Ham Radio Rocks!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

December, 2009 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
Wednesday Night Social Net at 9:00 P.M. on the KD8EVR Repeater

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Club Christmas Dinner To be Sunday, December 13th

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Clubs Christmas Dinner is set for Sunday, December 13, 2009 at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Dinner is open to all club members, family, and friends, as well as those interested in Amateur Radio. Reservations have been made and one should tell the hostess that you are with the radio club. Orders will be taken from the menu and all persons are responsible for payment of their own meal.

Election results and a short meeting will follow the dinner. Ballots will be available at the dinner for those who have not already voted.

MVARC Club Christmas Dinner and December Meeting will be Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. See details in this issue of the Newsletter.

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 Saturday December 12, 2009 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio******

Election of 2010 Officers

Current Officers for the current year 2009 are as follows:

President:	**Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR**
Vice President:	**Tony Spiegel, KC8UR**
Secretary:	**Jeff Butz, N8SMT (3rd term)**
Treasurer:	**Barry Butz, N8PPF (3rd term)**

Current Board of Directors are:

Dick Huggins, N8RDH (term expires end of 2009)
Larry Heltzer, AA8WP (term expires end of 2009)
Don Russell, W8PEN (term expires end of 2010)
Mike McCardel, KC8YLD (as outgoing president. Expires the end of 2009)

Those running for Leadership Roles in the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club for the year 2009 are as follows:

President:	**Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR**
Vice President:	**Tony Speigel, KC8UR**
Secretary:	**Jeff Butz, N8SMT**
Treasurer:	**Barry Butz, N8PPF**

Board of Directors:

Don Bunner	**KB8QPO**
Dick Huggins	**N8RDH**
Mike McCardel	**KC8YLD**
Austin Godber	**KD7NMS**
Tom Evans	**KD8HSA**
Steve Barr	**KB8GRM**
Ruben Clark	**KB2SAI**

Please see ballot at the end of the Newsletter and vote your choice.

Treasurer's Report

Dec 2, 2009

for Nov 1 to Nov 30, 2009

Balance on 11-1-09:		$ 2511.54
Income:		
Interest:	$	
Dues:	$	82.00
Donations:	$	48.00
Field day donation:	$	
50-50 Repeater Fund:	$	25.00
Expenses:		
none		
Balance on 11-30-09:		$ 2666.54

Designated Funds:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	$ 340.94
Field Day Fund:	$ 64.92
Communication Vehicle Fund:	$ 540.18

Barry Butz N8PPF

Weavers Words

By Jim Weaver, K8JE

Editors Note: This is an excerpt from "Weavers Words", November 28, 2009. Weavers Words is a monthly Newsletter of ARRL Great Lakes Division happenings.

+++ Operating Courtesy +++

Our ability to drive on streets and highways in reasonable safety depends on orderly driving practices by our fellow drivers and us. Our ability to conduct day-to-day business depends largely on basic honesty between other people and us. So too, our ability to operate and enjoy Amateur Radio depends on mutual courtesy between our fellow amateurs and us.

To exist in harmony with each other, we need to respect the needs and rights of each other. When it comes to this, all that is needed is to observe the Golden Rule -- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

It is unfortunate that too many hams overlook the Golden Rule. Instead they fail to observe good operating practices and FCC regulations when operating. This occurs most noticeably, but not totally, during contests and DX pileups.

I refer to the bad operating that occurs when in their eagerness to compete, contesters or DXers thoughtlessly transmit on top of ongoing QSOs. Equally bad is when a member of a scheduled net or QSO acts as though the frequency belongs to them and barges into another QSO, contest or DX pileup to claim the frequency by brute force. Either situation represents poor operating practice -- and maybe a flagrant rules violation.

There are gray areas associated with QRM. These gray areas often occur as propagation shifts. As this shift occurs, distant, previously-unheard stations may come into range . . . right on top of an ongoing QSO or net.

When propagation shift results in QRM, which station is at fault? Neither, probably. The situation is an act of the propagation gods. Yet, much of the time we hear one or both stations complain ad nauseum about the discourteous behavior of the other guy who suddenly started to QRM. Never mind that the other guy may have been on frequency for at least as long as the other operator.

A mature operating attitude is all that is needed to resolve coincidental QRM such as this. Someone probably should QSY.

