



The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



February, 2011 Newsletter

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



Local Ham Community

K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9 Hz)
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz)



Ham Radio Rocks!

Sunday Night ARES Net at 9:00 P.M. on The K8EEN Repeater
Wednesday Night Social Net at 9:00 P.M. on the KD8EVR Repeater

Mark Bisenius, AC8FV New Vice President

The club welcomes incoming Vice President Mark Bisenius, AC8FV. Mark is the only change in leadership for the club after delayed elections held at the January meeting. As readers will recall, the December meeting and Christmas dinner was canceled due to bad weather. Where have we heard that before?



Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

Mark has a lot of enthusiasm for our club and has already taken over the reigns scheduling monthly programs for our meeting night.

Farewell and thanks go to outgoing Vice President Tony Spiegel, KC8UR. Tony decided not to run for a third term. Tony did a great job as Vice President in 2009 and 2010. He is greatly respected in the ham community and was able to schedule some very nice programs for meeting night. He also did a great job running the meetings the few times President Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, could not make it due to his work schedule.

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, February 14, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. New Vice President Mark Bisenius, AC8FV, has organized a "Go Box" contest. Check out his article in this newsletter. Mark is working on programs for meeting night so we can look forward to something interesting each month.

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, February 12 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Please note that this is the weekend before our club meeting.****

Arlin is in his third term as President. The club has prospered mightily under his reign and I am sure, with the memberships help, he will continue to do so.

Christmas Dinner in March!

The Christmas dinner, which was cancelled in December 2010 due to bad weather has been rescheduled for March. Okay, we won't call it a Christmas dinner!

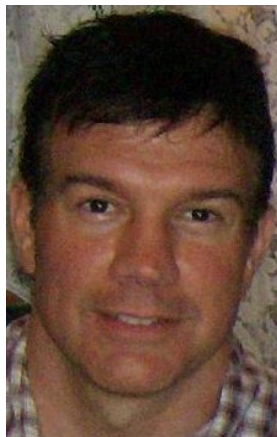
At the January meeting, members decided to have the dinner on the regular club night of Monday, March 14, 2011 at 6:00PM. At Allison's Finer Diner. Note that the time has been moved up by one hour.

Check out next months Newsletter for more details.

2011 MVARC "Go-Box" Contest

By Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

We're going to have some fun after our February 14th meeting, by seeing who brings in the best portable base station "Go-Box." We only have one rule: The winner will be determined by a vote of those present. So your \$500 commercial kit with roll-up solar panels may win. Or it could lose to a creative homebrew entry, or get beat by a portable repeater living in a milk crate.



Besides being fun, if you can bring in a portable base station to demo at our monthly meeting, you're prepared to deploy to one of our served agencies in an emergency. Your ideas may inspire your fellow Club members, and they may give you an idea or two. At the same time, it will give our ARES EC and AEC some idea of our capabilities if we're ever activated.

Why does the ARRL Emergency Communications Level One course say, "the most universal choice for EmComm is a dual-band FM 35-50 watt mobile transceiver"? Why not just use a handheld? Well, a handheld's finals could easily overheat during prolonged message handling, or if used as a Net Control Station. And, extra power may be necessary to get into a distant repeater, or to operate using FM simplex if the repeater goes down or loses power.

So now the fun begins: Can you make it smaller? Lighter? Waterproof? How long can it run? What about 160m-10m? 100 Watts? NVIS? Solar? Will the antenna fit into a tennis ball can? Can it check your WinLink2000 email? Does it

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

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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.

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make coffee?

If other Hams are gathered around your kit, you know you have a winner.

Here's a shot of my entry: A Yeasu 2800M, 65W, 2-meter mobile, with a 1/4-wave mag-mount antenna, powered by a 24Ah lawn-tractor battery, complete with custom wing-nuts, in place of Anderson Powerpoles which are the genderless red-and-black connectors ARES recommends for interconnectability. All of it stuffed into a rainproof plastic toolbox to seal in the hydrogen trying to escape. This got it dubbed the "Hindenburg" Go-Box in the Tech Class. I usually take the radio out, and leave the battery under the desk, because I don't like to operate with any battery in my face, sealed or not, knowing Murphy's Law. 24Ah SLA deep-cycle scooter batteries are around \$70, if you want to get serious.

I expect to be outdone with this average setup, so I'll be voting for whoever has the best entry. Otherwise we could end up with a 15-way tie.

