

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



**Meetings are held on 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, OH 43050**



**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600KHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)
K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800
K8EEN Repeater: 444.600 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)**



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Presidents View

It's July and Field Day is history. I'm sure that there is more in the newsletter concerning Field Day so keep reading the newsletter to find out what happened. Even a few pictures if we're lucky. We had beautiful weather so no complaints there unlike Hamvention.

Next event will be Emmett Days Special Event Station. We are going to run things a little different this year so plan on attending our next meeting to get all the specifics.

I just participated in the 13 Colonies Special Event this last weekend and had a great time. In this special event there are stations set up in each of the 13 original colonies plus two bonus stations. They have special calls, K2A- New York, K2B-Virginia, K2C-Rhode Island, through K2M-Pennsylvania. The two bonus stations were WM3PEN in Philadelphia and one in England GB13COL. For me in the past, the station in England was the most difficult to contact. This year I have been fortunate to be able to contact all the participating stations, even the one in England! What made the contact with England more fun is he was operating split 5-10 up. This means he was listening up the band 5-10 kilocycles from where he was transmitting. For me this means finding the manual for my radio and figuring out how to listen in one spot and transmit in another. This took a few minutes as I had never done this before with this radio. That accomplished I was ready to make this contact. As I did this and made the contact it brought to mind why we should participate in NVIS, Field Day, Special Events, parks on the air, bike rides and marathons and it is practice using our equipment and pushing to try to do better, to make the contact, someday who knows lives may depend upon it.

I'm late getting this to Bill again, common thing for me. So I need to end and send the electrons off to Bill. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting in July or one of the weekly get togethers (Hardees, Southside)



Field day at Apple Valley



AC8PT, Scott on Digital

W8PEN, Don &
W8UMH, Don on CWN8PPF, Barry & W8UMH
Don on 80M, 20M, 15M and
10MFront: KD8HSA, Tom;
Back: KE8HGG, Alania;
KD8WHQ, Bill and
KE8HSG, Michael at our
GOTA StationKE8GGB, Greg and family and
KD8PSM, PatMain Tent for GOTA, Barry's
Station (N8PPF), Food and drink

N8IBR, Jim and KC8BB, Bill on 40M

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MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12TH, 2017 MVARC MEETING

KC8EVS called meeting to order at 2306 UTC. There were 19 members present.

AC8PT made a motion , KD8WHQ 2nd to accept minutes from May meeting. APPROVED.

KB8QPO made a motion, KD8WSI 2nd to accept treasurers report for June 12th. APPROVED.

W8PEN reported both repeaters up and running okay. He then reported that the MESH network was experiencing some problems. At present, the phone service and e mail are down on the MESH.

W8PEN reported that he and KC8EVS had the Wi-Fi up and running at the Red Cross Annex now. When trying to log on use the password of "K8EEN" when asked for a password.

KD8PSM then discussed the planning and assignments for Field Day this year. He is using Field Day as an ARES training people could get practice in setting up communications in the field. He also ask ARES personnel to arrive early for Friday's set up, so they could review and discuss the various assignments.

KC8BB discussed the proposed menu for Field Day. Looks like chicken and ribs again. Yum!!!!

N8IBR then discussed the up-coming Daniel Emmett Music and Arts Special Event Operation which will run from Thursday August 10th through Saturday August 12th, using the K8EEN CALLSIGN. He reminded folks that you will be able to operate our Club Call Sign from your home QTH if you desire to operate from home instead using the club station at the Red Cross Annex. The Club Station will still be available for use by anyone desiring to do so. N8IBR asked that you co-ordinate your operating time with him so we don't have 2 different locations on the same band at a time.

W8PEN asked KE8GFZ, Lori (to those of you who haven't met her yet), to report on the May/June technician class. She reported that she was both impressed and pleased with progress of the current class. Lori is a college professor, and she instructed one session and made suggestions that helped the students better comprehend the materials.

Members who attended the new location for the Dayton Ham fest gave overall enthusiastic reports on the new location in Xenia. We understand they still have some improvements to be made, but overall it was given a hearty thumbs up.

KD8HSA reminded members that we still have the Parks on The Air activation in September. For those that haven't participated in this, it has been fun the first 2 years we have done it, despite the questionable weather the first year. Be sure to let KD8HSA know if you are interested. The more people, the more fun.

KD8PSM reminded folks that at 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, the county runs a Tornado siren test throughout the County. If you can participate in these test, it would be greatly appreciated.

