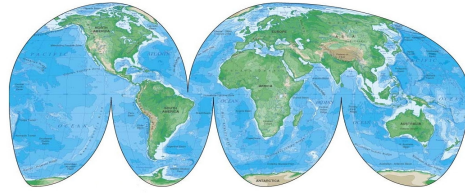


# MOUNT VERNON

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## AMATEUR RADIO CLUB February 2005

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE BIG BROTHERS OUTER LIMITS 7:00 PM  
REPEATER FREQUENCIES: 146.790 (-) K8EEN 444.750(+) KC8YED  
SPEED DIAL #S 7770=AAA (Howard St. Garage) 7771=Sheriff 7773=Police 7776=Highway Patrol  
7778=MV Fire 7779=Report Repeater Problem # to shut off Auto Patch

## Letter from the Editor

Pizza, Pizza!.... This month's letter from the editor has everything to do with pizza. More precisely pizza night at Pizza Hut. Historically the club held this late Wednesday afternoons during the all-you-can-eat buffet. Over the years attendance dropped off so that now only a handful show up.

Recently the matter of declining attendance came up on the air. The general consensus was a weekly (or at least a monthly) pizza blowout was a great idea for the club and it was decided to try and revive the tradition. So this Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm a bunch of us will be getting together at the Mt. Vernon south side Pizza Hut. Please come join us if you can! Listen to the Mt. Vernon repeater for coordination or any change of plans.

Phil  
N1GTZ

### Attendance

January 10, 2005

### Monthly Meeting

Name

Call

E-mail (if not already on record)

1. Mike M<sup>c</sup>Cardel
2. Emily Bain
3. Dick Huggins
4. Jerry Walker
5. Ruben Clark
6. Don Russell
7. Bob Bruff
8. Leon Bolender
9. Barry Butz
10. Jeff Butz
11. Michael Deane
12. Bob M<sup>c</sup>Bride
13. Dan Crowthers

KC8YLD  
KC8YAE  
WD8QHY  
KB8JAA  
KB2SAI  
WA8YRS  
N8PCE  
KB8YL  
N8PPF  
N8SMT  
KC8JEZ  
N8QPM  
KB8TEX

emike@mccardel.net  
ecbain@yahoo.com  
  
kb2sai@mvarc.net  
wa8yrs@arrl.net  
  
lbolende@knox.net  
  
jaylynn@copper.net  
mjdeane@ecr.net  
bobmcbridesr@earthlink.net

**Minutes****January 10, 2005****Monthly Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm local time.

Treasury Report: 1016.00 repeater fund. 442.00 checking 54.00 Field Day Fund

Old News:

Issue 1: IMO Skywarn training will be held in Elkwood, ID. March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 pm to 4:00 pm local time.

Issue 2: Skywarn training will be held here during the monthly meeting April 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm local time.

Issue 3: We did get assigned a family for Christmas dinner. They were very happy!

Issue 4: Additional pictures for ARES/RACES will be taken tonight.

Issue 5: Contract on the Big Brothers-Big Sisters building dropped Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Currently the building is in limbo since the county humane society has not come through with any payment.

New News:

Issue 1: Our 2-meter repeater has an intermittent problem likely in the feedline or antenna. It causes desense in windy/rainy conditions. Since it's a minor problem there are no plans to fix it until warmer weather arrives. (also see Don's repeater article below. ed.)

Issue 2: Coordination of 440 repeater is a go.

Issue 3: Plans for a Fox Hunt were discussed and met with general acceptance. It's tentatively scheduled for May.

Issue 4: The Mansfield Hamfest is February 13<sup>th</sup>. (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month) Many from our club are planning to attend.

Meeting adjourned 7:56 pm local time.

