Ham Radio Rocks!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

July, 2008 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

What is Amateur Radio?

By Jim Weaver, K8JE

Reprinted from "Weavers Words" a monthly email from Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director…(Ed, w8pen)

At the risk of boring you to tears, let's start at the very beginning (this ought to make a good song title). Amature -- from the Latin, amo. Loosely means love. An amateur does something for the love of doing it. An amateur may be paid well, poorly or not at all. The key is that the task is done for the love of doing it. Ra-dio -- from radiate. In Amateur Radio, this refers to radiating an electronic signal from what has become known as a station. There is commercial radio, military radio, government radio, public radio and, best of all, Amateur Radio -- i.e. radio for the love of doing it.

Let's clear up a great misimpression. This is that all workers are either "professional" or "non-professional," and that Amateur Radio operators are non-professional. This misconception resulted from the corruption of the English language largely during the last half or so of the 20th century. The confusion and corruption has not cleared since the enlightened days of the early 21st century. It has been said that the French don't care what they say so long as it sounds good (the French language is beautiful). It can also be said that we Americans don't care what we say so long as we know what we (the speaker) intends to say. Neither position helps ensure accuracy of communication.

In times past, calling a person a "professional" had nothing or at most, little to do with money. For example, even though we call paid baseball, football and other athletes "professional," none of them are "professional" in the true sense of the word. They are paid, skilled commercial athletes. Although we now call highly skilled craftsmen professional, this use of the word also differs from its true meaning. Craftsmen can be referred to as Master, Journeyman or Apprentice plumbers, carpenters, etc. Each term is a legitimate and appropriately complimentary title.

Back in my rural, northwestern Indiana community, we didn't have Master or Journeymen craftsman. In our simplicity, we referred to appropriately-skilled people as being highly skilled, did good work or hire-"him"-if you needed something thrown together. The worker's skill level was well known, appreciated and rewarded. But, he was not a professional.

One could also add the term "artisan" to our list of categories. Artisans include good sculptors, real life or abstract art painters and musicians. They aren't professional. You know the people to whom I refer.

The term "Professional" was limited to people who obtained special education that permitted them to perform at a different plane from those in the trades or crafts. Professionals included teachers, physicians, dentists, scientists, attorneys, ministers. This does not at all mean that highly skilled or trained non-professionals are slouches. They deserve great respect also.

Where does this take me? Right back to Amateur Radio (hams). In my book, a radio amateur is a person who recognizes the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service. This especially includes providing emergency communication for no charge to the public or served agencies.

As a body, Amateur Radio operators strive to continue and extend their proven ability to contribute to the

advancement of the radio art and science. They encourage and improve the Amateur Radio Service through programs that facilitate advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art. Their effort to expand the existing reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts is a continuation and extension of their unique ability to foster international goodwill.

All this is what makes Amateur Radio operators true professionals. Fabled newscaster and commentator Walter Cronkite, who narrates the CD "Amateur Radio Today," also states that hams are professionals. This statement is accurate in the true meaning of the word. We are professionals not because we are paid, but because of the education and training we have put ourselves through.

Just as physicians, teachers and others I refer to as true professionals, every ham operator who holds an FCC license has what might be called a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Amateur Radio. Many amateurs have Ph.D.s in Amateur Radio not merely because they are licensed, but because they have become self-educated to the degree at which they can out-perform a number of college-educated engineers.

Amateur Radio -- a hobby? Yes, it is this and much more. It is a service; a service to the public, thanks to the discoveries, innovation and disaster relief activities we have performed and continue to perform.

This line of thinking leads me to believe you and I are Professional Amateur Radio Operators in the Amateur Radio Service. We are not merely amateur radio operators. Many Professional Amateur Radio Operators have sub-training in Morse code, Digital Communication, Emergency Communication, Systems Design and Development and other facets of the degree. All of us are Professional, regardless of which, if any, sub-specialties we pursued or continue to pursue. Don't let anyone try to tell you otherwise. To borrow a phrase, we are the proud, the few, the Professional Amateur Radio Operators.

Field Day Hams Rock Mt. Vernon, Ohio

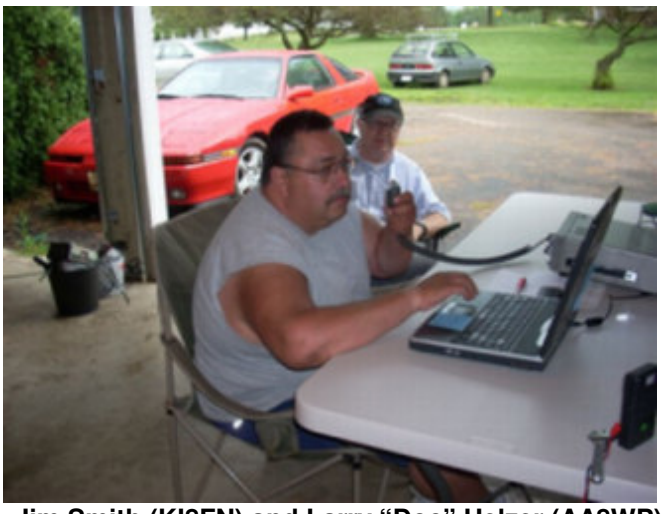
By Don Russell, W8PEN

This years Field Day event on June 28th and 29th sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club was a roaring success. All indications point to a record CW contact total, record contact total, and record total score. This all equals to very fun weekend for local hams. So far, the earliest records we could find for the club was back to the mid 1990's. If anyone has old QST's, we could check scores back further. In fact, ideally, if one has the complete set of QST CD's we could really do some interesting research.

This years Field Day started out in typical fashion with the Friday afternoon antenna set up. Field Day this year was held at Larry "Doc" Helzer's, AA8WP, place.

There was plenty of room in the back to set up the 75 and 40 meter SSB station antennas, which consisted of a dipole for 75 and a dipole for 40 meters. Using a tower, an antenna mast, and a tree, the group was able to get the antenna up about 30 feet, and level. The antenna ran North and South, putting our signal into the major population areas East and West. Remember, dipoles radiate broadside to the wires.

The 20 through 10 meter SSB station antennas were installed next, as far away from the just installed dipoles as possible. This was to reduce any intra station interference. We used two loop antennas placed on a 38 foot antenna tower. One loop ran East and West while the other loop ran North and South. The antennas were fed at the base of the tower using two MFJ antenna tuners. Then coax was run to the operating position and into an antenna switch so that we could switch between antennas. Therefore, instant access to stations East and West or North and South was had. Antenna gain is calculated at just under 3 DB over a dipole antenna.



Jim Smith (KI8FN) and Larry "Doc" Helzer (AA8WP) Working 40 meters

The last antenna to be installed was the CW (Morse Code) station antenna. This year we used an 80 through10 meter windom antenna. We used Jeff Butz's antenna mast system, which put the apex of the antenna at about 40 feet. Ran one side to a tower at about 30 feet and the other end to a 10 foot pole. We planned on using an antenna tuner, but the antenna analyzer showed that the SWR was acceptable on 80 through 20 meters. Since we were not expecting to work 15 or 10 meters, the antenna tuner was left home.

There was some thought of putting up a loop antenna for 75 meters, and Don Russell, W8PEN, had an Extended

Double Zepp 20 meter antenna he wanted to try. However, enough work had already been done, and these two antennas were put on hold until the next day. We never got back to putting them up.

All total, antenna setup took about six hours. Mike McCardel did try the loops out before we went home and got a 59 report from New York. Equipment set up was saved for Saturday morning. Everyone departed after a job well done.

Barry Butz (N8PPF) and Jeff Butz (N8SMT)
Man the VHF station

Saturday morning came and first on site were Jack Koelbl, N8JQZ, and Don Russell, W8PEN. Originally, the CW station was to be set up on the front porch. It was decided that the front porch was too narrow for the table and chairs, so Jack and Don set up a Screened Shelter that had been brought.

The CW station was put together in short order. In use was W8PEN's Yaesu FT-847 and two 6 volt deep cycle batteries. It was hoped that the batteries would last the entire 24 hours. Some testing was done, but the station was shut down to conserve battery power.

Mike (KC8YLD) working 20 meters

After a short break, Jack and Don set up the 75 and 40 meter SSB station. It was after 1:00 P.M. and Field Day operations was to start at 2:00 P.M. No one else had showed yet. This station went together very fast. Ruben Clark's, KB2SAI, Kenwood TS-520 was used. One deep cell battery was used to power this station. Another battery was added later. This station was located in the garage. SWR check was fine and this station was determined to be ready to go.

About this time, members started showing up. The 20 through 10 meter station was put together using Mike McCardel's, KC8YLD, Yaesu FT-857 and a car battery, which was not deep cycle.

Barry Butz, N8PPF, set up the VHF station in the Garage. Barry brought a 6 meter loop antenna and a 3 element 2 meter beam. Compared to last years results on VHF (zero contacts), this year went rather well. See the summary later in this article.

Field Day began with two stations running. The CW (Morse Code) station, and the 75/40 meter station. We were having trouble getting the logging computer for the 20 meter station to connect to the network. It was closer to 3:00 P.M. before we got the problems solved and the station up and running.

Things were going great for about an two hours, then the first thunder storm hit! The CW station, which was out in the weather, was shut down. Equipment was protected and the operators took shelter inside. This storm had seen 60 mph winds when it came through Mansfield, but was not nearly as bad when it got to Mt. Vernon. Must have broken up some. Or went around us.

Jim Smith (KI8FN) and Jack Koelbl (N8JQZ)
Running stations on 40 meters

There were a few other random storms through the early evening, but we got the CW station back on the air, and the SSB stations never really quit. As the night progressed, the band conditions improved, and a lot of stations were being worked.

Although the SSB phone boys got out to a huge lead of 150 contacts over the CW operators, during the night as most of the phone operators took a nap, Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, took over CW operations. When Tony left in the morning, the CW boys had a commanding lead of over 100 contacts! Although Don, W8PEN, knew that this lead in contacts would not be maintained when the Phone stations started operating Sunday morning, he was determined to give up ground slowly.

The competition between the SSB Phone stations and the CW station was an interesting side story. As suspected, the Phone contacts piled up and by the last hour of Field Day, the two modes were tied for contacts. The SSB stations finally made their move and took a three contact lead going into the final half hour. The CW station came back and reclaimed the lead with 15 minutes left in the test. When the dust settled, the CW station was leading the pack by a total of 615 contacts to 608 for the phone guys. At least for this year, Morse Code rules!

Field Day ended with our group knowing that it was a job well done. While we could not find enough records to prove it, we are confident that this is the best score ever turned in by a Mt. Vernon, Ohio Field Day group. Don, W8PEN, would like to really dig into this, so if anyone has past issues of QST with FD results posted, please send him the scores for those years.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wise

A Field Day report would not be complete without mentioning the picnic. This year the club provided the meat and drinks and everyone else brought a covered dish. There was plenty of food and drinks to go around and we had a really good turnout for the picnic. Doc's cooking is great! The ops were even treated to a breakfast Sunday morning to help them get started.

Hope everyone enjoyed Field Day. I know I did. I can not wait until next year when we try to beat this score!

MVARC President Mike McCardel and Don Russell, W8PEN talk to County Commissioner Robert Wise

ARRL Field Day Summary

1. Field Day Call Used: K8EEN
GOTA Station Call: None

2. Club Name: Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

3. Number of Participants:

4. Number transmitters in simultaneous operation: 3

5. Entry Class: A (Club Portable)

6. Power Sources used: Generator, Battery

7. ARRL / RAC Section: OH

8. CW QSO's: 615 X 2 = Total CW QSO points: 1230

9. Digital QSO's: 0 X 2 = Total Digital QSO points: 0
10. Phone QSO's: 608 X 1 = Total Phone QSO points: 608

11. Total QSO points: 1838

12. Power Multiplier: Less than 150 watts

13. Power Multiplier: 2

14. Claimed Score: 3676

15. Bonus points claimed: Please check each block as appropriate and include required proof of points with your submission. All bonus points will be verified at ARRL HQ and added to your score.

X 100% Emergency power
X Media Publicity

Set-up in Public Place
Information Booth
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC
W1AW Field Day Message
Formal NTS messages handled (#)
Satellite QSO completed
X Natural Power QSO's Completed
X Site Visited by invited officials
GOTA maximum QSO's achieved
Non-Traditional mode:
Youth Participation (#)

Total Bonus Points Claimed: 600

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
160	0	150	0	150	0	150
80	211	150	0	150	92	150
40	206	150	0	150	284	150
20	138	150	0	150	154	150
15	43	150	0	150	54	150
10	17	150	0	150	0	150
6	0	150	0	150	22	150
2	0	150	0	150	2	150
1.25	0	150	0	150	0	150
70	0	150	0	150	0	150
33	0	150	0	150	0	150
23	0	150	0	150	0	150
GOTA	0	150	0	150	0	150

Totals: 615 CW 0 Dig 608 Phone

Used batteries at each station. Recharged batteries as needed with a small generator. We only had to do this with one battery, and we never really needed it again.

Power summary: Two batteries per station will run Field Day for the entire 24 hours.

AN ERA COMES TO A CLOSE AS RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH, K4ZDH, RETIRES

(From the ARRL Letter, July 3, 2008)

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH -- the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement -- said goodbye to the FCC as he retired and began his life as a private citizen.

In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited "several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community."

While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue. Hollingsworth said that he has "loved" working for the FCC and has "always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work.

The Amateur Radio Enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day." Saying it has been a "privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators," Hollingsworth said that he is "extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators."

Before joining the FCC, Hollingsworth, a South Carolina native, graduated from the University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University School of Law. While in high school, he worked as a disc jockey for WRHI, an AM station in Rock Hill, South Carolina. "It's a funny thing," Hollingsworth said. "They once held a beauty pageant in Rock Hill and nobody won!" In the mid-1970s, he was a "Nader's Raider" and worked on brown lung disease in the North and South Carolina textile mills. "Basically I'm just an ordinary guy caught in the cross-hairs of radio history," Hollingsworth said. "But I am proud of the fact that the digital clock on my VCR has been blinking for 4 years." Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I have met who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed."

Calling the Amateur Radio Service a part of the American heritage, Hollingsworth explained that he is "going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can. Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio! Every gift of lasting value comes with responsibility. We must never forget what we owe for our spectrum privileges. I will continue working with you in every way I can to ensure that Amateur Radio lasts a thousand years. "

RADIO-ACTIVITY

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Field Day was great this year. I had a lot of fun beating the three phone stations with our lone Morse Code station. Hey, you guys new that was coming sometime, didn't you? Actually, the more thrilling part of the CW station for me was the honor of working with three of Knox Counties best CW operators. Don Blizzard, W8UMH, Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, and Dave Phillips, W8DEP. I know I get a lot of publicity for being the clubs most recognized CW operator, but that is only because I have been more vocal about the benefits of Morse Code, and active in the club for a longer period of time. Being Newsletter Editor does not hurt either.

Don, W8UMH, pulls seniority on the rest of us CW operators. I remember Don being active in the club in the mid to late 1960's. I was a Novice, and then New General about that time. I can remember one Field Day in the late 60's. I was not licensed then. I had taken my General license and failed the test. I was still studying. Don had a tent set up and was working CW. I kept stopping by to see how he was doing. Well, he was doing fine, and is still going strong.

Tony, KC8UR, has stopped by for a few hours of Field Day in the past. Tony is a good CW operator. I understand he can head copy at 30 or so words per minute. Right there is the secret to being good at Morse Code. Being able to understand what is being sent without writing it down. I have never been able to master that technique…. yet. Oh, I can head copy for a while, but I soon loose track of what was being said. Maybe it is bad memory. I have better luck writing it down, which limits my speed. Tony came late to Field Day this year, saying he thought he would work the night shift, if that was okay with me. No problem here. I turned Tony loose and went to take a nap!

Dave, W8DEP, operates CW mobile. That right there tells you how proficient he is at Morse Code. I would never attempt that. I have enough trouble working 2 meter FM mobile. How Dave can send Morse Code and drive at the same time amazes me. Dave likes operating QRP, which is 5 watts or less of power. This largely limits him to operating CW.

I really enjoyed working and talking with these three gentlemen. Makes me believe that Morse Code will go on forever. Which, by the way, did you know that Morse Code is more popular than ever? Apparently, once the pressure of learning Morse Code to get a ham license went away, lots of people decided to try it on their own. Who would have figured.

If you missed Field Day, you really missed something. SSB or CW, contest operating can be a lot of fun. Especially if you do it with a group. Digging out those weak signals also helps to develop skills you never knew you had. If you have not tried a contest lately, you should. There are several contests, usually on a smaller scale than Field Day, each month to help get your feet wet. Then there are larger ones during the Winter months to help pass the time until Summer comes around again.

Long live Morse Code! Long Live SSB! Live long and prosper, Ham Radio!

Summer means a lot of us will be taking vacation trips. Some of us will go camping, others will stay in Hotels or Motels. However, there is no reason why you cannot take Short Wave Ham Radio with you. Sure, you always have your VHF mobile, or your hand held. But why not throw your HF rig in the car?

This is exactly what I am going to do on my next fishing trip to New York. I have tried QRP from the camp grounds and have had some success. But I have decided I do not wish to have to work at making contacts during my vacation. Therefore I am planning on taking my FT-847 with me. My Explorer has an antenna mount that supports an HF antenna, but it is the weak link and I would not dare drive down the freeway with the eight foot antenna mounted to it. It will however, do just fine parked next to the Cabin.

I plan on using the HF mobile antenna attached to my car, but the rig will be in the cabin. I have no doubt I will be heard with this set up, but just in case, I am bringing my 40-10 meter windom antenna for putting in the trees if need be. Most camp sites frown on attaching any wires to the trees. Mine does. I will be taking with me a 20 foot mast to support the antenna. Not sure about the ends. May be a night time only arrangement.

When not doing fishing and camping stuff, I plan on being on the ham bands.

You too can have HF capabilities from your car. See the article by Don Blizzard elsewhere in this Newsletter to show you how to do it.

ARRL TELLS RED CROSS OF REMAINING BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY CONCERNS ARRL

From the ARRL Letter, July 3, 2008

President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written to Armond T. Mascelli, Vice President for Domestic Disaster response for the American Red Cross (ARC) to identify the ARRL's remaining concerns over the background check policy for ARC partners.

Harrison emphasized that the commencement of negotiation of a replacement Statement of Understanding (SOU) between the two organizations should not be further delayed while these concerns are resolved and that he looked forward to signing a new SOU once additional edits to the background check Disclosure Form and clarifications of the background check Authorization Form are in place for those radio amateurs who volunteer their service to the Red Cross.

Harrison first wrote to Mascelli on November 28, 2007, setting out the ARRL's concerns with the background check procedures recently implemented by the ARC. ARC now requires a background check for Amateur Radio volunteers seeking to support a Red Cross disaster relief response for more than a seven day period. In the ARRL's view, Amateur Radio volunteers were being asked to consent to a more intrusive background check than was necessary or appropriate. Mascelli's reply on May 8, 2008, addressed some of the ARRL's concerns and Harrison's latest letter to the ARC -- sent on June 30, 2008 -- recognizes considerable improvement in the forms related to the background check procedures that are linked via the ARC's Web site; however, Harrison also states that analysis of the forms has revealed two continuing problems:

The Authorization for Background Investigation consent form still contains "some highly equivocal and broad language which, because of its ambiguity, will inevitably discourage substantial numbers of radio amateurs from participating in the background check process." This form was not included with Mascelli's reply and was not seen by the ARRL until later.

The "Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation" can still be construed as overly broad, although this can be corrected by fairly simple edits.

Harrison told Mascelli, "We do not want the implementation of these additional changes to further delay the negotiation of the terms of a replacement SOU. A new SOU is, in my view, a critical and urgent matter. Because the old SOU expired on September 16, 2007, the vacuum thereafter has served neither ARRL nor ARC well." ARRL and ARC staff are ready to work on a draft replacement SOU, the text of which will be reviewed by the ARRL's Programs and Services Committee and approved by either the Executive Committee or the Board prior to completion. Harrison concluded, "We look forward to continuing to provide seamless disaster response communications by Amateur Radio and to enhancing and expanding ARRL's proud partnership with the American Red Cross. I look forward to meeting with you and executing the new SOU once additional edits to the Disclosure Form, and adequate clarifications are included in the Authorization Form that appears on your web site for partner organizations are made, and when the new SOU terms are agreed upon."

PHILADELPHIA AREA HAMS NAIL ROGUE RADIO SIGNALS When residents of a Philadelphia suburb complained

From the ARRL letter, July 3, 2008

<http://www.nbc10.com/investigators/16701097/detail.html?dl=mainclick> to an area television station about how their remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store, an investigative reporter for NBC-10 (WCAU) called everyone she could to help her discover why. No one knew anything -- until she called on some local ham radio operators.

"Many people lock and unlock a car by remote and don't even give it a second thought unless it doesn't work," said NBC10 reporter Lu Ann Cahn. "The mystery problem repeatedly occurs outside the Kohl's store in Royersford. When I went into Kohl's [to ask about this], they told me they had no idea [about this]." Cahn said that shoppers told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shoppers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors: "One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it."

Shoppers theorized that it was the local power plant causing the interference, but Cahn said that officials at the plant said it wasn't them. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. "Police tell us that they can't figure it out either," Cahn said. So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, Cahn happened upon Reggie Leister, N3KAS, and Bob Rex, K3DBD, of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club <http://www.paarc.net/>; Rex is Vice President of the club and Leister is the club's Public Information Officer (PIO). And as hams do, they were quick to volunteer to help out.

Leister and Rex accompanied Cahn to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. "Somewhere in the vicinity of this parking lot," Leister said, "there is a big source of radiation, some sort of signal."

When Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohl's store, he hit pay dirt. "There are actually two signals there. It looks like [they're] coming from the building," Rex said when he read the analyzer. Leister and Rex moved in closer to the building and pinpointed that one signal was coming from one set of doors, while the other signal emitted from another set of doors. Rex, an engineer, said that the thing that bothers him about this is that the signals "are running constantly."

When Cahn approached Kohl's management with their findings, she was told that "they will look into it." "The FCC licenses radio signals and these ham radio operators say the fact that some signal is interfering with remote locks isn't good," Cahn said in her report. Rex concurred, saying, "The FCC rules are pretty clear on that. It might be something that's broken." Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors located at each set of doors might be the culprit. Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're working on it," Cahn said. "The FCC says it does sound like something malfunctioned and they have had reports of similar incidents in New York City and Tampa, Florida."

A few days after they found the signals, Leister explained that he and Rex did not think the anti-shoplifting detectors were the problem: "What we are guessing here is that they are probably connected to some kind of device that triggers a security camera to come on if there is a breach. Except instead of just sending out a quick 2-5 second (Part 15) blip, these seem to be on continuously and exceeding the permissible signal levels."

Cahn was quick to give on-air credit to the local hams who stepped up to the plate and helped crack this mystery: "We here at NBC10 were so curious as to why these remote car locks would just stop working, so we thought we should really try to solve this mystery. I have to give kudos to Reggie Leister and Bob Rex with the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. They were so great and so excited. You don't know how many people we called -- police, Triple A, car dealerships -- we called so many people trying to figure this out and nobody knew anything until we talked to these ham radio operators. They were so wonderful and they knew all about radio signals. They created their own gadgets to help us figure this out. We really want to thank them for their help with this."

The following was published in the December, 2002 issue of QST by our own Don Blizzard, W8UMH:

LOOK MA—NO DRILLING!

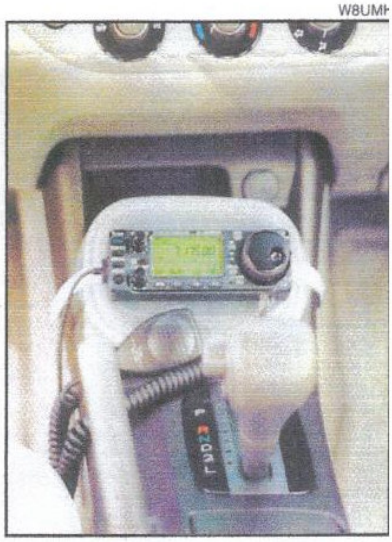
By Donald T. Blizzard, W8UMH

With the increase in popularity of HF mobiling in recent years, and the flexibility of some of the new transceivers, I decided to give HF mobiling a try. Having recently purchased a new 2002 sedan, I knew space would be at a premium. With the brand new car and being very particular about my vehicle, I had several installation criteria: No holes were to be drilled in the new vehicle. The installation must look aesthetically good. The speaker must be located so passengers are not "blasted."

I found that the vehicle frame had nuts welded for a second muffler support. My vehicle did not have a second muffler, however, so this mount was available for an antenna bracket. I cut two mounting angles, one of which bolted to the frame using the nuts for the nonexistent muffler support. The second angle bolts to the first, and extends beyond the rear bumper to accept the 3/8-inch antenna mount. The short RG-58 coax slips through a plastic grommet in the bottom of the trunk.

The IC-706 MKIIG is nicely designed to have an inch-thick detachable front panel, which is of benefit in the tight vehicle I had purchased. Since I did not want to drill holes in the dash or console of my new vehicle, I set out to find another mounting solution. I found a soft plastic food container at one of the discount stores, and mounted the front panel mounting bracket and the front panel to the container. This assembly just fit into the center console, ahead of the shift lever. I secured this assembly—the plastic container and the transceiver front panel—to the vehicle console with Velcro straps. This method of fastening allows easy removal of the front panel by merely disconnecting the Velcro straps and the remote cable.

W8UMH



The transceiver front panel, mounted to a plastic food container, is secured with Velcro straps.

The main part of the transceiver is mounted in the corner of the trunk, on a wood support where it will get adequate air circulation. The power wiring had to be run from the battery to the trunk to power the transceiver. I could not locate an existing hole or grommet through the firewall for the No. 10 power wiring, so I ran it along the fender well, down along the door hinges, and past the door gasket into the passenger compartment and to the trunk. I mounted the speaker to a Plexiglas strip and mounted the speaker behind the driver, spanning the headrest extension rods.

I now have both HF and VHF capability in my vehicle, and I am pleased with the results. I made sure I had good grounds, using a ground strap from the main transceiver module in the trunk to an existing bolt. With a little ingenuity, it is possible to have a nice-looking mobile installation without drilling a single hole.

W8UMH

The complete antenna, mounted to my vehicle.

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, July 14, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The program for the July meeting will be a Field Trip to the K8EEN Repeater Site. If you have ever wanted to see what our repeater looked like, now is your chance.

Please remember the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. Please note the change in time, which was effective May 4, 2008.

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. Each month we try a different place, so check the MVARC Newsletter for current information. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, can also be contacted for the latest news on the 2 meter or the 440 Mhz. Repeaters. Or tune into our ARES net each Sunday at 8:00 PM for current information.

******The next Breakfast will be July 12th at 9:00 AM at Ryan's Steak House, 1515 Coshocton Ave. , Mt. Vernon, Ohio.******

Field Trip To Repeater Site Scheduled for July Meeting

Barry Butz, N8PPF, has made plans to show off our 2 meter Repeater during the July meeting.

After a short presentation, members will head out to the repeater site for a first hand look at our repeater. As this is a secret government project, no cameras will be allowed. Just kidding.

Barry would like to get the group together in a couple of vans rather than everyone driving out there themselves. If you have a van that can be used, contact Barry.

If you have always wondered what a repeater looked like, don't miss this one. It may be your only chance.

Treasurer's Report

July 5, 2008
for June

Income:
Interest: $ 16.01
50-50: $ 8.00

Expenses:
None

Balance on 7-5-08: $2080.67

Designated Funds
Year 2005 Repeater Fund: $684.94
Field Day Fund: $108.30

Barry N8PPF

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Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

President: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD	**kc8yld@arrl.net**	**Phone: 740-599-6614**
Vice President: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR	**arlinb@vasucom.com**	**Phone: 740-427-2440**
Secretary: Jeff Butz, N8SM	**Jaylynn@copper.net**	**Phone: 740-965-9368**
Treasurer: Barry Butz, N8PPF	**n8ppf@mvarc.net**	**Phone: 740-397-7540**

Newsletter Credits
Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN

Clip Art and Cartoons thanks to http://wm8c1.50megs.com/radio_clip_art.htm, http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/, http://pages.prodigy.net/kg0zz/clipart/ham_art3.htm, http://www.arrl.org/,

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.

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 wa8yrs@arrl.net or Don Russell, WA8YRS, 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

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: