The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
July, 2013 Newsletter

Ham Radio Rocks

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

Local Ham Coumminity

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

New Breakfast Tradition Initiated

For the last several months members of the club have been having a weekly breakfast on Friday mornings at 10:00 A.M. Presently, the venue changes, so any club member interested in joining us should check into the repeater during our Sunday night net for more information or simply check into the repeater Friday morning between 9:30 – 10:00am to find out where we are meeting. I notice that there is always at least one handheld at the breakfast table turned on. We are hams!

Schedule for the next two weeks:

July 5th: McDonalds on Coshocton Road
July 12th: Hardy's on Coshocton Road

Contact Emery Bennett (W8TW) or David Bird (KD8RST) for more information on this popular event.

2013 Field Day A Big Success

This year's Field Day for the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club was a big success. Plenty of high antennas, contacts, food, and participants made the event very enjoyable for all.

Competition between the CW and SSB stations was intense and fun and plenty of contacts were made.

See Field Day coverage in this issue of the Newsletter starting on page 2.

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, July 8, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. We will be reviewing our recent Field Day effort.

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

Please join us for a very informal breakfast on Friday mornings at 10:00 A.M. The venue keeps changing so check into the Sunday night net to find out the next location, or give a call on the 2 meter repeater Friday morning for directions. Emery Bennett W8TW and David Bird KD8RST are co-coordinators for this event. Members are welcome to join us.

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

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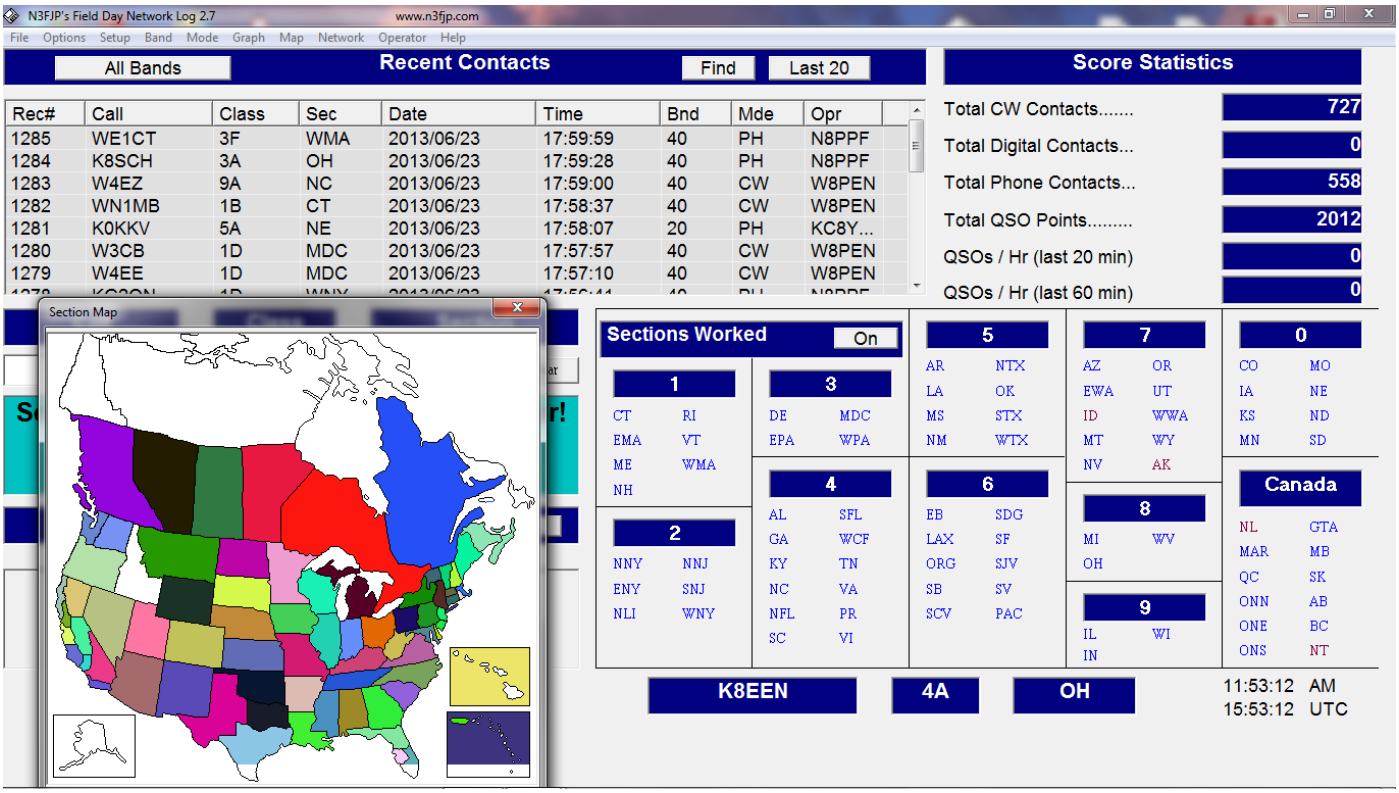
Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.

