



Ham Radio Rocks!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

January, 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**

A Message from the President:

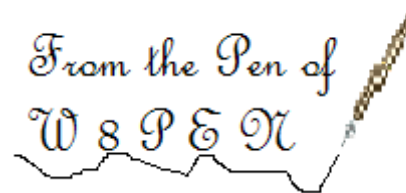
Hello fellow HAMS. I thank you for your vote and support for this upcoming year. Being a HAM since December 2006, I have been very busy promoting amateur radio. Having worked in commercial communications since 1994, I bring a lot of technical knowledge and resources to the club. With my current position at Vasu Communications, I maintain 95% of all public safety and public service communications within Knox County. Having these professional contacts will allow the club to grow our relationship with all agencies. Thus, promoting amateur radio within our community.

I would like to personally thank outgoing President Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, for all of his leadership and guidance that he has provided, not only to me, but the whole ham community. I look forward to his continued support this upcoming year.

My goal for 2009, is to promote amateur radio to the citizens of Knox and surrounding counties. See an increase in new hams. Continue the monthly activities that were put in place in previous years, and help the Knox County ARES grow in membership and activities.

I am looking for any and all hams that are willing to help me reach these goals. If you are interested, please contact myself or the new club Vice-President Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, with any questions, comments or concerns. My email address is KD8EVR@mvarc.net or my cell is (740) 627-0922. 73's and God Bless. Look forward to seeing you all at the January Meeting.

Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
President
Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



Happy New Year everyone!

I think members will enjoy this Newsletter. Articles have been coming in nicely and this edition should be filled to the brim.

I have come across a very interesting booklet that I believe all hams should have. Best part of it is that it is free for the downloading! **"Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur"** is a fun and informative read.

This booklet is a must read for the beginning ham. One experienced in the art of Amateur Radio would be wise to read it also. I can't say I agree with a hundred percent of the booklet, but one cannot go wrong following the advise laid out. The authors are John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW. Both hams are well known in the worlds of Dxing and Contesting. John has written a popular book on Low Band Dxing.

Please download the PDF file version of this booklet here:

<http://www.arrrl.org/awards/dxcc/>

Look for it about half way down the page. While you are there, you may wish to download Clinton B. Desoto, W1CBD, 1935 QST article on DX scoring and Dxpediton Basics.

I will print off a few copies of this booklet and bring them to the January meeting.

Those member that have not renewed their club membership for 2009 should be aware that the January Newsletter will be the last one they receive. Please support the MVARC by renewing your membership. Remember, it is only \$12 per year.

Now, on with the show:

Election of 2009 Officers

Officers for the year 2009 were elected during the MVARC's annual Christmas Dinner held at Ryan's restaurant. Results are as follows:

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

Don Russell, W8PEN, was elected to the Board of Directors for a two year 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)

Congratulations to all newly elected officials.

No VHF SWR Meter? No Problem.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I subscribe to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists. One of the most interesting is the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>).

Recently, a ham asked:

Will a CB SWR meter work on a 2 meter ham radio??

Mark, K5LXP, replied:

"Yes and no. I use a CB SWR meter to check 2M

antennas all the time. There is a trick to it however."

"If all you want to do is check SWR on your 2M antenna, you don't necessarily have to buy a dedicated VHF/UHF SWR meter. What I keep in my tool bag for that is a cheapie \$5 hamfest special CB SWR meter. They really don't work well on 2M but there's a trick you can do that will net a reasonably accurate SWR reading on 2M with one of these meters. What you do is connect up the meter as usual, key the rig with the switch in the forward power position, set the adjustment for full scale. Now, without touching anything, swap the coax connections so that the rig is connected to the ANT' side of the meter, and the antenna is connected to the 'XCVR' side. The reading you see on the meter will be very close to your real SWR. The closer to 1:1 your SWR is, the more accurate it will be. It would be more convenient to have a real SWR meter or antenna analyzer if you do a lot of testing, but for a quick antenna check after a mobile install or whatever, the \$5 CB meters work OK."