If you are a net control or net manager, the message is that the net does not own a frequency; any frequency. Most NTS nets of which I am aware understand this and act accordingly.

Members of a few other nets sometimes seem to be uneducated about this fact and often try to capture "their" frequency by stomping all over (technical term) other operators.

Courtesy is a free, readily-available commodity. It should be exercised more frequently and more fully.

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division
5065 Bethany Rd.
Mason, OH 45040
E-mail: k8je@arrl.org, Tel.: 513-459-1661

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Minutes for the November 9, 2009 Meeting.

Secretary Jeff Buttz, N8PPF

Attendees:

1	Austin Godber	KD7NMS
2	Matt Sturgess	
3	Barry Butz	N8PPF
4	Brandon Hunt	KD8LPP
5	Ann Bradford	KD8LFH
6	Mary Ann Bradford	
7	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
8	Dan Crowthers	KB8TEX
9	Josiah Markley	KD8LEZ
10	Steve Barr	KD8GRM
11	Tom Evans	KD8HSA
12	Larry Helzer	AA8WP
13	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
14	Jim Jennessee	KD8UT
15	Bart Hains	KD8LDT
16	Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
17	Don Russell	W8PEN
18	Don Bunner	KB8QPO
19	Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
20	Jeff Butz N8SMT	

President Bradford formally called the business meeting to order at 7:13 P.M.

Treasurers Report
We received a Grant of $3000.00 which went into our Emergency Trailer Fund. We have spent $2459.82 on Equipment for the Trailer.

Spent $44.00 for the P.O. Box

Emergency Trailer Fund Balance is	$540.18
Repeater Fund Balance is	$315.94
Field Day Fund Balance is	$64.92
Total Balance of	$2511.54

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI
Ruben Mentioned the SET report that Arlin will give later during the meeting. He said he has been getting the Net Reports from the Net Control people and that has been very good. We will be having Skywarn training in the spring.

Technician Class/Exam: Don Russell, W8PEN
Classes will begin January 14th from 7 to 9 P.M. and will end on February 25th with the exam tentatively scheduled for February 27, 2010. Mike McCardel also asked for volunteer session teachers and anyone who would like to put on a hands on demonstration. Mike also encouraged the members to become a Volunteer Examiner. It is an easy thing to do through the ARRL website.

Grant Committee Report: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
We received a $3,000 Grant from Licking Rural Electric Roundup. The City of Mt. Vernon has offered us a retired ambulance to use as our emergency communications vehicle. Arlin explained that the City will retain ownership of the vehicle but we will have full control over modification of it. It will be ours to use until such time as we decide we have no further use of it. We will then return it to the City for their disposal. The City Attorney is drafting papers for the transfer that will have a mutual cancellation clause in it. Our costs would be for fuel and maintenance. The ambulance has 65,000 miles on the odometer, and approximately 2000 hours running time on the engine. It has be housed indoors.

There was a general discussion concerning our need to consult with an attorney as it pertains to the ownership contract, maintenance, equipment, markings,

A motion was made by Bart Hains and seconded by Mike McCardel to proceed with the steps necessary for the acquisition of the Emergency Communications Vehicle such as consultation with an attorney to review the contracts with the city. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Nominating Committee: Dan Crowthers, KB8TEX

President:	Arlin Bradford
Vice-President	Tony Spiegel
	Steve Barr
Secretary	Jeff Butz
Treasurer:	Barry Butz
Director:	Don Bunner
	Dick Huggins
	Mike McCardel
	Tom Evans
	Austin Godber

A motion was made by Jeff Butz to this year elect two additional board of directors one of which will this year be

elected to a one year term and to a two year term thereafter. The second new director will be elected to a two year term this year and to a two year term thereafter. The motion was seconded by Barry Butz and passed by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ruben Clark and seconded by Austin Godber. The motion passed by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Is Knox County Ready for Digital?
Part II

This continues our discussion of setting up a digital station. Whether the station is being set up for Emergency Communications or regular digital activity, most aspects will be the same. One thing worth mentioning is that if the station is to be used for Emergency Communications, one needs to worry about power drain. A popular way go digital is with one of the many Sound Card Interfaces readily available for anywhere from $50 to more than $400. These interfaces all have one thing in common: They require a power source. Guess what? That means more drain on the battery!

