Ham Radio Rocks!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

January, 2010 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

Happy New Year from Your Editor

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May the Radio gods look favorably on all your endeavors.

The year 2009 was a fantastic year for our Radio Club thanks in part to the persistence of President Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR. He sure does like to keep thing moving! Dare I say we were one of the more active clubs in 2009? Please look for Arlin's article "A Look Back at 2009" latter in this issue.

Don't forget that our new Technician Class is starting January 14, 2010. Please see the Class Flyer on the last page of this Newsletter. If you can, post it at work or anywhere else that you can think of. I am looking forward to a large class this year.

I would also like to encourage all our members to join our National Club, the American Radio Relay League, or the ARRL. One may not agree with all policies of the ARRL, however, it would be hard to dispute that Ham Radio would not be the Hobby it is today without the leadership and representation that the ARRL has provided both in the 20th century and the first decade of the 21rst century. Speaking as one who has been in the hobby for 45 years, the ARRL has always been there fighting for my rights. Good job!

I was surprised by a letter in QST magazine a couple of months ago complaining that there were too many technical articles being published. Sorry, Ham Radio is a technical hobby. Building our own radios may not be for everyone, but knowing how they work should be. Would we expect a Drag Strip Driver to know nothing about cars? I think not.

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, Jaunuary 11, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. At the time of this writing, no program has been announced for the meeting.

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.

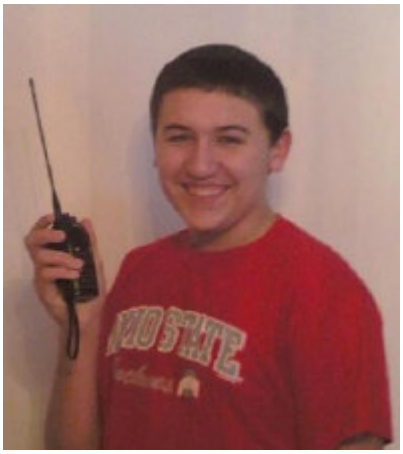
Every Wednesday at 5:00 PM, MVARC club members meet at Wendy's, 522 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Dinner Coordinator Dick Huggins, N8RDH, reports good turnouts for this event. Come share dinner with friends, or make new friends, by attending one or all of these events.

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 January 9, 2010 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio******

CQ, CQ, CQ, ALL TEENS, CQ, CQ, CQ

By Brandon Hunt, KD8LPP



As one of the very few teens that have their Amateur Radio License here in Knox County, I know for a fact that talking on the radio can become somewhat boring. No offense to the Elmers out there, because some of their conversations are cool, I would just like to have others around my age to talk to. So, I decided to try and come up with a few ways to get more teens and preteens to join.

In my short time on this earth, I have realized that most teens don't know what ham radio is. I think that if they could know all the cool stuff they could do, and how inexpensive it is compared to a cell phone, more would become interested. One way to show them what it's all about is maybe we could start a Ham club for the Mount Vernon City Schools. Something like the Chess club or Latin club already at the high school, but this would be for amateur radio. We would learn school stuff like geography, math, science, history, and even English! Plus, we would have better social skills and make more friends all around the world. Not to mention, it also looks good on college applications!

Another thing I thought about, even talked about, was an all "kids" repeater. Maybe located on radio hill and have it regulated by one of our Elmers. Also, I think it would be awesome if the "kids" repeater had echo link, not only because it would be sweet to talk to people around the world, but for educational purposes too. Because of modern technology we can now text over the radio to any hams anywhere! Making it way cheaper than any cell phone! Now I know this would require a digital repeater, which is more expensive, but maybe later on down the road that would be something to think about.

So there is a few of my ideas to get more teens and preteens interested in ham radio. If anyone is interested in making these ideas come true I would be more than happy to help anyway I can!

If you are a teen or preteen interested in becoming a ham, beg and bribe your parents to take you to the next tech class. They are located at the Knox County American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street in Mount Vernon. Classes start January 14th, at 7pm and meet once a week for 7 weeks. At the end you will need to take a test, this will cost you $15.00. Once you pass, your license is good for 10 years, and at no cost to you, you just renew it! How cool is that!

Oh yeah, and if you're not a teen, it is okay for you to take the classes as well. There is no age limit, and it's always nice to hear someone new on the radio.