**REPEATERS AND STUFF****BY DON RUSSELL, WA8YRS**

Welcome back..... Nothing new to report on the repeaters. Both the 2-meter and the 440 Mhz. repeaters are doing fine. As mentioned at the January meeting, perhaps a bit of reduced coverage on the 2-meter repeater. I think we have a bad RF connection, or perhaps a leaky coax cable that is giving us problems once in a while. The problem does not appear to be too bad, nor is it getting worse. We will wait until spring and check it out in the warmer weather. As a rule of thumb, if Phil (N1GTZ) is getting into the repeater solid, then things are fine. This is generally the case. If Phil has a lot of noise on him, then I would say the problem is there. It comes and goes. We will find the problem and fix it as soon as the weather warms up some. The repeater itself continues to perform perfectly. If my memory serves me right (more in doubt every year), we are nearing our third complete year with this repeater. There has been no downtime to speak of except when the controller went wild. Again, that was not the repeaters fault, and Barry and I had things back up and running early that evening.

The UHF repeater has been very reliable and has been operational for over a year now. The coverage is still not what we would like, but eventually something will come up that will improve the situation. In the mean time, what the repeater needs is a bit more activity. Therefore I have decided to make Wednesday night local 440 repeater night. On Wednesdays starting at 8:00 P.M., I will give a few calls out. It won't be a net exactly, but an opportunity for local hams with 440 capability to do a little bit of rag chewing. If you are in town, just an HT should work just fine. If you are out of town, you may need a little extra help with a small groundplane or beam. Simple beams are easy and cheap to build. Join the fun if you are able.

On January 31, Barry (N8PPF) and I did a Ham Radio Demonstration to a Cub Scout troop. There were about 10 boys ages 9 through 11, plus several adults present. The evening started off with me giving a little information about what ham radio was all about. I did not get too detailed because I knew the boys were excited about "playing radio". After my little talk, Barry explained a bit about repeaters. What they were used for and what they did. Then he proceeded to make a few contacts on his HT. This included QSO's with N1GTZ, KC8YED, and W8PMJ on our repeater, and N8SMT (Barry's brother Jeff), on the Columbus 146.76 repeater. This was followed by a demonstration of the autopatch. Barry called his XYL Connie via the autopatch. Very impressive, I thought.

After this, we turned our attention to the short waves. Barry and I had put an antenna up in the trees a few days before this event. I was able to talk to Texas and Louisiana. That was great! Band conditions were not the best and several of the boys tried to talk to the stations, but not being experienced, that part of it did not go to well. 20 meters was dead due to the Sunspot cycle (bottoming out) and the dark hours. The only band available was 40 meters and the broadcast stations were loud and clear. We will have to try 75 meters next time. That would have been better, but the antenna did not cover that band. I was very happy to be able to make a few contacts though.

After this, I gave each scout a chance to send his name in Morse code. This proved to be very popular. Everyone stood in line to take their turn. I would write out the name in Morse code (dots and dashes), then they would send it on the code practice oscillator. It worked pretty good, and some of the kids had pretty good fists right from the start. Then we switched to numbers a little bit. It was fun.

I think the kids and adults were very impressed with ham radio, and I have already been approached about having a class for them. We are also talking about setting up a station in October for the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air event sponsored by the ARRL.

While preparing for the above demonstration, it occurred to me that the club as a whole should be promoting ham radio in this way all the time. We should get maybe three groups of two hams each that are willing to put on demonstrations or present a program on Ham Radio. A little public service add in the Newspaper or the Radio may bring us all the business we would want. Various Clubs are always looking for interesting programs to follow their meetings.

I mentioned that I was going to put on a little program about using your sound card for digital communications via your radio. This was to be for the February meeting. Well, this may still happen. I was so involved in the above demonstration that I have had no time to prepare for this. I will see what I can do. I have created a CD loaded with interesting stuff for all ham radio operators. I was going to give these away at the meeting following my little program, as the CD has lots of software for going digital. It even has a TNC - less packet program on it. You use the sound card of course. It works great. I have used it. Whether or not I give the program, I will still bring these CD's. I will have 15 of them. If more members show up, I will just have to make more and mail them out. Just a sample of stuff on it: pdf files on electronic theory, solving interference issues, repeater guides. Some construction projects, Articles on propagation, traffic nets, and Weak Signal VHF work. Stuff on RF Exposure., and much much more.

That is it for this month. See you at the meeting. 73.