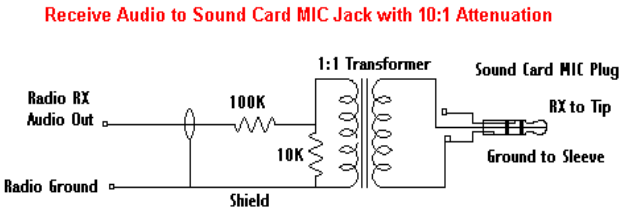
One can set up a digital station much cheaper than $50, especially if a good sized "Junk Box" is available. A basic setup adds very little if any additional drain to a power source.

There are three basic items that need to be addressed when setting up for digital:

1. Feeding Audio from the Receiver into the Line Input or Microphone input of your Desktop or Laptop.
2. Feeding Audio from the Desktop or Laptop Line out or Headphone output into your transmitter.
3. Configuring a Push To Talk Line (PTT) to automatically turn on your transmitter when your digital program is in the transmit mode.

Let us take this one at a time.

A very easy way to feed the audio from the receiver into the computer is to simply to connect the headphone jack of the receiver to the computer line in or microphone jack using the appropriate stereo jacks on each end. This does work but one must be careful not to overdrive the soundcard by increasing the volume control to too high of a level. Another problem is that you can no longer hear the over the air signals. A "Y" cable is available so that you can connect both a headphone and the computer to the same headphone jack on the receiver so it is not a big problem. There is still worry of not having the receiver isolated from the computer and there is a better way. Take a look at this drawing:

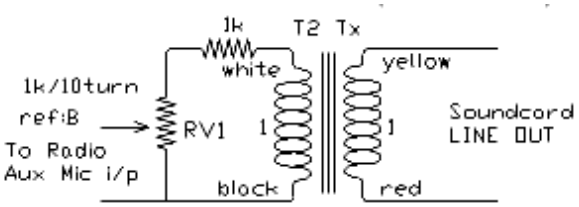


This does two things. One, by way of the 1:1 transformer, it provides isolation between the receiver and computer. Two, it attenuates the audio level coming from the headphones so that the volume can be adjusted to a reasonable listening level and not over drive the soundcards input. This is a pretty simple circuit. All the components can be obtained at the local Radio Shack Store or at any of the many Online Electronic Stores.

If there is a fixed audio out, sometimes called a "line out" on the back of the transceiver, this circuit can be connected there and it will not affect the audio output of the speaker or headphones when using the volume control. This is certainly the best way to run the audio. Using the "line out" on the rig, attenuation may not be needed. Simply remove both resistors. Keep the 1:1 transformer though. It is not absolutely necessary, but a good idea. Check your rigs manual to see if you have a "line out".

Feeding audio to your transmitter is similar to routing the receiving audio. Driving the transmitter at the microphone level does not require much of a source and it is nice to make it adjustable.

Here is a circuit that goes between the computer and transmitter microphone input:

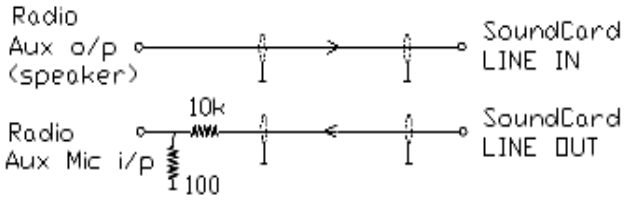


Again, an isolation 1:1 transformer is used to reduce the chance of a ground loop. RV1 is a variable resistor, making it easier to adjust the mic gain. A combination of the Soundcard Volume control, RV!, and the rigs microphone gain control will produce a very clean digital signal. The line coming from the soundcard can be the "line out" or in the case of a laptop, "headphones".

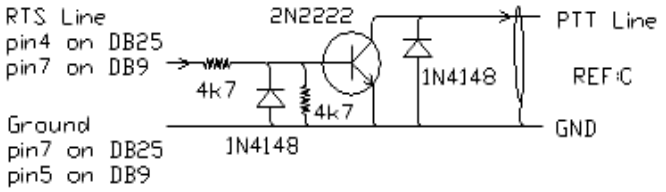
There may be an auxiliary mic input or "line in" on the back of the radio.

As with the previous drawing, the parts are inexpensive and the circuit is very simple to build.