N8PPF moved to close the meeting, W8PEN 2nd. Approved.

N8PPF won the 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,

N8IBR SEC-MVARC

By Don Russell, W8PEN



N3FJP's ARRL Field Day Contest Log 5.4 www.n3fjp.com

File Settings Band Mode View Network Operator Help

Recent Contacts Last 20 All

Rec	Call	Class	Sec	Date / Time	Bnd	Mode	Country	Initials
1253	K8DF	3A	WV	06/25 17:59	15	PH	USA	N8PPF
1252	N4CWZ	1A	NC	06/25 17:56	15	PH	USA	N8PPF
1251	W3CU	3A	MDC	06/25 17:53	15	PH	USA	N8PPF
1250	N3NIA	5A	WPA	06/25 17:52	15	PH	USA	N8PPF
1249	W4GSO	2A	NC	06/25 17:52	40	PH	USA	JW
1248	W3AO	16A	MDC	06/25 17:51	15	PH	USA	N8PPF
1247	KD9BPQ	1D	IN	06/25 17:50	40	PH	USA	JW
1246	W0ILO	3A	ND	06/25 17:48	15	PH	USA	N8PPF
1245	W0NT	7E	CO	06/25 17:46	15	PH	USA	N8PPF

Score Statistics

Total CW Contacts: **575**

Total Phone Contacts: **566**

Total DIG Contacts: **112**

Total QSO Points: **1,940**

QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min): **0**

QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min): **0**

Call

Class

Section

Ready to begin!

Please select your band and mode from the menu options!

Clear Spot Last

Possible Duplicates Any Portion

Newfoundland-Labrador Total = 0

DX	3	5	7	0
DE MDC	AR NTX	AK NV	CO MO	
EPA WPA	LA OK	AZ OR	IA ND	
1	MS STX	EWA UT	KS NE	
CT RI	NM WTX	ID WWA	MN SD	
EMA VT	4	MT WY	Canada	
ME WMA	AL SC	6	8	AB NT
NH	GA SFL	EB SCV	MI WV	BC ONE
2	KY TN	LAX SDG	OH	GTA ONN
ENY NNY	NC VA	ORG SF	9	MAR ONS
NLI SNJ	NFL VI	PAC SJV	IL WI	MB QC
NNJ WNY	PR WCF	SB SV	IN	NL SK

Bearing:

Miles: **Band: 40 Mode: DIG** **K8EEN 4A OH**

8:55:30 AM
12:55:30 UTC

Page 1 of 3 | 625 Words, 4,192 characters | Default Style | English (USA)

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Get ready..... Get set..... GO!

And we were once again off to the races with Field Day 2017!

This year proved to be an interesting year. No, we did not set any records this year. Yes, everyone made lots of contacts. Yes, no one went away hungry. Yes, everyone had fun!

This year, we tried a more structured effort in organizing Field Day. With Pat Valentino's KD8PSM guidance, we use the official NCIS structured format. This not only helped organize the event, but gave members a demonstration of what NCIS can do during an event or crisis. A very valuable experience for all.

Unfortunately, try as we might, we still missed some bonus points that should have been easy pickings. Yes, they were in the NCIS plan. Simply put; when things all came together, some items were missed.

One of these was the bonus points for an information table. That was my responsibility. I had everything in the car. But due to technical difficulties with the CW station and our wireless network, it was forgotten and never did get set up.

Another area lacking was reviewing of the Field Day rules. One of the batteries was charged for about three hours on commercial means during the Field Day event. While this is okay before Field Day starts, it is against the rules during Field Day if you want the transmitter bonus points. Yes, I am a stickler for following the rules.

Antenna setup did not go as well as in years past. Setting up was not the problem. We sat around for two hours waiting for the rain to stop. It finally did and we got most of the antennas up. There were one or two that we waited until Saturday morning to put up. This went smoothly and was really no problem.

We had our usual problems with the network. Seems like we always have to trouble shoot the network before everything starts to run smoothly. The digital station was not staying connected due to weak signals and was taken out of line. The digital contacts were merged into the Field Day log after the event was over.

We will have to take a look at this for next year. Perhaps an access point out in the field would help with this. We do want some of the stations away from the main crowd to reduce interference between the SSB stations and the CW / Digital stations. We also need more separation between the CW and the Digital station. This will all be looked at before next Field Day.