"The theory is relatively simple."

"A basic SWR bridge is comprised of two couplers, each of which consist of a stripline or a pickup loop, and a detector diode. One coupler is used to detect forward power, the other reflected."

"At 27 MHz, the precision of the components required isn't too stringent. Just about any diode will work, and minor imperfections in the stripline or pickup coils won't impact the accuracy that much."

"But at 2M suddenly minor differences between the striplines, stray capacitance, and type of diode starts to matter. By using just one of the couplers for both the forward and reverse readings any error that exists in that coupler is the same for both readings and thus cancels out. It's unlikely it'll work at 440 however, it's just too much to ask to expect a true 50 ohm network and zero bias or hot carrier diode in a cheap CB meter."

"The absolute reading on 2M may still be somewhat inaccurate, especially at high SWR but odds are you don't care about that. All you're interested in is 1:1 or as close to it as you can get, and for that the \$5 meters will be good enough."

When I asked his permission to use this, Mark said, "I don't get the credit, I picked it up from an old-timer years ago." Well, Mark, you might not get the credit for thinking this up, but you certainly get the credit for passing it on. Thanks!

When not reading his e-mail, Dan likes to work CW on the HF bands. You can catch him around 7030 kHz or 3530 kHz. He blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com.



GET READY FOR THE ARRL TRIPLE PLAY WAS AWARD

(From the ARRL Letter, December 5, 2008)

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: The Triple Play Worked All States Award

<http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay>.

This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World(LoTW)

<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>.

All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, K0HB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/rtty.html>

takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone)

<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

following soon after. "Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones." He warns that it can be addictive once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award!

The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members.

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the October 13, 2008 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | Mike McCardel | KC8YLD |
| 2 | Tom Evans | KD8HSA |
| 3 | Austin Godber | KD7NMS |
| 4 | Arlin Bradford | KD8EVR |
| 5 | Dick Huggins | N8RDH |
| 6 | Dan Crothers | KB8TEX |
| 7 | Larry Helzer, DVM | AA8WP |
| 8 | Tony Spiegel | KC8UR |
| 9 | Steve Barr | KD8GRM |
| 10 | Jeff Butz | N8SMT |

President McCardel formally called the business meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

Wed. Night Dinner and Saturday Breakfast Report: Dick Huggins, N8RDH.

Wednesday nights have been going good with 8-10 people attending.

Saturdays have not been as good, with 3 people only last Saturday.

Old Business:

Doc, AA8WP reported that he is returning \$45.00 from the \$100.00 issued because of the food purchase.

Dick, N8RDH, said the Porta-Potty rental was \$63.90 and he brought pictures from the Anniversary Party for all to enjoy.

Arlin, KD8EVR, made a motion to give Dick the \$45.00 cash and a check for \$18.90 to Dick, N8RDH, for the Porta-Potty rental. The motion was seconded by Tony, KC8UR and passed by voice vote.

President Mike, KC8YLD, appointed Don Blizzard, W8UMH, and Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, the election committee.

New Business:

A general discussion of the updating of the club website was held.

Dan Crothers suggested an Old Timer's Get-Together day sometime in the future and it was met with a general sound of approval.

Dick, N8RDH, made a motion to adjourn, Steve, KD8GRM, seconded the motion and it was passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the November 10, 2008 Meeting.

Attendees:

1	Steve Barr	KD8GRM
2	Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
3	Tom Evans	KD8HSA
4	Barry Butz	N8PPF
5	Don Bunner	KB8QPO
6	Austin Godber	KD7NMS
7	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
8	Mike McCardel	KC8YLD

9	Don Russell	W8PEN
10	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
11	Tony Spiegel	KC8UR
12	Jeff Butz	N8SMT
13	Larry Helzer, DVM	AA8WP

President McCardel formally called the business meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Treasurer's Report: , Barry Butz, N8PPF

Income:

\$16.73 interest during August, September and October. Also received \$25.00 in dues along with an additional \$39.00 in dues tonight

Expenditure:

\$42.00 for Postage
\$42.00 for 1 Year of Post Office Box Rental
\$100.00 to Doc, AA8WP for Anniversary Party food.