*****The next Breakfast will be July 13, 2013 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio*****



Field Day 2013

By Don Russell, W8PEN

This year's Field Day was awesome! Is that the word the kids use these days? I believe for me, this will go down as one of my most enjoyable Field Days ever. The club as a whole only missed working four ARRL sections: Idaho (ID) and Alaska (AK) in the U.S. and Newfoudnland/Labrador (NL) and Northern Territories (NT) in Canada. Great job to all!

Friday night was an indication of good things to come. We had a nice group of antenna putter uppers and my 80 - 10 meter doublet antenna was the first to go up. Not using antenna masts this year was a blessing. Matt Ware's (KD8PSK) sling shot system had my antenna up 50 - 60 feet in no time. While Matt was handling that part of it, I was setting up my screened canopy with the help of Tom Evans (KD8HSA) and Emery Bennett (W8TW). Checked my watch and it was 2:45pm. One antenna up already. The station shelter was up too. Not a bad start.

Then we went to install the 80 meter windom for the 20 meter station. The antenna and station equipment was provided by President Jim Jenneessee (KD8UT) and was to be set up at the end of the shelter provide by Apple Valley. The tent was already set up when we got there so we knew exactly where the antenna needed to go.

I decided that we had enough help setting this antenna up and I would just be in the way, so I went back down to the CW Station and dragged the table and chairs off my trailer. Then came the equipment. I was reasonably sure that everything would work together but I needed to make sure. So everything came out. Transciever, laptop computer, external keyboard and mouse, and the electronic keyer. Setting things up was a breeze and I was soon making a few contacts to see how things worked.

The only problem I ran into was that my 4:1 homebrew balun did not work with my radios internal antenna tuner. Neither did the 4:1 balun in my external antenna tuner when run straight through to the radio. I suspected this may be the case and the backup plan was to just use the manual antenna tuner. This was successful and writing down the tuner settings for each band proved useful during the Field Day event.

By the time I got back up to the antenna crew, the 80 meter windom was up and had been tested with an antenna analyzer. Two antennas up, one to go.

Barry Butz (N8PPF) was providing the antenna for the 40 meter station. He prefered to set up this antenna Saturday morning when he brought his camper out. That meant we only had to put up one more antenna for the evening. That would be the 75 (80) meter SSB station antenna.

Mike McCardel (KC8YLD) was providing this antenna as well as the station equipment. Once again the antenna

hanging crew got busy. Once again I decided I would just be in the way so I headed back down to the CW tent and put all the equipment back in the car. By the time I got back, the last antenna was up. It was a 160 meter doublet. That was a lot of wire up there and made for a big signal on 75 meter SSB.

Checking the watch, it was hard to believe. Not even 5:30pm and all the antennas were up. Are we getting good at this or what! I remember many Field Day Fridays lasting until almost dark.

After chatting a bit, I took off for home. Some members stayed all night. Others left shortly after I did. All in all, it was a great Field Day antenna set up. One of the best ever.