To really keep it simple (the KISS formula: Keep It Simple Stupid) try running the audio lines like this. Because the isolation transformers are removed, this may be subject to ground loops and hum on your signals. I did it this way myself the very first time and had no problems:



Now that the audio routing is taken care of, we need to turn our attention to activating the transmitter when it is our turn to transmit (or to call CQ). There are three ways to accomplish this. The most complicated being yet another circuit, which uses the computers serial port to key the transmitter. Here it is:



This circuit is not all that complicated and all parts can be found as previously mentioned.

A problem with using this circuit is that most modern computers do not have serial ports. They now have USB ports. If a serial port is not available, then a USB to serial port adaptor will need to be purchases. Price of these range anywhere from $15 - $49.

There are a few alternatives that should be researched before building this circuit. One may work for you.

First, if your radio has a VOX (Voice Operated Relay), as most modern radios do, then you should be able to adjust the VOX to provide reliable transmitter operation. This adjustment is sometimes difficult because the VOX was designed for voice, not tones. However, I have had success using the VOX on my rig when running digital. This would be the ideal way to go.

The second alternative would is to use a footswitch or a toggle switch to turn on the transmitter manually just before you begin typing. Not fully automatic as in the two suggestions above and it is not done often. However, you are sitting at the rig anyway, so why not keep it simple and do it manually? I really liked using a footswitch. If one were transferring files, the manual way may not work so well. However, for rag chewing, I see nothing wrong with the footswitch or toggle switch. Just remember the sequence: 1) Flip toggle switch on or push footswitch. 2) Click the software transmit button. 3) Start typing. Reverse this when you are finished transmitting: 1) Stop typing. 2) Click the Software Transmit button again to stop transmitting (or there may be a receive button). 3) Release the footswitch or flip the toggle switch to receive.

There are a few modes that will not work when using the footswitch or toggle switch. One such mode is Packet. Packet is unique in that it is 100 percent error free and sends packets that require an acknowledgement from the other station before sending the next packet. I have done this with VOX, but not manually. Any mode that requires an acknowledgement will not work using the manual method.

So there you have it. My version of a simple digital setup that can serve one during casual operating and emergencies alike.

I wired the first two circuits into the cables and just wrapped electrical tape around the components. Doesn't look too bad and the cables will fit in my pocket, glove compartment, or anywhere out of the way until I need them. Your "Go Pack"?

All drawings were taken from the internet. Unfortunately, I did not keep track of where they came from. These are pretty standard drawings though, so I see no harm using them here.

Next month I plan on continuing this with information on how to use Fldigi on the air. Perhaps some of the other digital programs out there as well.

FROM THE SHACK OF AC8R

Before I begin, to those who may not have already noticed, I am no longer WA8ONN. My new call is AC8R as of November 13, 2009.

By Charles Russell, AC8R
Email: AC8R@mvarc.net

As a newbie to PSK-31, some of you may be interested in my initial experiences at this digital mode.

To put things in perspective, my radio is a borrowed Yeasu FT-847, complements of your editor, W8PEN. The antenna is the Fan Dipole recently discussed in this newsletter. My trusty homebrew 2.2Ghz P4 computer is running Digipan 2.0 software for PSK-31.

During my research on PSK-31 on the internet, I stumbled across an interface circuit for the FT-847 using its Data I/O jack. My eyes not being what they use to be, a trip to Radio Shack for parts wasn't even considered. A more immediate need was a connection from the radio's receive audio to the computer's sound card via the I/O jack.

While investigating the I/O jack, it was found to be nothing more than a stereo jack. However, the receive output was on the ring, with the tip being used for PTT and TX functions. That meant a crossover cable connecting the ring to tip. Having no desire to homebrew a cable, a visit to the junk box uncovered a Y-Adapter that splits stereo into 2 separate channels.

Having adapter and cable in hand, a connection was made from the radio's I/O jack to the computer's sound card line-in jack. This provided a constant audio level to the sound card, thus allowing the speaker volume to be independently adjusted.

Tuning to 14.070 Mhz, an agreed upon calling channel, resulted in hearing several PSK-31 stations. Using the Digipan 2.0 software, the audio drive to the waterfall spectrum display was adjusted via the sound card's recording controls. Positioning the cursor atop a PSK signal found in the waterfall

resulted in readable text being displayed in the receive window. Low and behold, I was decoding PSK-31. That was easy, and cheap!