## **Vacuum Tube Daze**

A tongue-in-cheek look at the days when tubes ruled.

By Phillip Buble, N1GTZ

Episode 7: Do it yourself TV



Break out the camcorder uncle Henrys' going around with a lampshade on his head again. D.I.Y. TV, source for more of America's funniest home videos correct? No actually I mean D.I.Y.

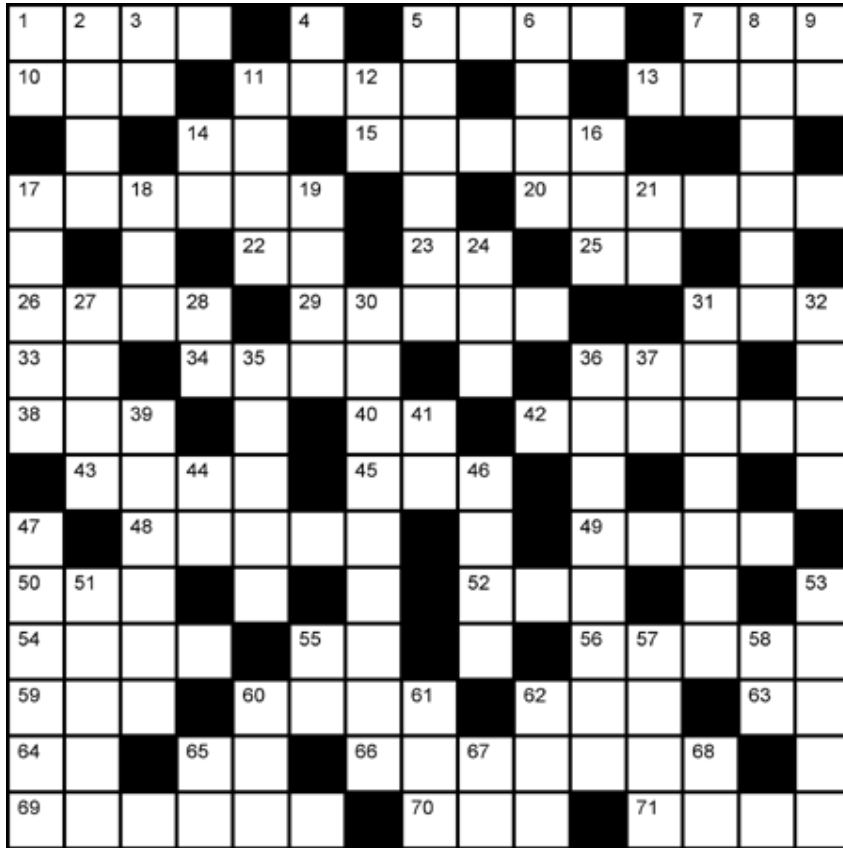
TV as in you build your own TV from a kit, every part of it. Odd as this sounds from at least the late 40's to the mid 80's TV's, both b&w and color, were available in kit form. I know this as a fact as I've seen the reviews of at least one TV kit in a 1948 Popular Science or Popular Mechanics 'zine (I can't remember which) This does not mean that kit TV's weren't available even earlier. Heathkit came along not long after and was the last known producer of kit televisions. They hung on until the mid to late 80's. I purchased a 25" color console from them in 1983, a real beauty. Other kit producers were around to give Heathkit competition early on but they went by the wayside even earlier. So what happened why can't we still do this, why did even Heathkit go under?

Sad to say I believe it had to do with labor costs. How can this be, how can a TV be shipped across the Pacific ocean at lower cost then kitting it here? Unfortunately physically kitting all the pieces of a TV cannot be done by machine, it's labor intensive while assembling and soldering PCB's can be nearly completely automated. Worse yet it can be nearly completely automated in Mexico or China were labor costs are low, and the assembled and tested TV placed in a SINGLE box and shipped out. My kit came by truck in 4 large boxes with the individual PCB's already assembled and soldered, an unexpected surprise.