Saturday morning, I got to the Field Day site at about 10:30 - 11:00am. Emery Bennett (W8TW) was setting up his solar panels for me to use on the CW station. No worry about running low on battery power this year!

After some difficulty and trouble shooting by Tom Evans (KD8HSA) and Emery, the solar panels were up and running and charging the battery. Apparently there was an open power cable running from the solar panels.

While Tom and Emery worked on the solar panels, I set up the CW Station. Everything was looking good. Then I set up the router supplied by Ruben Clark (KB2SAI). The router was set up in the main tent. Wireless connections were solid at all four stations. Testing of the logging software was completed and I felt the club was ready for Field Day.

I can't really say what went on with the other stations before Field Day because I was not there. But they all seemed ready. So, I hit the "New Log" button on the N3FJP Field Day software. This deleted all our practice entries and started our actual Field Day log.

Field Day started right on time. I was at the CW rig making contacts like crazy. Good antenna. I noticed that there were no SSB stations being logged. Barry Butz (N8PPF) made a quick visit to the CW station so I asked him what the problem was. Guess the 20 meter SSB station was having some problems with the logging program. Problem was solved by Barry and the group within the hour so the club was finally up and running at full speed.

I was very pleased with the final tally. Yes, the CW guys did beat out the SSB gang. But that was only part of it. I really enjoyed teasing Brandon (KD8LPP) though. I thought everyone worked well together and had a great time. It would have been nice to have more members at the picnic. The food was great and the company better though. I really enjoyed it.

Now comes the planning for next year. What can we do better?

Well, we can't get the antennas up much higher than we had them this year. However, it would be great to have an extra antenna available at each station. The CW station could do with a vertical to change up the angle of radiation. The 20 meter SSB needs a loop antenna for the same reason and to give it a little gain. Our 40 meter SSB station could use a high dipole to go along with the inverted V antenna. Not sure about the 75 (80) meter SSB station. Maybe a vertical or even a loop antenna would compliment that 160 meter doublet.

The other thing I was thinking was how to increase our contacts on Sunday morning after everything has already been worked and the contacts are coming in slow? I think I have just the answer. This is when we switch one station to digital. I am suggesting this even though I am aware that using digital could potentially cause big time interference with the CW station. We would have to make sure that the digital station was not on the same band as the CW station. If CW is on 20 meters, the digital can be on 40 or 15 meters and so on. In fact, we would not have to wait until Sunday morning to run digital. With caution, we can use digital on any frequency at anytime as long as the digital station was not on the same band as the CW station. Caution needs to be used. The digital station could also interfere with the SSB station on the same band.

Switching to digital Sunday morning would basically give us fresh meat. We would be able to work all the stations we had already worked on CW and SSB again. You also get two points for digital, just like CW. I could see where this could lead to a much bigger contact and score total. Something to think about.

The other thing worth looking into would be to do rig control on all four stations. If not running rig control then the operators need to make sure they switch the logging software to the proper band when changing bands on the transciever. Not doing so could cause mass confusion and many false dupes.

There is no doubt that everyone would benefit from practicing "field Day" a couple of times before the actual event. The only way to do this is to get in other contests. Perhaps we should have a committee that would research what contests would be good for the club to participate in and make some recommendations. For starters, the Ohio QSO party in August would be a good contest for the club to work. I am not talking about a full blown Field Day style set up. Meeting at someones house, or setting up a one or two transmitter operation from somewhere would be pretty easy and a lot of fun. The Michigan QSO party would be a good choice too. State QSO parties are a lot more relaxed than Field Day. No pressure. There are some contests that allow individual club members to work the contest separately and then add the members scores for a total club score. Barry (N8PPF) has been wanting to do this for a long time. Perhaps now is the time to try it.

Hey, we have a whole year to think about this. See you at the July meeting. The following is our Field Day entry form as sent to the ARRL.

2013 Field Day Entry Form

2013 Rules

Thanks for using the web to submit your 2013 ARRL Field Day entry. Print this page to use as proof that you submitted your entry.

