

**The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 372, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050**



**Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm
at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross,
300 North Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio**



**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600Khz with PL of 71.9 Hz)
K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

View from the Presidents Desk	1
Emergency Preparedness	1, 2
Cub Scout Day / Field day pictures	2
Minutes for the June MVARC Meeting	3
MVARC Field Day 2016	4-6
MVARC Field Day 2016 RESULTS	6-8
Radio Activity	8, 9
July/August Calendar	10

The view from the Presidents Desk



June went by quickly and thanks to all who participated in the different events. The Tour de Cure was fun to work and we had great weather. There were fewer riders this year (at least it seemed to me, as I have no official count) but the view from the corner of Grove Church Rd and Sycamore was great. Field Day, we could not have asked for better weather. Don will be posting the results later in the newsletter and Terry has a great write up.

So far on my event calendar I have a Scouting event coming up on the 14th. Jim has more about that later in the newsletter. If you can help there will be more information at our July meeting. The Pan Ohio Hope Ride will be coming through Knox county on the third day of their event, July 23rd. I have not heard any thing from them so we will have to wait and see. Pelotonia is August 5-7, waiting to hear from them also. Columbus Hamfest is August 6th in Grove City this year. I have a flyer that I will bring to the July 11th meeting. We will be operating a special event station from our MVARC headquarters during the Dan Emmett Days. Come to the meeting to find out more details. Finally, September 10 is Ohio State Parks on the Air at Mohican State Park.

We have a full slate and I appreciate all those who help out to get things done. **-continued next column**

As usual we have several eating events planned Wednesday at the Southside Diner @5pm, Friday @10am. Hardee's and the second Saturday @9am Allison's hope to make contact at one of those events. Don't forget Monday July 11th is our meeting at 7pm there at the ARC Training facility. Hope to see all there.



73, Frank KC8EVS

Emergency Preparedness

Mark Maxwell Director of Knox County Emergency Management and Homeland Security and myself had the opportunity to observe the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club participate in Field day 2016. What we observed is that club is a well-organized group of dedicated radio operators that know how to establish and sustain radio communications when conditions are less than perfect. This ability to provide emergency communications services will be extremely valuable in an emergency or disaster situation.



Locally ARES leadership has made improvements the Emergency Operation Center's Radio Control Room and more improvements are planned. The leadership team is developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for ARES Notification and Activation. There will be SOP training and drills later in 2016. Those individuals interested in participating are reminded of the need to continue with their Course studies, sign-up for Knox Alerts and submit their ARES application. Guidance is available in the June 2016 Newsletter.

Emergency Preparedness, continued on page 2

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Knox County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) and Knox County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has been mutually agreed upon and signed.

Patrick Valentino KD8PSM
pvalentinoknoxco@gmail.com

Cub Scout Demonstration July 14th, 2016

Just a reminder, N8IBR was asked to organize a demonstration on Thursday, July 14th, 2016 for Cub Scout Pack 344 at Camp Cornish located near Howard, Ohio. If you are able to volunteer to help put on a continuous running program (4), starting at noon and lasting until at least 7:00 pm please let me know.

This is the same Cub Scout Troop we ran a demonstration for a few years ago. N8IBR would like to have a working station up and running, along with a few demonstration tables showing various different facets of the hobby.

For more information, please attend the July 11th meeting.
 Thanks, N8IBR

Additional Photo's from MVARC Field Day, 2016. Please see story, starting on page 4

Mark Maxwell, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Director



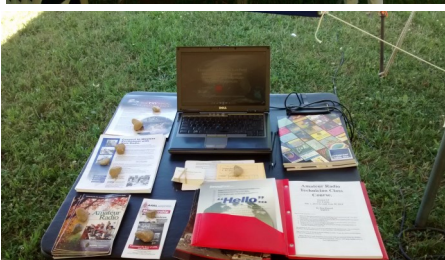
Tom Evans, KD8HSA with go-box set up



Tom Evans, KD8HSA giving a Go-box demonstration to our Public Officials and guests



Information table with Amateur Radio and ARRL materials



The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

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Meeting called to order by KC8EVS at 2214 UTC.

Motion made by AC8PT, 2nd W8PEN, to approve April minutes. Approved.

Motion made by KB8QPO, 2nd N8PPF, to approve May treasurers report. Approved.

W8PEN reported on repeaters. 2 meter repeater is ok. UHF repeater is temporarily on the air at N8PPF's QTH. Stated we are still experiencing some minor problems with the duplexer, but it is being worked on.

W8PEN stated that the MESH network is growing slowly, and that more nodes are needed to help expand its coverage.

W8PEN reported that he and W8DEP would be doing antenna work at the Red Cross Annex on Thursday, May 16th starting around 10:00 a.m. Anyone who was able to help was asked to please show up.