Now comes the matter of transmitting PSK-31. Checking the Universal Radio online equipment list, a used West Mountain Radio RIGBlaster Plus was available for ½ the price of a new one. Making the trip to Universal, I found the product to be in good condition. Purchasing the product, off I went with interface in hand.

Arriving back home, I immediately configured the internal jumpers in the RIGBlaster and connected it to the FT-847 and the computer's sound card. After making the appropriate transmit audio adjustments, I was on the air with PSK-31. Since then, I have worked several PSK-31 DX Stations in Europe on 20 meters using only 30 watts.

Wanting to try PSK on 40 meters, I switched bands and checked my TX levels. That's when the problem started. I was sporadically over modulating the transmitter as well as hearing crackling noise and some hum via the monitor. I was getting some kind of RF feedback into the transmitter's audio circuit. Checking the mic connections, the one to the RIGBlaster was not fully seated. At first, that seemed to solve the problem, but still didn't sound quite right on the monitor. The problem eventually came back as bad as before.

I really didn't like sending the PSK audio through the mic input of the radio. It meant that any change in the mic gain affected PSK-31 levels. So I bit the bullet and homebrewed a cable from the RIGBlaster to the radio's I/O jack hoping this would fix my RF feedback problem. With my eyeballs, it took a 6x magnifier and some very good lighting to see what I was doing to accomplish this simple task. 1/8 w resistors are really small. Thank goodness there was only one.

Making a connection with the new cable, I tuned up on 20 meters. Audio level setup went very smooth. Changing bands to 40, the audio level looked good and sounded better, but I still could here some hum. Then I physically moved the radio, and my problem was back again on 40, yet 20 was just fine.

From Radio Shack, I purchased a package of Snap Choke Cores (p/n 273-0067 Qty 2). Snapping one onto the sound card's line-out cable at the point where it entered the RIGBlaster seems to have solved the problem. Even sounds better on the monitor. So far so good!

Just had a PSK-31QSO with AE5JD in Texas on 40 meters while writing this. Everything sounded good on the monitor until later in the transmission when I started hearing that hum again. So, I may need to add more chokes. Anyhow, it is still an improvement.

There is more to tell regarding my initial experiences with PSK-31. So look for Part 2 of this article in the next newsletter. In the meantime, I need to do a bit more testing with 40 meters. Perhaps a ground loop is causing the problem.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding this article, feel free to email me.

Until then, Happy Holidays and 73 from AC8R.

Improving Computer Performance

By Don Russell, W8PEN

This subject may be off the beaten path of Ham Radio Topics, however, the popularity of home computers in the Radio Shack cannot be denied. This article may also be better written by resident computer professionals Ruben Clark, KB2SAI, or Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, or others in our club.

I have been dealing with the "slow computer" syndrome for a few months now. Actually, I never thought this laptop (which is about six years old now) was ever as fast as it should have been. But lately it has been even slower than usual. Indications were slow loading of programs, Slow file searching when looking at folders using "My Computer" or "Windows Explorer". Slow loading of Web pages, etc. I routinely download programs, try them out, and uninstall them, so I am sure this is part of the problem. Got to stop doing that! Right!

Being on the cheap side, I never tried any of the many commercial utility cleaners and computer tune up software titles that are available. My problem with them is even after the initial cost, if you want the software to remain current, one needs to subscribe to the software's update site, which is usually an annual fee. If the software did not work, then you were out at least the purchase price. Not going to happen.

So, I have been trying the freebies for some time. Usually the "Free Home Editions" of commercial products. These free home editions usually have free updating to keep the software current to the needs. I like that idea. Okay, you don't get all the bells and whistles, but you usually get a decent product which may or may not solve your problem. If it doesn't help some, it is likely that the paid version will be of little value to you.

For about a year I have been running one such program that I thought was keeping my Computer reasonably clean. "Advanced System Care" http://www.iobit.com/. This program has several features such as a Registry cleaner, Spyware Removal, Privacy Sweep, and many more features. You will just have to visit the web site to check it out. I have never had a computer issue that I could trace back to this software, so I feel pretty secure with this software. Problem was, as an advertising ploy, there were times that after a scan, the program would report that there where 300 plus errors still on my computer and if I wished to fix them and speed up my computer even more, I would have to buy their professional version. I was satisfied with the Home Edition, so I did not bite.