Call Used:**K8EEN** GOTA Station Call:**KD8SWJ** ARRL/RAC Section:**OH** Class:**4A**

Participants:**30** 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
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=**1**	10
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
GOTA Bonus	0
Submitted via the Web	50
Total Bonus Points	**1,160**

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	**727**	**0**	**566**		
Total Points	**1454**	**0**	**566**	**2020**	**Claimed Score = 4,040**

Submitted by:

Donald Russell, W8PEN
815 Brookwood Rd.
Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050
E-mail: w8pen@arrl.net

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	204	100			128	100
40m	328	100			164	100
20m	139	100			126	100
15m	48	100			102	100
10m	8	100			13	100
6m					25	100
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA					8	100
Total	**727**		**0**		**566**	

GOTA Bonus: No GOTA Coach

Name/Call	QSOs	Bonus Points
Steve Cochran, KD8SWJ	4	0
James Smith, KI8FN	2	0
Larry Heltzer, AA8WP	2	0

Antenna Line Launcher

By Matt Ware, KD8PSK

While surfing around Youtube I found a Forestry Product called the "Big Shot". It is a sling shot type device that is used to throw a weighted bag and line over tree limbs and subsequently pull larger climbing rope into a tree. This seemed like a great method for helping get our antennas into the trees for Field Day. It got me thinking of other ways to do the same thing, but cheaper. The Big Shot retails for $100 plus depending on options. This led me to the Hyper-Dog Ball Launcher, which is a sling-shot to throw tennis balls for dogs to retrieve.

I bought one at Cabelas for $28 , which came with 4 tennis balls, and took it home to try it out. All by itself it did a really good job throwing tennis balls. If you have a dog that likes to retrieve tennis balls you would not be disappointed. As mine do not, back to the project at hand. It had great height, but flexed on my wrist when pulling back far enough to get the height that I thought would be necessary to get over trees. I felt the aiming could also be improved on by mounting it onto a pole, much like the Big Shot. I started thinking about several options and found an extendable fiberglass painter's pole that I had in the garage. I decided to try and mount the Hyper Dog Launcher onto the pole. Again, I went looking through the garage and found a pvc pipe T fitting that I was able to zip tie onto the front of the Hyper Dog Launcher. I put the painter's pole through the Hyper Dog Launcher and into the middle of the T fitting to prevent the launcher from sliding down the pole and zip tied it. I tried it out and it worked great. I was able to get a longer pull and a lot more height out of the tennis ball. The one problem I found was that the launcher would rotate on the pole, so I added a screw type hose clamp and it tightened up with no more rotation. I then added some black tape to the hose clamp to cover the loose end and help avoid injury. I now have a launcher that I feel very confident with; the next challenge is the line delivery.

Instead of trying to re-invent the wheel, I turned back to the internet and found antennalaunchers.com. They had already done the research into the weight of a tennis ball for line launching and I used their information of 4 oz. I cut a slit into the ball with a utility knife just large enough for a penny and inserted 22 pennies, when I reached 4 oz. I cut a second slit into the ball that was slightly smaller about an inch away from the first slit and put a zip tie between the 2 slits, creating a loop to tie my line to. The next part was the line and deployment. I have seen the fishing reels and even an archery fishing reel, but I did not want to spend any more money than I had to. I bought a spool of braided mason's line at Home Depot for $5 for 250 feet. I fed the line into a bucket and let it lay loosely in the bottom. I then tied the end to the ball. The delivery system is now complete, and just in time for Field Day which is a mere 2 days away.

I took the completed system to Field Day set-up, where we were not planning to use any towers and depended on getting the antennas as high in the trees as possible. The first launch was a complete success, directly over the highest part of the tree and the ball came down on the other side. I thought this would be easy, then the guys on the other side (not mentioning any names) failed to tie the heavier rope on the other end and it came loose on the retrieval. Having both of my 10 year old boys along they wanted to shoot the sling shot as well. I helped hold the launcher steady and helped with the aim, they pulled it back and released it and it worked for them too. There

were a couple of bad releases here and there, but the concept was proven. We set up 4 antennas using the launcher and it worked beautifully.

