. The rules have not been changed as one individual has suggested. The Ohio QSO Party is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club and not by any individuals. The official OQP website has been moved to [www.ohqp.org](http://www.ohqp.org) <<http://www.ohqp.org>> . For up-to-date OQP news, there is a new OQP email reflector which may be subscribed to from the web site, or by sending an email to: [ohqp-mail-request@ohqp.org](mailto:ohqp-mail-request@ohqp.org) with "subscribe" in both the subject line and body of the message.

73 & CU on the Air!

Jim, K8MR. President, Mad River Radio Club

## Stuart's First QSO

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the great things about Field Day are the stories. Every year, I add a story or two to my repertoire. This year is no exception.



My best story from Field Day 2009 starts about 1:30 pm on Saturday. I was at my post at the public information table/GOTA station. We had been ready to rock and roll for at least a half hour, so a group of us were just sitting around chewing the fat when 13-year-old Stuart and his mother walked up to the table.

Her son was a little on the shy side, so his mother explained that Stuart had seen a listing of our Field Day site on the Internet and had asked her to bring him out to see us. She mentioned that Stuart had been listening to ham radio operators on his little Yaesu handheld scanner for several years and was very excited to actually meet some ham radio operators and see ham radio in action.

Not only that, she said that he had taught himself Morse Code. A kid after my own heart! I quickly volunteered to give them a tour of our Field Day site. First, I showed him our VHF/UHF station, and he seemed really impressed with the five single-band radios.

Next, I took him into the 40m phone station. I asked how fast he could copy Morse Code, and he said 30 words per minute. I cranked the receiver down into the CW portion of the band, and sure enough, he could copy anything that I tuned in.

At this point, it was still only 1:45 pm, so I told him, "Let's go over to one of the CW stations, and we'll see if we can make a contact." We marched over to the CW #2 station, and after getting clearance from the station captain, I tuned around for a clear frequency, then called CQ. Immediately, N5VV, replied.

At this point, Stuart was so excited, he was shaking a little bit. Since the contest was just about ready to start, I kept the contact short, but that didn't matter. Stuart had finally gotten to see ham radio in action.

Stuart's mother then inquired about taking the test. I explained that our Volunteer Examiners give the test every second Saturday of the month and gave her the URL of our website. She said that Stuart had been

studying and was ready to take the test.

Unfortunately, they had to leave at that point. I told Stuart's mother that we'd be there through 2pm Sunday and to come back any time. She said that they'd definitely be back the next day.

### \*\*\*Stuart Makes His First Contact\*\*\*

Stuart and his mother returned about 1:30 pm on Sunday. He wanted to see the VHF/UHF station again, so that was our first stop. He took a couple of photos of the setup, and then I suggested we go over to the GOTA station. When we first got there, someone was at the mike, but shortly afterwards, they got up, and Stuart and I took the controls.

When we first sat down, I made a few contacts using my call to show him how to use the paddle. I noted that holding the levers down produces a series of dits or dahs, and that by tapping the other lever while holding down the first, you can produce a dit between dahs or a dah between dits.

Then, I asked him if he'd like to try it. He said yes, so just to see how it would go, I tuned up to above 7100 kHz. There was no activity up there, so I set the keyer speed to 15 wpm and told him to send my callsign a few times. He reached over with his left hand and sent it perfectly. Now, remember, this is someone who'd never touched a paddle of any kind before. Not only that, he even sent the K (dah-di-dah) iambically! That is to say that he held the dah paddle while tapping the dit paddle to slip in a dit between the two dahs.

Then, I asked if he'd like to make some contacts. He said yes, so I said, "Let's switch seats." We switched seats, and I said, "OK, tune around a little and find a strong station calling CQ." We found K2ZR, and I coached him a little on how to reply. "Now, remember," I said, "we're going to use the W8PGW callsign." When I gave him the nod to send, he reached over with his RIGHT hand and sent W8PGW perfectly! When K2ZR replied with our call and the exchange, I coached him to reply with "4A MI." Not only did he do that, but he slipped in a "R" to denote that we'd copied the exchange. When K2ZR replied with a "TU," I showed him how to log the contact.

That's all the coaching I needed to do. After the first contact, I said, "OK. Now, tune around for another station calling CQ, and we'll make another contact." He was off to the races. As soon as he made a contact, he jumped up to type it into the log. His arms weren't long enough to reach the computer from where he was seated.

