



## The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



### January, 2011 Newsletter



Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## December Christmas Dinner Cancelled

The December 2010 Christmas dinner and club meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. The call was made by President Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, on Saturday December 11, 2010. The Board of Directors were consulted before the decision was made and emails and phone calls were made. Hopefully, no one showed up at the diner expecting the Christmas dinner to be held as scheduled.

With the cancellation, election of club officers and directors for the year 2011 was postponed until the January 2011 meeting. **Those that have sent in ballots by mail need not send in another one.** Those that have not voted may do so at the January meeting, or by mail. Votes by mail should be received by Saturday, January 8, 2011. Please see the ballot at the end of this Newsletter for those that have not already voted.

There is talk of a make up dinner for the February or March meeting so check out next months Newsletter, or check into our Sunday Night Net for updated information.

## Technician Ham Class Scheduled

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring its 2011 ham class starting Thursday, January 20, 2011. This class is open to all persons interested in obtaining the Technician Class amateur radio license.

*The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be January 10, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. With the cancellation of the December Christmas dinner and meeting, election of 2011 officers will be the main agenda. Please see corresponding article in this issue of the Newsletter.*

*Please remember to check into the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. on the K8EEN 2-meter Repeater.*

*Also check out the UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. and is a social net. Please join us for the fun of it.*

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

*Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.*

*\*\*\*The next Breakfast will be January 8, 2011 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio\*\*\**

There are three levels of amateur radio classes: Technician, General, and Extra. The Technician class is considered the beginning level of amateur radio and consists of a 35 question exam on rules and regulations, electronic theory, operation procedures, and station setup. Each license class has its own testing with increasingly difficult material to be learned.

Classes will be one night a week from 7:00PM through 9:00PM and last seven consecutive weeks. Testing by our volunteer examiners group will be held the Saturday after the last class, which will be Saturday, March 5, 2011.

Club members are asked to post the Class Flyer, which appears in this Newsletter, where possible. Also, please talk up ham radio to family and friends and let them know of this opportunity.

The class and class materials are free, donated by the MVARC. There will be a \$15.00 exam fee, which is set by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and out of our clubs control.

Further information can be had by contacting:

1. Don Russell, W8PEN, [w8pen@arrl.net](mailto:w8pen@arrl.net) or 740-397-0249
2. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, [kc8yld@arrl.net](mailto:kc8yld@arrl.net) or 740-599-6614
3. Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, [kd8evr@mvarc.net](mailto:kd8evr@mvarc.net) or 740-627-0922

The MVARC sponsors one class a year. Please talk up this once a year opportunity.

## Treasurer's Annual Report

Jan 1, 2011  
for Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2010

Balance on 1-1-10: \$ 2857.45

### Income:

Interest:	\$ 15.92
Dues:	\$ 276.00
Donations:	\$ 25.30
Field Day donations:	\$ 162.00
50-50 Repeater Fund:	\$ 51.00
Red Cross Training Contributions:	\$ 84.00

### Expenses:

Postage:	\$ 88.00
Post Office Box 372:	\$ 44.00
Insurance:	\$ 75.00
Field Day Expenses:	\$ 171.67
Field Day Apple Valley donation:	\$ 150.00

### The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

**President:** Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR  
[kd8evr@mvarc.net](mailto:kd8evr@mvarc.net)  
Phone: 740-627-0922

**V. President:** Tony Spiegel, KC8UR  
[Tony516@embarqmail.com](mailto:Tony516@embarqmail.com)  
Phone: 740-392-7586

**Secretary:** Jeff Butz, N8SMT  
[jaylynn4@gmail.com](mailto:jaylynn4@gmail.com)  
Phone: 740-965-9368

**Treasurer:** Barry Butz, N8PPF  
[N8ppf@mvarc.net](mailto:N8ppf@mvarc.net)  
Phone: 740-397-7540

**Trustee:** Don Russell, W8PEN  
[W8pen@arrl.net](mailto:W8pen@arrl.net)  
Phone: 740-397-0249

### Directors:

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD  
[Kc8yld@arrl.net](mailto:Kc8yld@arrl.net)  
Phone: 740-599-6614

Tom Evans, KD8HSA  
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Ruben Clark, KB2SAI  
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Phone: 740-326-4151

Don Russell, W8PEN  
[W8pen@arrl.net](mailto:W8pen@arrl.net)  
Phone 397-0249

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.

**Newsletter Editor:** Don Russell, W8PEN  
[w8pen@arrl.net](mailto:w8pen@arrl.net)  
Phone: 740-397-0249

Red Cross Training: \$ 96.00  
 MVARC Banners: \$ 129.00  
 Mvarc.net web hosting – 5 years: \$ 62.50

Balance on 12-31-10: \$ 2655.50

Designated Funds Jan 1, 2010:

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

Designated Funds Dec 31, 2010:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 374.94  
 Field Day Fund: \$ 28.25  
 Communication Vehicle Fund: \$ 540.18

Barry Butz N8PPF

# Treasurer's Report

Jan 1, 2011  
 for Dec 1 to Dec 31, 2010

Balance on 12-1-10: \$ 2598.02

Income:

Dues: \$ 54.00  
 Donations: \$  
 50-50: \$  
 Interest: \$ 3.48

Expenses:

Web hosting – 5 years \$

Balance on 12-31-10: \$ 2655.50

Designated Funds:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 374.94  
 Field Day Fund: \$ 28.25  
 Communication Vehicle Fund: \$ 540.18

Since the December meeting was cancelled, we are behind on our dues collection. Please remember to bring your dues to the January meeting or mail them to Box 372. Thanks.

Barry Butz N8PPF

## Is Ham Radio Dying?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

If you've been around ham radio for even a year or two, you've no doubt heard or participated in the debate as to whether or not ham



radio is dying. The question is as perennial as the grass.

Recently, this was a topic of discussion on the ARRL PR mailing list. Allen, W1AGP, the ARRL's Media & PR Manager, generated a chart to show that ham radio is NOT dying. It showed the number of licensees in the U.S. every year from 2005 to 2009:

2005: 661,000  
 2006: 655,000  
 2007: 655,000  
 2008: 662,000  
 2009: 681,000  
 2010: 694,000!

This chart as drawn a good example of how you can lie with statistics. The y-axis started at 640,000, so the rate of increase in the number of licensees looked quite dramatic. Even so, the good news is that the number of licensees is quickly approaching 700,000, and should surpass that number shortly.

An image of this chart can be found at

<http://kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/chart1.png>.

Upon seeing this chart, Jerry, N9TU, did a little statistical analysis of his own. Of the 83 licensees in his zip code, nine are deceased and one has expired. There are four Novices, 36 Techs, 18 Generals, 5 Advanced and ten Extras.

From this data, he deduces, "If this is an average sampling of deceased members, expired members and club licenses, there are roughly 90,000 fewer licensees than shown in the data nationwide. I have no clue of the error rate involved with my data. Your results may vary." My guess is that his zip code is probably pretty typical, and that his analysis is essentially correct.

There's also the question of activity. It's my guess that nearly half of all licensees are inactive, and that if we could figure out a way to activate those hams, then we'd really be able to say that our hobby is not dying. It's something worth thinking about, but there's certainly no easy answer to this problem. As Yogi Berra is purported to have said, "If people don't want to come out to the ball park, there's nothing you can do to stop them."

Overall, though, I think the numbers are headed in the right direction. Ham radio is NOT dying. Let's all keep up the good work.

- When not pondering whether the reports of ham radio's death have been greatly exaggerated or not, Dan operates CW on the HF bands, teaches ham radio classes, and blogs about ham radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). All comments welcome and appreciated. E-mail them to [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

# Free Ride at FEMA U!

By Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a standard framework for managing any disaster incident, national or local, large or small, so that all responders work together as a team.



All of our served agencies are implementing it.

And since Amateur Radio is a component of the National Response Framework (NRF), we need to be familiar with it too.

To provide training, FEMA's Emergency Management Institute offers a free Independent Study Program online. All you have to do is show up for class:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

The courses recommended for ARES members are:

[IS-700.a National Incident Management System \(NIMS\), An Introduction.](#)

[IS-100.b Introduction to the Incident Command System \(ICS\).](#)

[IS-200.b Incident Command System \(ICS\) for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents.](#)

[IS-800.b National Response Framework \(NRF\), An Introduction.](#)

Each course takes about 3 hours, including the exam. There's an interactive Web-based class, which takes you step-by-step through each course, and right into the exam. Or you can download all the class materials and the exams, and enter your answers online when you're ready. You could even skip the exams, and just study the materials at your leisure.

They're more like modules than courses. Some Hams complete all four in one day. So why give up watching a football game to complete one of these courses?

Why not? It's free. It's easy. And it's fun.

But more importantly, you'll know how a disaster incident is managed, and you'll represent Amateur Radio in a professional manner.

If you only have time for one class, take the first one. Or better yet, the first two.

When you score 75% or higher on a 25-question (maximum), multiple-choice exam, you receive a certificate by email for the course.

Be sure to forward a copy to Ruben, KB2SAI, Knox County ARES EC; and to Matt, KD8NGT, Deputy Director of the Knox County Emergency Management Agency, to keep them updated on your training.

Did I mention the exams are open book?

## Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Admittedly, I am getting a little "aged". Lately, I find that I have the TV sound up a little higher than I used to have. I think "blaring" comes to mind. Not that I don't hear the TV well; just seems like I don't always understand the words. A hearing test may be in my future.



I have resolved this problem by buying an FM transmitter from the local Walmart store. The product name is the "Scosche FM Transmitter" and it cost me around \$12.00:

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Scosche-FM-Transmitter/14666784>

The unit uses two AAA batteries, which seem to last a long time.

The transmitter worked fine right out of the box. Almost. I had to do a little "Ham Mod" and wire a cable adaptor that goes from the transmitter stereo audio in plug (which is meant to go to an MP3 player) to RCA plugs that fit my cable box audio out.

Now when I watch TV I can grab one of my two portable FM radios and using the earphones, set the volume to a level I am comfortable with without blasting out everyone else in the room. Really nice, and the sound is very good stereo. I can even use my handheld tuned to the FM band. The transmitter has pretty good range too. I can listen to the TV while I am in just about any room in the house.

How does this translate into something useful for ham radio? For events such as Field Day, I think this would be a great accessory. At the CW (Morse Code) station, we usually have two headsets patched through a "Y" adaptor. This works well but with a few problems. One, no independent volume controls. The one doing the operating sets the volume to his comfort level and the logger suffers. Two, the addition of two more cables makes it a mess at times. Since both headphones we

have used during the past three Field Days have FM receivers built in, it would be a simple matter to plug this Scosche FM Transmitter into the audio level output or even the headphone output of the transceiver. Then, each one sitting at the CW station can adjust the volume to their liking. There can even be a few extra headsets for those that wish listen in. Heck, there could be an FM receiver some distance from the station, allowing interested parties to stop and give a listen. Interesting thought, isn't it.

Another use for this product would be in my mobile radio set up, which is under the passenger seat with the remote head routed to where I can reach it. This works well and prevented thieves from getting my entire mobile station about a year ago. All they got was the remote head, microphone, and speaker.

I was able to replace the remote head and microphone, but never found a convenient place for the larger speaker I had on hand. Therefore, the speaker is laying back behind the seat and on the floor. It is sometimes hard to hear, especially in traffic.

What I have always needed was a way to route the audio output of the mobile radio through the car radio speakers. While this Scosche FM Transmitter would fit the bill, there is one item that has to be considered. Those darn AAA batteries! I would have to remember to turn this transmitter off when I turned the mobile off, or the batteries would surely die an early death!

What I need is a similar product that would run off the 12 volt system of the car, preferably plugging into the 12 volt accessory socket. So, of course, an internet surfing session began. Actually I had already seen this one, but rejected it for the TV project because it was designed to be used in the car. Exactly what I want for the mobile, but a bit more pricey at around \$24.00.

Radio Shack has it:

<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=3826373>

It is called a "MP3 Car-tunes Max" and the reviews are very good. This is the one I will probably try, though I have not ordered it yet. This product can only be bought through the web at Radio Shack dot com:

<http://www.radioshack.com/home/index.jsp>

I am sure if you look around you can find similar products from the local stores. I may look around myself before I buy this one. By the way, Radio Shack does stock a similar item and for a cheaper price, but the reviews were not very positive

Anyway, the MP3 Car-tunes Max should plug right into

my mobile radio and provide very good audio for my ham adventures. Perhaps next month I can let readers know how well it works.

