



Ham Radio Rock!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



August, 2012 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)

Sunday Night ARES Net at 9:00 P.M. on The K8EEN Repeater



INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

Many of you know that we volunteer at Cape Hatteras National Seashore each year. It is on the barrier islands offshore of North Carolina, known as the Outer Banks. Famous at the park is the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, tallest in the nation at about 200 feet.



The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, August 13, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

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

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 Saturday, August 11, 2012 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

I had been encouraging John Benson, park ranger and local resident, to become a ham. Last year he did and has since upgraded to General class as KK4DMT.

John and I had talked about activating a station at the lighthouse for International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. This event began in Scotland in 1993 and has grown to include hundreds of lighthouses and ships worldwide. The purpose, quoting the organization's web page, is "to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration, and at the same time to promote amateur radio and to foster International goodwill." The Cape Hatteras light has not been activated before.

John took the lead, coordinated with the park and local amateurs, and obtained a special event call of W4H. We will be setting up in front of the oil house (the small building in the picture). Park rangers will give historical background about Reginald Fessenden, a radio pioneer who experimented in the area and transmitted the first musical notes by radio from Cape Hatteras in 1902. The event takes place on August 18 and 19. Talk to us at W4H and lots of other lighthouses on the HF bands. For more information go to:

<http://illw.net/>
<http://www.nps.gov/caha/historyculture/cape-hatteras-light-station.htm>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reginald_Fessenden

ARRL Ohio State Convention

Greetings!

The ARRL Ohio State Convention is less than one month away. The Convention is being held in conjunction with the Columbus Hamfest.

We have many interesting forums being held at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Road in Columbus. Doors open August 11 at 8:00am, the first forum kicks off at 8:30am, and goes non-stop until 2:00pm.

The Shrine Center is a beautiful facility, and the Columbus Hamfest will have both indoor and outdoor vendors, along with Emergency Vehicle displays, and much more.

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

President: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
kd8evr@mvarc.net
Phone: 740-627-0922

V. President: Matt Ware, KD8PSK
Mware11@msn.com
Phone: 614-580-7520

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jaylynn4@gmail.com
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Treasurer: Barry Butz, N8PPF
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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 Sunday before the first Monday of the month.

Newsletter Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN
w8pen@arrl.net
Phone: 740-397-0249

Our Keynote Speaker for the day will be Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL President.

For full details of the day, please visit <http://arrl-ohio.org/convention/index.html>

I look forward to seeing everyone in Columbus on August 11th!

73, Frank K18GW
Frank J. Piper, K18GW
Section Manager - Ohio
ki8gw@arrl.org
614-589-4641

ARRL - The National Association For Amateur Radio™
ki8gw@arrl.org

ARRL OHIO STATE CONVENTION DETAILS – FORUM SCHEDULES AND CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE COLUMBUS HAMFEST

This schedule was taken from the Ohio Section News for July 20, 2012

It's approaching fast! The 2012 ARRL Ohio State Convention, in conjunction with the 2012 Columbus Hamfest, will take place on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Road in Columbus.

The plans are finalized, the stage is being set, and we are waiting to welcome Amateur Radio operators from around the state to what we hope is the beginning of a new tradition in the Ohio Section!

Before we list the forums and times, we need to complete one housekeeping item. The contact information for the Hamfest is incorrect in QST. The information is correct on the ARRL.ORG website. The public contact for the Columbus Hamfest is:

James Morton , KB8KPJ
1317 Blocker Drive
Heath, OH 43056
Phone: 740-527-2156
Email: kb8kpj@arrl.net

Now, onto the forums that will be delivered at the Convention:

8:30 am – 9:00 am: HISTORY OF TELEGRAPHY
Presenter: Dr. Robert Lewis, N8GU

Come hear of the history of our most basic form of Amateur Radio communication

9:00 am – 10:00 am: STATE LEGISLATION
Presenter: Nicholas Pittner, K8NAP,

ARRL Ohio State Government Liaison Have you heard about Ohio's new PRB-1 Antenna Law? Come join us as ARRL Ohio State Government Liaison, Nicholas Pittner, K8NAP will help explain how the new law benefits Ohio Amateur Radio operators, and how Hams seeking to erect new antennas can use the new law to their benefit.