When we started, the keyer speed was set to 15 wpm. After a couple of contacts, I asked if he might want to send faster. When he said OK, I bumped it up to 18 wpm. After a few QSOs with only a couple of mistakes,

he asked if we could go faster, so I set it at 20 wpm. Again, only a couple of mistakes, so we bumped it up to 22 wpm. There, he started making more mistakes, but let me repeat, he never touched any kind of key before in his life. I have no doubt that with a little practice, he could easily do 30 wpm.

Overall, he made 12 contacts in the 21 minutes he operated the station. Not a bad rate for someone who'd never sent a character of Morse Code in his life, don't you think?

Unfortunately, Stuart was not able to take the test at our July VE session as he was at Boy Scout camp. Come the second week of August, though, he'll be a ham. He even has a vanity callsign picked out for himself. Listen for him--in the CW bands, of course.

## WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD (SK)

From the ARRL Letter, July 24, 2009

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo 11 lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.



Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today" <<http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>>. Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications. "Dozens of radio amateurs helped the police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC," narrator Cronkite intoned in reference to ham radio's response on September 11, 2001. "Their country asked, and they responded without reservation."

In 1963, it was Cronkite who broke into the soap opera "As the World Turns" to announce that the president had been shot -- and later to declare that he had been killed. CBS called it a "defining moment for Cronkite, and for the country. His presence -- in shirtsleeves, slowly removing his glasses to check the time and blink back tears -- captured both the sense of shock, and the struggle for composure, that would consume America

and the world over the next four days."

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with 'the world's most trusted anchor man,'" he told the ARRL. "Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes. At the CBS Radio Network, Walter would arrive 10 minutes before we went on the air to read his script aloud, make corrections for his style of grammar and just 'get in the mood' to do the show. In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called "In the News," a 3 minute television show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues." At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director.

"When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS," Mendelsohn recalled. "In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed "The New York Times" and started sending code with the tone key on the audio console. For 10 minutes I sent code and noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded him that it took two General class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact: "Having passed the licensing test, Walter was now ready to get on the air. His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a ham from the Midwest come on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, 'That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard!' I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, 'Walter Cronkite is not even a ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters.' Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one."

In 2007, ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon,

N2FF, presented Cronkite with the ARRL President's Award. This award, created in 2003 by the ARRL Board of Directors, recognizes an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Cronkite was selected to receive the award in April 2005 in recognition of his outstanding support of the ARRL and Amateur Radio by narrating the videos "Amateur Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington" <<http://www.arrl.org/pio/VTS-video.wmv>>. "It was quite a thrill to make this presentation to Cronkite," Fallon said. "He has long been recognized as the 'most trusted man in America,' so lining our causes to his face, name and voice has been a great help."

A private memorial service was held July 23 in New York City. Cronkite will be cremated and his remains buried in Missouri next to his wife Betsy, who passed away in 2005. A public memorial service will be held within the next month at Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Foundation through the Austin Community Foundation <<http://www.austincommunityfoundation.org/>>, which will distribute contributions to various charities the couple supported.

## Radio-Activity

*By Don Russell, W8PEN*

### Rotatable Dipole

This antenna which has been the subject of many recent issues of the Newsletter is working great. I have had no problem making contacts with it and usually get good signal reports. I have not even missed my beam yet.



I finally had a chance to use this antenna for its intended purpose: contesting. Operating in the North American QSO Party, CW, I had no problems what's so ever making contacts. My total contacts on 20 meters alone was 156. I had 40 plus on 15 meters and a few on 10 meters. 10 meters just did not open up, or contesters were not using the band much. Considering that my usual average on 20 meters is somewhere between 50 and 100 contacts, I would say that this is a marked improvement over my beam. The advantage is that I can work all directions without swinging the antenna around much. I works for me anyway. Another test will be the upcoming North American QSO Party, SSB in a couple of weeks. It will be interesting to see the difference between using the antenna on CW and on SSB.



**Rotatable Dipole is the long one at the bottom**

For the price though, this antenna sure has a lot of bang for the buck.

### Resurrecting the Heathkit SB-101

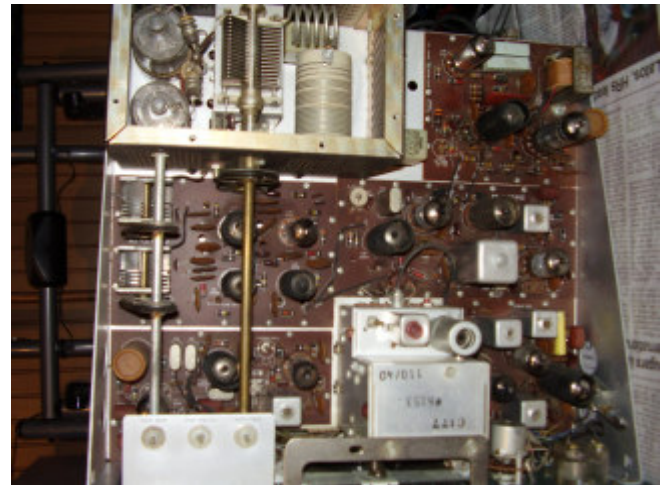
My next project is going to be getting the clubs old Heathkit SB-101 Transceiver working again. When I got this radio, it had a lot of saw dust or something on the inside. Not sure where that came from. Barry, N8PPF, and I used an air hose to clean it up a bit, then I put it back on the shelf. It has been two years now and my interest in old radios has been rekindled by my brother Chuck, WA8ONN, wishing to get back on the air after many years absence. Chuck is looking for a Kenwood TS-520S. If anyone has one for sale, please let me know. The interest in the SB-101 is the result of web surfing and reading about the TS-520S and other older radios.



I pulled the SB-101 off the shelf the other day. I remember that it was quite dirty inside yet and had read an article where one guy used WD-40 and a toothbrush to clean his old radios up. He claimed it took the grim and grit right off and left the components looking like new. He also described another procedure which

required a trip to the local car wash and the High Pressure hose. I wanted to avoid using water to clean up this radio, so I was thinking the WD-40 trick would be the way to go.

I am happy to report that after opening up the SB-101, I have decided that it is clean enough and I am not going to do either clean up job. It is much cleaner than I remember (a senior moment). Barry, N8PPF, and I fired the radio up very slowly. We used a variable AC power supply and brought the voltage up bit by bit. In all, it took several hours of watching for smoke before the radio had been brought up to full voltage. Now the real work begins because the radio was dead. Does not receive.



Barry and I left well enough alone for the day and the radio is sitting on the bench waiting for the next step, which will be checking voltages, looking for bad grounds and solder joints, etc. It will be a slow process. Anyone with more experience than I at doing this sort of thing, please contact me if you wish to help. I have very little experience with restoring radios

I am a bit worried about what to do if there are a few bad vacuum tubes in the radio. Through web searching, I have found many Heathkit sites that sell brand new tubes



for all the Heathkit models. Most are reasonably priced. Some are very expensive. At least I know there is a source for them. The problem will be figuring out whether you really have a bad tube or not.

Stay tuned to this column. Perhaps I will have some good news on this radio next month.

### Ohio QSO Party

If you enjoyed Field Day, be sure to check out the Ohio QSO Party on August 22. This little contest only runs 12 hours, so it will not take up your whole weekend. I plan on representing Knox County as much as possible this year both on SSB and CW. The contest runs from noon local time to midnight local time. See the announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I was initially going to suggest that the club get a group together and run a Field Day type operation for this event. We could do it at the Red Cross, Doc's place (with permission of course), or my place. However, I wonder if it would not be better if we just encouraged club members to put their individual stations on the air? That would give the rest of the world a better chance of working Knox County because there would be multiple stations from Knox County on the air. The club could even sponsor a competition between club members to make it even more interesting. Who scores the most points? Another fun way to do it would be to have several teams from our club put a station on the air. Two or three members per team, with a club sponsored prize for the highest team score. Either way we go, lets talk about it at the meeting.

### Last Field Day Picture

Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, sent me one last Field Day picture, so I thought I would pass it along:



**KD7NMS, N8JQZ, KC8YLD, and W8PEN**

:

## Treasurer's Report August 1, 2009

**for July 1 to July 31, 2009**

Balance on 7-1-09: \$ 1981.96

### Income:

Interest: \$  
Dues: \$  
Donations: \$  
Field day donation: \$ 10.00  
50-50 Repeater Fund: \$ 14.00

### Expenses:

none

Balance on 7-31-09: \$ 2005.96

### Designated Funds

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 315.94  
Field Day Fund: \$ 64.92

Barry Butz N8PPF

## HAM RADIO HELPS OUT WITH MOUNTAIN RESCUE

**From the ARRL Letter, July 24, 2009**

It was a quiet afternoon on July 11 and Rich Lippucci, KI6RRQ, of Vista, California, was monitoring the Catalina Amateur Radio Association (CARA) repeater on his base station. "I heard someone come over the repeater, calling, 'Is there anybody listening?' I responded and the caller said he was on his handheld transceiver hiking around the Mt Baldy area. He was about 2.5 miles off road and resting at the wilderness San Antonio SkiHut<<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/lodges/sanantoniosk ihut.html>>. A few hikers had arrived from farther in the backcountry -- one of their friends had broken an ankle and was a mile or more up the trail and they needed help." Mt Baldy is the highest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains and the highest point in Los Angeles County.

Lippucci asked the caller for his call sign and name. "He told me he was Kirk Gustafson, KE6MTF," he told the ARRL. "I asked Kirk if he had a cell phone, but he told me there was no cell service where they were. I told him I would coordinate emergency services over my landline and asked for his exact location. He did an excellent job; he had a good idea of where he was and wasn't sure which county he was in, but he did have GPS coordinates."

Using his landline, Lippucci called 911 and was

transferred three times until he was connected to Chelsea in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's dispatch center. "Chelsea coordinated the rescue with the San Bernardino Fire Department who sent a foot patrol to the area," he said. "The Sherriff's office dispatched a helicopter to meet someone at the ski hut to take them to where the hiker was down. It took a little less than an hour for emergency services to get above the location in a helicopter, but they were not able to land the helicopter due to the rocky terrain at the ski lift." Lippucci said that while the foot patrol and helicopter were on their way, the group of hikers had brought the injured woman down the trail to the ski hut, stabilized her leg and determined it was probably not broken. They still did not feel they could carry her out as the trail down from the wilderness ski lift was so steep." The ski hut can only be reached via a steep three mile hike and 2200 feet elevation gain.

The dispatcher told Lippucci that the helicopter would perform a skid rescue where a crew member suspends a bed basket from the helicopter; the victim is secured and pulled back up to the helicopter. The dispatchers asked Lippucci to relay back to Gustafson, asking if the group needed anything, such as food or water. Gustafson relayed back that they didn't need anything. "After about 15 minutes from arriving on site, the helicopter and its crew got the victim airlifted out successfully without further complications," Lippucci said. Gustafson took a video of the rescue with his cell phone <[http://marlene.zimage.com/ke6mtf/hike/rescue/iPhone/IMG\\_0408.MOV](http://marlene.zimage.com/ke6mtf/hike/rescue/iPhone/IMG_0408.MOV)>. Gustafson and Lippucci -- both ARRL members -- have been in contact since that Saturday afternoon. "Since the incident, Kirk informed me that the injured lady was around 40 years old and that there were up to 15 hikers hanging around the ski hut, some of which were search and rescue volunteers on vacation," he told the ARRL. "They had some kind of radios with them, but their batteries where dead. Kirk said when he got out of his car to start his hike, he grabbed his

handheld transceiver radio and GPS. His friends told him 'That's just extra weight -- you won't need that.' He told them, 'I go nowhere without my radio. If I need to call for help, the only way I would be able to let them know where I am is with GPS. I'm bringing them.' I don't think they will say that next time! Kirk said that one of them decided they need to look into getting a ticket and radio and that the search and rescue folks said they were going to look into getting ham radio licenses."

Lippucci said that ham radio saved the day: "A handheld radio, hitting a local wide-area repeater, was what was needed when cell and landline phones were not available. Many thanks to the CARA club for their awesome reach in Southern California on 2 meters. Thanks also to those on the air that where very gracious to respect the traffic and keep communications open during the rescue. This is such an excellent example of the benefits of ham radio. If people had to hike out of the wilderness, get to their cars and find a cell signal, they might have been pushing up against the loss of daylight hours. Any rescue would have been significantly more difficult in the dark."

Lippucci told the ARRL that 911 and the Sherriff's office in San Bernardino accepted the ham radio call without hesitation. "They used a ham radio operator to relay questions to Kirk through me, to gain all the information they wanted and needed to put assets on the emergency," he said. "It was as if I was calling about something in my own backyard, even though the problem was several counties away in the mountains, with people I didn't know. I am proud to have had the opportunity to use my license in service of an emergency situation. As a CERT member <<http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>>, this was the very reason I got my ham radio license in the first place!" -- Information provided by Rich Lippucci, KI6RRQ

#### Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

|                        |                               |  |                            |
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#### Newsletter Credits

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**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/>.

**The ARES E-Letter** is an e-mail digest of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Past issues of The ARES E-Letter are available at <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el/>. Issues are posted to this page after publication.

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