Even worse was the added cost of producing, double checking and printing the assembly manual. (for which Heathkit was so famous) The manual that came with mine is every bit of 400 pages long, no trivial matter to produce and print it. Remember 400 pages and it did not have to detail the assembly of the PCB's themselves! This is doubly sad when you think about it since a modern color set contains far fewer parts than mine and only about 1/3 the parts count of that kitted 1948 b&w set, large scale integration reducing the parts count to a few IC's and their satellite components, also few in number. Assembling one would be a breeze! With a 20" color set now selling for \$99.95 a TV is now nearly disposable, when it finally breaks throw it out and get another. When no one is left who can build a TV soon there is no one left who can fix one. OK, I'm sorry but this is obscene to me.

The End.

## It's About Time



By H. Ward Silver, N0AX  
January 1, 2005

Across

1. Keeps musical time
5. Happens quickly
7. Required to tango
10. Sleep time
11. Phonetic used for World Time
13. High time
14. Makes a spinning toy with 14 Down
15. A shift of work
17. 86400 of these in a day
20. These keep track of time
22. Designs electrical circuits (abbr.)
23. Request (abbr.)
25. Count (abbr.)
26. An opportunity missed
29. Watchful
31. Southern California section (abbr.)

Down

1. Down (abbr.)
2. Number of occurrences per unit of time
3. Not 1 Down
4. Internet suffix for Down Under
5. What hasn't happened yet
6. Align time sequences
7. Break from work (abbr.)
8. Made contact with
9. Punctual means .. time
11. Region maintaining the same time
12. Least significant (abbr.)
14. Makes a spinning toy with 14 Across
16. Treat gently (abbr.)
17. The day measured by the sun
18. Old abbreviation replaced by Hz