FROM THE SHACK

By Chuck Russell, AC8R

2 Meter 3 Element Quad Antenna

OK, this was to be the 2nd part of my PSK-31 experience article. Instead, you are going to get a look at the quad antenna I built to get into the K8EEN repeater from Columbus.

At one time, there was a 20 ft tower attached to the house holding up a Cushcraft 2 meter Twin-11. When I went inactive, the tower and antenna was given to Don Bunner, KB8QPO, for the price of taking it down and hauling it away. Couldn't ask for a better deal.

Now that I'm active again, the pain of giving away equipment is beginning to be felt. Scouring the internet, I located an article for a 2 meter quad antenna constructed entirely of wood. Not something you would generally want for a permanent antenna. But it looked interesting, so thought I would give it a go. Suffice to say that it was built with a 1" x 1" x 36" wood for the square boom and 6 each 7/16" x 48" wood dowels used as spreaders. This Quad was designed to have 53 ohm impedance, so no matching device was needed. Being a low Q antenna, I figured its tuning range would be quite favorable.

For detailed information, please visit:
http://www.hamuniverse.com/3el2meterquad.html

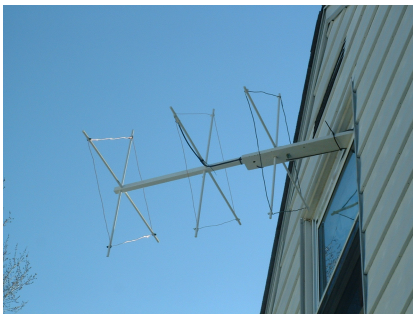
The spreaders were cut to 31", then two holes were drilled through both ends to accommodate cable ties. The holes need to be drilled parallel to the boom length. Six 7/16" holes were drilled into the boom, 3 horizontally and 3 vertically. The spreaders were then pushed through the holes into the boom and aligned equidistant from the its center. Good old Elmer's wood glue was used to hold the things in place. Electrical tape was wrapped around each spreader near the boom to reduce the chance of breakage. I broke two, before starting to use the tape procedure. 14-gage solid wire was used for the reflector, and 14-gage stranded wire for the driven element and director. While wire gage may affect the impedance, mixing solid and stranded wire didn't seem to bother it. The wire elements were not strung through the spreader holes as most are, but were laid against the spreaders and held in place with nylon cable ties using the drilled holes mentioned above as anchor points.

Using a Bird 43 Wattmeter, I calculated the SWR for various frequencies:

Freq(Mhz)	Forward	Reflected	Calc SWR
144.5	45	1.1	1.04
145.0	31	1.2	1.48
145.5	27	1.5	1.6
146.0	25	1.7	1.7
146.5	19	1.9	1.9
147.0	21	2.5	2.0
147.5	30	3.0	1.9

Sorry, Don, but I did have the 847 turned to max power. Guess Yaesu only spec'd the low end. The Bird has a tolerance of 5% full scale, so that's plus or minus 2.5 watts. Unless I can get hold of something better, the Bird will have to do. I had to really squint and guesstimate the Reflected power, though. For you math people, the formula used is

VSWR = (1+SQR(Reflected/Forward) / (1-SQR(Reflected/Forward))



I was hoping to access the repeater by placing the antenna in the attic and shooting the RF through the window. The result of this attempt was very disappointing, although understandable. In the end, it was mounted outside the window. That took a bit of ingenuity and hard thinking, I was starting to smell smoke. After all, having it go crashing down on the neighbor's car wasn't a pleasant thought. The repeater is now accessible with as little as 5 watts, and reports indicate close to, if not, full quieting at about 10 watts. The repeater signal is at S3-S5, and S7-S8 with the preamp turned on. The map says my QTH is 37 miles from the repeater at a bearing of 45 degrees. Not that far, so I was expecting something better. Elevation and terrain is most likely the culprit. Also, the antenna is not at 45 degrees. It would need to be out the window further to do so. That's not going to happen!!!

This has been a very satisfying and enjoyable project. Much more so than my fan dipole project. I do have a ham willing to donate a 6 element, 2 meter yagi. It would be interesting to compare it to the quad.

Hope everyone had a safe holiday. Until next month, 73's to all.