It was stated that the work on the EMA radio stations was continuing.

KC8EVS and W8PEN discussed Field Day.

N8IBR mentioned again that we would be doing a demonstration for the local Scout Troops from Howard, Ohio at their day camp on July, 14th from noon to at least 7:00 p.m. at Camp Cornish, located on Cornish Road east of Mt Vernon. If you would like to help out, let N8IBR know.

KC8EVS and N8IBR discussed the planned special event station for Daniel Emmett Days on Friday August 12th, and Saturday August, 13th. These operations will take place from the Red Cross Annex station, and will operate from 1600 UTC, to 2200 UTC each day. If you are interested in participating, contact N8IBR.

KC8EVS stated that we would be operating Ohio State Parks on The Air, from the overlook area in Mohican State Park again this year. This event will be held on Saturday, September 10th, 2016. Operating times will be announced at a future meeting. Contact KD8HSA if you are interested in this event.

W8PEN mentioned that no one had volunteered to cook for Field Day, so it was decided to have the club purchase some pre-cooked chicken and ribs as the meat. As in the past, members were asked to bring a covered side dish for a pot luck type meal.

Motion to adjourn, KC8BB, 2nd KE8ANS. Approved at 2314 UTC.

There were 13 members present.

Respectfully submitted,

N8IBR, Secretary MVARC

By Terry Windsor, KE8ANS

MVARC members met on June 25 to work the annual ARRL Field Day activities at the Apple Valley site. We had great weather and operators working four stations using CW, SSB, and Digital making contacts with other amateur radio enthusiasts throughout the World.

Our CW station was manned by Don Russell W8PEN, Frank Koelbe KB5JK (from Arkansas), Don Blizzard W8UMH, and Tony, KC8UR. The Digital station was operated by Scott, K8AEC.



The SSB stations were manned by Barry N8PPF, Jim N8IBR and Scott AC8PT.



As usual fantastic food was a large part of the get together with this year's event featuring ribs and chicken with several side dishes provided by club members.



We also had a training exercise put on by Tom KD8HSA, who demonstrated how to remove the chassis assembly from the club's Go Boxes.



Another part of Field Day is promoting the hobby, so MVARC had our banners displayed along with a table of Amateur Radio and ARRL materials and Don's PC showing operators performing various civic duties.

We want to thank our visitors this year. We sent letters of invite to elected officials and office holders throughout Knox County. We were visited by EMA Director Mark Maxwell and Mount Vernon City Councilwoman Nancy Vail. Councilwoman Vail is shown in the photo where Tom is demonstrating how to work on the Go Boxes.

We also had several non MVARC visitors that came just to observe Field Day and discuss Ham Radio. Phil N8LRG, shown watching Don W8PEN operate CW and Chris KA9GDO, who also took all of the photos being used. There were other visitors we wish to express our thanks for coming to see what Amateur radio is about but I did not get their names. The club also sends a large thanks to Bobbi KE8ANY, for once again providing and setting up the tent that Jim and Scott used for SSB operations.

Terry Windsor, KE8ANS

MVARC Field Day 2016

RESULTS!

By Don Russell, W8PEN



It seems like every year the club just keeps getting better at Field Day. 2016 was no different. While the participation seemed a little down this year, we had a great time and the club set a record for total number of contacts and final score.

The club also had its first taste of digital contesting with Scott Fields K8AEC, heading up the digital side of things. The club made 51 digital contacts. This might not seem like a lot, but for a first effort, I think it is great. With this year's digital experience, next year should see a major improvement. I am going to encourage some of our digital friends to practice contesting during the year so they will be more prepared for Field Day. I also have some ideas on how to improve things on the digital end.

The SSB guys once again had their way with the CW boys. Because of the digital station, we only ran two SSB stations, but they were able to keep the rate up most of the contest. The SSB stations made a very impressive 977 contacts this year. More impressive was the fact that 546 of those contacts were on 40 meters!

The CW boys did really well too, making 767 contacts. This was far short of my goal of a thousand contacts for the CW station, but close enough to give it a try next year. 40 meters was also the hot band for CW providing 405 contacts.

So the question that begs to be asked is, what can we do next year to improve on this year's score? Of course, I have a few ideas.....

The number one idea is to separate the digital and the CW station as far as possible so each station can work any band without fear of interfering with one of the other stations. This year the digital and CW stations had to coordinate their operating, so that neither were operating on the same band at any given time. With enough separation, this should not be a problem.

Another idea has to do with the digital station in general. From what I understand (and it was to be expected) there were lots of digital stations on during Field Day. That meant QRM and poor decoding at the computer. My suggestion is to use a DSP audio filter to narrow the passband from about 2.7 KHz to maybe 100 Hz or so. This would help with decoding but require the operator to do a bit of tuning when searching for stations. A great way to try this out, would be for the club to get into one of the many digital contests coming up before the next Field Day and see how it goes.

Other ideas revolve around better antennas. For the CW station, I am thinking of going to a fan dipole instead of the Windom antenna we have used for several years. This may help with station to station interference.

I would also like to see the 20 meter SSB station and the digital station with single band dipole antennas as high as possible and horizontal.

Barry and I will also be working on making it easier to use the notch filters. These filters keep station to station interference down. I used them on the CW station and they were very effective. They will not help with signals in the same band, but they work magic cutting down any interference on other bands. Something we have occasionally had problems with in the past.

One last item, the food: It was great! And way too much! If I have to do the food next year, I will follow the same plan, but order smaller portions.

Here are the results as submitted to the ARRL:

ARRL Field Day Entry Form

Datestamp: 2016-06-30 13:40:41 PDT

Confirmation: 439ad5a020ccd86f

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

Participants: 22 Club/Group Name: Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar

Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited elected official	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Submitted via the Web	050
Educational activity	100
Social media	100
Total Bonus Points	1,350

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	767	51	977	
Total Points	1534	102	977	2613 Claimed Score = 5,226

Submitted by:

Donald J. Russell, W8PEN

815 Brookwood Rd.

Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

E-mail: w8pen@arrl.net

Comments:

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Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr (W)	QSOs	Pwr (W)	QSOs	Pwr (W)
160m						
80m	234	100	21	30	313	100
40m	405	100	4	30	546	100
20m	101	100	26	30	100	100
15m	27	100			16	100
10m						
6m					2	100
2m						
1.25						

Radio Activity**By Don Russell**

There has been a lot going on this month that need to be reported on, so lets get right to it:

New Repeater

As mentioned last month, the new repeater is located at Barry Butz's (N8PPF) residence. This is high ground but we are having some problems covering the East side of Mt. Vernon. Plans are to move the repeater to the Red Cross and see if we have better "town" coverage. I am not to worried about distance. I would rather have good coverage inside of Mt. Vernon.

Radio Activity, Continued on page 9

By Don Russell

One of the problems that continues to nag us is the duplexer being used. So far we have not been able to get it tune correctly and therefore have some desense in the receiver. Desense is when the repeater transmitter signal gets into the repeater receiver causing other signals to have to compete with it. What you end up with is a less sensitive repeater receiver.

It would help if we had the correct equipment to adjust the duplexer, but we have been trying to tune the duplexer without the proper equipment. We are close to what we want and have it solved before this article is published. I hope so.

Red Cross Station

One of the things that is going to allow us to put the new repeater at the Red Cross is the good work done by many members of the club putting up the tower and antennas at the Red Cross.

Presently, we have a 60 foot end fed antenna, designed for 160 – 10 meters. A Delta fan dipole designed for 80 – 10 meters and a Diamond dual band vertical. We are in the process of testing these antennas, especially the HF ones to see how they compare. If one performs better than another, we may take one down. However, I am in favor of leaving them both up. I have operated enough HF to know that due to band conditions, one antenna may perform better than another one day, but then just the opposite can happen the next day.

I was up on the tower the other day and was impressed with the view I had in all directions. The Diamond antenna will allow us to try the new repeater at the Red Cross.

Mesh Project

I continue to be frustrated in efforts to get a high profile Mesh Node online. I am sure that this will eventually happen, but it is frustrating.

Thanks to Scott Keys (AC8PT), we do have a node running at the Red Cross. This node is three miles from my house and I can get into it with sometimes 100% signal strength. So I know that this project will work. We just need to get the nodes online.

You can help. Every node put up will be a valuable asset to the whole system. We need as many nodes up as possible and they need to run 24/7.

Someone mentioned that I need to explain in more detail, how to set individual nodes up. I agree. This will happen in next months Newsletter. Also, perhaps I need to give a presentation at the August meeting detailing the steps needed to set up your own node.

Remember, I have a mobile Mesh Node. If you want to see how a node would perform at your residence, please let me know and will run some tests. Thanks.

Don, W8PEN

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB –Bill	4	5	6 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	7	8 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	9 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Fine Diner
10 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN –Don	11 6:00 pm MVARC Meeting at the Mt Vernon Red Cross Annex	12	13 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	14 12:00 -7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Demo - Camp Cornish, Howard, OH	15 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	16
17 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8ANS –Terry	18	19	20 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	21	22 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	23 Pan Ohio Hope Bicycle Ride. More information at our Club meeting
24 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KD8HSA –Tom	25	26	27 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	28	29 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	30
31 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN –Don	1 August	2	3 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	4	5 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's Pelotonia Bike Ride August 5 -7 More info later	6 8:00 a.m. Columbus Hamfest, Grove City, OH www.columbus-hamfest.com for info