As always, the Field Day picnic had plenty of good food. Bill Bradley KC8BB did a fantastic job of ordering the food, water, and other supplies. Bill even brought in breakfast for those of us that braved operating throughout the night. Thanks Bill!

[Field Day 2017, continues on page 6](#)

Band conditions were very good. I always say that if you think a band is closed, wait until Field Day. Seems like Field Day brings out all the hams. There certainly was not a lack of stations to work.

Top band this year was 40 meters SSB with 324 contacts, followed by 20 meters CW with 274 contacts. Total contacts were 1,253. This was not a record for us, but still very respectable.

In the CW vs SSB competition, CW won with 575 contacts while the SSB stations had 566. It was a very close competition for all of Field Day and provided everyone with a reason to make that one last contact.

Scott Keys AC8PT ran the Digital station. This is only the second year that the club has done digital. Last year we made around 30 contacts on digital. This year Scott improved upon that with 112 contacts. As we gain experience, the digital station should just get better and better.

Tom Evans ran the GOTA station. While not many contacts were made, the GOTA station was an object of discussion among the new hams. It gave them a place to listen and make a contact if they wished. Tom's guidance was certainly educational to them. Whether or not we make contacts with the GOTA station, it appears to be worth the effort to set up.

Here is a breakdown of this year's operation:

K8EEN's Contest Summary Report for ARRL-FIELD-DAY

Created by N3FJP's ARRL Field Day Contest Log

Version 5.4 www.n3fjp.com

Total Contacts = 1,253

Total Points = 1,940

Operating Period: 2017/06/24 18:01 - 2017/06/25 17:59

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

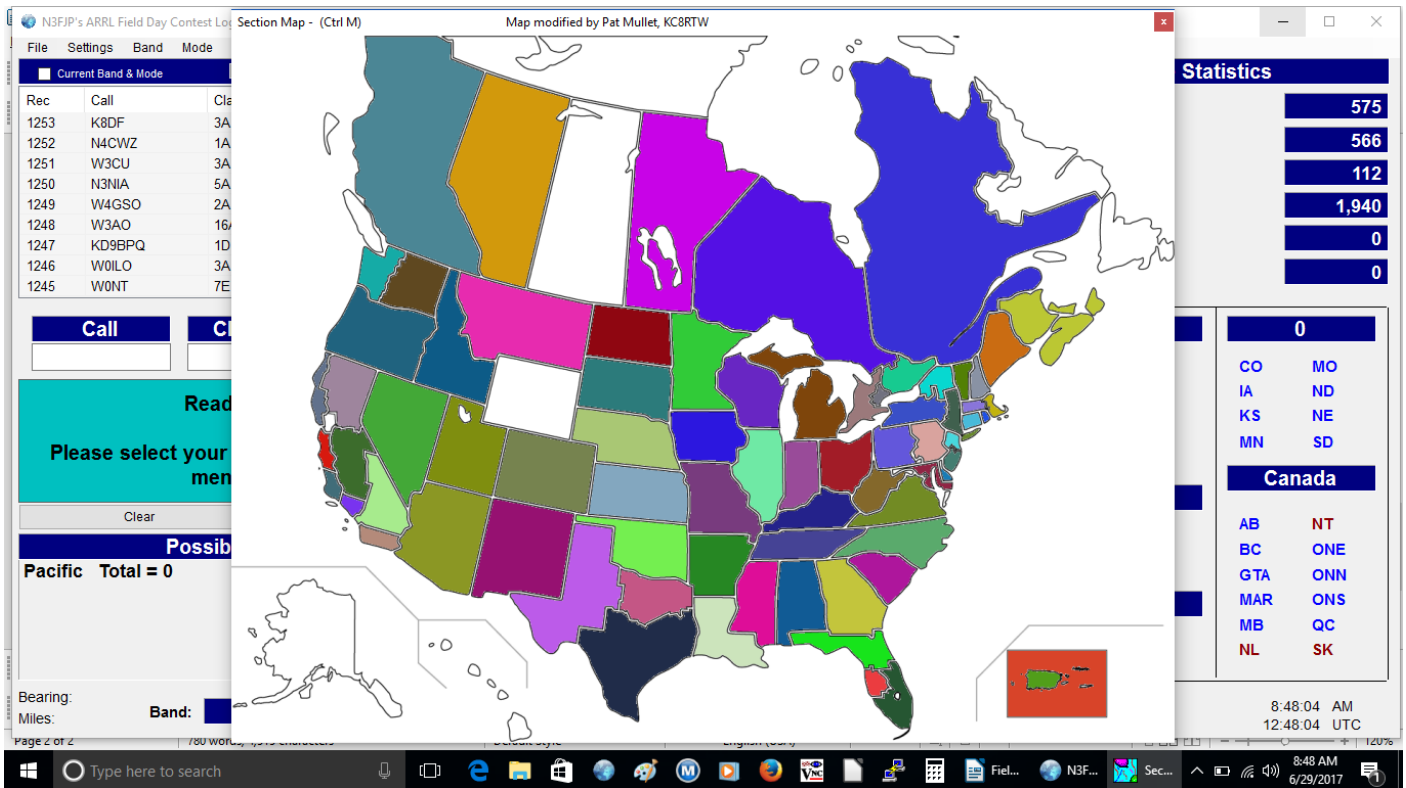
Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	136	26	0	162	13
40	131	324	100	555	44
20	274	137	12	423	34
15	34	67	0	101	8
10	0	12	0	12	1
Total	575	566	112	1,253	100

