The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

July, 2010 Newsletter

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

Ham Radio Rocks!

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

The Big Field Day Letdown

It happens every year. Just like Christmas. For those of us involved in Field Day, the big disappointment is that it has to end. This year was no different. We always walk away wondering what we could have done to make it more successful. Happens every year…..

But boy were we successful! All those involved can be very proud of the results. We broke all sort of records (okay, all these records we broke were our own personal club records)

The club made over 1500 contacts for the first time in our long history. No doubt made the most CW contacts and SSB contacts in the clubs history, and had a record final score. What could we do better? We are working

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be July 12, 2010. at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. As of this writing, no program has been announced. Typically, we finish off any left over food from our Field Day picnic and discuss/brag about our Field Day adventures. Please check into our Sunday Night Net for further information.

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.

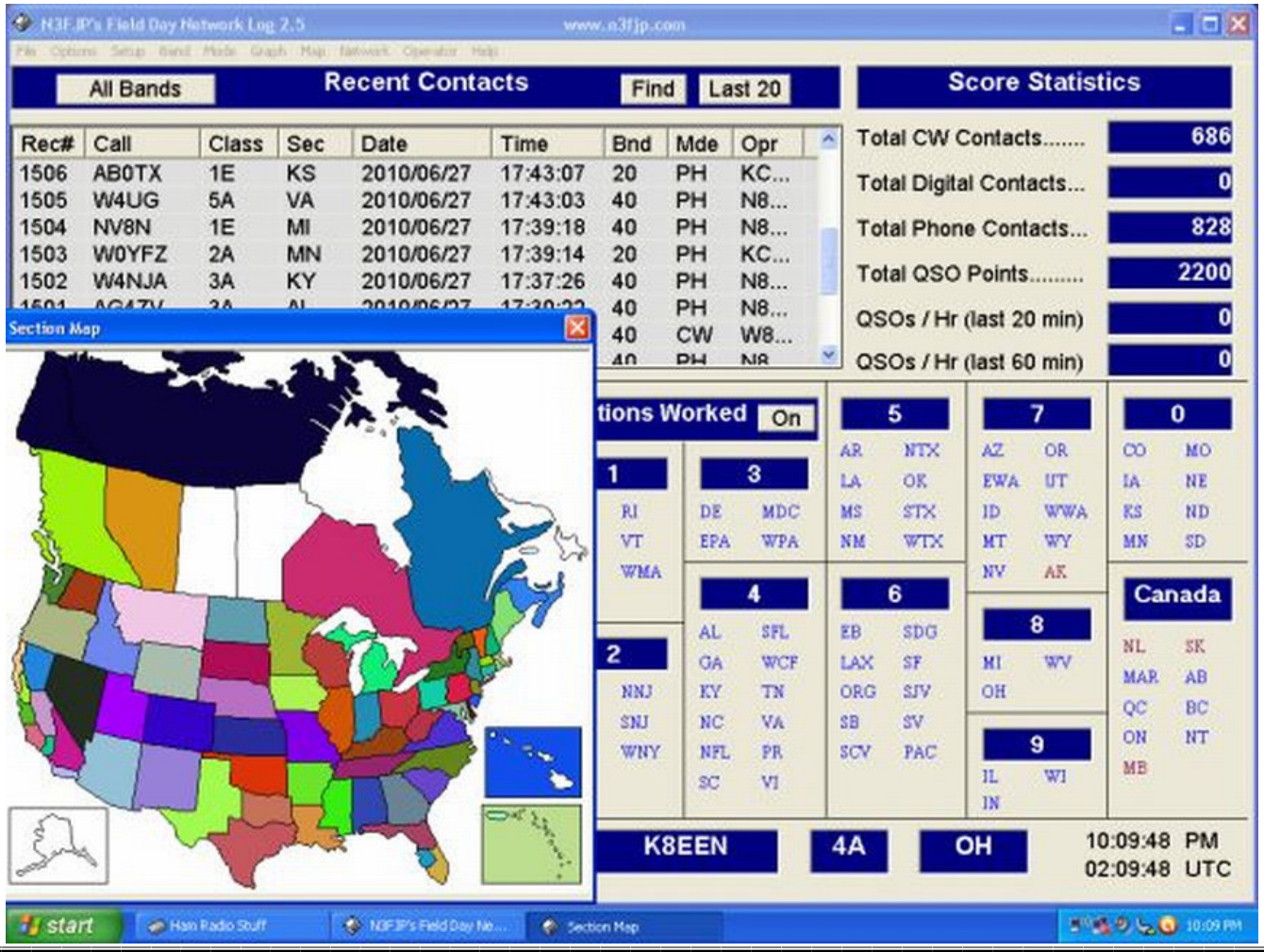
Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.

****The next Breakfast will be July 10, 2010 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road,* Mt. Vernon, Ohio****

on that.

As usual, the picnic was a huge success with “Doc”, AA8WP, serving up hamburgers, Brats, and even Salmon and Rabbit (can we consider that some kind of record?). Add the variety of covered dishes that members brought along, and there was the makings of one heck of a feast!

Please read on for more details of this great weekend.



Official Field Day Results, MVARC

ARRL
The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

2010 Field Day Entry Form

2010 Rules

Thanks for using the web to submit your 2010 ARRL Field Day entry. Print this page to use as proof that you submitted your entry.

Call Used:**K8EEN** GOTA Station Call:**(none)** ARRL/RAC Section:**OH** Class:**4A**

Participants:**20** Club/Group Name: **Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club**

Power Source(s): **Generator, Battery, Solar**

Power Multiplier: **2X**

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Youth participation Youth operators=**5** Youth participants=**7**	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Total Bonus Points	**1,150**

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	**686**	**0**	**828**		
Total Points	**1372**	**0**	**828**	**2200**	**Claimed Score = 4,400**

Submitted by:
Donald J. Russell, W8PEN
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Comments:
For the third year in a row, the club ran all radios from deep cell batteries. There were two batteries reserved for each station. A battery charger running off our small generator was available just in case, but we did not need to use it. One station ran the whole contest period using solar panels charging the battery. They ran both the rig and inverter for the laptop off of one battery that was being charged by the solar panel. The CW station was run on two huge 6 volt batteries in series and used an AC inverter hooked to another battery for the laptop logging and lights at night. The voltage drop on the two huge batteries was only .25 volts after 30 plus hours of operation (we did a lot of playing before the start of FD). We attracted many kids to our FD sight and plan on starting a class in the near future. This is after our fall class which graduated 6 Jr. High and High School students. Word must be getting around. This makes for a very noise free Field Day and fun for all. 73, Don, W8PEN

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	154	100			191	100
40m	230	100			299	100
20m	235	100			226	100
15m	57	100			86	100
10m	10	100			10	100
6m					15	100
2m					1	50
1.25						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA						
Total	**686**		**0**		**828**	

Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Field Day from a CW operators perspective:

What a great time I had operating CW during Field Day this year. This year, the three CW operators made 686 contacts. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the highest CW total ever accumulated by our club during this major operating event. I will let someone else dig into the record books if they so desire.

I can remember years ago when I was virtually the only one operating CW during the clubs Field Day. I am happy to say that in recent years I have been joined by Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, and Don Blizzard, W8UMH. Both these gentlemen are experienced CW operators and it has been a pleasure to share our lone station with them. I feel I learn something every Field Day from them.

This year, Tony ask me if we could set up the computer to generate Morse Code through the logging program. This included setting up several memories to send the standard stuff like "CQ FD DE K8EEN FD" and "4A OHIO", and a few other niceties. Tony even supplied the interface circuit in which to do this.

Setting the logger to send CW was really not a problem. It is pretty easy to do on most logging programs. In fact, most serious contesters set their software up to send the exchanges via the computer. Cheating? Not hardly. One still has to copy and enter the other stations exchange sometimes through very heavy QRM. Besides, one still has the option of using the keyer, which we did a lot.

I really had mixed emotions about doing as Tony requested because Field Day is about the only contest in which I sent CW one hundred percent through the paddles. However, it was nice to have this capability and will no doubt include it in future Field Day operations. It was kind of nice to call "CQ" without have to use the paddles all the time. In fact, it really did save us early on, The keyer ran out of battery juice after just three contacts at the start of Field Day. Yes, I new the battery may be weak and I meant to pick up a new one just in case. No, I did not! So, the first hour and a half was spent making contacts using the logging software along with using the keyboard to send repeats or corrections. It wasn't bad, but I did miss my keyer enough to shut the station down and run into town to pick up another battery.

The secret to our success was the antenna. We used Jeff Butz's, N8SMT, 160 meter windom antenna and it proved to be a man amongst boys. It was a great antenna. When "Search and Pouncing", we rarely had to give our call more than once. When "CQing" we were able to hold a frequency virtually for as long as we desired. Not bad.

Where do we go from here?

This year was such a success, how can we do better? Well I have a few ideas (or I wouldn't be bringing it up, right?).

The really nice thing about the N3FJP's Network Field Day Logger is that it allows all stations to work any band at any station. The bad part is the this logger allows one to work any band at any station! Confused?

We did have some problems this year keeping within our class due to the above fact. The group really thought that moving up a class from 3A to 4A would help keep this under control. Well, it did. Just barely.

For next year, I suggest we try upping the class from 4A to 6A (from 4 transmitters allowed simultaneous operations to 6). We would then set up an HF SSB station for each band: 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. These stations would have dipole antennas instead of multi-band antennas so that it would not be possible to use the station on another band. There would also be one CW all-band station making the sixth station. With this setup it would be impossible to go over our transmitter limit, or accidentally transmit two signals on one band.

This does throw us in a higher class competition wise. My feeling is that Field Day is a fun event so lets have enough stations there so anyone wishing to operate can go for it. In fact, it is tempting to go 7A with two CW stations. Hmmmm…..

I would also do away with the 160 meter antennas. Yes, they may have given us a bit of a signal boost on 80 -10 meters. I think we found out that 160 meters is not a good band for Field Day. I heard no station participating in Field Day on 160 meters. A 160 meter antenna is a very big antenna. Stick with dipoles and get them up as high as possible. That is the ticket.

We should also revisit the GOTA station. Last year we used one and was sort of a waste of effort. This year, with all the kids, we could have used one. My suggestion would be to set one up, leave it on but disable the

transmit function. Then one can tune around and listen, but if they wanted to operate, then would need to contact the correct person. The point is, there would always be a station available for beginners or guests to operate. If we get no takers, we did not put a lot of effort into it like Mike, KC8YLD, did last year.

Field Day 2010 A Success!

By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Nearly 24 local Hams and others put their mark on the most successful field day in MVARC history. Beginning with the 2pm PM Friday setup it was all hands on deck. With sling shots and bow and arrows lines were launched over the tops of the tallest trees near the Floral Valley Community Center in Apple Valley. Two long antennas, an 160 meter Windom for the CW rig and a 160 meter doublet for one of the SSB stations were constructed in a North South orientation set off each other's end to reduce interference. 160 meter antennas use up a lot of real estate and few facilities can accommodate one let alone two. Add to these a 40/80 meter dipole a 20 meter dipole, 6 meter antenna, VHF/UHF and the tribander mounted on a 40 feet utility lift (one truly expensive rotator) and then include EMCOMM 1, there was no shortage of choices for band usage.

This year we operated as 4A, running 4 transmitters on emergency power. All stations were run off of batteries. We did use commercial power to power lights, computers, refrigerators and other niceties, but all communications were handled via battery power. The 160 meter doublet station took that concept one step further. Mark Bisenius, AC8FV provided a three panel 45 watt solar setup tied into a deep cell battery bank. This setup ran that groups Kenwood TS-2000, all their lights and computers for the full weekend. This is the station that was farthest removed from the base camp. I imagine that the whole camp could run off a series of similar setups some year in the future. I am definitely looking into this for my QTH station.

Operations began promptly at 2:00pm local and all four stations were quickly gathering contacts. We peaked at a rate of 169 contacts per hours (10 minutes average of all stations) shortly after 2:30 and then settled into a more sustainable pace. All stations remained busy continuously throughout the weekend with slow times being during the lavish Saturday evening cookout and the over night hours when propagation seemed to be disappointing.

When the dust cleared and all contacts were made we found we had the most successful operating field day weekend ever. We made 686 CW contacts and 828 Phone contacts for a total of 1514 contacts. We worked 49 states missing only Alaska (but more than made up for Alaska with the Alaskan Salmon we had for dinner). We only missed 4 of the 77 sections. With CW contacts worth 2 points each and Phone contacts a point each we amassed 2200 QSO points. Adding in our transmitter power multiplier (x2) this brought our point total to 4400. Then adding our 1150 bonus points, our total of 5550 points easily broke our old record of 4226 with 1223 contacts, set in 2008.

But how does that really compare considering we were

running an extra transmitter. Last year we scored 4122 points with 1126 contacts.

This year:

1514 OSOs = 63.08 an hour = 1.05 a minute Thats 15.7 QSO per transmitter per Hour, or 1 QSO every 4 minutes per transmitter.

Last year

1126 QSOs = 46.92 an Hour = .78 per minute that was 15.6 QSOs per transmitter per Hour, or 1 QSO every 4 minutes per transmitter.

So, by accounting for an extra transmitter it looks like we did about the same as last year.

However, note that the CW folks had a 37% increase over last year (still using only one transmitter). On the phone side we had an increase of 32% but added a transmitter (3A vs 4A). We should have had a 33% increase in total PH QSOs to keep pace with 2009, and, all considering, did. Hence we did the same on the Phones (per transmitter) this year as compared to last, but the group performed significantly better on CW this year over last.

Thinking it through another way, if the Phone users would have had the same increase in productivity that the CW folks had (per transmitter), we would have had 1104 Phone contacts this year, perhaps a goal for next year.

Interesting QSOs

I worked W8CBF early in the contest, at about 2:38 EDT. This is Jim Jennessee's KC8UT, church group. It was great to hear Jim's voice on the air.

Arlin Bradford KD8EVR recorded our only DX when he worked CO6LC, from Cuba, 11:30 EDT Sunday morning.

Don Russell, W8PEN, made contact number 1500 with K4FUN. That was k4 **F - U - N !**

I'd like to thank everyone who participated this year. The increase in participation was really noticeable. I especially appreciated the number of youth and non hams we were able to get on the air. It not just added to our score but promotes our hobby favorably. It took about 6 hours Friday night to set up and only about an hour and a half to tear down. Many hands make quick work.

For Historic Results visit

https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0Ar2eMddUz9qzdHVlYVRRVmxtMTJtdnd0WEJ1V2RCZ2c&hl=en#

For a complete log of this year's results visit

https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0Ar2eMddUz9qzdFR2MEQzMWNENFBRQ2pNUDRGVEFZbmc&hl=en&authkey=CPTfpbcO#gid=0

These can be linked from the Club's Facebook page and will be added to the club's website in the near future.

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

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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.

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AC/DC

Most of these pictures came from the MVARC FACEBOOK page. You can view all the pictures from our clubs face book page without registering on face book.

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http://www.mvarc.net/

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http://www.facebook.com/mvarc