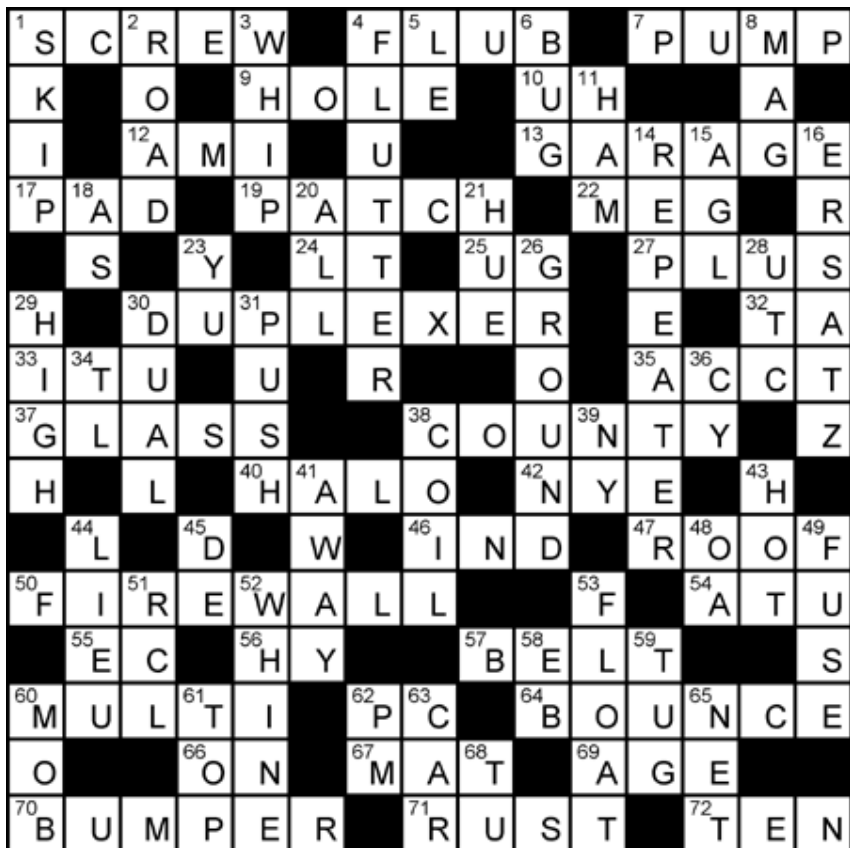
19. No signals on the band

33. Amateur satellite prefix  
 34. Do again  
 36. Processor (abbr.)  
 38. Measure of rotational speed (abbr.)  
 40. Negatory  
 42. "Gaines" (original word was mis-spelled)  
 43. Tart  
 45. Old abbreviation for UTC  
 48. Prefix meaning one-thousandth  
 49. A long story  
 50. The clock struck ... and down they ran  
 52. I think I ...  
 54. Prefix meaning 48 Across cubed  
 55. Thank you (CW abbr.)  
 56. Wait  
 59. Boy King of Egypt  
 60. Water cycle  
 62. Computer sound file  
 63. Runs the show (abbr.)  
 64. 24 of these per day (abbr.)  
 65. Computer thought (abbr.)  
 66. A timer that has run out  
 69. Happens very fast  
 70. Metallic conduit (abbr.)  
 71. Number of zeroes in a billion
21. Long time ham (abbr.)  
 24. Q-signal for 'wait'  
 27. What you say right before the crash  
 28. Switch between xmtr and rcvr  
 30. N-S geographic demarcation  
 31. Measures time with a shadow  
 32. Burst of wind  
 35. Appear in advance of expectations  
 36. Keeps track of the passing days  
 37. Circumference over diameter  
 39. Instant of time  
 41. Husband (CW abbr.)  
 44. User interface (abbr.)  
 46. Sound of keeping time  
 47. One twelfth of a year  
 51. South Pacific island nation  
 53. Period of sunspots  
 55. Country NW of Panama (prefix)
57. Equal time periods  
 58. Morning time (abbr.)  
 60. Finish at the same time  
 61. Program file (abbr.)  
 62. A funny or clever person  
 65. Year in the modern era (abbr.)  
 67. Evening time (abbr.)  
 68. Prefix meaning the same as 7 Across

### **Blast from the Past**



**Solution to last month's puzzle.**



## A Pause For Thought

So I walk on uplands unbounded,  
and know that there is hope  
for that which Thou didst mold out of dust  
to have consort with things eternal

-- The Dead Sea Scrolls



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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 Schedule:

\$20 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family

\$10 for over 65 yrs. of age

\$15 for those living outside Knox County

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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

## **Classifieds**

Only Need to Ask, Inc  
24 South Clayton Street  
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

740-625-6659  
740-625-6649 fax

[onlyneedtoask@core.com](mailto:onlyneedtoask@core.com)

2way radio Sales & Service

# **NEXTEL**®

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Your total communication shop.

Nextel authorized representative

Special right now, Free Phone and Free car charger with every NEW activation of 2years.

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## **Ham stuff for Sale**

Yaesu FT-901-DM All Mode, SSB, AM, FM Transceiver 160 through 10M, use as stand alone fixed, mobile operation or exciter for linear amplifier and

Yaesu SP-901-P Combination matching speaker with built in phone patch.  
\$350.00

Dentron MLA-2500 Full 2KW Linear Amplifier all bands 160 through 10M. Factory installed 10M band came with original purchase just before FCC made it illegal to sell linear amplifiers in the US covering 10 meters.  
\$450.00

Matching Dentron 3000A all band combination antenna matching network and SWR Bridge with Dual Large Face Meters, 160 through 10M. Rated for full 2KW SSB input.  
\$140.00

This equipment is fully operational, cosmetically like new, no modifications and includes all manuals. I am the original owner and purchased this equipment new.

Rhon 50ft Tower with commercial tower climbing safety belt. Good condition.  
\$50.00

Wilson 6 element triband beam (20, 15, 10M) in reasonably fair condition including a complete set of brand new element loading coils.  
\$30.00

Cornell Dublier model H-IV-CD-45 Controller and Heavy Duty Rotor with brake. Reasonably fair condition.  
\$30.00

If all equipment is purchased together I will sell for a reduced price.

Bruce Anderson W1VOT  
112 Academy Ct.  
Gahanna, OH 43230  
Phone: 614-471-3899, Cell 614-208-6487  
Email: Anderson.309@osu.edu