(Send comments and/or suggestions to: ac8r@insight.rr.com)

What Should Every Ham Know How to Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost $100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the $18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got

some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than $100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.
3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.
4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

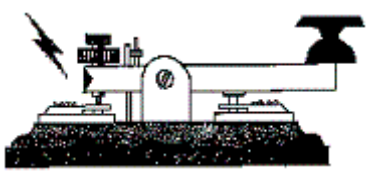
This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, What do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

==========

When not analyzing the abilities of amateurs, KB6NU pounds brass on nearly all the HF bands and teaches various ham radio classes in Ann Arbor, MI. You can read his other musings on our fine hobby at www.kb6nu.com.



MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Minutes for the December 9, 2009 Meeting and Christmas Dinner by Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1.	Bart Hains	KD8**LDT**
2.	Tony Spiegel	KC8UR
3.	Steve Barr	KD8GRM
4.	Jeffrey L. Butz	N8SMT
5.	Jeffrey A. Butz	KD8**LTD**
6.	Charles Russell	AC8R
7.	Marie Tussing	
8.	Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
9.	Melinda Clark	
10.	Brandon Hunt	KD8LPP
11.	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
12.	Ann Bradford	KD8LFH
13.	Ray Ann Bradford	
14.	Don Russell	W8PEN
15.	Darlene Russell	
16.	Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
17.	Barry Butz	N8PPF
18.	Connie Butz	KC8DLG
19.	Tom Evans	KD8HSA
20.	Penny Evans	
21.	Dick Huggins	N8RDH
22.	Susan Huggins	
23.	Michael Deane	W8OIO
24.	Jim Jennessee	KD8UT
25.	Jerry Walker	KB8JAA
26.	Ruth Walker	
27.	Matt Sturgeon	
28.	Rubin Sturgeon	
29.	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
30.	Carolyn Blizzard	

President Bradford formally called the business meeting to order at 6:26 P.M.

Nominating Committee: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Mike explained that the members of the Board of Directors have to be voted upon whether they are running un-opposed or not. Additionally at last month's

meeting we added two additional Board of Director's seats but we didn't designate whether they were for a one or two year position. Also in order to be elected to a board of director's seat the candidate must receive a majority of the vote. We have four seats to fill tonight. Three for 2 year terms and one for a 1 year term.

Therefore tonight you are to vote for three board of directors. The top three that also received a majority of the vote will receive a 2 year term. We will then vote again on the people that are left on the ballot and the person who gets the most votes and a majority of the votes will receive the 1 year term of office.

Mike then passed out the ballots and the voting commenced.

Treasurers Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Barry announced he is collecting dues for next year if someone wants to pay tonight.

Grant Committee Report: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

Arlin reported that he has talked to the mayor of Mt. Vernon and the City does not want to give up ownership of the vehicle in case they need it back. Therefore the City will have to license and insure it because we can't if we don't own it. He has instructed the City Attorney to draw up papers and the committee will review them upon receipt.

Election Results: Dick Huggins, N8RDH

President:	Arlin Bradford
Vice-President	A tie: Tony Spiegel & Steve Barr
Secretary	Jeff Butz
Treasurer: :	Barry Butz
Director: 2year term	Mike McCardel
	Tom Evans
	Austin Godber

There will be a second ballot to break the Vice-President tie and to vote for the one year Board of Director's seat. Which was then passed out.

Result of the Second Ballot: Larry Helzer, AA8WP

Vice-President	Tony Spiegel
Director: 1year term	Ruben Clark

A motion to adjourn was made by Dick Huggins and seconded by Jerry Walker. The motion passed by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned.

MVARC Club Leaders For 2010

(For the Record)

Below is a summary of Officers and Directors for the year 2010 and their term limits. Members should review this carefully and notify the editor of any errors, as this list may be used to verify terms for next years elections.

OFFICERS (Expires at the end of 2010):

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mike McCardel,KC8YLD(First term expires end of 2011. Eligible for re-election)

Steve Austin, KD7NMS (First Term expires end of 2011. Eligible for re-election)

Tom Evans, KD8HSA (First Term expires end of 2011. Eligible for re-election)

Ruben Clark, KB2SAI (First Term expires end of 2010. Eligible for re-election)

Don Russell, W8PEN (First Term expires end of 2010. Eligible for re-election)

There's an App for That!

By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

At Christmas 2008 I received an iPod Touch. An iPod Touch is very similar to an iPhone. The big difference is I that it isn't a cell phone, but, if I can connect to a wireless network, I can surf the web, check and send email, and run Application specifically designed to work with the "Touch." We all love gadgets, in a universal Ham gene trait. Recently I have discovered that there are several Applications that are related to Ham Radio.