Oh, and we have some prizes for the winner to pick from. A choice of a new 30W soldering pen, or a free breakfast at one of our Club breakfasts at Allison's Finer Diner. Maybe we'll find another choice at the Mansfield Hamfest. All the details are in a flyer here: ac8fv.wordpress.com.

If you're just getting started, or if you're ready to compete at the next level, you can get some ideas from the folks running the Cleveland Hamfest Go-Box Contest here: <http://cms.ohioares10.org/go-box-contest-demonstration/>

Good luck, and I'll see you at the meeting!

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the January 10, 2011 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1. Jeff Butz	N8SMT
2. Tony Spiegel	KC8UR
3. Matt Ware	None
4. Jon Penko	KD8LFI
5. Tom Evans	KD8HSA
6. Scott E. Fields	KD8OAB
7. Ray Ann Bradford	KD8NGW
8. Brandon Hunt	KD8LPP
9. Ann Bradford	KD8LFH
10. Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
11. Steven Dick	KE8YED
12. Michael Deane	W8OIO

13. Larry Helzer	AA8WP
14. John Dial	WN8I
15. Michael McCardel	KC8YLD
16. Don Russell	W8PEN
17. Don Bunner	KB8QPO
18. Barry Butz	N8PPF
19. Jim Jennessee	KD8UT

President Bradford opened the meeting at 7:07P.M.

Treasurers Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF For the Month of December:

Income:	
Interest	\$ 3.48
Dues	\$ 54.00
Expenses:	
Web Site Fee for 5 Years	\$ 62.50
Balance:	\$2655.50

EC Report: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

He is planning on a Skywarn class sometime in March.

Election Comm: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD Election Results as follows:

President:	Arlin Bradford
Vice President:	Mark Bisenius
Secretary	Jeff Butz
Treasurer	Barry Butz
Board of Directors (2)	Don Russell Ruben Clark

Repeater Report: Don Russell, W8PEN

The repeaters are running very good.

The Echolink is up and running on the 440 repeater.

Class Committee, Don Russell, W8PEN

Don has prepared 10 booklets for students. Don has a PowerPoint program and has converted it to PDF form so the students can take it home. Jim Jennessee, KD8UT made a motion give Don Russell \$50.00 to cover his expense for print materials. The motion was seconded by Scott Fields, KD8OAB and was passed by voice vote. The first class will be Thursday January 20th and run for 7 weeks. The test will be on March 5th.

Old Business:

Barry has the card to add two members, to the Credit Union Accounts. He needs Arlin Bradford and Don Russell to sign the card. He also has a card to remove Dick Huggins from the account which he will get Dick to sign at the next Wednesday dinner get together at Wendy's

Arlin received a letter from the City of Mt. Vernon for the use of the Emergency Communications Vehicle for 2011 at no cost to the club.

Arlin signed a lease for the club for the two-meter repeater site on the City of Mt. Vernon Water Tower for the next five years at no cost to the club. Mike McCardel made a motion that we sign the lease. The motion was seconded by Don Russell and was passed by voice vote.

We have received a bill for the use of the man-lift, which we used at Field Day. Don Russell made a motion we pay the bill in the amount of \$232.37. The motion was seconded by Mike

McCardel and passed by voice vote.

New Business:

Don Russell suggested we have a Garage Sale. Arlin Bradford offered his house for the Apple Valley Garage Sale on Memorial Day. Arlin will also have tables at the Mansfield ham fest Feb 12th. Mark Bisenius made a motion to have the Garage Sale at Arlin's House on Memorial Day. The motion was seconded by Don Russell and passed by voice vote. Mark volunteered to chair the Garage Sale Committee.

Mike McCardel made a motion we apply to the ARRL for "Special Service Club" status. After discussion the motion was seconded by Barry Butz and was passed by voice vote.

Jon Penko, KD8LFI, talked about the Boy Scouts' Spring Camporee scheduled at the Muskingum Valley Scout Reservation on April 15-17, 2011. The Camporee will have

several planned disasters. Jon said he will need 14 hams to handle communications and he is asking anyone who would like to help to let him know after the meeting.

There was a discussion about having another dinner to replace the cancelled Christmas Party. A motion was made to have the March 14th meeting at Allison's Diner at 6 P.M.. The motion was seconded by Ann Bradford and was passed by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barry Butz, N8PPF and Seconded by Scott Fields, KD8OAB and was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.
 Jeffrey L. Butz
 Secretary

WHAT A DISASTER!