Word of caution: Before running any programs that delete registry entries, or claim to fix any other problem, create a system restore point to protect yourself. That way, you can always go back to an earlier time should your computer start

acting weird. You should actually create a system restore point anytime you install new software. It may save you headaches later. Also, be sure to save your personal data as well.

The first thing I did to try and solve my slow computer syndrome was to add computer memory. Seems like a logical first step. I maxed out my computer and it only cost $27.00 from the "Best Buy Dot Com". That included shipping.

This worked rather well. I could tell a difference, but was expecting more. So I started checking different tune up products and just happened to run into "PC Worlds top 10 Utilities of 2008". Sorry, I forgot to save the Web Page, so I can not give it to you here. I have tried to find it again without success. There were two interesting cleaners that looked decent. "CCleaner" is one of them. http://www.ccleaner.com\ and Glary Utilities http://www.glaryutilities.com/ . The extra C in "CCleaner" stands for "Crap". Before downloading either of these programs, I searched for reviews of these products and the reviews were very positive from PC World and PC Magazine to mention the best known sites. So I decided to try them.

First I downloaded "CCleaner" and installed it on my computer. This program has a cleaner that checks for temporary internet files, cookies, and etc. It will let you pick what you wish to check for. The program also has a Registry Cleaner that searches for issues in the computers registry. Again, it lets you decide what you want searched. It also has a "Tools" section. One will just have to go to their web site and check it out.

I hit the "Scan for Issues" button for the Registry Cleaner and this program did report a few errors in my registry. Not as many as I thought it might detect. Was "Advanced System Care" doing that good of a job? I noticed no improvement in computer performance. It did not hurt my computer, but it didn't seem to help either.

Next I installed the "Glary Utilities" program. Much the same options as in "Advanced Windows Care" and "CCleaner". I hit the "Scan for Issues" button and got an indication of 351 issues in the registry and prompted me to have these issues fixed automatically. Not so fast! First I looked at some of the issues to see what they were. Indeed, many issues dealt with programs that have been uninstalled long ago (I try a lot of programs out). Next, I backed out of the program and created an extra system restore point just to be sure. I had already created one before installing the program. Ran the scan again and came up with the same 351 issues. So I hit the "Repair Problems" button. A few seconds later, all my problems were fixed, right? Not there yet. I did another scan and the program picked up 15 more Registry errors. Okay, hit the repair button again. Ran the scan one more time and VOLA! No more issues.

The difference in my computer is astounding! I double click "My Computer" and immediately have access to my files. No waiting! Programs load much faster. Surfing the web is much faster. I was amazed. So far, so good. Everything is running as normal, just a whole lot faster. For now, "Glary Utilities" is my program of choice for cleaning my computer. Not that I am doing away with the others. I understand it is best to use several different programs to check for computer issues. What one program may miss, another may find.

Field Day Review

2009 Field Day Results

Call: K8EEN Score: 4,122 Category : 3A
QSO's: 1,126 Pwr Mult: 2 GOTA : KC8YLD
Section Participants: 25 Club: mvarc

How we fared against past results:
It was our third highest point total behind 2008 when we scored 4,226 points and 1988 when we scored 4,224 points. It was our second highest QSO total behind our 2008 total of 1,223 contacts and well ahead of 2004 when we made 1,051 contacts. During the 27 years for which we can verify records, we have averaged 528 QSO's and 2066 Points with an average of 15 participants. The median results, i.e. ½ of our results are better and ½ are worse, is 405 QSO's, 1802 Points, and 13 Participants. Over the past six years we have averaged 937 QSO's, 3422 points with 20 participants. 1996 was our best attended Field Day with 35 participants. We worked all 50 states in this year's Field Day!

How we fared against others participating in Field Day 2009::
Scoring 364 out of 2613 Participants in US and Canada All Classes 61 out of 306 Participants in US and Canada Class 3A (37th of 130 Class 4A) 38 out of 248 Participants in the Great Lakes Region all classes 6 out of 34 Participants in Great Lakes Region Class 3A (7 of 18 if 4A) 24 out of 126 Participants in Ohio Section all Classes 4 out of 15 Participants in Ohio Section Class 3A (5 of 9 if 4A)

QSO's:
326 out of 2613 Participants in US and Canada All Classes 57 out of 306 Participants in US and Canada Class 3A 39th of 130 Class 4A) 37 out of 248 Participants in the Great Lakes Region all classes 7 out of 34 Participants in Great Lakes Region Class 3A (7 of 18 if 4A) 22 out of 126 Participants in Ohio Section all Classes5 out of 15 Participants in Ohio Section Class 3A (6 of 9 if 4A)

We received Extra points for 100% Emergency power, Media Publicity, Set-up in Public Place, NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC, W1AW Field Day Message, Site Visited by invited officials, Youth Participation (# 1)

Is GOTA Worth it?:
Not at any of the locations we have used in the past years. I spent most of my day Saturday just sitting and listening because there wasn't anyone around wanted to GOTA. On Sunday we used my rig to make QSOs when one of the other transceivers were'nt operating. Sure there is potential there but it takes more effort than the return of investment. IF we were to set up where we can get numerous people lined up to Get-On-The-Air then it might be worth it.

What can we do better:
We can get the extra points we missed last year.

What we didn't get points for:
- Information Booth - We missed a give-me 100 points!
- Formal NTS messages handled - We could send challenge messages to other clubs in the area.
- Satellite QSO completed - Lets try! We learn its fun!
- Natural Power QSO's Completed - Where's the solar

panels?

- GOTA maximum QSO's achieved - I really don't think its worth the effort - UNLESS we are in a truly public location.
- Non-Traditional mode:
- Educational Credit, i.e. having how to sessions during the weekend.

Hmmm, how about sessions on how to make a satellite QSO's? Non-Traditional Mode Contact (SSTV, ATV)? Running on Solar? PSK31? How to format and send Formal NTS messages? See where I'm going here?

Club membership is up lets work at getting as many as possible participating and making sure our radios are working all weekend.

Have field day in a truly public location, i.e. Wall Mart, Kroger, Lowes, K-Mart. Value of being in a truly public location. Exposure, if we want to expose people to Ham Radio we want to be seen. If we want to be seen we need to be where we can't be missed. The general public won't come to us unless they all ready have a desire or a reason. Also, we are more likely to have invited guests show up in town than somewhere else. More excitement means more fun.

Are we in the best class for us? Should we think of going to 4 transceivers to get more people involved? Or could we really challenge ourselves by going QRP? Can we operate the whole weekend on non-traditional power?

Most of all lets have more fun!!!!

E. Michael McCardel, KC8YLD

Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

President:	**Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR**	**kd8evr@mvarc.net**	**Phone: 740-427-2440**
Vice President:	**Tony Spiegel, KC8UR**	**tony516@embarqmail.com**	**Phone: 740-392-7586**
Secretary:	**Jeff Butz, N8SMT**	**Jaylynn@copper.net**	**Phone: 740-965-9368**
Treasurer	**Barry Butz, N8PPF**	**n8ppf@mvarc.net**	**Phone: 740-397-7540**

Newsletter Credits
Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN

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/. **Other News** from: http://ky4ky.com/fyi.htm.

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 or Don Russell, W8PEN, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

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_____

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:

MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BALLOT FOR 2010 CLUB OFFICERS

Officers are running unopposed so checkmark your approval or write in your alternate choice.

PRESIDENT

_____ARLIN BRADFORD, KD8EVR **WRITE IN:_____**

VICE PRESIDENT

_____ TONY SPIEGEL, KC8UR **WRITE IN:_____**

SECRETARY

_____ JEFF BUTZ N8SMT **WRITE IN:_____**

TREASURER

_____ BARRY BUTZ N8PPF **WRITE IN:_____**

DIRECTOR

Please Vote for Four (4) or write in you choice.

_____ Don Bunner, KB8QPO **WRITE IN:_____**

_____ Dick Huggins, N8RDH **WRITE IN:_____**

_____ Mike McCardel, KC8YLD **WRITE IN:_____**

_____ Austin Godber, KD7NMS **WRITE IN:_____**

_____ Tom Evans, KD8HSA

_____ Steve Barr, KD8GRM

_____ Ruben Clark, KB2SAI

Note: Ballots may be presented in person or by proxy Sunday Dec 13, 2009 during the Club meeting to be held at *Allison's Finer Diner* at 6:00 pm, or be delivered to the following by December 12, 2009:

Dan Crowthers, KB8TEX, 80 Appleseed Ct., Howard, Ohio 43028