Total:

\$7273.36

Repeater Report: Don Russell, W8PEN

Repeaters are working good.

Did notice one problem on sat aft. After the time change that might be caused by a loose connection

UHF repeater is working good the time-out maximum is at 6 minutes so you have to drop the input so it can recycle itself.

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.

Skywarn recognition Event on Dec 6th Cleveland office is having a 24 event on the 6th and 7th.

Old Business:

Election Committee: Arlin Bradford, Don Blizzard

Recommendation:

Arlin Bradford for President
Tony Spiegel for Vice President
Barry Butz for Treasurer
Jeff Butz for Secretary
Larry (Doc) Helzer for Trustee

New Business:

Christmas Party:

Mike McCardel said he would investigate a time and location. The consensus was to have it again at Ryan's Steakhouse on Sunday December 7th. With a fall back dates of Monday December 8th and the 14th. Check the newsletter for the actual date.

Radio for the Hospital:

Arlin reported that he has talked to the hospital staff and a radio has been ordered and is being shipped but has not arrived. Arlin made some recommendations for facilities such as an antenna hookup point and a shelf and desk. Additionally Arlin said that two of the hospital technicians have obtained their Amateur Radio Tech licenses because of their interest in Ham Radio and would like to become involved with the club.

Barry, N8PPF, made a motion to close the meeting, It was seconded by Don, KB8QPO and was carried by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

First of all, I would like to welcome new President Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR. Having had a few conversations with Arlin, I found that he has several ideas that may keep things interesting throughout the year. Arlin has



been a ham for just over two years, and a member of the club for just that long too. However, commercial communications has been his field of choice, so he is not a rookie in the true sense of the word. Indeed a few of his inside connections may prove worthwhile as our local ARES continues to be active and prepared for times where our talents may be needed.

Vice President Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, has been around for ever it seems. Tony is a top notch CW operator (Morse Code). If you wish to learn more about Tony, read his membership profile in the April, 2008 issue of our Newsletter. Tony was instrumental in contacting several of last years guest speakers that made our meetings very enjoyable to attend. Those that missed these presentations during 2008 missed a lot.

More Contesting Exploits of W8PEN

Since this column is supposed to be about being active on the ham bands, let me continue with my re-entry into the world of contesting.

After a fairly serious effort in the November Sweepstakes, CW, and a not so serious effort in the SSB version, I felt I was ready for a big time effort in the ARRL 160 meter contest. This is a Morse Code only contest and has been one of my favorite contests

through the years. Even though I have done limited contesting for the last five years or so, this is one contest that I have always participated in if just to make a few contacts.

The contest exchange is simple. RST and ARRL Section. Just about like Field Day, except you give an RST instead of your groups transmitter class. Since 99.9 percent of the contest operators give 599 as the RST, the only thing you really need to copy is the Section.

On 160 meters, the antenna is usually the limiting factor. They are big! A dipole is 260 feet or so long. A full sized vertical would be 125 feet high!. In the past I have used several different antennas for this contest. Most of them did a pretty good job. My first year, I simply shorted the feed line to my 80 meter doublet antenna together. Then I used an antenna tuner at ground level, ran eight radials and had myself a 160 meter "T" vertical antenna. That is, the feed line acted as a vertical and the dipole itself acted as top loading to bring the antenna near resonance. This actually worked pretty good and I made plenty of contacts, although I don't remember just how many. Lets just say I worked everyone I heard.