**SPRING CAMPOREE
 APRIL 15-17, 2011**

Grab your gear!

Muskingum Valley Council is experiencing the biggest collection of disasters it could ever imagine at the *Muskingum Valley Scout Reservation*. The Red Cross, Police, SWAT, Fire, Search and Rescue, EMS, Scuba, and others have been dispatched but . . .

YOU and your PATROL
 . . . are needed to help .

Get your Patrol Event Packet for more Details.

**CONTACT THE COUNCIL OFFICE OR
 BONNIE SNYDER 740-627-6716**

Registration Starts February 1, 2011
 Reserve your Units opportunity online
 before April 1, 2011:

Medical . . .

Storms . . .

Flooding . . .

Accidents . . .

BSA Spring Camporee “It’s a Disaster”

Help promote ham radio to 300 youth ages 11 - 18 + Adults and siblings.

Get Ready. Check your go kits! The greatest disaster to hit Coshocton is coming and we need your help!! Mark your calendars for April 15, 16, and 17th. The Muskingum Valley Boy Scouts of America will hold the spring Camporee and what a disaster it will be!! There will be a flood, a hurricane, a tornado, car accidents, a bus accident, a search and rescue, and even a hostage or two. Now is your chance to be a part of the disaster and promote ham radio to up to 300 youth between the ages of 10 and 18. You may even meet a fellow ham operator from a neighboring county. It has been said that ham radio is dwindling. You can make a difference by introducing a young person to the hobby.

On Friday April 15th the Boy Scouts from 7 counties (Knox, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Nobel, Muskingum and Perry) will descend on the Coshocton Boy Scout camp (M.V.S.R – Muskingum Valley Scout Reservation) for the annual Spring Camporee. This year it will be a disaster like no other. The evening will start when the boys arrive at the camp and see the lit road sign instructing them to tune to 88.5 MHz on their radio. The boys have been instructed to bring an FM radio that can tune to 88.5 MHz. They will get all of their instructions over the air just like a real disaster.

On Saturday April 16th is when the disaster training/competition begins. Fourteen disaster sessions will dominate the day. Each session is designed to expose the boys to some skill or procedure that will better prepare them for life. The goal is not to train the boys to be first responders but to expose them to simulated situations so that when they are faced with them in real life they will have some training as to what to do. I will never forget the first aid meet where my young troop was asked to respond to a simulated gun shot wound to the abdomen complete with simulated pulsing blood. None of the boys knew what to do and the victim died six times that day. About a year and a half later one of the same boys was faced with a situation at home where his father was bleeding. Due to his participation in the simulation the scout knew what to do to slow the bleeding until paramedics arrived. A few hours of simple training could save a life. Are we prepared?

In order to make this event run smoothly we will need 20 ham operators to provide communications for the Saturday camp-wide event. The Zanesville communications trailer will be setting up a 70 centimeter repeater. Ham operators are needed to cover a variety of positions including the command trailer (net control), the 14 field disaster sessions, provide communications for the non-ham event organizers, and to provide a method for each session to make the call for help. The ham operators will need to be stationed at the Red Cross shelter, at the lake boat house to cover the flood and the ice rescue, another will be at the staff building to cover the hostage situation and the S.W.A.T team. With all these disasters it should be an exciting day no matter where you are stationed.

What we need you to do:

1. Mark your calendars and make plans to be in Coshocton on the morning of April 16th from 7:30am to 5:30pm. Staff meeting and instructions are at 8:15am at the dining hall. Lunch will be provided by the Mount Vernon Red Cross.
2. Let us know you are coming. Please e-mail Jon Penko – event communications organizer at jpenko@columbus.rr.com. If you can only be there for part of the day that would be great to provide shifts for the various sessions.
3. Program your radios to the frequencies below.
4. Prepare to introduce a young person to the hobby and tool of ham radio.
5. Get the word out to other ham operators about the event. Pass this information to other hams in neighboring counties.

Information card for HAM operators

Thank you for volunteering your time for the Muskingum Valley BSA Spring Camporee “It’s a Disaster”. Throughout the day there will be various disasters. We ask that you will provide communications from the field to the command center so that resources for the disaster and requirements of the session staff can be met.

Date: Saturday, April 15, 16 - time for Saturday 16th: 7:30am to 5:30pm)
Lunch provided by the Red Cross 12:30-1:55pm

Ham frequency UHF: 146.460 simplex

Ham Frequency VHF: Listen: 442.100 Transmit: 447.100 pl 100

Radio frequency: 88.5 MHz – The boys have been instructed to bring an FM radio to listen to the broadcasts as needed.

Phone numbers: Jon Penko – (740)501-4383

Matt Murphy - 1(740)704-8836

Instructions for ham operators – Whenever there is a disaster to report we will need you to help the boy making the call to the command center using proper protocol. Let the boys do the talking and coach them. This is to be a learning experience and a promotion of ham radio. For some disasters the cell towers have been taken out. We will also need you to be a judge and keep track of the boys scoring. Simply observe how the boys conduct themselves and fill this in on the score card included on the clipboard.

More information is available at <http://muskingumvalleycouncil.org>

A few ham operators will be needed on Friday evening from 4 to 10 pm to assist with parking. Anyone interested in primitive camping Friday to Saturday please let us know you are coming by e-mailing jpenko@columbus.rr.com.

Camp Map:



Directions to BSA Camp:

From Mount Vernon:

- Take Rt 36 (East) until it ends in Coshocton. Roscoe Village will be on the right. (about 32 miles)
- Turn RIGHT on route 16 (South) to the first traffic light (about 1.1 miles)
- Turn LEFT on Rt 83 and cross the bridge over the Muskingum River.
- After the bridge turn RIGHT on CR 271.
- Follow CR 271 over the rail road tracks and up the hill (about 2 miles)
- Turn RIGHT into M.V.S.R. Follow the black cinder road past the lake to the parking lot. There will be a sign for M.V.S.R. on the left.

Treasurer's Report

Feb 1, 2011
for Jan 1 to Jan 31, 2011

Balance on 1-1-11:	\$ 2655.50
<u>Income:</u>	
Dues:	\$ 228.00
Donations:	\$
50-50:	\$ 10.00
Interest:	\$.35
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Printing expenses for radio class:	\$ 50.00
Field Day 2010 lift rental:	\$ 232.37
Balance on 1-31-11:	\$ 2611.48
<u>Designated Funds:</u>	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	\$ 374.94
Field Day Fund:	\$ 38.25
Communication Vehicle Fund:	\$ 540.18

Barry Butz N8PPF

verticals and dipoles. Those that are trying to debunk these claims contend that this is all just hogwash, and that there's no real scientific basis for these claims.

One thing that's confounding this debate is that there have been very few articles published on the topic. For commercial reasons, W1YW has made his articles unavailable. He says that he will be publishing something real soon now, but there is nothing definite at this point.

There is at least one article on the Internet that describes the construction of a fractal antenna for amateur radio use. "FYI:FYQ: Another look at the Fractal Quad Yagi":

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18788401/FYIFQY>

was published in the October 1999 issue of 73 magazine. It describes the construction of a two-element, 10m antenna. Like most 73 articles, it's not incredibly technical, though, and doesn't really contribute to the technical debate, except to demonstrate that physically small antennas can be made using fractal design.

The PDF contains several photos of the antenna. It's a crazy contraption that looks relatively difficult to build. So difficult, in fact, that it makes me wonder if it's even worth it to try building one. After all, 10m antennas are not really all that big or all that difficult to build to begin with.

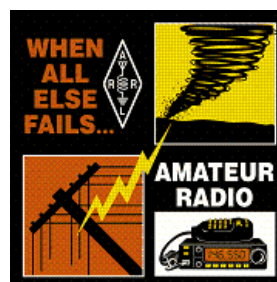
Even more interesting than the antennas are the personalities on both sides of the debate. The QRZ.Com discussion quickly devolved into a flame war, with neither side scoring a knockout.

Personally, I think the brouhaha is much ado about nothing. It seems to me that it's been demonstrated that you can build antennas using fractal design techniques. They are physically smaller than traditional antenna designs, but you really don't get something for nothing. Overall, they don't have as much gain as yagis or quads, and they're more complex to build.

My opinion on this is that if W1YW can build antennas that radiate a signal and can sell those antennas to someone, then more power to him. In the end, his company will live and die by how well, his antennas work and how much they cost when compared to antennas from other companies.

As for me, I think I'll stick with the more traditional HF antennas. If I need to make my antennas smaller, I'll use loading coils or designs such as the Moxon. I may not be on the bleeding edge of technology, but I'll certainly avoid a lot of headache trying to figure out who's right.

When not avoiding flame wars on QRZ.Com, Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands, writes and publishes license exam study guides, and teaches ham radio classes. You can find his ham radio blog at www.kb6nu.com.



Fractal Antennas: Hype or Hope?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



QRZ.Com currently has a very interesting item on fractal antennas:

<http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=277623>

While the idea of applying fractals to the design and construction of antennas has been around for quite some time, very few hams have actually built them, and there are currently no companies building commercial fractal antennas for the ham radio market. The question, of course, is why?

Those that are hyping fractal antennas—most notably W1YW, CEO of Fractal Antenna Systems—claim several advantages. These advantages purportedly include wider bandwidth and smaller size when compared to traditional antennas, such as

Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

After a rough start, our new Ham Class is off and running. The first class was cancelled due to the winter storm that came in on Tuesday and Wednesday of January 18 and 19. First class was Thursday, January 27 and we have had two classes thus far.



There are seven students and they all seem determined to complete the class and get their Technician Class license. We have a great group of instructors intent on helping the students do just that.

The material being used for the class all came from internet sources. This keeps costs down for both the instructors and students. In fact, the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club donated money to print up the books, so the only fee the students will have to come up with is the exam fee of \$15.00.

The main book being used is the No-Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU. Readers have read Dan's work in many of our Newsletters. He graciously writes articles and emails them to many Newsletter Editors. Dan has been a ham for 34 years and mostly operates CW. Dan is the Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Michigan Section.

Dan's Study guide in PDF format can be downloaded free of charge from here:

http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/2010_Tech_Study_Guide.pdf

Dan has also authored two E-Book versions of his study guide. There is both an Amazon Kindle version found at:

http://www.amazon.com/No-Nonsense-Technician-Class-License-ebook/dp/B004G8QVD2/ref=tmm_kin_title_0?ie=UTF8&m=AG56TWVU5XWC2&qid=1295917361&sr=8-1

and a Barnes & Noble Nook version:

<http://productsearch.barnesandnoble.com/search/results.aspx?WRD=kb6nu&page=index&prod=univ&choice=allproducts&query=kb6nu&flag=False&r=1&ugrp=1>

Both Versions are \$9.99, and of course, the PDF version is still free.

Dan also has a General Class study Guide:

<http://kb6nu.com/2007GeneralStudyGuide.pdf>

We are also using a power point presentation by K3DIO. This can be downloaded free of charge from here:

<http://www.k3dio.com/>

I have actually printed out the power point slides so that the students do not need a computer to review the work.

At any rate, we are making progress in the class and hope to have everybody licensed in another five weeks or so.

Just like Christmas and Field Day, once the instructors started this course, they were suggesting ways to make it better. This is our first course since the new Question Pool was put into effect mid 2010.

Several of us are working on a new study guide and power point presentation hoping to blend out what we feel is some weak spots in the K3DIO power point. Not that it is bad, we just feel a few adjustments would be worth while.

The goal is to have a complete home study course developed and perhaps an online course via our clubs web site. The online course would include some videos explaining the various subjects and/or giving demonstrations on how to operate your radio, proper operating procedures and the like.

I believe this to be a huge undertaking and it will take time. I do hope we can have a written home study course completed by spring, a power point presentation by Field Day, and perhaps debut an online course sometime next winter. If all goes well, then we would start on the General Class.

Anyone wishing to be involved in this project, please let me know. There are never too many volunteers!

See you at the meeting.

Boy Scouts of America and ARRL Team Up to Help Scouts Learn Communications Skills

From the ARRL Letter February 3, 2011

After working together for nearly a century to provide Scouts with the ability to learn radio communication skills, Boy Scouts of America and the ARRL have officially teamed up by signing a memorandum of understanding. This MOU designates the ARRL as a key resource for K2BSA and Radio Merit Badge training at the BSA National Scout Jamboree and establishes the ARRL as the go-to source for Scouts interested in learning about and becoming involved in radio communication.



BSA Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, launched the partnership January 31 by holding a unique wireless communications meeting. Mazzuca joined Craigie virtually during an Internet video conference and document-signing ceremony. From separate locations, the pair took the opportunity to talk about the importance of each organization to the ongoing development of the other.

"Throughout the years, going all the way back to the Wireless Merit Badge in 1918, the ARRL has worked hand-in-hand with Boy Scouts of America to help teach Scouts the skills and joys of radio communication," said Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca. "Today, we are making official a relationship that has been beneficial for both of our organizations for nearly a century."