9:00am– 10:00am: RF INTERFERENCE FROM ELECTRIC POWER LINES
Presenter: Dennis Moriarty, K8AGB

Dennis Moriarty, K8AGB, presents his Educational and Entertaining lectures based on 30 years of investigating Radio & TV Interference, Primarily from electric power lines. WITH SELF-HELP SUGGESTIONS FOR: a. Identifying the Interference Type / Source. b. Locating said Interference using a portable receiver. c. Working with the local Electric Utility, including Part 15 violations. d. [LAST STEP] When to contact the F.C.C.

10:00am – 11:00am: ARRL FORUM
Moderator, Frank Piper, K18GW – ARRL Ohio Section Manager
Speakers: Kay Craigie, N3KN – ARRL President
Jim Weaver – ARRL Director – Great Lakes Division

Come spend an hour with ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE and Ohio Section Manager Frank Piper, K18GW as they discuss various topics affecting Amateur Radio. At the end of the forum, the Awards will be presented for the Ohio Section Newsletter Award, and the Al Seversen Ohio Ham of the Year.

11:00am – NOON: OHIO SINGLE SIDEBAND NET SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
Moderator: Don Zickefoose, WB8SIQ – OSSBN Net Manager

11:00am – NOON: NBEMS / FLDIGI
Speaker: Harry Bloomberg, W3YJ

Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) and the use of the latest digital program "Fldigi" will be discussed and explained in this forum.

NOON – 1:00pm: FUNDAMENTALS OF WIRE ANTENNAS
Speakers: Jay Adrick, K8CJY and Geoff Mednenhall, P.E., W8GNM

This presentation will cover the basic electromagnetic theory, radiation patterns, construction, and applications of wire antennas for amateur radio use. **NOON 1:00 pm:** TRAFFIC HANDLING AND THE NATIONAL TRAFIC SYSTEM
Speaker: David Maynard, WA3EZN – ARRL Ohio Section Traffic Manager This presentation will cover what equipment is needed to join in the fun of handling formal radiogram traffic. It will explain the National Traffic System (NTS), how it is structured, how it works and how to find a local or state traffic net. ARRL Radiogram basics will also be covered, and will also include information on the NTS digital system. Skills for operating in a directed net will also be covered in this forum.

1:00pm – 2:00pm: ROYAL ORDER OF THE WOUFF HONG INDUCTION CEREMONY

You are invited to join the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong!

This mysterious and celebrated ritual will be held to wrap up the Convention. This ceremony is limited to the first Fifty (50) full ARRL members. Pre-registration is requested, by not mandatory. You may pre-register by sending your request for registration to n8sy@n8sy.com. Proof of full ARRL membership must be presented to attend. Don't have your ARRL card? Stop by the ARRL table at the Columbus Hamfest, and we can verify membership and sign you up that day!

For more information on the speakers, and to get even more info on the Convention and Hamfest, please visit the Ohio Section website at: www.arrloho.org

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Minutes for the July 9, 2012 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. David Byrd | KD8RST |
| 2. Don Blizzard | K8UMH |
| 3. Frank Counts | KC8EVS |
| 4. Mark Bisenius | AC8FV |
| 5. Emery Bennett | W8TW |
| 6. Jim Jennessee | KD8UT |
| 7. Carl Payne | AC8LQ |
| 8. Barry Butz | N8PPF |
| 9. Scott Fields | K8AEC |
| 10. Tom Evans | KD8HSA |
| 11. Patrick Valintino | KD8PSM |
| 12. Anthony Spiegel | KC8UR |
| 13. Ruben Clark | KB2SAI |
| 14. Ann Bradford | KD8LFH |
| 15. Melinda Clark | KD8RZZ |
| 16. Arlin Bradford | KD8EVR |
| 17. Matt Ware | KD8PSK |
| 18. Jeff Butz | N8SMT |

President Bradford opened the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

The Minutes of last month's meeting were read by Jeff Butz, N8SMT and a motion was made by Ruben Clark, KB2SAI, to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Mark Bisenius, AC8FV and approved by voice vote.

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI

Ruben said he had trouble getting help during the recent power outage. He put out calls to a number of members but didn't much response.

Pelotonia is coming up. He hasn't got much information from them as to their needs.

Old Business:

Ruben introduced a discussion about looking for

another meeting location. Arlin is looking into the old County Building on Pittsburgh Rd. and will have more information next month. The discussion was postponed until next month.

New Business:

Because Pelotonia hasn't contacted us and it appears that they don't intend to contact us until the last minute if at all a motion was made by Ruben Clark that the club will decline to help out the Pelotonia Event. The motion was seconded by Barry Butz and approved by voice vote.

Ruben Clark made a motion to close the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Scott Fields and passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

MVARC

**Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the June 11, 2012 Meeting.**

By Jeff butz, N8SMT

Note: This did not make it in the July Newsletter.

Attendees:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. David Byrd | KD8RST |
| 2. Tom Evans | KD8HSA |
| 3. Matt Ware | KD8PSK |
| 4. Arlin Bradford | KD8EVR |
| 5. Jim Jennessee | KD8UT |
| 6. Mark Bisenius | AC8FV |
| 7. Emery Bennett | W8TW |
| 8. Ruben Clark | KB2SAI |
| 9. Melinda Clark | KD8RZZ |
| 10. Anthony Spiegel | KC8UR |
| 11. Barry Butz | N8PPF |
| 12. Brian Bernicken | KD8RZT |
| 13. Mike McCardel | KC8YLD |
| 14. Carl Payne | AC8LQ |
| 15. Jeff Butz | N8SMT |

President Bradford opened the meeting at 7:02 P.M.

Treasurers Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Report for February, March and April.

Dues	\$ 12.00
50/50	\$ 9.00
Interest	\$ 0.02
Donation	\$ 125.00
Expense	\$ 72.00
Balance	\$ 3008.69

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI

The Tour De Cure bike event was this past weekend. Everything went well. The Net Control with Licking County didn't work well at all. Their operation needs to be reworked. Pelotonia is coming up this August. It will be a big event. We will need a lot of help.

Field Day: Larry (Doc) Helzer, AA8WP

We need 4 tables for the 4 stations. Arlin said he would get some tables. Doc will try to provide some sandwiches for the Friday setup.

Transmitters:

Arlin will provide a 20 meter rig.
Barry will provide a 40 and 6 meter rig.
Ruben will provide an 80 meter rig.

Jim Jennessee made a motion to close the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Barry Butz and passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

**Treasurer's Report
August 1, 2012
for July 1 to July 31, 2012**

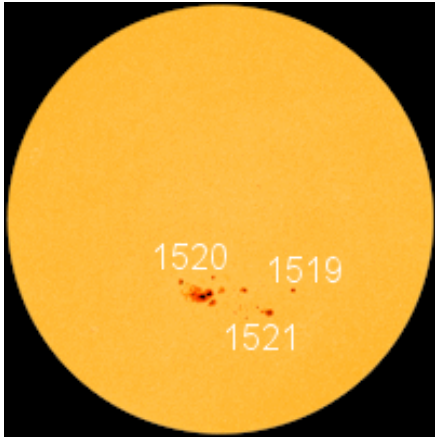
<u>Balance on 7-1-12:</u>	\$ 3024.70
<u>Income:</u>	
Dues:	\$ 6.00
50-50:	\$
Interest:	\$.01
Donations:	\$
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Field Day Food:	\$ 242.15
Postage Stamps:	\$ 90.00
<u>Balance on 7-31-12:</u>	\$ 2698.56
<u>Designated Funds:</u>	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	\$ 536.39
Field Day Fund:	\$ 0.00
Communication Vehicle Fund:	\$ 471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF

X-Flare Hits Earth

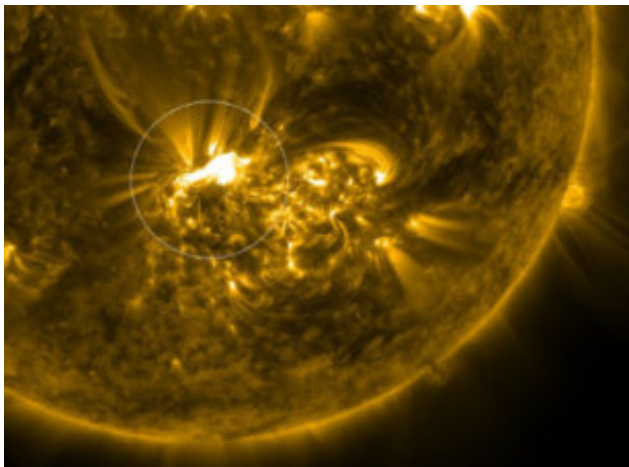
By Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

Sunspot AR1520 with its delta-class magnetic field, hurled an X1.4 solar flare directly towards earth at 1653Z on July 12, 2012, as seen from orbit by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory Helioseismic & Magnetic Imager (SDO/HMI):



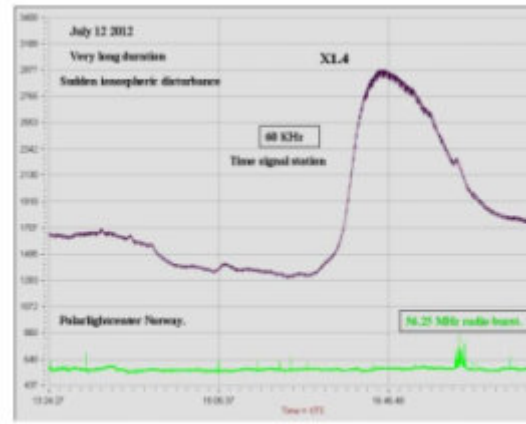
Sunspot AR1520

The explosion emitted a shockwave of extreme ultraviolet (EUV) radiation traveling at the speed of light, seen from SDO at 171Å (Angstroms), the spectral line of ionized iron (Fe XIX) at 1,000,000°C with 8 electrons stripped, in the sun's corona and transition region:



UV Pulse

Reaching the Earth in about 8 minutes, it caused a very long duration Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance (SID), with a 50 MHz radio burst recorded by Rob Stammes in Norway:



Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance

Solar protons, which are ionized hydrogen atoms stripped of their 1 electron, accompanied the SID and began bombarding the Earth's polar regions, creating a minor "S1" solar radiation storm on July 12th.

A Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) of plasma from the solar flare created a solar wind of charged particles consisting mainly of protons and electrons, which impacted the Earth two days later at 1800Z on July 14th.



Northern Lights



At first it appeared weak, but by late on July 15th, we experienced a major geomagnetic storm with auroras visible as far south as California, as seen in the photo above from Grand Portage, Minnesota by Travis Novitsky.

Near the peak of the storm, we see the "A" index at 61. Between 30 and 100 indicates a geomagnetic storm. It should be below 15 for favorable HF propagation.

The "K" index is at 6, with 5 to 9 indicating a storm, and 3 or below

desirable for HF propagation.

“Aurora” is at 10 on a scale of 0 to 10.

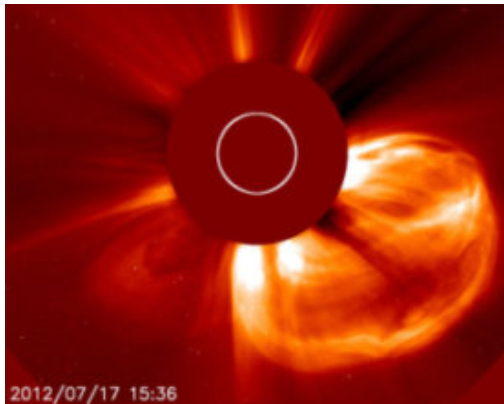
The solar wind “SW” is down from 645.4 km/sec at impact on July 14th, to 503.2 at the peak of the storm. This indicates a delay as the ionosphere absorbed the full impact of charged particles from the solar wind. Normal is 400.

