



The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club August 2013 Newsletter



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



Ham Radio Rocks

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**



Wedding Bells are Ringing

On Tuesday the 23rd of July 2013 one of our most colorful and longtime club member was married at his residence at Butler, Ohio. William "Bill" Waits and Sue Beaver exchanged wedding vows with family and friends looking on. After the ceremony refreshments and good Ham Humor were served which made for a delightful event.

Mr. Waits, a widower, was overheard saying that his first marriage had lasted for 38 years and that he was quite confident that he would break the previous record of 38 years. Mr. and Mrs. Waits do not plan for a family at this time as travel for the next few years is scheduled. We want to wish the newlyweds much happiness in the coming years.



Mr. & Mrs. N8OGX

Article and photo by David, KD8RST.

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, August 12, 2013 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.

Please join us for a very informal breakfast on Friday mornings at 10:00 A.M. The venue keeps changing so check into the Sunday night net to find out the next location, or give a call on the 2 meter repeater Friday morning for directions. Emery Bennett W8TW and David Bird KD8RST are co-coordinators for this event. Members are welcome to join us.

Current Schedule:
August 9: Hardy's
August 17: Hardy's
August 24: Hardy's
August 31: Hardy's

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

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 10, 2013 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio



I understand that there was an event on our 2 meter Repeater a week or so ago that I would like to address.

Seems that one of our club members was calling a friend on the repeater. Just so happens there was a bike event going on at the time and the sponsors of the bike event were using our repeater for some of the communications.

From what I understand, the net control or one of the bike race communicators told this club member that a net was in process and basically just to get off the repeater.

I have no problem with other hams using our repeater. In fact, I openly invite new hams and non-club members to use our repeater as often as they like. Likewise, I have no problem with groups using our repeater for public service events such as a bike race.

As Club Call trustee and Repeater Trustee/tech, I do have a problem with anyone telling another user to get off the repeater. The net control should have allowed the non-bike event communications to go through. Doing otherwise by the net control station or net participant was not only inappropriate behavior on our repeater, but downright rude! Not to mention illegal!

Had I heard this happening, I would certainly have stepped in and given my views to the Net Control Station or the other station. As it is I can only apologize to our club member for this rudeness. No one, club member or not, should be treated this way on our repeater.

We have often received positive comments on how open and friendly our club members are. This includes people using our repeater. I would like it to remain that way.

73,
Don, W8PEN

AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

Now that Field Day is over its time to sit back relax and take it easy. Well, maybe somewhere else but not in the Ohio Section! Our clubs just keep on going. there is no shortage of clubs activities as we march through July and into August. Hamfests, Special events, Parades, VE sessions, Picnics, Contests, Conventions and more. I am so proud of everything our clubs do. A couple things to

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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

remember during all of our busy. Many club's Special Service Club statuses have expired (they are only good for two years) and need to be renewed.

Congratulations to the Portsmouth Club for recently renewing their status. Remember family first. Sure Ham radio is fun and fulfilling and takes up a lot of time but remember we should always lead with family. Of course getting the whole clan involved in the hobby is one way to do both at the same time.

As you have probably noticed I am still holding down the duties of the Affiliated Club Coordinator and will continue to do so. I will continue to work closely with our new Assistant Manager for Educational Outreach, Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, and Radio Scouting Scott Hixon, KC8ITN. After consulting with Section Manager Frank Piper, K18GW, we are so pleased with the hit the ground running efforts of Anthony and Scott, we decided that having an extra layer in the chain of command would only serve to slow them down. I am happy with my current responsibilities and believe we can work better and cover more ground this way.

I appreciate every one's consideration as we worked through this. Sometimes the dynamic process that can change quickly for the better is best.

Clubs around the Ohio Section:

Lake Erie ARA Will host their annual Picnic on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 in Brecksville at Harriet Keeler Memorial Picnic Area. Don't forget to check in to one of their many nets, The Thursday ARES Digital Communications Net, The Wednesday Skywarn Practice Net, The Thursday Club Net.

Buckeye Belles - YL group - announces from the 16th to the 20th August 2013 there will be 5 YLs from different countries activating amateur radio from Kangerlussuaq. Although not associated with the Belles they wanted everyone to be aware of this rare expedition. For more information visit

http://home.online.no/~la6rha/indeksside_2.htm

Alliance ARC - is conducting a CW net on Thursday nights at 8PM local time. Check in. They advise to get a computer tutorial for CW. I do not encourage the records or tapes as you tend to memorize them instead of learning the code. The random nature of the computer generation is easier to learn the code.

Delaware ARA welcomed Ohio Section Manager Frank Piper, K18GW, to their July meeting. Frank spoke on how Ham Radio is benefiting Ohio! I imagine they are still recovering from Field Day, an event they put their whole soul in.

Remember all State level cabinet position holders are committed to making club visits. If you want them to speak or not is up to you. Remember many on the cabinet have expertise in areas outside the duties related to their Section positions, sometimes they

welcome sharing this expertise with others. Just contact us for availability.

Western Reserve ARC is prepping for their elections, soliciting members to step up for that committee. They are starting up licensing classes in September. They recently held their annual picnic at the Western Reserve United Methodist Church on Canfield Rd. There August 20 meeting will be Show and Tell.

Massillon ARC announced that the club station vertical antenna has been repaired, updated, installed and checked. Robert AC8GE has delivered the Tappan Lake Island and 85th Anniversary Commemorative QSL cards to the club shack for use. They are also prepping to assist with communication for the Hall of fame parade July 28, and recently demonstrated at the Canton McKinley Museum Summer Science event.

Portage County ARS is surveying its members with a questionnaire that focuses lots of questions about their Field Day operation, monthly meetings, operating events and other activities. This is a good way to get honest feedback and assure that your club is staying on mission. Congratulations to Editor Tom Parkinson, KB8UUZ for his efforts on PCARS "The Radiogram" this year's Ohio Section Newsletter contest winner.

The Voice of Aladdin Amateur Radio Club will host the Columbus Hamfest at the Aladdin Shrine Center, during their Columbus Hamfest August 3 at the Aladdin Shrine 3950 Steltzer Rd. in Columbus, OH. This will be in conjunction with the ARRL Great Lakes Division Convention.

Cambridge ARA continues celebrating their 100th year as a club. They will culminate the years events with a gala dinner on December 14. I plan on attending this great, great achievement. They have been an ARRL affiliated club 66 years. Congratulations to Lyn Aflman, N8IMW, Editor of the "CARA COMMUNICATOR", for their third place finish in the Section Newsletter contest.

Lake County ARA assisted with the Fairport Harbor Mardi Gras parade July 3 and held their QRP in the Park at Colby in Wickliffe, July 21. They will assist the PAN Ohio Hope Ride July 25-28, the MS150 Pedal to the Point August 3-4, and the Greater Cleveland Triathlon August 11, 2013.

OH-KY-IN ARS were introduced to "SDR on the cheap!" at their meeting on July 2 by Robert AK3Q. They hold their Newcomers & Elmers Net Sundays at 7pm and their Tech Talk Wednesdays at 9pm both are on 146.76. Congratulations to Susie Scott, N8CGM, Editor of the "Q-FIVER" for its being named runner-up in this year's Section newsletter contest.

Conneaut ARC holds their Sunday Night Net at 7:30pm, and their Tech Net On the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Their club meetings are the Third Monday each month at the Conneaut Fire Department #3, 392 Middle Road, Conneaut, Ohio At 7:30pm. Salem Area ARA held VE

Testing in Lisbon at the Columbiana County EMA July 20, and will be assisting with the e Grand Parade August 10. SAARA meetings, which are normally held the first Thursday of the month, will be on the second Thursday instead for the next few months, (July, August & September) due to other summer activities. Meetings will still be held at the Salem Public Library at 6:30.

Mount Vernon ARC members get together Friday morning for breakfast. The restaurant changes each week so members should inquire on the air (a good way to get people to check-in to the repeater). Matt Ware's, KD8PSK, Sling-shot-on-a-stick was a big hit at Field Day. They will assist with several bicycle events over the next month. After the Division Convention in Columbus August 3rd, I will be out of contact and unavailable for much of August. I may even miss next month's column. My apologies, but a baby changes everything. My daughter and her husband, of 17 years, were just blessed with an adoption and Judy and I hope to spend quality time with them over the next month. Except for August, I am available to speak or visit to your club and am accepting invites for September, October, November and December. Contact me and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Until next time, "Get out of meeting mode."

73,

E. Michael McCardel, KC8YLD
ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator – Ohio
kc8yld@arrl.net

Treasurer's Report

Aug 1, 2013
for June 30 to July 31, 2013

<u>Balance on 6-30-13:</u>	\$ 2747.34
<u>Income:</u>	
Dues:	\$ 18.00
50-50:	\$ 11.00
Interest:	\$.98
Camera donation & sale	\$ 50.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Postage stamps	\$ 46.00
<u>Balance on 7-31-13:</u>	\$ 2781.32
<u>Designated Funds:</u>	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	\$ 536.39
Field Day Fund:	\$ 61.00
Communication Vehicle Fund:	\$ 471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF

Taking a Dose of My Own Medicine



By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last week, I wrote a blog post on preventive maintenance for one of my writing clients

Afterwards, I decided to take a dose of my own medicine and do a little preventive maintenance around the shack. I started with the Astron RS-35M, which provides the DC power that runs HF transceiver and my VHF/UHF transceiver in my shack. I had started noticing a few little things, such as the voltage adjustment being a little fussy, that I wanted to correct before the supply failed on me.

After removing the cover, I vacuumed all the dust out of the supply. The RS-35M wasn't very dirty, but even so, getting the dirt out of a piece of equipment is probably the first thing you'll want to do when performing preventive maintenance. Dirt impedes air flow. That can lead to higher operating temperatures, and as the lab manager that I interviewed for my blog post said, "Heat kills."

Not only should you vacuum any dust out of a cabinet, you should also clean the fan filters, if your gear has them. Dusty filters prevent air from flowing smoothly through equipment, and that means the fans don't cool as well as they should.

Once that was done, I did a visual inspection. One thing that you want to look for are components that look like they're getting too hot. Another thing to look for is evidence of arcing. Whatever is causing the overheating or arcing will eventually cause a unit to fail. Fortunately, I found neither.

Next, I checked to see that the components mounted to the enclosure were securely screwed down. In the RS-35M, the transformer, the bridge rectifier, and an electrolytic are mounted to the enclosure. Oddly enough, the bridge rectifier was quite loose, so I

tightened it down. Also loose were the output terminals. I tightened these down as well.

Finally, I squirted a little cleaner and lube into the voltage adjustment pot and worked it back and forth. That seemed to do the job. That pot now works smoothly and cleanly.

I put the cover back on, reconnected the power cable, and got back to making QSOs. It should be good for another couple of years.

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When he's not keeping the gear in his shack in tip-top shape, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

VHF/UHF World

By Don Russell, W8PEN

This article was originally published in the August, 2007 issue of the Mt. Vernon ARC Newsletter.

Over the next several months, we will be talking about VHF and UHF propagation. Ordinarily, 6 meters would be tackled first. However, we have in past issues had several articles concerning 6 and 10 meter propagation. Therefore, I would like to start with 2 meters and work upwards.

In past issues of this newsletter, we have learned that E-skip is very common on 6 and 10 meters. This is where conditions are right for signals to bounce off the E-Layer of the atmosphere, generally creating skip zones out to 1,000 miles or so. You can also have double hop E-skip, where the signals bounce back from the E-Layer, then hit's the earth and bounces back up to the E-Layer, where it in turn, bounces back to the earth providing several thousand miles of communications range.

One would summarize that 2 meters would be affected by the same type of propagation. In fact, while E-skip does occur on 2 meters, it is fairly rare and not long lasting.

One of the main propagation modes on 2 meters is called "Atmospheric Tunnel Ducting". Ordinarily, the higher one goes in the atmosphere, the colder the temperature. As you go higher, the air is cooler. However, when there is a stable high pressure system, there is a possibility that a mass of warm air may overrun the cooler air, placing the warm air above the cooler air. This is called a Temperature Inversion. Radio waves trapped beneath this warm air inversion can travel huge distances with little attenuation. The signals are caught in a duct, bouncing between the upper warm air, through the lower cooler air, until it once more encounters lower

warm air, where it bounces back up.

Atmospheric Ducting is most common over water, where signals can travel as much as 2,200 miles or so. Ducting also occurs over land but is limited to usually under 1,000 miles.

So next time you here signals from outside the state on 2 meters, you are most likely observing the propagation mode of tunnel ducting.

For more information on this propagation mode, visit:

<http://www.ham-shack.com/propagation.html>

Another mode of propagation common on 2 meters is called Aurora Propagation. Commonly known as "Northern Lights". I have seen Aurora from my house, but you do not have to see it to use it. Just point your antennas up North. It is very strange to point your beam antennas North and work stations as far South as Florida and into Texas, but it does happen. I believe most Aurora communications is done on CW (Morse Code). However, using SSB is possible. AM or FM is not very likely because of the huge amount of distortion that goes with using Aurora propagation. Visit this site for more information:

http://www.telusplanet.net/public/va6dx/aurora_page.HTML

Meteor Scatter is another interesting propagation mode used on the VHF band. It is possible to reflect signals off the tail of meteorites. The signals last from less than a second to several seconds. You can use this mode on 6 and 10 meters too, but I believe it is most popular on 2 meters.

Reflecting signals off of meteorites usually takes 50 to 100 watts of power and a fairly large beam antenna pointed in the right direction. Pointing the beam up a bit does not hurt your chances either.

In the old days, Morse Code or SSB was used for this communications mode. Indeed, this method is still used today. However, the computer digital modes have become very popular when bouncing signals off meteorites. The computer can decode signals the human ear may not even hear.

Like most digital programs, these programs use the computer sound card to send and receive (decode) the signals. If you can run psk31, then you are all set to bounce signals off of meteors.

For more information on this mode, and find out where to download the proper programs, visit this site:

<http://www.gsl.net/w8wn/hscw/hscw.html>

This site explains it in detail. Way beyond the scope of this short article.

The last propagation mode I would like to suggest is Moon Bounce. More commonly called EME (for Earth-

Moon-Earth). Yes, you can send signals all the way to the moon and they will reflect back to Earth. Most of the better stations can hear their own echo.

Like meteor scatter work, EME has been popularized by the digital programs available for this mode. Again, way beyond the scope of this article.

You can do EME the old fashioned way with CW and SSB, big antennas, and loads of power. The digital modes are letting the stations with a 100 watts or so and a smaller antenna join the fun.

For more information on EME, go here:

<http://web.wt.net/~w5un/>

And here:

http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/ws1_1.html

A word of caution for those interested in meteor scatter and EME. These modes are not great modes for having a long QSO. Most contacts contain the barest of information to make the QSO a legal contact for collecting awards and QSL's. Even at that, some contacts may take half an hour to an hour or more to complete. Most are shorter however.

Columbus Hamfest

The Columbus hamfest was a big success. Club president Jim Jenness, KD8UT and I (Don Russell, W8PEN) both brought stuff to sell. Since we did not arrive at the same time we had to get separate tables but kept in contact anyway. Jim sold everything he had in short order. I sold most of the stuff I wanted to sell, gave a few pieces away and had a great time. My brother Chuck, AC8R kept me company during the slow times.

The only piece I did not sell was the TS-520. Lots of lookers but no takers. I really wanted to sell this item. It is still available. I have made several contacts with it and know it works great. If any club member is interested in a fine piece of history, or knows someone who is, please contact me at 740-397-0249 or wa8yrs@arrl.net. Guess in the meantime I will put it on the internet.

Back to the hamfest. I saw lots of club members there and they stopped by often to chat or have me save their purchased parts for them so they could go find more bargains. It was a lot of fun.

Most of the hamfest was held inside due to the rain. As Chuck and I left though, we did see a few tables set up outside. The Columbus hamfest is a bit smaller than the Mansfield Hamfest, all being in one building compared to the three buildings Mansfield uses. But this year was pretty good with lots of hams in the buying mode.

NORTHERN OHIO WIDE AREA UHF REPEATER LINKS

MT. VERNON, OHIO	442.100/+ 71.9
APPLE VALLEY, OHIO	FUTURE
MARENGO, OHIO	FUTURE
MANSFIELD, OHIO	443.075/+ 151.4
ELYRIA, OHIO	443.9875/+ 162.2
VERMILLION, OHIO	53.290/52.290 107.2
SANDUSKY, OHIO	146.805/- 110.9
GIBSONBURG, OHIO	443.1875/+ 107.2
POLK, OHIO	443.675/+ 162.2
REPUBLIC, OHIO	147.255/+ 107.2
REPUBLIC, OHIO	443.4375/+ 107.2
BERLIN HEIGHTS, OHIO	442.675/+ 162.2

Please note the frequency/split(+ or - 5 Mhz) and CTCSS in hertz.

CODES FOR ECHOLINK (KD8EVR-R Via W8PEN-L) And K8EEN-R

#00	CONNECT TO RANDOM NODE
#01	CONNECT TO A RANDOM LINK
#03	CONNECT TO RANDOM USER
#08	ECHOLINK STATUS
#09	RECONNECT TO LAST CODE
#*XXX	CONNECT TO NODE XXXX
#	DISCONNECT
#79	K8EEN REPEATER
#80	K4OBX-R HATTERAS ISLAND, NC
#82	KG8FV-R ASHLAND, OH
#84	W8DF-R BATTLE CREEK, MI
#100	KD8EVR ARLIN BRADFORD PC/IPHONE
#102	K7FED-R HENDERSON, NV

For more information on using these codes on the KD8EVR repeater or the K8EEN repeater, please see the February 2013 issue of our Club Newsletter

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 and for those over 65 yrs. of age.

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

Name _____ Call-Sign _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ License Class _____

ARRL Member (Y/N) _____ E-Mail _____

Extra Donation (Optional) _____

Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one? No _____ Yes _____

If yes please enter password _____

Other Comments:

The American Radio Relay League

RADIOGRAM
Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date

To

This Radio Message was received at:

Amateur Station _____ Date _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

REC'D	From	Date	Time	SENT	To	Date	Time

A licensed Amateur Radio Operator, whose address is shown above, handled this message free of charge. As messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating, a "Ham" Operator can accept no compensation. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225, Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is the National Membership Society of licensed radio amateurs and such publisher of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Operators. To that end, The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

The American Radio Relay League

RADIOGRAM
Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date

To

This Radio Message was received at:

Amateur Station _____ Date _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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