Total Contacts by Operator:

Operator	Total	%
W8PEN	548	44
N8IBR	324	26
N8PPF	242	19
AC8PT	112	9
W8UMH	23	2
????	4	0

The map below shows the sections worked. The white areas are sections that we missed while the colored areas are the ones we worked.

We only missed: East Bay (California), PAC (Hawaii), Alaska, Wyoming, and Northern Territories, Newfoundland / Labrador, Saskatchewan in Canada.



by **Barry Butz N8PPF**

July 2017

Wasn't Field Day great? It's always a highlight of my year, right after seeing my grandkids.

July 1st was the Canada Day contest, celebrating Canada's 150th birthday. I operated this event on a low-key basis, talking only to Canadian stations. I was able to reach 9 of 13 provinces with 28 contacts all told.

The same day I got a start on the 13 colonies event, making 6 QSOs. This isn't actually a contest, just a fun activity. There is one station for each colony plus two bonus stations, one in Philadelphia and another in London, both having a connection to the Declaration of Independence. You can get a nice certificate if you want to. Join the fun until midnight July 6.

July 8-9 is the IARU HF World Championship. Don't be put off by the name; you don't have to be a whiz to enter, just work it in your own way. You might land dozens of DX stations.

If you missed the last month's ARRL VHF contest, you have another chance to work the VHF bands on July 15-16 in the CQ VHF contest.

There will be several digital contests, one being the ARRL RTTY party on the same weekend as the VHF event. I keep saying I will get set up for digital "one of these days" but it hasn't happened yet.

Find details about upcoming contests from the links on the QST Contest Corral page.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR RADIO

by Barry Butz N8PPF

When Icom introduced their IC-7300 I began wondering how my IC-7410, which isn't very old, compared with it. I looked up specs, reviews in QST and eham.net. I was satisfied that I didn't need to buy a new radio. After using my 7410 for a couple years I knew much about operating it. But in doing this reading I realized that there was quite a bit that I didn't yet know or needed reminding of. I got out the user manual, which has many, many pages, and studied it. It's amazing how much I had missed from past readings. Another source that was timely was the recent "Doctor Is In" podcast episode titled "Optimizing Receiver Performance". It had some tips that I kind of knew but now I have a better understanding, especially how to pull in a station when conditions are bad. Such as: don't use your preamp on the lower bands, it just amplifies the noise along with the signal. So if you think there might be more to learn about getting the most from your radio, get out your manual and also search out other sources.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, “How do I learn to copy in my head?” When I get this question, I give, what to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGI, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator’s Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, “I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flash drive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly.” Carl’s program costs \$20 and is available from n7agk.com.

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then you can concentrate on what’s important rather than getting bogged down in copying what’s not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, “I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear “dots and dashes”, then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head.”

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I’ve never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn’t that what’s happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don’t consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It’s more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds “dah di dit...dah dah dah...dah dah dit,” should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pit-bull, not the letters “D O G.”

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one’s head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code* and the *No Nonsense* series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com

July, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB –Bill	3	4	5 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	6	7 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	8 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Finer Diner
9 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	10 7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting	11	12 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	13	14 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	15
16 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN, KE8ANS –Terry	17	18	19 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	20	21 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	22
23 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KD8HSA Tom	24	25	26 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	27	28 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	29
30 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	31	1 August	2 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	3	4 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	5
6 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB –Bill	7 7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting	8	9 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	10	11 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	12 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Finer Diner