The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

July , 2009 Newsletter

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Local Ham Community

K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9 Hz)
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz)

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

Third Annual July Meeting Cookout Starts at 6:00 P.M., July 13, 2009

FIELD DAY – PART 2
Barry Butz, N8PPF

The Field Day picnic will continue, preceding our next meeting on July 13. We will get underway about 6 o'clock at the Red Cross. There are brats, hamburgers, potato salad, chips and a few soft drinks. If you want more, bring it along. So if you missed Field Day, or went away hungry, join us to finish the food.

This is the third year in a row that we have done this. Maybe it is good when we have too much food for Field Day. Maybe someday we will actually have to buy food for this event.

Saturday Breakfast Change

Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, announced during the Sunday Night ARES net that the clubs Saturday Breakfast will be June 11th, 9:00 A.M. at **Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon**. Allison's serves a buffet breakfast for $6.75.

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, July 13, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Starting at 6:00 P.M., there will be a cookout to finish of all the Field Day Picnic food. You don't want to miss this. Come early, stay late. A program for the meeting has not been announced as of this printing 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 July 11, 2009 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio****

Knox ARES Responds to Red Cross Simulated Emergency Test

The American Red Cross conducted their Ohio Training Institute at Kenyon College the week of June 21-27. As a culminating event they staged a mock emergency drill. The scenario was a small tornado passing through Gambier. The director of the Institute contacted local ARES for Ham Radio support for the SET. Ham support met at 0830 hours local at the Kenyon Athletic Center. In attendance were KD7NMS Austin Godbar, KD8LDT Bart Hains, KD8EVR Arlin Bradford, KC8YLD Mike McCardel, N8WDU Kevin Liston, SET Director Jim Sage W8TWM,and the ARC Mobile unit KD8IIL.

We were briefed then dispatched to the Gambier Fire House just before 9am. The SET began at 9:30. Austin KD7NMS was assigned to report to the Kitchen Van and operated under the tactical call 'Kitchen.' Bart KD8LDT was assigned to Emergency Response Vehicle as tactical 'EVR Sprint.' Arlin KD8EVR was requested to go to the community center and operated as 'Shelter.' Kevin N8WDU was in charge of the Red Cross Communication Vehicle and Operated under call KD8IIL as 'Red Cross Comm'. Jim WB8TWM excused himself as a observer.

In all I, recorded seven pages of communications in my log. Communications covered a wide range of scenarios. We had two missing people, requests for food and water. We communicated a repair request for one of the ERV's communication antennas. We handled requests for PR, Law Enforcement First Aid supplies. Requests for an interpreter. We even had a request for medical transport, Repeated confirmations of positions and progress of scenarios were made throughout the event. On two occasions we had to differentiate between Drill Traffic and calls for actual real time assistance. A request for Public Relations assistance had to be clarified to identify if it were drill traffic or whether someone was covering the SET.

We used the National Red Cross VHF frequency 147.42 on simplex. We also had to rely on local repeaters K8EEN 146.79 and KD8EVR on 442.100 to communicate with mobile ERVs as they roamed the community and went out of simplex range from time to time. The SET Director was trying to contact a Tony Spiegel who was away from the simulated disaster and we made a call off site via the K8EEN repeater to W8OIO to see if he could make telephone contact with him. We weren't successful in the bid but we were able to at least try out the scenario.

It was quite a fast paced learning experience. We learned to adapt to the how Red Cross reports things and what tactical calls they use and figuring out who and how to relay messages to Red Cross. Note that we were only part of the communications going. We relayed information to Red Cross Communications and they would use their own communications to talk to others. Sometimes it seemed as if we were left out of the loop as we wouldn't hear back on some scenarios unless we had to relay information. However, it was our job to communicate and relay, and I judge we did so favorably well.

If I would have a criticism it would be we, the hams, need to remember to end all communications with their call sign. We did well using tactical calls. As the Net Control I should have announced the simulated aspect of the SET when identifying.

