



Ham Radio Rocks!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club January, 2013 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**



QST QST QST de KD8UT

It is now official. The world did NOT end on December 21st and therefore I need to prepare for the next momentous event... assuming the office of president of this fine organization.

First let me wish each of you a Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the blessings of Christmas with family and friends. Please take the opportunity to thank Arlin, KD8EVR, for his leadership and commitment to MVARC. I hope that I am able to continue to grow our ranks within the club and our standing within the community.

Our first meeting of 2013 will take place on January 14th at 7 PM in the Red Cross Training Center. Tom Evans, KD8HSA, will present our program for the evening, "How to use the Repeater Directory". There is more information in there than you think!

Our club has been very successful in providing training to individuals wanting to get their Amateur Radio license. I would like to see us support these new hams by including a brief training activity or information sharing session at each club meeting. I want to thank Tom for taking the lead with our January meeting. Having said that, I would like our new (and not so new) hams to come to the meeting with suggestions for future meetings. I will also accept any suggestions via email at kd8ut@arrl.net.

I am also looking for ideas for club activities: fox

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

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 12, 2013 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio****

hunt, picnic, trunkfest, etc.. You get the idea... help me put a calendar together for 2013 so we can all make plans to have some fun on and off the air!

Thank you for your vote of confidence by electing me club president for 2013. I am counting on your help as we put our plans together for the coming year.

73,
Jim, KD8UT

Election of 2013 Club Officers

During the December 2012 Club Meeting and Christmas Dinner, the following members were elected to lead the club in 2013:

President: Jim Jennessee, KD8UT
V. President: Don Russell, W8PEN
Secretary: Jeff Butz, N8SMT
Treasurer: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Board of Directors:

Emory Bennett, W8TW
David Bird, KD8RST
Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR (as 2012 President)

Newly elected Board member terms are through the year 2014.

The following Board member terms end at the end of 2013:

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD
Tom Evans, KD8HSA

New Technician Class Scheduled for January

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a Technician Class Ham license course starting Thursday, January 17, 2013.

The class and class material are free, provided by the club.

Classes will be held each Thursday from 7:00PM - 9:00PM for seven weeks at the Knox County Red Cross Training Center through February 28th. Testing for all classes will be held Saturday, March 2nd at a

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

President: Jim Jennessee, KD8UT
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V. President: Don Russell, W8PEN
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Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
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Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to Amateur Radio, with an emphasis on local activity, equipment reviews, and personal experiences to the Newsletter Editor. Articles are due on the Sunday before the first Monday of the month.

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

site yet to be determined.

Please see the Class Flyer in this issue. Feel free to post the flyer in appropriate locations. Let your friends and relatives know of this opportunity to get involved in one of the worlds greatest hobbies.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Jan 1, 2013
for Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2012

Balance on 1-1-12: \$ 2744.62

Income:

Interest: \$ 7.87
Dues: \$ 420.00
Donations: \$ 27.00
Field Day donations:
50-50: \$ 125.00
\$ 108.00

Expenses:

Postage: \$ 90.00
Post Office Box 372: \$ 58.00
Printing expenses for radio class: \$ 50.00
Equipment insurance: \$ 72.00
Field Day expenses: \$ 242.15

Balance on 12-31-12: \$ 2920.34

Designated Funds Jan 1, 2012:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 453.39
Field Day Fund: \$ 93.11
Communication Vehicle Fund: \$ 471.04

Designated Funds Dec 31, 2012:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 536.39
Field Day Fund: \$ 48.00
Communication Vehicle Fund: \$ 471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF

Treasurer's Report

Jan 1, 2013
for Dec 1 to Dec 30, 2012

Balance on 12-1-12: \$ 2840.44

Income:

Dues: \$ 76.00
50-50: \$
Interest: \$ 1.90
Donations: \$ 2.00

Expenses: none

Balance on 12-31-12: \$ 2920.34

Designated Funds:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 536.39
Field Day Fund: \$ 48.00
Communication Vehicle Fund: \$ 471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF

PRODUCT REVIEW

BaoFeng UV-5R
By Barry Butz, N8PPF



I bought one of these for my son Craig for his school and got to play with it. I bought it from Amazon seller Sain Store. It's a nice radio but I really don't think it's a good one for a beginner.

Unlike the Wouxun KG-UVD1P, it has a vfo function. But it is still hard to program directly. For instance, you have to enter three menu items to set ctcss encode, decode and on/off. If you want to then change the vfo to a different repeater, you have to do it all over again. You can directly enter the frequency from the keyboard but commonly needed functions such as tones or power have to

be set through menus. Another concern is that all frequencies are open for transmitting. It's too easy to transmit out of band. Craig saw in the reviews that these are refurbished. I couldn't say from the appearance if this is so because everything looked brand new. But the instructions say the battery must be charged and actually it was already fully charged. Also, there were lots of funny frequencies already programmed in memory.

The instructions are very limited. An experienced user will figure things out, but a beginner would have problems. As for actually transmitting and receiving, I didn't do that. I just checked out the controls.

In spite of all this, I did like the radio. If I actually needed a 9th or 10th HT, I might buy one for myself. It has a nice appearance, something like a VX-8DR but smaller. There are a number of protuberances that make it slightly uncomfortable to hold. I liked the fact that there is an actual knob for volume and on/off, although again, squelch is a menu setting.

AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

From The Ohio Section News for December 22, 2012.

As we close out 2012 we currently have 95 clubs that are considered active in Ohio. An active club is an ARRL affiliated club who has filed an annual report sometime in the past four years. The national club database indicates that there are 101 inactive clubs (clubs not filing an annual report for 5 or more years). Many of these no longer exist, but when reviewing this list some clubs appear in both active and inactive lists and in some instances are on the inactive list due to club consolidations or club name changes. I do contact the contact people in these clubs on occasion to see if I get a response. I seldom do.

Of the 95 clubs that are considered active, 25 have updated their annual reports in the past two years and another 44 have filed an annual report since Dec 2011. Ohio boasts 16 clubs with current up to date Special Service status and two more whose SSC status expired in 2012 that I am hopeful will reapply. SSC terms are limited and need to be renewed every two years. Thirteen of the current SSC clubs will need to reapply in 2013 to stay current. (Apply sooner than later!)

How do we compare with the other Great Lake

District Sections? Michigan currently shows 84 active ARRL Affiliated clubs with 37 of those filing annual reports in the past year. Michigan has 9 Special Service Clubs. Kentucky shows 32 ARRL Affiliated active clubs with 16 filing an annual report in the past year and has no current Special Service Clubs.

What about club membership? The average club membership is 59 people per club. The average ARRL membership of members in clubs is 41 members per club. The median club membership is 41. The median ARRL membership is only 29. This is an area we can improve. The active club listing the most members on its annual report is The Greater Cincinnati ARA who lists 455 members. The smallest club is the Stark DX Assn. who boasts 4 members. (Note that the Dayton ARA has not filed an annual report since 2006 when they listed 700 members.) The total club membership for the Ohio Section includes 5,434 of which 3,759 are ARRL members. However, these figures may be a bit inflated due to the fact that many people belong to more than one club.

Within the annual report, clubs are asked what activities their club judges as their Specialties. The following stats indicate what Ohio's clubs specialties are.

Specialty: Number of Clubs (% of OH Clubs)

General Interest: 83 (87.3%)

Public Service / Emergency: 80 (84.2%)

VHF/UHF: 74 (77.9%)

Repeaters: 73 (76.8%)

Digital Modes: 59 (62.1%)

Contests: 58 (61.1%)

DX: 51 (53.6%)

School and Youth: 27 (28.4%)

Does anyone see an area where should be finding ways to improve our expertise? Another question presented on the annual report is what services does a club offer? For the Ohio Section 75 clubs publish a newsletter, 74 maintain a repeater or repeaters, 67 offer Technician Class lessons or classes, 67 also offer exam sessions to acquire a license, 51 clubs have a mentor or Elmer program,

48 clubs offer General Class or higher lessons or classes, 37 transmit some sort of on-the-air bulletin, 28 clubs have a Hamfest, 25 clubs maintain a Packet Radio BBS and 17 clubs have a TVI/RFI committee. 83 clubs, also list a URL for a club website.

Ohio has a long, storied and interesting history when it comes to its clubs. 29 of our clubs have exceeded 50 years of affiliation with the ARRL another 31 have celebrated 25 years of ARRL affiliation. Our oldest two affiliates are Mahoning Valley ARA who affiliated on 2/6/1925 and the Findlay radio Club who affiliated 6/4/1925. But they may not be the oldest clubs in Ohio as the Cambridge ARA who didn't file for affiliation until 1947 was chartered in 1913! They will be celebrating their 100th anniversary as a club this coming year. I understand that the Mahoning Valley group wasn't too far behind them when forming.

Our newest affiliates are the Central Ohio Radio Club who affiliated 7/27/2011 preceded by the Butler County ARA who affiliated 4/27/2011.

It has been a fantastic experience traveling around Ohio the past two years visiting club meetings, Hamfests, field days and special events. Our clubs and our members are doing a great job of promoting Amateur Radio. They are active in their communities. They also have fun doing what they do. I am very proud of all they do and all the service they offer our communities. Let's make next year even better.

Until next month, "Build something with your kids or grandchildren this Christmas!

73,
E.Mike McCardel, KC8YLD
Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator
kc8yld@arrl.net

STATEHOUSE HAPPENINGS – A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR OHIO HAMS

From The Ohio Section News for December 22, 2012.

Okay, so H.B. 158 wasn't exactly delivered on Dec. 25, but it does represent a large benefit for Ohio amateurs and marks the culmination of nearly five years of legislative effort. H.B. 158 is Ohio's antenna

bill, giving radio amateur antenna requests a strong preference in local zoning decisions. While it doesn't solve all of our problems, such as deed restrictions or neighborhood and condo agreements, it goes a long way toward helping those who would otherwise be limited by city, county or township zoning ordinances.

The Bill became law in Ohio on August 15 and with it Ohio joins 26 other states that have passed state laws similar to the FCC regulations designated as PRB-1, regulations which prohibit state and local governments from imposing unreasonable limitations on amateur antennas. Of course our legislative Santa had some help in this effort and now is a good time to once again thank the "elves" who helped make Ohio's antenna law a reality. First on the list, of course is the "chief elf", our Section Manager Frank Piper, K18GW. Frank was there whenever needed – and he was needed a lot, both as a legislative witness and an advisor. Right behind Frank was Terri Kovalchik, N8TLK whose research and organizational skills made the effort possible. In addition to attending hearings and keeping us organized, Terri did a review and summary of existing legislation in every state that had passed "PRB-1 like" legislation that provided impressive background information for our legislative sponsors.

In addition to Frank and Terri, our effort was supported with an impressive array of amateur radio background and experience as evidenced by our legislative witnesses who gave their personal time and effort to help often-confused legislative committee members understand why radio transmissions require antennas. That group of dedicated "elves" included Rick Swain, KK8O (also, often called upon for help), Bill Carpenter, AA8EY, Steve Katz, N8WL, Don Kovalchik, W8DPK, Dr. Bob Lewis, N8GU, and John Tipka, W8UL. A special thanks also goes to Capital University law professor Jeff Ferriell, K8ZDA, for his help in addressing the Home Rule issues that seemed to trouble some of the legislators. Numerous others, too many in numbers to list here, also helped with guidance, suggestions, calls and emails. Thanks to all of you. Your efforts have made Ohio a better place to be a radio amateur and a safer place for all Ohioans in times of emergency.

As we would with any new piece of radio gear, it's time to take our legislative present out of the box (read the instructions later, if ever) and give it a try. Some Ohio hams have already seen the benefits of the new legislation as their antenna applications

received swift approval. Others may still be pending. So, how can we best use our new-found antenna authority? Obviously, putting up antennas is a good place to begin. But, what about helping our local radio clubs become true resource centers for new hams? Getting new hams on the air is essential to the continued life of our hobby, and antennas are an essential part of that equation. Or, should we use our success to try to springboard other ham-friendly legislation in Ohio, or perhaps try to help other states with their own antenna bills? The possibilities are endless and as the New Year approaches it's certainly time to consider some of those options and plan for our efforts next year. Your thoughts are most welcome, so please feel free to share.

Happy New Year and 73.

Nick Pittner, K8NAP
Ohio State Government Liaison
K8nap@arll.net

A Proposal to Buy Radios

By Don Russell, W8PEN

As mentioned earlier in this issue of the Newsletter, a new Technician Class ham course is scheduled to start in this month.

I have been involved with these courses for approximately ten years now. It all started out with a need for someone to take the initiative to organize and teach those interested in ham radio.

It took a while to build up the course. I started out by drafting Barry Butz N8PPF as a co-instructor and just a few students. The club now has five instructors and generally ten or so students each year. The team has progressed to the point of having written their own course material and power point presentation. I do appreciate all the efforts of the club members in helping with the course.

One thing seems to remain constant though. After everyone is licensed we have a hard time getting the newly licensed hams on the air! I take some responsibility in this as I do not push the activity part as hard as I should. I have not been as active on our repeaters as I should be and perhaps do not encourage the newcomers to get on the air enough.

There is also the equipment issue. While the instructors try to recommend equipment to the students, there is no easy way to order equipment except on line or making a trip to Universal Radio in Reynoldsburg. Therefore, most of the students do not have a radio to use as soon they get their call.

The instructors have tried to solve this by lending radios to the students. This has had some success, although we could never provide a radio to all the students.

What I have suggested and will propose at the January club meeting is for the club to buy ten to fifteen BaoFeng UV-5R 136-174/400-480 MHz Dual-Band DTMF CTCSS DCS FM Ham Two Way Radios. Then we would resell these radios at the clubs cost to our students and if any were left over offer them to club members for the same price. The students would have their own radios to immediately get on the air with.

These are cheap radios at around \$40 each but according to the reviews from Amazon dot Com seem to work pretty good. Also see Barry's review of the radio elsewhere in this issue.

Here is the Amazon page that gives details and reviews of the BaoFeng UV-5R:

http://www.amazon.com/BaoFeng-UV-5R-136-174-400-480-Dual-Band/dp/B007H4VT7A/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1357253004&sr=8-1&keywords=wouxun+ham+radio

According to the reviews the biggest drawback on these radios concern difficulty in manually programming them. Arlin KD8EVR is willing to preprogram all the radios to our local repeaters and simplex channels, thus solving this issue.

I have expanded my initial proposal to include a magnetic mount dual band mobile antenna for around \$10. I know they were selling these at the Mansfield hamfest last year. I bought one a few years ago and it works perfectly for a quick mobile antenna.

This will give the newly licensed hams from our next class the opportunity to use the radio at home or in the car.

I estimate the packaged deal to be \$50. I think this would be a good deal for new hams and club members alike.

How do Weather Spotters communicate?

When Disaster Strikes, how will you communicate?

Ham Radio

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...



AMATEUR RADIO



“Whether you want to be an effective weather spotter, useful during disasters, or just prepared, you really need a ham license.”

HAM RADIO CLASSES NOW FORMING FOR THE TECHICIAN CLASS LICENSE

Date: Begins Thursday, January 17th, 2013 and runs every Thursday through Feb. 28th from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Exams will be held Saturday March 2nd.

Location: The Knox County American Red Cross, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. We are using the Training Center, which is the building in back of the Headquarters.

Cost: The course and course material are FREE. Exam fee is \$15.00 due at the time of the exam.

Pre-Register or Walk ins welcome.

Who are Amateur Radio Operators? Anyone you know could be an Amateur Radio operator or "ham" --no matter what age, gender or physical ability. From ages 8 to 80, people in many countries of the world can have fun as radio amateurs. If you've had fun with CB radio or trying new things with your computer, wait till you see what you can do with ham radio!

Contact: Don Russell, W8PEN, w8pen@arri.net 740-397-0249
Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, kc8yld@arri.net 740-599-6614
Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, kd8evr@mvarc.net 740-627-0922

Visit our Web Page: <http://www.mvarc.net/>
Or our national club: <http://www.arri.org/>



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

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 372, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Name _____ Call-Sign _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ License Class _____

ARRL Member (Y/N) _____ E-Mail _____

Extra Donation (Optional) _____

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

No _____ Yes _____

If yes please enter password _____

Other Comments: