

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



August, 2011 Newsletter

Meetings are held the 2nd 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)

A P

Ham Radio Rocks! 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

August Club Meeting Details

We will be finishing off Field Day food during our August club meeting. Members wishing to join us should arrive around 6:00 P.M. Bring a covered dish. Meeting will start whenever we get done eating....... This may take a while.

After the meeting we will meet Barry Butz's son, Craig Butz, KJ6DYP, who will talk about his and his students experiences of launching two weather type balloons equipped with ham radio.

Should be a fun and interesting evening. Hope to see all our members at this one.

Don Dean's, N8IOJ Health Deteriorates

According to XYL Kathleen Dean, KC8VTA, her husband Don Dean, N8IOJ, is once again fighting colon cancer.

Don had colon cancer in 2010 and had surgery in October, 2010 to remove the cancer. It has appeared once again.

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, August 8, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Note the early start time to allow for our Post Field Day barbeque. Members are to bring a covered dish and their own utensils and beverage. Coffee will be served. Craig Butz, KJ6DYP, will give a presentation on his two balloon launches with his students carrying ham radio.

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 13, 2011 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio



Don Dean, N8IOJ

Don is currently under Hospice care.

Don and Kathleen are long time Knox County hams and past club members mainly active in attracting Boy Scouts into our great hobby. Please remember Don and Kathleen in your prayers.

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the June 13, 2011 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1.	Matt Ware	KD8PSK
2.	Tom Evans	KD8HSA
3.	Mark Bisenius	AC8FV
4.	Barry Butz	N8PPF
5.	Jeff Butz	N8SMT
6.	Tom Kern	KD8OZV
7.	Scott E. Fields	KD8OAB
8.	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
9.	Tom Hain	KC8Q
10.	Debbie Hain	KC8LYF
11.	E. Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
12.	Bart Hains	KD8LDT
13.	Don Russell	W8PEN
14.	Larry Helzer	AA8WP
15.	Dave Patton	KC8UTL
16.	Patrick Valentino	KD8PSM
17.	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

President: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

kd8evr@mvarc.net Phone: 740-627-0922

V. President: Mark Bisenius

ac8fv@hotmail.com Phone: 602-794-6262

Secretary: Jeff Butz, N8SMT

jaylynn4@gmail.com Phone: 740-965-9368

Treasurer: Barry Butz, N8PPF

N8ppf@mvarc.net Phone: 740-397-7540

Trustee: Don Russell, W8PEN

W8pen@arrl.net Phone: 740-397-0249

Directors:

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Kc8yld@arrl.net Phone: 740-599-6614

Tom Evans, KD8HSA tom65@embarqmail.com Phone: 740-625-5138

Austin Godber, KD7NMS godber@uberhip.com Phone: 740-427-2450

Ruben Clark, KB2SAI Kb2sai@mvarc.net Phone: 740-326-4151

Don Russell, W8PEN W8pen@arrl.net Phone 397-0249

Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to Amateur Radio, with an emphasis on local activity, equipment reviews, and personal experiences to the Newsletter Editor. Articles are due on the <u>Sunday before</u> the first Monday of the month.

Newsletter Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN

w8pen@arrl.net Phone: 740-397-0249 Vice President Mark Bisenius, AC8FV, opened the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

Treasurer's Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Income Dues ARRL Commissions	\$ 12.00 \$ 15.00
Expenses Insurance	\$ 75.00
Balance on 5-31-11	\$ 2669.66

Since June 1st. we have had a donation of \$100.00 for Field Day and we have spent \$88.00 for about a years worth of postage.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Dave Patton, KC8UTL seconded by Larry Helzer, AA8WP, and passed by voice vote.

Secretary's Report: Jeff Butz, N8SMT

There are no additions or corrections in the report published in the newsletter. A motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Barry Butz, N8SMT, and seconded by Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, and passed by voice vote.

Old Business:

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, announced that the club has received the Special Service Club Award from the ARRL.

Field Day: Larry Helzer, AA8WP

Doc said that his wife has returned from Alaska and has brought a supply of Salmon. He is ready to buy the food from Lannings and if he runs over the money set aside we can handle it at the next meeting. Don Russell, W8PEN, said he would like to go out to the Field Day Site ahead of time to figure out the antenna configuration. Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, Announced that the Bennett Park location is not available to us because of a scheduling error and recommended we go back to the previous Apple Valley location. A motion was made to change locations and it was passed by voice vote. Because of the location change the advance antenna site visit will not be necessary.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barry Butz, N8PPF and seconded by Jeff Butz, N8SMT. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the July 11, 2011 Meeting.

Attendees:

1.	Mark Bisenius	AC8FV
2.	Barry Butz	N8PPF
3.	Tom Evans	KD8HSA
4.	Jeff Butz	N8SMT
5.	Jim Jennessee	KD8UT
6.	Scott E. Fields	KD8OAB
7.	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
8.	Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
9.	Ora Smith	W9DJ
10.	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
11.	Zachary Beougher	KD8KSN

President Bradford opened the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Treasurer's Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Income	
Dues	\$ 10.00
Field Day Donations	\$130.00
Mansfield Hamfest	\$ 63.00
Yard Sale	\$114.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 13.00
Interest	\$ 2.12
Expenses Postage	\$ 88.00
Balance on 6-31-11	\$ 2913 7 8

Since the 1st. of the month we have made the \$200.00 donation to the Mt. Vernon Red Cross.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Jim Jennessee, KD8UT, seconded by Ruben Clark, KB2SAI, and passed by voice vote.

Secretary's Report: Jeff Butz, N8SMT

The Secretary's report was read and a motion to accept was made by Scott Fields, KD8OAB, seconded by Mark Bisenius, AC8FV, and passed by voice vote.

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI

Ruben has been named as the Director of the upcoming Exercise Design Committee for the (LEPC) i.e.: "the Local Emergency Planning Committee" which provides drills for the County for Hazardous Material Handling and Emergency Response. Ruben also said if he or Arlin are not available anyone can start up a Severe Weather Net if they feel it is necessary and they can connect with the Mansfield Severe Weather Net if they feel that is necessary.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Barry Butz, N8PPF, made a motion to have a picnic at the next meeting in order to eat the leftovers from Field Day and to start the affair at 6:00 P.M. it was seconded by Mark Bisenius and was passed by a voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barry Butz, N8PPF, and seconded by Don Blizzard, W8UMH. The motion was carried by voice vote.

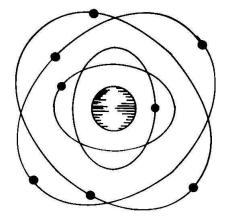
The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Treasurer's Report

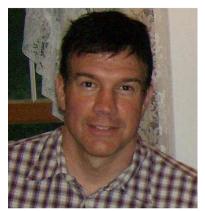
Aug 1, 2011 for July 1 to July 31, 2011

Balance on 7-1-11:	\$	2913.78
Income: Dues:	\$	12.00
Expenses: Donation to Red Cross: Comm. Vehicle Equipment:	\$ \$	200.00 69.14
Balance on 7-31-11:	\$	2656.64
Designated Funds: Year 2005 Repeater Fund: Field Day Fund: Communication Vehicle Fund:	\$ \$ \$	397.94 196.25 471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF



Solar Powered Field Day



By Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

Amateur Radio is the perfect application for solar panels, since we don't require much power, and we already operate off the grid. I've always wanted to experiment with solar, but never got around to it until the 45 Watt Solar Kit from Harbor Freight.

This kit, Chicago Electric, Model 90599, has everything you need to get started, and 45W at 12V is enough to be useful for Ham Radio.

It consists of three waterproof, glass-covered, 15W amorphous silicon panels in aluminum frames, that snap into an angled mounting bracket; a 3A charge controller; a pair of battery clamps; an adapter cable for charging 3, 6, and 9V gadgets; and two 12V DC CFC lamps with cords.

Simply hook the battery clamps from the charge controller to your deep-cycle battery in parallel with your radio, and the Solar Kit essentially becomes a "gentle" 3A charger when the sun's out. Plug an inverter into the controller's 12V "cigarette lighter" plug, and charge your netbook, I-Pad, and smartphone as well.

Amorphous silicon, which is also used in solar calculators, works under all light conditions. During Field Day, the panels continued to trickle-charge the deepcycle battery while it was overcast and raining, so it should do the same in winter if you increase the angle and keep the snow off. One leaf or bird dropping drastically reduces output.

Last year, the solar kit kept up with Mike, KC8YLD's 100W Kenwood TS 2000, continuing to increase the battery voltage of his Wal-Mart 115 Ah deep-cycle battery in full sun a week from the summer solstice. This year, Tom, KD8HSA, measured the output at 3A under similar conditions. This is no trickle charger.



There's an LED voltage display on the charge controller, which can be switched off to reduce drain. The panels are rated at a working output of 14.5V, and 23.57V open current (between the terminals with no load). A deepcycle battery in the circuit acts as a voltage regulator, with the voltage reading on the LED indicating the voltage level of the battery. The charge controller will cut out at 14.5V for overcharge protection, but you really want to disconnect your battery at about 13V.

A snap-together mounting bracket frame is included, but a homebrew screw or wing nut clamp is needed to keep the bottom corners together, if it's not permanently mounted. We kept moving it to follow the sun.

Each panel is 3'x1'x3/4" and covered with untempered glass. Using bungee cord to bind the panels together with the glass facing inwards, makes the kit trunk or back seat portable.

The panels are made of thin-film amorphous silicon (A-Si) by the Topray Solar Company in Shenzhen China. The output of the A-Si panels may drop significantly after 5-7 years of continuous outdoor use. Monocrystalline solar cells retain up to 80% of their output after 25 years, and come with a 20-year warranty, but thin-film A-Si is much less expensive

The durability of the charge controller could become an issue down the road, but that can be swapped out for about \$25.00. The kit comes with a 90-day warranty, and the reviews on harborfreight.com and eham.net are quite favorable.

http://www.harborfreight.com/45-watt-solar-panel-kit-90599.html

You want to wait for the \$149.99 coupon that comes out

from time to time, or wait for the recurring 20% off sale, and get it even cheaper.

After the tornado in Joplin, Missouri in May, hams were loaned \$4000 worth of solar equipment to power their EmComm efforts. With no generators, there were no worries about fuel, and it was very quiet.

Can you homebrew something better? We're hams, of course we can. But for \$150, this kit will get you off the grid today!

Radio Activity



By Don Russell, W8PEN

The antenna factor

No new antenna projects this month. However, those looking for something to try should check out the latest issue of QST magazine from the ARRL. The vertical antenna article is interesting, although not entirely new.

Basically, this antenna is a simple vertical antenna cut for whatever frequency you wish to operate on. This particular antenna is cut for 40 meters but it would be your choice as the design would be the same regardless of frequency.

The difference between this antenna and a standard vertical is that the radials are elevated 10 feet so that one can walk under it (yard work too) and no need to bury lots of radials. Two will do. Because the radials are off the ground by a significant distance, the antenna is basically a ground-plane antenna. Actually, not a bad choice for DX'ers on the low bands.

Check it out in the August 2011 issue of QST if you are interested in a cheap DX antenna for the low bands.

Club donation to ARC

I think it was the April 2011 meeting that I proposed that we donate \$200 to the American Red Cross. This proposal was easily passed by unanimous hand vote.

Reasons for the donation are many. The Red Cross has allowed us to use their training center for meetings, ham classes, ham exams, and even Field Day without ever asking for a payment or donation. I, as others felt it was time to ante up. I hope that this becomes an annual

thing. I know that with the clubs limited resources, \$200 a year may be a bit to ask. Perhaps \$100 would be affordable though. At any rate, even though we do participate in Red Cross disaster drills when requested to do so, a little financial support to pay for some of the heat or air conditioning we use at our monthly meetings only seems like the right thing to do.

Kelly Brenneman, Director of the Knox County ARC, sent me a nice "Thank You" card which I will bring to the August meeting.

While on the subject of the Red Cross, there has been a few times that Kelly has complained about the way we leave the Training Center after a meeting. Personally, I have not noticed anything out of order after the meeting, but lets face it: Most of the members attending are men and as men, we are traditionally not as observant as our counterparts. My XYL seems to remind me of this constantly. So, lets start doing a better job of observing, and straightening up before we leave the building. Running the vacuum cleaner for 10 minutes, wiping down tables and straightening chairs is a small thing to ask for continued use of the building.

Delaware ARC 2011 Field Day

As reported by Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, in his Affiliated Club report, the Delaware, Ohio ARC had a fantastic Field Day this year:

2,171 CW contacts 2,274 Phone contacts

And we thought we had fun! Looks like we have a long way to go. Not sure how many transmitters they ran, but I can imagine they had a few more than we did. No doubt, several CW stations were active.

Congratulations to the Delaware club for a job well done.

Contests in August

Still excited about this years Field Day? Perhaps you need another contest or two to keep the rush going.

One of my favorite contests of the year is the North American QSO Party. There are separate contests for CW and SSB. The main things one needs to know is that all stations are limited to 100 watts. The exchange is simply your name and state. The contest is also only 12 hours in length, so one is not tied up all weekend on the radio. Single operators may work 10 of the 12 hours and off times must be at least 30 minutes. Multi Op stations may work the entire 12 hours.

The August dates for these contests are as follows:

CW: 1800Z August 6 to 0600Z August 7, 2011 (2PM Saturday to 2AM Sunday EST)

SSB: 1800Z August 20 to 0600Z August 21, 2011 (2Pm Saturday to 2AM Sunday EST)

Full rules for the contest can be viewed and/or downloaded from here:

http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php

Another contest of interest is the Ohio QSO Party. This is the one in which we get to be the rare ones. Everyone wants to work Knox County!

The exchange for this one is contact number and County, State, or Providence.

Stations in Ohio give their County. Stations outside of Ohio give their State or Providence.

The Ohio QSO Party occurs on the fourth Saturday of August. The contest period extends from 1200 EDT [noon] to 2400 EDT [midnight] (1600Z Saturday until 0400Z Sunday). All stations may operate the full twelve hours. The 2011 contest is on August 27th.

More information about the Ohio QSO Party can be found here:

http://www.ohqp.org/

Looking for more contests? Check them out here:

http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

Contesting is a fun way to stay active in Amateur Radio. Give it a try.

AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

From the Ohio Section News for August, 2011

From the looks of all the newsletters everyone seems to still be on a high from Field Day, and no one has slowed down a step since. In fact it appears our clubs are taking on more and more. Activities abound.

Look for these special events by Ohio clubs.

You may think you are seeing double as the Triangle Amateur Radio, Inc. Operates as K8BLP during the Twins Day Festival in Twinsburg. Dial them up Aug 5, 1500 UTC through Aug 8, 2200 UTC somewhere around 21.250, 18.130, 14.260, and 7.210

The Alliance ARC will activate during Carnation Days Aug 20, 1400-2100 UTC using call W8LKY somewhere near 21.250, 14.045, 7.240 and 7.045

Also remember to get on the air during the Ohio QSO Party Aug 27 1600z through Aug 28 0400z

NOARS has proposed a Digital Discussion Net. Look for it on 3rd Mondays on the 145.15 repeater

Lake County ARA meets on first Wednesdays at 7:30 at Mentor's Park on Hopkins Road during the summer.

Alliance ARC is still soliciting "How I became a Ham stories" the first of these appears in the July newsletter. Look for more in August.

PCARS (Portage County) has set up a Yahoo Group check them out at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PCARS

Massillon holds an HF net Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tune them in at 3599.5. I will be visiting them August 5 at their club meeting.

Delaware ARA is boasting a record FD score of 15,172. They made 2171 CW and 2274 Phone contacts! I said they take contesting serious. They even have a contesting coach.

The OH-KY-IN ARS, Inc offered the use of the 146.67 repeater

to the Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net after the 145.37 repeater was struck by lightning.

The Buckeye Belles will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at Mohican State Park Aug 12-14. I really hope this will not be their last hoorah!

Western Reserve ARC will begin their Technicians Training Classes September 14 7-9+ at the Mahoning County EMA. Classes will culminate with a test session October 19. I will visit the Western Reserve meeting August 16.

Lake Erie ARA will be having their Annual Picnic July 26 at Morgan's Hollow.

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club sponsored a talk by 18 year old Zach Beougher, KD8KSN, on the basics of working Satellites and his experiences with making over 2000 satellite contacts. Zack is a member of the CBF Amateur Radio Club which is made up mostly of youth.

Remember, have fun, get out of meeting mode, get on the air!

73

E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD ARRL Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator

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 are prorated for new members at the time of application. Visit our Web Page at www.mvarc.net

Dues Schedule: \$12 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family, for those over 65 yrs. of age, and for those living outside Knox County

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

Name	Call-Sign
Street	
	StateZip Code
Phone Number	License Class
ARRL Member (Y/N)	E-Mail
Extra Donation (Optional)_	
Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail a	address. Would you like one? NoYes
f yes please enter password	
Other Comments:	

RADIOGRAM VIA AMATEUR RADIO						
NUMBER	PRECEDENCE HX STN OF ORIG	IN CHEC	CK PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME	FILED DATE	
TO:	- 5	*		RX	From Date	
				TX	To Date	
TEL:						
					7	
		157			\$ 	
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		7-12				
		-				
SIG:						
ONE	Everyone safe here. Please don't worry.		Please furnish this information and reply	SIXTY THREE	Victory or defeat, our best wishes	
<u>TW0</u>	Coming home as soon as possible.	THENTY THREE	without delay.	A Margan Market Market	are with you. Hope you win.	
THREE	Am inhospital. Receiving excellent care and re- covering fine.	TWENTY THREE	Report at once the accessibility and best way to reach your location.	SIXTY FOUR SIXTY FIVE	Arrived safely at Arriving on Please	
FOUR	Only slight property damage here. Do not be con-	TWENTY FOUR	Evacuation of residents from this area urgently needed. Advise plans for help.	SIXTY SIX	arange to meet me there. DX QSLs are on hand for you at the	
FIVE	cerned about disaster reports. Am moving to a new location. Send no further mail	TWENTY FIVE		DIVIT DIV	QSL bureau. Send self	
	or communication. Will inform you of new address when relocated.	TWENTY SIX	conditions at your location. Help and care for the evacuation of sick	SIXTY SEVEN	addressed envelopes. Your message number unde-	
SIX	Will contact you as soon as passible.	TMEMIT 21V	and injured from this location needed at	SIXTI SEVEN	liverable because of Please	
<u>SEVEN</u>	Please reply by amateur radio through the amateur delivering this message. This is a free public service.	FORTY SIX	once. Greetings on your birthday and best	SIXTY EIGHT	advise. Sorry to hear you are ill. Best	
EIGHT	Need additionalmobile or portable equipment		wishes for many more to come.		wishes for a speedy recovery.	
NINE	for immediate emergency use. Additional radio operators needed to assist	FORTY SEVEN	Reference your message numberto delivered on at UTC.	SIXTY NINE	Welcome to the We are glad to have you join us and hope you	
2000 2000	with emergency at this location.	<u>FIFTY</u>	Greetings by amateur radio.		will enjoy the fun and fellowship	
<u>TEN</u>	Please contact Advise to standby and provide further emergency information, instructions or	FIFTY ONE	Greetings by amateur radio. This message is sent as a free public service by ham		of the organization.	
	assistance.		radio operators at Am having a	н	andling Instructions	
ELEVEN	Establish Amateur radio emergency communications with on MHZ.	FIFTY TWO	wonderful time. Really enjoyed being with you. Looking	HXA (followed	by number) Collect landline delivery	
TWELVE	Anxious to hear from you. No word in some time.		forward to getting together again.		addressee within miles. (If no prized unlimited)	
THIRTEEN	Please contact me as soon as possible. Medical emergency situation exists here.	FIFTY THREE	Received your, It's appreciated; many thanks.	HXB (followed	by number) Cancel message if not	
FOURTEEN	Situation here becoming critical. Losses and damage	FIFTY FOUR	Many thanks and good wishes.	delivered with originating sta	in hours of filing time; service	
FIFTEEN	fromincreasing. Please advise your condition and what help is needed.	FIFTY FIVE	Good news is always welcome. Very delighted to hear about yours.	HXC Report da	te and time of delivery (TOD) to origi-	
SIXTEEN	Property damage very severe in this area.	FIFTY SIX	Congratulations on your, a most	nating station.	originating station the identity of	
SEVENTEEN	REACT communications services also available. Establish REACT communication with on	FIFTY SEVEN	worthy and deserved achievement. Wish we could be together.		hich received, plus date and time.	
	channel	FIFTY EIGHT	Have a wonderful time. Let us know when		y of station to which relayed, plus date delivered report date, time and	
<u>EIGHTEEN</u> <u>NINETEEN</u>	Please contact me as soon as possible at Request health and welfare report on (State	FIFTY NINE	you return. Congratulations on the new arrival. Hope	method of del	ivery.	
29000000000000000000000000000000000000	name, address, and telephone number.)	distribution	mother and child are well.	HXE Delivering originate mes	g station get reply from addressee,	
TWENTY	Temporarily stranded. Will need some assistance. Please contact me at	SIXTY	Wishing you the best of everything on	HXF (followed	by number) Hold delivery until (date).	
TWENTY ONE	Search and rescue assistance is needed by	SIXTY ONE	Wishing you a very Metry Christmas and		by mail or landline tall call not re- or other expense involved, cancel and	
IWENTY TWO	local authorities here. Advise availability. Need accurate information on the extent and	SIXTY TWO	a Happy New Year. Greetings and best wishes to you for a	service origin		
	type of conditions now existing at your location.	-Int Inv	pleasant holiday season.	Designe	d by Dave, N7YSS	