## Puns for Educated Minds

Submitted by the comic, Jeff Butz, N8SMT

- The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- She was only a whiskey maker's daughter, but he loved her still.
- A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
- A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana
- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
- The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
- If you jumped off the bridge in Paris , you'd be in Seine.
- A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
- Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
- Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
- There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

**Now, back to the Newsletter!**

# MVARC

## Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the November 8, 2010 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

### Attendees:

1. Jeff Butz	N8SMT
2. Ann Bradford	KD8LFH
3. Ray Ann Bradford	KD8NGW
4. Patrick Valentine	None
5. Dave Patton	KC8UTL
6. Jim Jennessee	KD8UT
7. Steve Barr	KD8GRM
8. Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
9. Michael McCardel	KC8YLD
10. Tom Evans	KD8HSA
11. Robert Cole	None
12. Brandon Hunt	KD8LPP
13. Tony Spiegel	KC8UR
14. Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
15. Tom Kern	Not Yet
16. Kevin Adams	KD8NGV
17. Larry Helzer	AA8WP
18. Mark Bisenius	AC8FV
19. Barry Butz	N8PPF
20. Jon Penko	KD8LFI
21. Don Russell	W8PEN

President Bradford opened the meeting at 7:00P.M.

### Treasurers Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF For the Month of June:

#### Income:

Interest	\$ 3.49
Dues	\$24.00
CD #1	\$569.00
CD #2	\$797.00

#### Expenses:

P. O. Box Rental	\$44.00
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Balance: \$2578.52

Barry is taking dues for next year.

### EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI

Ruben just wanted to thank everyone who was available

for severe weather nets and the Sunday Night Nets.

### Class Committee, Don Russell, W8PEN

We are just getting organized.

Don is looking for a new PowerPoint program. The Radio Teacher Project at [hamelmer.com](http://hamelmer.com) has not come up with a new PDF study guide so maybe we should go with the ARRL license manual. The committee will investigate the matter amongst others. Don is looking for January 20th for the start of the next class.

### Election Committee, Don Russell, W8PEN

President:	Arlin Bradford
Vice President:	Mark Bisenius
	Tom Evans
	Jon Penko
Secretary	Jeff Butz
Treasurer	Barry Butz
	Jim Jennessee
Board of Directors (2)	Don Russell
	Ruben Clark

Don Russell stated he will include a ballot in the December newsletter.

### Christmas Dinner, Arlin Bradford KD8EVR

Arlin Recommended Allison's Diner where we went last year and his first date recommendation is December 12th.

### Repeater Report: Don Russell, W8PEN

The repeaters are running very good. Don got the Echolink back up and running on the 440 repeater. Arlin advised that he has added Tiffin, Ohio and a Geauga County 6 meter repeater to the area wide link.

### Old Business

We need to pay the club's Domain Name bill of \$13.31 for next year or for the next 5 years at a cheaper rate. A motion was made to pay this bill and it was passed by voice vote.

### New Business:

Arlin Appointed Don Russell and Arlin Bradford to the Credit Union Account since Dick Huggins no longer wishes to be on the account.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barry Butz, N8PPF and Seconded by Ruben Clark, KB2SAI and was approved by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

# Ham Radio Classes Now Forming

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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 weekly 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 and around the world.

**There will be one class each week starting Thursday, January 20, 2011 and running through March 3, 2011 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM, seven classes total. You will learn electronic fundamentals, rules and regulations, and how to set up you own amateur radio station.** A testing session will be held Saturday, March 5, 2011 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](mailto:w8pen@arrl.net)

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD: 740-599-6614, [kc8yld@arrl.net](mailto: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**

**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](http://www.mvarc.net)

Dues Schedule: \$12 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family, for those over 65 yrs. of age, and for those living outside Knox County

**Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club**

**P.O. Box 372**

**Mt. Vernon, OH 43050**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call-Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Members are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one?

No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ If yes please enter password \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments:



MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
BALLOT FOR 2011 CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR ONE)

- [ ] ARLIN BRADFORD, KD8EVR  
[ ] Write in \_\_\_\_\_

VICE PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR ONE)

- [ ] Mark Bisenius, AC8FV  
[ ] Tom Evans, KD8HSA  
[ ] Jon Penko, KD8LFI  
[ ] Write in \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY (VOTE FOR ONE)

- [ ] JEFF BUTZ N8SMT  
[ ] WRITE IN \_\_\_\_\_

TREASURER (VOTE FOR ONE)

- [ ] BARRY BUTZ, N8PPF  
[ ] Jim Jennessee, KD8UT  
[ ] Write in \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR (VOTE FOR TWO)

- [ ] Ruben Clark, KB2SAI                      [ ] WRITE IN: \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] Don Russell, W8PEN                      [ ] WRITE IN: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Ballots may be presented in person or by proxy Monday January 10, 2010 during the Club meeting at The American Red Cross, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio or be delivered by mail to the following by Saturday January 8, 2010:

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, 23449 Bear Run Road, Danville, Ohio 43013-9644