We received good reviews from the Red Cross.

E. Michael McCardel, KC8YLD

Field Day 2009

By Don Russell, W8PEN ***(photo c/o KD8UT)***

Even though we got off to a rocky start, this years Field Day turned out to be another successful venture. For the second year in a row, the CW station made 500 or more contacts. For the second year in a row, the SSB boys made 600 or more contacts. There was a nice group Friday afternoon and evening to help put up the antennas, and the picnic was another successful event, even though there was enough food left over that we are going to have a little cookout at the July meeting.

To make this years event more challenging, the Red Cross had scheduled a disaster drill for the Saturday morning of Field Day, so our group was a little divided. We had enough hams to cover both areas in the morning and everything and everyone was in place for the start of Field Day. More on the Red Cross event elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Things did not start off very well however. We had big time problems getting our computer network to talk to all logging computers. To top it off, we did not have enough computers to run at each station. The 20 meter station went ahead and started with paper logging. The other stations tried to wait it out, but eventually decided to go with the Non-Network version of the software. It was an hour and a half to two hours before

Mike, KC8YLD, was able to get things working on the network. It didn't take Mike that long to figure things out. He was just busy with other issues. The rest of us just couldn't get it going! Ann Bradford, KD8LFH, was able to catch up on the log entries from the 20 meter SSB station paper log (which was going like gang busters) in short order. As it turned out, using the Non Network logger was a plus because all we had to do was merge those files with our network file. Both the 40 SSB and the CW station was able to do this. Now we know. Have both logging programs on all computers just in case.

Each year we seem to have some issues early on with the network logging. This year was the first time we were unable to get these issues resolved before the start of Field Day. Memo to members: Solve network problems a week before Field Day…..

Actually, under pressure, I believe we handled the situation very well. Once Mike got the Network issues cleaned up, we had very few problems the rest of the night.

As usual, the CW (Morse Code) station was set up out in the boonies. This happens every year because the CW station is on the same bands as the SSB stations and needs to have some separation to reduce any possible interference. Next year, perhaps we will place the antennas far apart from the group, but use extra long coax runs to put the CW station close to the others. I did do an experiment. Using a dummy load, the CW station could be within 50 feet of the SSB station on the same band without causing interference between the two. So, antenna separation is the main factor here. If we use a 200 foot run of LMR-400 or something similar, the loss will be minimal.

Being so far away, the CW station was the only station that relied completely on batter power. We had two huge 6 volt batteries in series to give use the 12 volts for the radio. Another 12 volt deep cycle marine battery was used with an inverter to supply power to the logging computer and to run a light when evening came. We changed out the 12 volt battery Sunday morning. The voltage had just gone down to 11.99 volts. I believe we would not have had to do this because I later used that battery to start my Truck.

Competition between the CW station and the SSB stations was fierce. Contacts were neck and neck for most of the event. The CW station shut down at 11:00 A.M. due to exhaustion of the remaining operator (that is my story and I am sticking with it). Actually, I was going to have to make two trips home to haul all the stuff I had brought and did not want to be there all day!). This allowed the SSB station to regain the lead and build upon it. The CW station ended up making 500 contacts and the SSB station had 616. An effort to be proud of by both groups. A little bit of friendly competition does not hurt a bit.

The 20 meter station did very well to the tune of 245 contacts and the lead in contacts for any one band. For the first time in years, we had a three element beam on 20 meters. Perhaps that made the difference. I know Barry, N8PPF, used his portable antenna mast, which had the guy wires tuned for 40 meters and 20 meters as inverted V antennas. Barry said it worked quite well on 20 meters. Not sure if he used it on 40 meters, but maybe Barry has finally found his vacation antenna to go along with his camper.

In summary, everyone had a great time this year. We have a very special group of core operators. The hope is their experience will carry on to the newer hams and our Field Days will just keep getting better and better.

The following is the Field Day Summary Report generated by our logging software:

ARRL Field Day

1. Field Day Call Used: **K8EEN** GOTA Station Call: **KC8YLD**

2. Club or Group Name: **Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club**

3. Number of Participants: **25**

4. Number of transmitters in simultaneous operation: **3**

5. Entry Class: Check only one.

XA. Club or non-club portable
B. 1 or 2 person non-club group portable
List calls of operators:
C. Mobile
D. Home station commercial power
E. Home station emergency power

6. Check All power sources used.

X Generator
Commercial mains
X Battery
Other (list)

7. ARRL / RAC Section: **OH**

8. Total CW QSO's: **500** **X 2 = Total CW QSO points: 1000**
9. Total Digital QSO's: **0** **X 2 = Total Digital QSO points: 0**
10. Total Phone QSO's: **626** **X 1 = Total Phone QSO points: 626**

11. Total QSO points: **1626**

12. Power Multiplier (select only one)

5 Watts or less and Battery powered = 5
X 150 Watts or less = 2
Over 150 Watts = 1

13. Power Multiplier: **2**

14. Claimed Score: **3252**

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
X Set-up in Public Place
Information Booth
X NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC
X W1AW Field Day Message
Formal NTS messages handled (#)
Satellite QSO completed
Natural Power QSO's Completed
X Site Visited by invited officials
GOTA maximum QSO's achieved
Non-Traditional mode:
X Youth Participation (# 1)

Total Bonus Points Claimed: **820**

16. I/We have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations for amateur radio in my/our country. My/our report is correct and true to the best of my/our knowledge. I/We agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee.

Date: 07/04/2009

Call: K8EEN

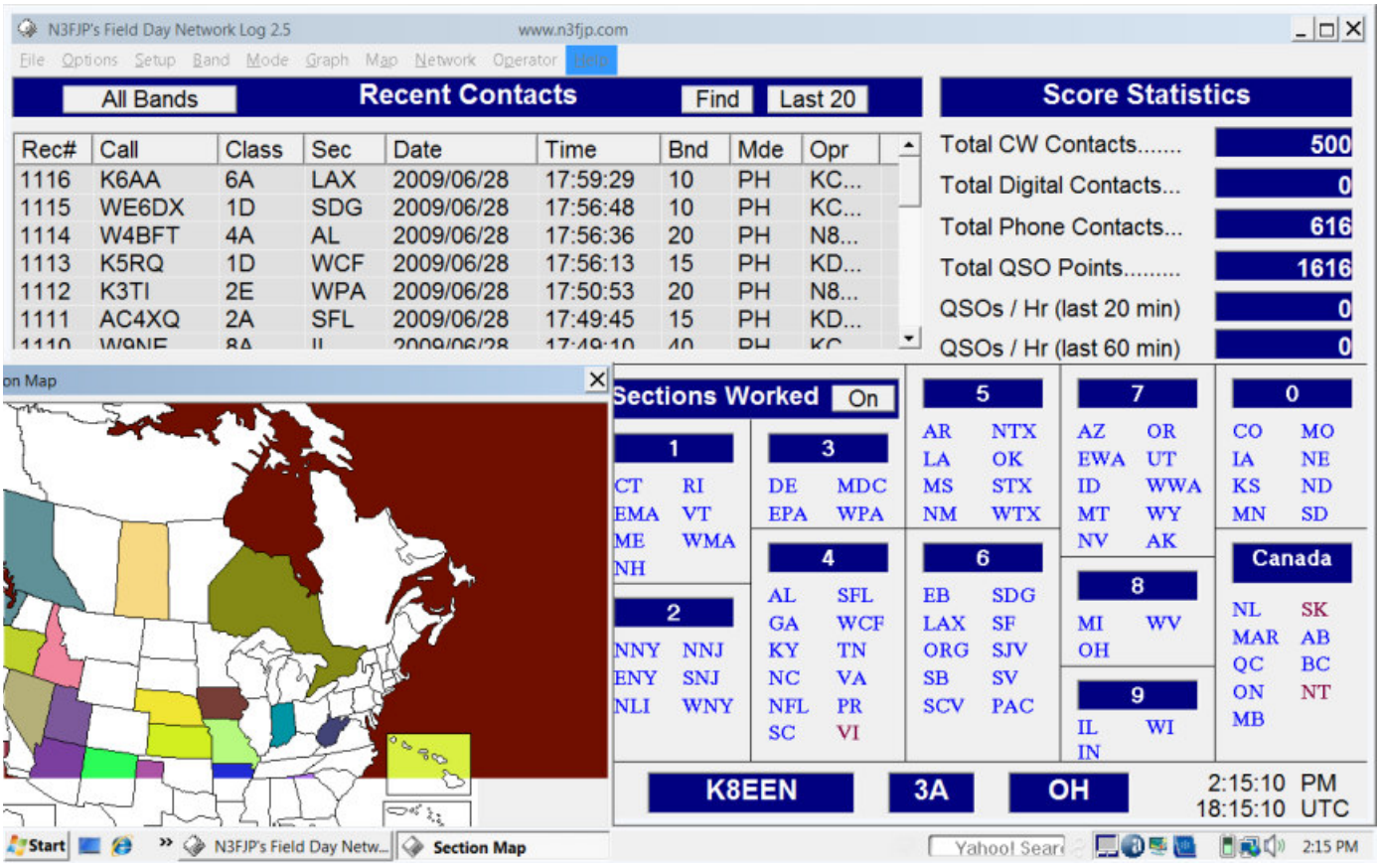
Signature: Donald J. Russell, W8PEN
Address: 815 Brookwood Rd.
Address: Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

E-Mail Address: w8pen@arrl.net

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
160	0	150	0	150	0	150
80	141	150	0	150	189	150
40	193	150	0	150	131	150
20	153	150	0	150	245	150
15	13	150	0	150	38	150
10	0	150	0	150	3	150
6	0	150	0	150	9	150
2	0	150	0	150	1	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	10	150
Totals	500 CW		0 Dig		626 Phone	

18. List all callsigns of all operators and number of QSO's completed of the GOTA Station:

KC8YLD, KC8YLE



Computer Screen Shot After Our Final Contact

******See Field Day Pictures later in this Newsletter******

Radio-Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Since Field Day is reported elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, I would like to update readers on my Rotatable Dipole. Yes, it is up. It is working!

This really has been a project. At first I decided to go ahead and use my bamboo poles rather than the fiberglass ones. The bamboo poles were 15 feet long and I thought they would fulfill the purpose much better than the 12 foot fiberglass poles. I was wrong. The bamboo poles are much to weak to support anything but the most flimsy of wires. I started out trying number 14 wire. That was way too heavy, so I reduced the wire size down to about number 20. Well, this was okay, but I did not think that this smallish wire would last through an Ohio winter. Much less summer birds flying into it. The problem was that I did put a bow in the poles as I explained in an earlier issue that I was going to do. With the small number 20 wire I figured it would either get stretched or ran into by a bird.

So, I made the switch to the fiberglass poles. First I tried to install just the 20 meter dipole figuring that I would add the others as I went along. Things looked about the way I thought they would. The pole was bowed with the end of the 20 meter dipole coming back under itself. Then I did some measurements and found out that when I install the 15 meter dipole, I would have to bow it back under itself too. I did not like that.

Next, I straightened the pole out and went to number 16 ladder line cut for 20 meters. This ladder line was actually light and did not bow the poles much at all. Okay, I would keep the poles straight by adding an upper guy wire on each end. Not a bad approach and it did seem to work. There was about 18 inches of wire hanging at the ends of the fiberglass pole. I decided to leave them hang and sway in the wind a bit. Should not effect performance at all. This problem solved, I went ahead and cut the lower wire of the ladder line to tune to the 15 meter band. Things were looking good, as the antenna did not sag or bow hardly at all.

The next major problem was adding the 10 meter antenna. Ladder line has only two wires, so the most you get is two bands. I decided to use another length of ladder line for the 10 meter band. I did not want the extra weight of a forth wire though so I cut one side of the ladder line off with a pair of scissors. Then I simply taped the 10 meter antenna to the lower side of the original ladder line. In hind site, I should have left the second wire on the ladder line. It would have given me a place to secure the 10 meter dipole to the rest of the ladder line without having to electrical tape it to death. However, I thought the taping had worked reasonably well. My big concern is longevity of the tape job. Will it even last through next winter? We my friends, I think we are going to find out.

The antenna was now taking shape and actually looked like an antenna instead of two fishing poles. With the elements cut to their approximate length, it was time to tune the antenna. I had cut the wires longer than required, so pruning of the antenna was simple. I was only a couple of feet off the ground at this point, but I figure I would get it close, and then get the antenna up a bit higher. I decided to cut the antenna for resonance just below each of the 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. I was able to get the SWR down to about 1.2 to 1 at each of these frequencies according to my MFJ antenna analyzer. Not bad for closely spaced antenna wires.

Next, the antenna was placed on a 15 foot pole. I thought that was high enough to be able to tune the antenna properly. I repeated the efforts from above, aiming for the CW portion of each band. A short time later, I was exactly where I wanted to be with a low SWR. Very nice.

After inspecting my tape job and adding a few pieces here and there, the antenna was ready to go up on the tower.

This antenna is light weight. If it goes two pounds I would be surprised. The antenna went up easily. Since it is basically just one element, there was no positioning to get it around the other antennas on my tower. Just lift it up vertically. In fact, with beam I usually had to climb the tower, then using a rope, lift the beam up to me, navigating through other antennas. With this antenna, I simply carried it up the tower with me. Actually, I had it balanced on my safety belt so that I could use both hands climbing. Held it in place on the mast with one hand. Could not have been easier.

How does my rotatable dipole perform? So far I have only made three contacts with it. One on 10 meters and two on 20 meters. Field Day took up a lot of prep time you know. The 10 meter QSO was a very nice chat with a fellow ham in North Carolina. The band was wide open. He claimed I was one on the loudest signals that he had heard on the band that night and gave me a 59 plus plus signal report. Hard to beat even with a beam! The 20 meter contacts were a bit more reasonable to what I was expecting. I got a 56 and a 57 signal report. No problem copying me. All contacts were on SSB. I have some free time coming my way, so I plan on giving this antenna a work out. The next contest that I am interested in is coming up in August (North America QSO Party). It will be interesting to see how well this antenna performs in the heat of competition. I think it will hold its own.

If this antenna works out, I plan on building another one,

perhaps before winter sets in. Using my experience from building this antenna, and perhaps getting together with our local Mechanical Engineer, Barry Butz (N8PPF), I am positive that I can build a better structured antenna that will last for years up in the air. In fact, I already have a few ideas on how to make it so.

I envision that when this antenna comes down, I may revamp it into a portable antenna that can be put on one of the clubs Field Day antenna masts. It is light enough and would make a great Field Day antenna (for the CW boys of course…..).

Treasurer's Report

June 30, 2009
for May 30 to June 30, 2009

Balance on 5-29-09:	$ 1994.93
Income:	
Interest:	$ 9.35
Dues:	$ 35.00
Donations:	$ 5.00
Field day donation:	$ 100.00
50-50 Repeater Fund:	$ 16.00
Expenses:	
Field Day Food	$ 178.32
Balance on 6-30-09:	$ 1981.96
Designated Funds	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	$ 301.94
Field Day Fund:	$ 54.92

Barry Butz N8PPF

Club Participates in "Fun Day"

By Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR

The annual Community Fun Day sponsored by the United Way & Rotary Kiwanis was on Saturday June 13 at Foundation Park in Mt. Vernon and our local clubs was there to show ham radio to the kids.

Thanks to W8PEN, KD8HSA, KD8LFH, and myself for setup and tear down of the site.

Don did a wonderful job of making contacts throughout North America. We had a few adults stop by and ask about ham radio and what it takes to get started. Do to the flyers we had there, we were able to give them some directions and invited them to our meetings.

The kids that showed up at our tent were more than eager to talk on the radio. A special thanks to W8OIO and KD8LFI for being there on the other end of the radios for the QSO's. Guys if you could have seen the faces of the kids on the first key-up. WOW.

This was a good event and I look forward to doing more events like this in the future. Anything that we can do to promote the hobby and the need for emergency communications will help us grow.

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the June 8, 2009 Meeting.

By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
2	Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
3	Jim Jennessee	KD8UT
4	Tom Evans	KD8HSA
5	Steve Barr	KD8GRM
6	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
7	Barton Hains	KD8LDT
8	Jeff Butz	N8SMT
9	Austin Godber	KD7NMS
10	Barry Butz	N8PPF
11	Jon Penko	KD8LFI
12	Don Russell	W8PEN
13	Mike Langston	KD8JMZ
14	Vince Poland	KD8JMV
15	Larry J Helzer DVM	AA8WP
16	E. Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
17	Phillip Buble	N1GTZ
18	Bela Lenkei	N8SMU

President Bradford formally called the business meeting to order at 7:16 P.M.

EC Report, Ruben Clark:
Ruben thanked everyone who helped out on the Tour de Cure Tour this year. Arlin mentioned he ran a weather net a couple of weeks ago.

Technician Class and Exam: Don Russell, W8PEN
Class starts this Thursday and Don said he had at least one adult and three students signed up so far and he hopes to have more. The last exam had twenty two sit for the test and 19 passed.

Field Day Committee:
Food: Doc, AA8WP made a motion to allocate $150.00 for food and expenses for this year's field day and if he spends more to keep his receipts and we will reimburse him. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Antennas: Don Russell, W8PEN. He is planning a tri-band beam antenna for 20, 15 and 10 meters along with, a 40 and 80 meter dipoles, a multi-band antenna for the CW station. Mike is setting up a 160 meter loop for the GOTA station.

The field day site is at apple valley near their swimming pool/community center. They are providing a tent for us.

OLD Business:

Website: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI
All the parts have been ordered and delivered. He has installed the operating system but he is having some trouble installing the sound cards. He is hoping to transfer the website in the next two weeks to a month.

Emergency Trailer: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
Arlin had a general discussion about the type of trailer and the equipment that would go in it. He is completing the application for the grant that is to be submitted June 10th.

New Business

Knox County Community Fun Day: Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR
After this Saturday's Club Breakfast is the Knox County Community Fun Day at Foundation Park. The United Way and Kiwanis have invited Arlin who is planning on setting up an HF and a 2meter/70cm rig for a children's demonstration along with various information pamphlets.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved by voice vote.

2009 Field Day Pictures

Credit for these pics go to Mike (W8OIO), Jim (KD8UT), and Ann (KD8LFH). Thanks.

Jack (N8JQZ), Austin (KD7NMS), Bart (KD8LDT)

Mike, KC8YLD

Don, W8PEN

Ready to put up the beam

Mike, W8OIO

CW Station in the Boonies

Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

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

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 w8pen@arrl.net or Don Russell, W8PEN, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

Membership Form

Club dues run from Jan. 1 until Dec. 31 and are collected during the last quarter of the year. You can mail in the dues to the address below or bring them to a meeting. Dues are prorated for new members at the time of application. Visit our Web Page at www.mvarc.net

Dues Schedule: $12 regular

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

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_____