Upon inspection of the launcher after finishing set-up, I found that the rubber tubing was already checking. I am sure that we were pulling the Hyper Dog Launcher further than it was ever intended and I am now on the hunt for stronger tubing.

References:
Big Shot: http://www.sherrilltree.com/Professional-Gear/BIGshot?gclid=CMyfws7wgbgCFSZgMgodwXgAfg

Hyper Dog Launcher: http://www.hyper-pet.com/hyperdog.html
Painter's Pole: http://www.homedepot.com/p/Mr-Longarm-Super-Tab-Lok-15-ft-Adjustable-2-Section-Extension-Pole-7516/202017377#.UcsDU-c3vTo

Mason Line: http://www.homedepot.com/p/Everbilt-18-x-250-ft-Mason-Twine-Pink-18006/202079624#.Ucr-A-c3vTo

RADIOS FOR SALE

Icom IC-718

I have bought a new HF radio and now have my IC-718 for sale.

I am the original owner. At the time, the DSP module was included as a separate item to be installed by the user. That is the only time this radio has been opened. It performs very well. It made 193 contacts during Field Day. It's appearance is 9.5 out of 10. Price is $500. Included are the original microphone, power cord, manual, box, other manuals on CD, etc.

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.

Icom IC-551D

I bought this 6 meter all-mode rig second-hand a few years ago. It transmits 80w on SSB and CW, 40w on AM. There is an FM option but it isn't installed.

This is a good performing radio that made 25 contacts under difficult band conditions during Field Day. It's appearance is about 8 out of 10. I now have a couple other radios with 6 meters so I don't need this one any more. The price is $300 and includes the microphone, power cord, owners and service manuals on CD. Free to the new owner is a personalized call label as seen in the photo!

If you are interested, contact Barry at **n8ppf@mvarc.net** or 740-397-7540.

Treasurer's Report

June 30, 2013
for May 1 to June 29, 2013

Balance on 4-30-13:	$	2761.58
Income:		
Dues:	$	38.00
50-50:	$	10.50
Interest:	$	.01
HTs for class - sale	$	100.00
Field Day Donations:	$	55.00
Expenses:		
Field Day food:	$	217.75
Balance on 6-29-13:	$	2747.34
Designated Funds:		
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	$	536.39
Field Day Fund:	$	.00
Communication Vehicle Fund:	$	471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF

2013 Jul Treasurer's report.doc

Various Field Day Pictures

Barry Butz, N8PPF at the 40 & 6 meter SSB station

Carl Payne, AC8LQ and Brandon Hunt, KD8LPP
(Sorry, not sure who the young man is)

Melody Brent, KD8RZV

Frank Piper, KI8GW
ARRL Ohio Section Manager

Matt Ware, KD8PSK
(Great Job Matt!)

Barry Butz, N8PPF & Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Pat Valentino, KD8PSM & Melody Brent, KD8RZV
Knox County American Red Cross

Don Blizzard, W8UMH

Steve Cochran, KD8SWJ at the GOTA Station

The CW Station

75 meter SSB Station

The Information Booth

Barry's (N8PPF) camper and Antenna Mast for the 40 meter SSB station. The flag on top of the mast has the clubs emblem.

20 meter SSB station

THE END…..

The American RRelay Ladio eague

RADIOGRAM

Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date

To

This Radio Message was received at:
Amateur Station_____ Date_____
Name_____
Street Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

Telephone Number:

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

From	Date	Time	To	Date	Time
REC'D			SENT		

A licensed Amateur Radio Operator, whose address is shown above, handled this message free of charge. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating, a "Ham" Operator can accept no compensation. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225, Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is the National Membership Society of licensed radio amateurs and publisher of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Operators. To that end, The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

The American Radio Relay League

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Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date

To

This Radio Message was received at:
Amateur Station_____ Date_____
Name_____
Street Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

Telephone Number:

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

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