The following year, I tried a ¼ wave sloping antenna. My tower is not high enough to get 125 feet of wire sloping very much. The idea of a sloping wire is to get some low radiation angle for DX. But it did work and I again made plenty of contacts. The next year I had added a 160 meter loading coil to my Butternut Vertical 80/40 meter antenna. I added eight 125 foot long radials just laying on the ground. That worked pretty good too, although I don't believe I liked it as well as the other two attempts.

For the next contest, I had replaced my 80 meter doublet with a 160 meter doublet. This was fed with 300 ohm TV type ribbon line. It was a little short of a half wave dipole antenna, being at about 250 feet long. Not only did I feel loud with this antenna, I was loud! Not sure which year it was, but I placed 9th in the world, low power, using this antenna. This was my main antenna for 160, 80, and 40 meters for a very long time.

I have since replaced the 160 meter doublet with my 160 meter window antenna. I changed to the window simply to eliminate the 300 ohm feed line. I wanted to go coax on all bands. This antenna allows me to do that. I still feel loud! This window is a very good performer.

Now for this years results: 657 contacts in 63 ARRL sections for 82,782 points. I missed my goal of 1,000 contacts or 100,000 points, but I feel real good about this score.

I did not do well to the West Coast. I believe I only worked two California Sections. As you can guess, distant stations are very weak on 160 meters. Perhaps I need to get my vertical back in operation so that I would have that low radiation angle needed for DX. Several

more California sections would have made a big difference in my score and perhaps I would have broken the 100,000 point barrier. There are two more 160 meter contests coming up in the next month. It may be too cold to try any "new tricks" antenna wise though.

Next up was the 10 meter contest. I was not too interested in this one and had decided not to participate. With the low sunspot cycle, I did not figure the band to be too active. I was right, however, since I had nothing better to do that weekend, I did play around with it. I had decided not to use my beam antenna. Just stuck with the windom antenna.

Results in the 10 meter contest are not impressive. The band was open though. I worked 24 stations in 11 ARRL Sections. Barry, N8PPF, was also in the contest and did about the same. I did work a little bit of DX though. VE1 and VE9. I was surprised to work California too. Must have be double hop E-Skip.

I believe I worked a few stations via meteor scatter on Friday night. I say this because signals would come in bursts and slowing fade away. If I remember, correctly, there is always a meteor shower going on the day of, or day before the 10 meter contest, so I was not surprised to do this. There was also some E-Skip to the South Friday night because Florida was coming in pretty steady. Not bursting in and out like stations to the East were.

Boy, guess I have come to the end of this column. Seems like I just started typing. Guess that is what happens when you are Radio Active.

Until next month, good DX'ing.

All I Want for Christmas Is....

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When I was a kid, we had an album (remember records on vinyl?) that had a bunch of Christmas songs for kids. The song I remember most goes:



All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, My two front teeth, my two front teeth.

Gee, if I could only have my two front teeth, Then I could wish you Merry Chrith-math (sang with a lisp).

Seeing as how I've had my two front teeth for nearly 50 years now, and I pretty much have everything I want, I got to thinking about what I want for ham radio for Christmas this year. Here's what I've come up with so

far. In no particular order, I want:

- MORE SUNSPOTS!
- The median age for ham radio operators to actually decrease this year. This means not only recruiting kids, but also younger adults.
- The pessimists who are continually talking down ham radio to find new joy in the hobby and begin working to make it great.
- The FCC to appoint someone as effective as Riley Hollingsworth to take over as the enforcer of the amateur radio service regulations.
- The FCC to pay a little more attention to amateur radio regulations and not treat them as an afterthought.
- The silliness on 75m phone and 14.275 MHz to go QRT.
- The ARRL to work harder on making itself truly the "national association for amateur radio" and on increasing the percentage of licensed hams that are ARRL members.
- To be able to brag about all of ham radio's "purposes," not only providing emergency and public service communications. According to Part 97, these are:
 - * advancing the state of the radio art;
 - * improving our technical and operating skills;
 - * expanding the number of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts; and
 - * enhancing international goodwill.
- Ham radio clubs to grow and thrive even in these tough economic times.

When I asked this question on Twitter, I got a couple of answers that were versions of a couple of wishes above, but I also got a few more:

- WORMT wants "all of us to get on the air more and act as good ambassadors for the hobby," and
- NT7S wants the hearts of ham grinchies to grow a couple of sizes.
- N!WBV wants redesigns for most ham radio websites.

I pretty much agree with all three. Happy New Year!

When not waiting for Santa to decided if he's been naughty or nice, Dan, KB6NU, teaches ham classes and blogs about ham radio (www.kb6nu.com)

Treasurer's Report

January 3, 2009
for Dec 1 to Dec 31, 2008

Balance 12-1-08: \$ 2397.39

Income:

Interest: \$ 16.50

Dues: \$ 135.00

Donations: \$ 10.00

Expenses:

Special event expense: \$ 18.90

Meeting program: \$ 25.00

Balance on 11-30-08: \$2509.99

Designated Funds

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 701.94

Field Day Fund: \$ 133.24

Barry N8PPF

MVARC

**Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the December 7, 2008 Meeting and
Annual Christmas Dinner.**

Attendees:

No list this month. The Secretary was too stuffed with food to remember to pick up the sign in sheet.

President McCardel formally called the business meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

Treasurer's Report: , Barry Butz, N8PPF

Barry is accepting dues if anybody wants to pay tonight.

Income: \$0.03 interest

Dues: \$102.00

Donations: \$15.00

50/50 Drawing: \$7.00

Expenses: \$0.00

Total: \$2397.39

Secretary's Report: Jeff Butz, N8SMT

The November's meeting minutes were read and accepted as corrected.

Wednesday Night Dinners: Dick Huggins, N8RDH

The Wednesday night dinners have been very well attended. They are talking about going back to Pizza Hut since they have had some staff changes. Dick said he will let us know for sure after the next get together.

Saturday Breakfasts: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

Saturday breakfasts are on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, January 12, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. A program has not been set up yet, however there may be a demo of Echo Link, which has become a quite popular voice over internet system for ham radio operators. Lets all come and welcome new President Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR. Arlin suggests that everyone "bring a friend" with them. Need not be a ham. Just a friend that you want to introduce to our wonderful hobby.

Please remember the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M.

Also check out the new UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. This 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. Family and friends welcome. You do not need to be a ham or club member to participate in this event.

Come join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, can be contacted for the latest news on the 2 meter or the 440 Mhz. Repeaters. Or tune into our ARES net each Sunday at 9:00 PM for current information.

****The next Breakfast will be January 10, 2009 at 9:00 AM at Ryan's Steak House, 1515 Coshocton Ave. , Mt. Vernon, Ohio.****

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.

Ruben said he wanted to thank everyone who participated in the ARES events, the two bicycle events, Skywarn and the Sunday night nets. He said we had close to a thousand hours of time donated to these events. He thought that was really great participation. He is looking forward to next year and activities with the EMA, Citizen Corps and the hospital.

Year End Report: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Mike wanted to mention the activities we had this past year. They were: a Wave theory Class at Kenyon College, The Video Recording of members recollections of how they became involved in Ham Radio, The How to Solder demonstration, The Earth Day Marathon at Kenyon, Tom Hain KV8Q Gave a talk on his DX contesting at Prince Edward's Island, Mike gave a Ham Radio Deluxe demonstration, We started a new repeater on UHF thanks to Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, We supported the ARES Tour de Cure, Don Blizzard gave us a talk on station grounding, Barry Butz gave us a talk on how the repeater worked and included a visit to the repeater. The Great American Bicycle Adventure. Boy Scouts Merit Badge Challenge, Celebrated our 50th year anniversary of our affiliation with ARRL, We sponsored Skywarn training again this year. Jerry Pittenger, K8RA gave a talk on his custom built CW keys. Art Towslee, WA8RMC, Field Day at Doc's house this year was a great time.

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

Arlin Bradford introduced a proposal for the club to partner with the Knox County Fire Chiefs Association thereby providing a non-profit association for tax deductible donations for smoke detectors that the Fire Chiefs association can provide to needy homes in the area. A discussion ensued which included a question about our non-profit status. The subject was tabled until the next meeting.

A motion was made to reimburse Art Towslee, WA8RMC \$25.00 for his expenses last month for providing a talk on Amateur Television. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Election Committee: Don Blizzard, W8UMH

Don reported on behalf of the election committee that the votes have been tallied and the results are as follows:

President:	Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
Vice-President	Tony Spiegel, KC8UR
Secretary	Jeff Butz, N8SMT
Treasurer:	Barry Butz, N8PPF
Director (2 Yr Term):	Don Russell, W8PEN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS RELEASE REPORT LAMBASTING FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN

**(From the ARRL Letter,
December 1, 2006)**

On Tuesday, December 9, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce -- the congressional committee that oversees the Federal Communications Commission -- released its majority staff report "on the bipartisan investigation of the FCC's regulatory processes and management practices." The report -- "Deception and Distrust: The Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Kevin J. Martin" -- stated that the investigation was prompted "by allegations to the effect that [FCC] Chairman Kevin J. Martin has abused FCC procedures by manipulating or suppressing reports, data and information"

http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC_Report120908.pdf.

"Our investigation confirmed a number of troubling allegations raised by individuals in and outside the FCC," said Representative Bart Stupak (D-MI), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. "The Committee staff report details some of the most egregious abuses of power, suppression of information and manipulation of data under Chairman Martin's leadership. It is my hope that this report will serve as a roadmap for a fair, open and efficient FCC under new leadership in the next administration."

Representative John D. Dingell (D-MI), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce echoed Stupak's concerns: "Any of these findings, individually, are cause for concern. Together, the findings suggest that, in recent years, the FCC has operated in a dysfunctional manner and Commission business has suffered as a result.

The report said that "in an investigation of this nature," the Committee would usually hold hearings "to receive testimony from witnesses and to further examine the issues." But due to what the Committee called "the climate of fear that currently pervades the FCC," the report said the Committee found that key witnesses "were unwilling to testify or even have their names become known." For that reason, they issued a report in place of a hearing "to protect the many honest people who came forward under a promise of protection or anonymity."

In its 110-page report, the Committee described 12 allegations, ranging from retaliation against FCC employees who differed with the Chairman's policies to enhanced 911 wireless services to broadband over power lines (BPL). To go along with the 12 allegations, 22 exhibits were attached to the report, such as internal e-mails, e-mails from FCC commissioners to their staff, statements made by FCC commissioners and letters to and from commissioners (including Chairman Martin). Not all 12 allegations were substantiated by the Committee.



* Broadband over Power Lines

Concerning BPL, the report alleges that FCC officials "ignored complaints of radio frequency interference caused by BPL high-speed Internet technology, delayed an enforcement investigation for two years and improperly withheld engineering data regarding BPL from the public."

The report found that in October 2004, as then-Chairman Michael Powell issued his final rule "defining BPL access and setting technical and administrative requirements to protect licensed radio operators from harmful interference," the FCC "withheld from the public certain engineering reports on which it relied in promulgating the rule" from the final rule and order.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>.

The report goes on to say that on April 25, 2008, the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit found that the FCC, in the case filed by the ARRL, "violated the Administrative Procedure Act when it played 'hide and seek' with engineering data used in its support of the order and 'cherry-picked' a study on which it had relied"

<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf>

"The fact that the FCC withheld the required engineering reports in this matter," the report concluded, "indicates poor judgment and an attempt to hide critical weaknesses in its decision. Ironically, the FCC's attempts to hide this information only served to provoke suspicion and its handmaiden, litigation. This case [filed by the ARRL] illustrates the extent to which a culture of secrecy has developed at the FCC that is as counterproductive as it is unnecessary." The report states that this "particular situation" has been corrected by the courts and technological issues arising from BPL have been "rendered largely moot over time due to improvements" in BPL technology.