HF Band conditions are poor.

“Aur Lat” indicates favorable aurora propagation as far south as 51.0° from the usual mid-60° range. “MID LAT AUR” in green indicates aurora propagation is open from the middle latitudes.

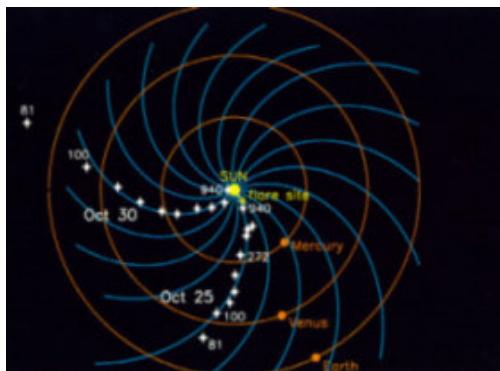
“Geomag Field” indicates a major storm. “Sig Noise Lvl” is S6-S9, due to atmospheric noise from the solar wind.

A second M7-class flare erupted on July 17th from Sunspot AR1520, now on the far side of the sun. The resulting CME is captured in full-spectrum (white) light by NASA’s Solar & Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO):



CME

Aimed at Venus, the CME still caused a minor storm on Earth July 19th, because the solar wind followed the backward-spiraling magnetic lines of the Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF), as seen in the diagram below from Spaceweather.com:



Interplanetary Magnetic Field

An incredible shot of the Southern Lights by astronaut Joe Acaba, as the International Space Station travels through its streamers:



Southern Lights

Subject: Mystery white noise interference coming from DSL internet modem plus slower internet connections

Maybe this information will save someone some time tracking this one down.

I spent hours tracking down strong white noise (a hissing noise) that suddenly showed up on the AM Broadcast Band all around the house as well as on 160 and 80 meter ham bands. After some testing with a portable radio it was evident that the noise was generated by my DSL modem. It seemed to be accessing the Internet OK and a spare DSL modem I had laying around did the same thing. As it turned out one side of a the DSL pair was loose on the telephone punch-down block (66 Block) in the basement. I re-punched the connection and the noise went away.

Though the one side of the pair was loose, the Internet seemed to work only a little bit slower than before the noise started. DSL runs on RF so things like loose wires can cause strange symptoms. The twisted pair telephone wire normally functions to cancel out noise and keep the RF signal in the pair. One wire coming loose caused this principle to leave the equation and the telephone wiring became a radiating antenna thus wiping out a broad spectrum of the low frequency band in my house. It had me going for a while.

Maybe you won't care if there is white noise on the AM band but if your DSL Internet connection seems slower than normal, this a single loose telephone

wire just could be the culprit.

Amateur Radio K8PWL
Howard Tharp
Home [740-924-2933](tel:740-924-2933)
Cell [740-404-6172](tel:740-404-6172)

Pretty good tip. If readers have more tips and tricks, please send them to me and I will get them in the Newsletter. Who knows, maybe you will solve a problem for one of our club members. Thanks Howard.

Don, W8PEN

Apps for Curiosity

Here's some interesting phone apps and online resources related to Monday's Mars Rover landing Mars Rover Landing News From JPL

If you have an iPad or an iPhone with a camera, here's a chance to create personalized photos with a high-resolution 3D model of the Curiosity rover. Download Spacecraft 3D from the Apple Apps Store. It's free! (Android version: to be out in a few weeks). Print a couple of copies of the paper "Targets" before landing night. Place the Target where you want the rover to appear.

Compose the desired photo, then tap the "Gear" icon and press the Photo button to take snapshots of the rovers with old and new friends on landing night.

Send your pictures to: jplpublic@jpl.nasa.gov
We'll put together a collection of photos after the landing.