Want to check out the next passing of the International Space Station, there's and App for that, "ISSLite." Are

you into satellite communications? “Satellite Tracker” will track a myriad of satellites including Amateur Radio birds like AO-51, the Oscar satellites, Cubesat and more. How’s the DX? Try out “iCluster,” which will report the station heard, who heard it, what time and on what frequency. “HF Beacons” tracks NCDXF/IARU beacons on 14.1, 18.11, 21.15, 24.93 and 28.2 Mhz.

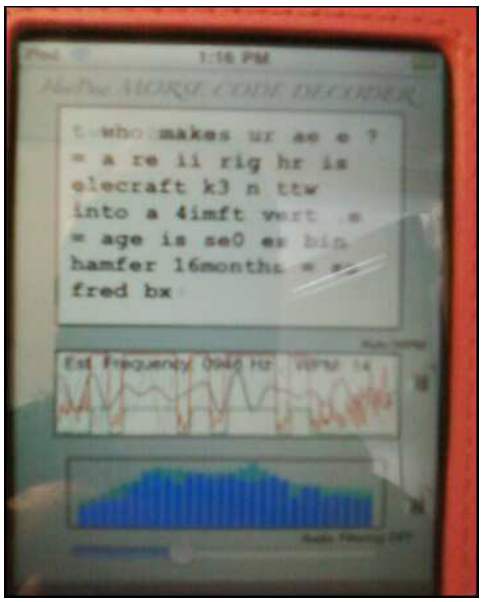
I like APRS. “PocketPacket” will map the location of APRS stations and let me see details of their respective packets. With the Touch I have to enter my location manually for Pocket Packet, ISSLite, and Satellite Tracker. If I had an iPhone it would use the GPS technology that is built in to establish my location. “HamLog” is a contact log that will let me use the power of the internet to do a call lookup via QRZ.com. “Morse Decoder” requires a microphone but will decode Morse Code. Are you a little rusty with your CW? “Morse Test” will generate random sharp practice code delved out in 5 character words at the speed of your choice. This App works offline as well!

LkPsk31 claims to be able to use the iPod Touch to interface with your radio to send and receive packets. I have not been able to decode with it using my iPod‘s microphone. Perhaps if I wire a direct connection to my transceiver’s phones jack it would work. However the send function appears to have a sharp clear signal and I believe I could send, although I haven’t tried, by keying my mic and letting it run.

There are study guides for all classes of Ham tickets. “Dah-Dit” lets you tap out morse code using the Touch’s screen. It has both straight key and iambic modes. There are more. Most Apps are under $5.00 many are free, a couple run $10 even $30. I believe there will be many more to come and while I couldn’t find information on Blackberry or Droid Apps and I can’t but believe some are, at least, already in development.

While there are many Apps specific to ham radio, one of the most useful App I use is one that lets me communicate between computer and the iPod. “Air Sharing” lets me type in my iPod’s IP address into my computer’s web browser and I can then transfer files to the iPod. I have uploaded all of my radio, GPS, weather station and other manuals, Our Emcomm contacts and other related information, the clubs Constitution and By-laws, the MVARC Handbook, the VE Manual and even the entire text of the Part 97 rules. The Touch will read Ascii text, Word files and PDFs.

All in all I have found my iPod touch to be a a very valuable and useable Amateur Radio tool.



A LOOK BACK AT 2009

By: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
President 2009-2010

Well, another year has come and gone in ham radio world. 2009 was a great year for me, as I was elected president at the December 2008 Christmas dinner/meeting. Not knowing all the rules of Roberts Rules of Orders, I struggled thru the year. Thank you to all who attended the meetings and had patients and offered support to me.

The MVARC community grew in numbers this year as two technician training classes were offered. Congratulations to those who passed the technician exam and to those who upgraded to a higher class. A special thank you goes out to Don Russell, W8PEN and Mike McCardel, KC8YLD for their overseeing of the two classes. I would like to thank all the other hams that attended the classes and assisted with not only teaching, but those that helped during the test session. Especially the VEC's.

During the club's monthly meetings, we tried to have a topic to discuss and further our knowledge about ham radio, and radio communications in general. Thanks to all those that brought a topic to the meetings. At the October meeting night, attending members learned basic first aid training provided by the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross. All those members received a certification in Basic First Aid. Congratulations.

The club also, participated in various events throughout Knox County in 2009. We provided communications during the Earth Day Challenge in Gambier, Ohio. In partnership with Knox County ARES the club provided communications for the Tour De Cure bike rally that came into Knox County. We attended the Family Fun Day at Foundation Park and provided several young kids and adults the chance to get on the air and have their first taste of HAM radio. We were present at the Neighborhood Block watch National Night Out and had an emergency station set up to handle any messages that needed to be passed on.

The club received a grant from Operation Roundup Foundation for the purchase of communication equipment to outfit a communications vehicle. The vehicle is in the final stages of paperwork and should be outfitted with the equipment within the next few months. This will allow the club to have a mobile communications center available to any and all served agencies. A special thanks to the Operations Roundup Foundation and the City of Mt. Vernon for the use of the retired emergency vehicle.

Club members voted to upgrade our MVARC.NET server in August, and Ruben Clark, KB2SAI, did a wonderful job on setting it up. Not only can you view past newsletters and club documents, you can see calendar of events and stay abreast as to the happenings of the club. This makes for a great home page as you get the local weather and any announcements that club has. Check it out MVARC.NET.

These are just some of the highlights that the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club has done in 2009. Being a ham for the past three years and seeing the club grow in membership and activities is very exciting. I look forward to wonderful year in 2010 and hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Jan 3, 2010
for Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2009

Balance on 1-1-09:	$ 2509.97
Income:	
Interest:	$ 40.62
Dues:	$ 356.00
Donations:	$ 68.00
Field day donations:	$ 110.00
50-50 Repeater Fund:	$ 74.00
Energy Co-0p Round-Up Foundation grant – Communication Vehicle:	$ 3000.00
Expenses:	
Ohio Corporation Fee:	$ 25.00
Postage:	$ 84.00
Post Office Box 372:	$ 44.00
Insurance:	$ 75.00
MVARC web server/computer	$ 435.00
Field Day Food:	$ 178.32
Communication vehicle equipment:	$ 2459.82
Balance on 12-31-09:	$ 2857.45
Designated Funds Jan 1, 2009:	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	$ 701.94
Field Day Fund:	$ 133.24
Designated Funds Dec 31, 2009:	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	$ 340.94
Field Day Fund:	$ 64.92
Communication Vehicle Fund:	$ 540.18

Barry Butz N8PPF

Treasurer's Report

Jan 3, 2010
for Dec 1 to Dec 31, 2009

Balance on 12-1-09:	$ 2666.54
Income:	
Interest:	$ 9.91
Dues:	$ 176.00
Donations:	$ 5.00
Expenses:	
none	
Balance on 12-31-09:	$ 2857.45
Designated Funds:	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	$ 340.94
Field Day Fund:	$ 64.92
Communication Vehicle Fund:	$ 540.18

We now have 25 members who have paid their 2010 dues. If you're unsure if you are current, please check the membership list on the MVARC web site. Thanks.

Barry Butz N8PPF

KD8EVR-R REPEATER INFORMATION

BY: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

The KD8EVR-R repeater is on 442.100/447.100 pl tone of 71.9 and has been on the air since October 2007. It is located at the County Repeater site 17640 Coshocton Rd. Mt. Vernon, Ohio. GPS of 40-24-14.0 North by 082-25-58.0 West. The antenna is on top of a 180 foot tower transmitting 34 watts out of a Sinclair SD-318 16 bay Omni directional antenna with a 10.2 DB of gain. The receive antenna is a Bluewave BME404 4 bay Omni directional antenna mounted at 165 feet.

The repeater is a Tait Series II transmitter, receiver and PA. It has a battery back-up that will last approximately 48 hours on normal use and a automatic generator that will start once power to the building is lost for 5 minutes. The generator can run for 48 hours before needing refueled. An alarm has been installed to notify me once the repeater is on battery back-up and or the generator is running.

As of February 1, 2009, the repeater, has been connected to the ECHOLINK server via W8PEN. Don Russell has been providing this excellent communications tool from his QTH. It consists of a Yaesu VX-1 portable connected to the server from his computer. Thru the ECHOLINK, you can connect to a number of repeaters, users ad links throughout the world via the internet. Some of the basic codes to gain access to the ECHOLINK server are listed below…..