"It is distressing, but unfortunately not surprising," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, "to read that the FCC's mishandling of the BPL issue was simply a part of a broad pattern of dysfunction at the Commission. This is a relatively recent development and is unprecedented in the ARRL's long experience with the FCC -- an association that dates back to the very creation of the agency, 20 years after the founding of the ARRL. While the marketplace failure of BPL and the steps taken voluntarily by the few companies that have deployed BPL systems have combined to minimize interference, the regulatory issue is by no means moot. The rules remain inadequate."

Sumner continued: "More than seven months after the Court remand, the FCC has done nothing to correct its errors, nor has it complied with the very specific instructions from the United States Court of Appeals. These instructions included the disclosure of the studies that it intentionally withheld from the public, but upon which it relied in adopting its rules. Indeed, the only step the Commission has taken since the Court's remand order is to mount an unsuccessful effort to oppose our claim for reimbursement of the printing costs for the briefs in the case -- a small fraction of the expenses incurred by the ARRL in our appeal -- expenses that would not have been necessary had the Commission followed the law in the first place"

<http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8338>.

* Other Findings by the Committee

The report also showed instances of where Chairman Martin "manipulated, withheld or suppressed data, reports and information," and said Martin's "manipulation [of another report] may have damaged the credibility of the Commission, and certainly undermined the integrity of the staff. Moreover, it was done with the purpose of affecting the congressional decision-making, in that it was issued as a report to Congress."

Saying that FCC matters have not been handled in an "open or transparent manner," the report said the FCC "rais[ed] suspicions both inside and outside the Commission that some parties and issues are not being treated fairly." The report stated that the Committee's impressions were "confirmed" when it discovered that Chairman Martin made a "preemptory reversal" of [a report's] conclusions and that Martin did not seek "further public comment or conduct further studies" thus giving the impression "that the issue was not handled fairly or openly."

The report also found that Chairman Martin's "heavy-handed, opaque and non-collegial management style has created distrust, suspicion and turmoil among the five current Commissioners." The report states that Martin does not afford his fellow Commissioners "direct and unfettered access to the Commission staff and their expert advice, thereby hindering the ability of other Commissioners to carry out the duties of their offices and the work of the Commission."

The report also found that Commission staff have not been "effectively managed." When Martin first became Chairman, he "imposed a major reshuffling of FCC staff throughout the agency." While the report said that a "certain amount of reorganization is not unprecedented" when a new Chairman begins his term, the reorganization "was highly unusual in both its breadth (nearly every senior position at the agency changed hands) and its depth (even a number on non-management line staffers found themselves inexplicably reassigned)." Calling it a "waste of resources, the report pointed out that senior employees with "extensive experience and expertise" were reassigned to junior-level positions; as a result, "it appears that some important Commission proceedings were delayed."

* Committee Methodology

Over the course of its investigation, the Committee staff reviewed "several hundred thousand documents, including 95 boxes of paper documents; conducted 73 interviews of current and former FCC employees and individuals associated with the telecommunications industry; solicited and received e-mails from FCC employees and contractors at a secure e-mail address established for this purpose, and reviewed dozens of allegations." The report pointed out that since the investigation, Chairman Martin has taken "some small steps" to address some of the problems outlined in the report.

The Committee also emphasized that not everything they found is included in its report: "A few allegations were received so recently that they have not been investigated and are not included [in the report]. We have also excluded matters that seemed trivial per se. Still, other allegations have not been adequately investigated because the FCC has not yet produced all of the records requested by the Committee."

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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.

Project OSCAR is a monthly column written for Newsletter Editors. Columns will appear as space permits. You may download all the columns yourself at: <http://www.projectoscar.net/beacon.php>

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

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