Other free Curiosity software to play with:

Xbox - Mars Rover Landing. Try your own skills on landing Curiosity through this Xbox game Downloadable through the Xbox menu system or at:
<http://marketplace.xbox.com/en-US/Product/Mars-Rover-Landing/66accd000-77fe-1000-9115-d80258480836>

Eyes on the Solar System: Curiosity Edition Experience Curiosity as it lands at Gale Crater <http://eyes.jpl.nasa.gov>(viewable in any web browser)

Be A Martian Mobile Phone Apps - Mars on the go!

Participate as a Citizen Scientist on the Mars Science Lab mission iPhone:

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mobile/beam/iphone/>
Android:<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mobile/beam/android/>

Windows:
<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mobile/beam/windowsphone/>

Explore Mars on the Web! This 3D interactive experience lets you explore Mars with Curiosity Curiosity's Journey:

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/explore/curiosity>
Free Drive:
<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/explore/freedrive/>
Gale Crater:
<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/explore/galecrater/>
Learn the Rover:
<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/explore/learnaboutrover/>

[ANS thanks Jan, WB6VRN, for the above information]

E. Mike McCardel, KC8LYD

AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

This summer is just flying by and clubs all through the section are busy with a plethora of activities. You know I particularly enjoy events that include several clubs or events that draws clubs together. Hamfests are fun but there are many other things going on that bring us together both in a physical presence on the air. August is just loaded with events.

The premier event will be The ARRL Ohio State Convention during the Columbus Hamfest at the Aladdin Shrine Center. ARRL Kay Craigie will be the keynote speaker, K3KN. A great event for a club field trip.

PCARS is having a Cruise In at the Ravenna A&W August 15. Cars mix well with Ham Radio and this event put them both in the spotlight. Come show off your mobile rig setups. Get a caravan together from your club together and head toward Ravenna for what looks a great evening of fellowship, and, as always with PCARS, FUN. See

<http://www.portcars.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/AmateurRadioCruise-4Jul2012.pdf> for details.

Then September 8 join PCARS again on the air with Ohio State Parks on the Air - OSPOTA. <http://parks.portcars.org/ospota/index.php>

Mount Vernon ARC will be up to their necks in bicycles the August 11 weekend when Pelotonia converges on Kenyon College in Gambier. This 100 mile bike event will keep hams across central Ohio busy.

Lake County ARA will be supporting the Greater Cleveland Triathlon August 5. And check-in to the LCARA 10M Round Table on Wednesdays at 8:30pm on 28.450 MHz. Why not fire up your HF Rig on 10M and join the conversation? You don't need to be a LCARA member, just have at least a Tech ticket and some 10 meter gear. They are really looking forward to some participation from outside their local area.

The Greater Cincinnati ARA is gearing up for their Hamfest September 16. If you would like to volunteer they would appreciate your help. Contact Stan Cohen, W8QDQ, AT 513-531-1011, or email hokie49@zoomtown.com.

Talk about coming together. The Alliance Amateur Radio Club collected \$1000 with the help of an anonymous donor to help assist the son of Tony (KD8BBK), and Brenda Schillig, who was in a traffic accident in early May, in Tennessee. I'm proud of how they came together. It warms me even more knowing that this type of response is the rule, not the exception among clubs members everywhere. Oh and let me plug their Fox hunt July 25, another great opportunity for your club to get involved with another.

Western Reserve ARC is always up to something and they look like they have packed autumn coming up. But I want to reflect on their field day. They really involved as many people as possible working as 7A with a GOTA station. Their group is growing and active in preparedness. I judge they are doing a good job reaching out in their community.

The Buckeye Belles may have disbanded but they keep reaching out to each other. I would really like to see some younger YL's rekindle a new awakening for the groups. I appreciate all the YL's of this group. May they be forever young.

The OH-KY-IN ARS sponsors the Brunch Bunch which meets the second Saturday of every month at 1 PM; The location varies so check out their website <http://www.ohkyin.org/> Wouldn't it be cool to have a group from another club pay an impromptu visit. Or maybe join in at their next monthly meeting is Tuesday, August 7th. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome! WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

One last word, I emailed an announcement early this month to every club contact I had, relating to a listenable ISS school contact. Frank sent one more recently about the State convention. Unfortunately many of emails bounced back. One quick look and it appears many of these emails were listed within the last 12 months. May I suggest that everyone check their listing at <http://www.arl.org/clubs> to be sure that you contacts are not only up to date but accurately listed.

See you at the Convention if not before.

73,

E.Mike McCardel, KC8YLD Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator

kc8yld@arrl.net

Radio-Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Antenna Issues

After many years of great service, my 160 meter Carolina Windom antenna came down. The center balun had cracked about two years ago. I had repaired it using silicon sealant, however I knew it was only a matter of time.



So what do I do? There are numerous antenna configurations that I have never tried. For me, an antenna needs to cover all bands 160 - 10 meters.

I am past the stage of wanting five or six single band antennas cluttering up my antenna tower. I know hams think antenna farms look great, but many wires hanging from a tower does not look so good.

I have never tried 160 meter loop antenna. I have enough room to put one up and it is very tempting to try it. This would put me back to the same problems I had when running the 160 meter doublet antenna though. It would require using ladder line into the shack. Something I would like to avoid.

Next option would be a multi-band trapped dipole. This would eliminate the need for many wires hanging on my tower and can be fed with one coaxial feed line. I really do not think trapped antennas are very efficient though and if I ever wanted to get back into contesting on a regular basis, I know I would not be happy with a trapped dipole antenna.

Next up would be a multi-band dipole with legs for each band. This would be interesting and I did buy such an antenna several years ago. It turned out to be too bulky for my taste and the antenna never went up.

Another doublet antenna would work okay, but as with the loop antenna, the ladder line is something I really want to avoid.

A multi band vertical would be nice if I liked to work DX, but normally I avoid the DX contests and work the domestic ones. Verticals are okay to have in your arsenal for domestic contests, but not as the main radiator.

Thinking about all these possible antenna configurations and more, I find several problems with each one. I was very happy with my 160 meter Carolina Windom. It worked great on 160 meters. Was a killer antenna on 80 and 40 meters. Not quite so good on the higher bands, but I could work pretty much anything I could hear on 20, 15, and 10 meters.

Therefore I have decided to buy a new 160 meter Carolina Windom. Yes, I could repair the old one. It would cost maybe \$65 for a new balun. But then I started to think because of the cracked balun, I may have water in the coax going down to the choke balun and indeed perhaps there is water in the choke balun. I could do a lot of work repairing this antenna and still not have it work properly.

There is a lot of good wire in this old antenna though so it will not go to waste. I plan on building two or three Field Day antennas with the old wire.

I plan on installing the new Carolina Windom a bit higher with the vertical radiator further away from

the tower. With a bit of luck the new antenna will perform at least as well as the old one and perhaps a bit better.

Free Radio

Jim Chandler KB8YAA gave me his 2 meter handheld and antenna this past month. Seems that Jim has lost interest in ham radio and thought perhaps one of the club members would like to have his radio.

The handheld is an old Radio Shack HTX-202 and operates on 2 meters only. The internal battery pack is bad and will not recharge, however, there is an AC power supply with it so the radio can be used as a base station. The battery pack can be rebuilt or a new one bought. The radio is limited to 6 channels, but you can program in any frequency you want in the 2 meter band. I believe there is an alkaline battery pack in the box. With that you can use standard non rechargeable batteries for portable operation. There is also a 2 meter base antenna that goes with it. A good deal and free.

Anyone wishing to have this radio should contact me. Right now, I think the requirement should be that you are a club member (anyone that passed our January tech course is a member) and you do not have any equipment of your own to use. Borrowed radios do not count, so if you have a borrowed radio, you can still ask for this radio.

I don't think it would be fair to offer this radio on a first come first serve basis, as some may receive the newsletter before others. Therefore, I will wait until meeting night, Monday, August 13th. There will be a drawing with names of all those that contact me before or during the meeting. The winner gets the radio and antenna. You do not have to come to the meeting to win the radio. You just need to contact me by email or phone:

Don Russell, W8PEN
Email w8pen@arrl.net
Phone 740-397-0249
Cell 740-326-0476

Good Luck. See you at the meeting.