Code	Result
00	Connect to a Random Node
01	Connect to a Random Link
03	Connect to a Random User
08	Echolink Status
09	Reconnect to the last Node
CXXXX	Connect to a known Node where XXXX is the Node Number.
#	Disconnect from a Station or Node.
79	KB2SAI-L, Link to K8EEN Repeater, Mt. Vernon, OH
80	K4OBX-R, Hatteras Island North Carolina Repeater
82	KG8FV-R, ASHLAND, OH Repeater
84	W8DF-R, Battle Creek, MI Repeater
86	KF0PB-L, Link to N5NBJ Repeater, Harrison, AR
88	AC8R, Chuck Russell's Computer on Echolink
100	KD8EVR, Arlin Bradford's computer when on Echolink
101	KD8KDM, Mike, Saint Paris, OH
102	K7FED-R, Henderson, NV Repeater

Another great feature of the KD8EVR-R repeater is that it is linked to several repeaters in northern Ohio. The network is a joint effort between KA8VDW and KD8EVR. The repeaters that are connected are…

Mt. Vernon	442.100 / 447.100	pl 71.9
Mansfield	443.075 / 448.075	pl 151.4
Elyria	443.9875 / 448.9875	pl 162.2
Berlin Heights	442.675 / 447.675	pl 162.2
Vermillion	53.290 / 52.290	pl 162.2
Gibsonburg	443.1875 / 448.1875	pl 107.2

We are in the planning stages of linking two more repeaters into the network. One in Cleveland and the other in Columbus. Once these are on-line, you can communicate from just south of Columbus all the way to Lake Erie. This will make for a great repeater linking system. Please check in on Wednesday nights at 9pm EST. This is a social net and rag chewing is allowed.

EXCITING REPEATER TRAFFIC

By: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

If you were listening to the radio Wednesday evening December 30, 2009, you heard a lot of radio traffic as an observation balloon landed in Knox County. I was with Ruben Clark, KB2SAI, working on the Echolink connection for the 2 meter repeater when all of the radio traffic began. It all started around 6:00pm and was over by 7:15pm.

Several of our club members gave assistance in road knowledge and general area information. I was able to make contact with one of the leads of the group, KD8IHF, Dr. Joseph C. Slater, a professor from Wright State University.He provided me with some information on the launch and how they tracked it.

The balloon was launched near Portland, Indiana. The data that the balloon collects is dedicated to the exploration of near space for scientific and educational purposes. WSU started projects for near-space exploration with the Temperature Satellite project in 2003 for Freshman Engineering students. A major goal of the team is to launch two senior design experiments each year with growing sophistication and technology demonstration each time. The team has contributed significant experience to electronics hardening, tracking reliability, and flight prediction and is currently preparing to launch an in-situ video system. The team enjoys a 100% recovery rate after 11 launches as of February 24, 2009.

The balloon can be tracked using the following links the day of a launch. W1WSU-2 or W1WSU-11 are the balloon callsigns. You can follow this link to see the balloons path Wednesday. Google map You may need to enter **W1WSU-2** or **W1WSU-11** into the login box of the main page. This provided a very interesting look as to how the balloon traveled. I have joined the announcement list and will keep everyone informed as to the next launch.

Using balloons to transmit amateur radio data, via packet, APRS or beacon, can be very exciting to listen to. I will provide some more information in next month's newsletter. Who knows, maybe we can send a balloon up one day.

A short sound bit of the radio traffic will be uploaded to the MVARC.NET website very soon.

Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

President:	**Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR**	**kd8evr@mvarc.net**	**Phone: 740-427-2440**
V. 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

Ham Radio Classes Now Forming

As a Licensed Ham Radio Operator You Get To
- Serve Your Community
- Talk To Other Hams On The Radio
- Meet New Friends
- Have Your Own Individual Callsign

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be holding a multi-week course where **YOU** will learn everything you need to earn your entry level FCC **Amateur Radio** license and begin to **talk on the radio with other hams** in the area.

Classes Begin Thursday January 14, 2010 from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M and will continue through February 25, 2010. A testing session for all licenses will be held February 27, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. The class is free, including all study material. The test will be $15.00 required at the time of testing.

Classes will be held in the Training Center at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The white building in back of the main building will be used.

For more information:

Don Russell, W8PEN: 740-397-0249, w8pen@arrl.net

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD: 740-599-6614, kc8yld@arrl.net

Pre-Registration is **not** required. Just attend the first class.

ARRL, The national association for Amateur Radio --
Helping Hams Get Started Since 1914.
1-800-32-NEWHAM

.