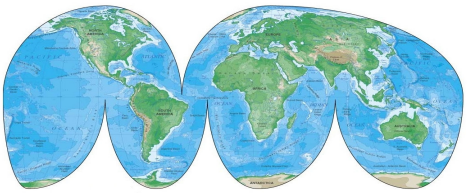
MOUNT VERNON

C  Q

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB June 2005

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE BIG BROTHERS OUTER LIMITS 7:00 PM
REPEATER FREQUENCYS: 146.790 (-) K8EEN 444.750(+) KC8YED
SPEED DIAL #S 7770=AAA (Howard St. Garage) 7771=Sheriff 7773=Police 7776=Highway Patrol
7778=MV Fire 7779=Report Repeater Problem # to shut off Auto Patch

## Letter from the Editor

Two important events this month. The first is Field Day. I have included a recent report on what we have, and what we still need below. Those that can help please contact Don, WA8YRS. The second is the mock disaster drill in Bangs, which we were not invited to. For those who have not seen it in the Mt. Vernon News I have reproduced Mike's, KC8YLD, Letter to the Editor further on down in this Newsletter.

Phil, N1GTZ

As per Jeff, KC8WXL, and my (Don, WA8YRS) QSO planning Field Day:
Station 1: 20-10 ssb. Use KB2SAI's radio (with auto antenna tuner), 2 Loop antennas as last year, plus additional ground plane for 20 mtrs. Need One Carport or Canopy.
Station 2: 75 and 40 ssb. Use KC8JEZ's radio (with auto antenna tuner). Antenna this year will be a windom. Less hassle and can be put up higher. Maybe include a 40 mtr vertical. Need a carport or canopy for this station.
Station 3: All Band CW. Use WA8YRS's FT-0847. Antenna will be a windom or a dipole fed with open line feed for multiband operation. This rig can also be used for the satellite radio, if KC8QJR still wants to try that. I have KC8JEZ working on a satellite antenna. Need a carport or canopy for this station
Station 4: We need a dual band radio for 2 mtr and 440. Also a dual band antenna. We can set this up to scan the simplex frequencies and put it next to the cw station. That way it will be monitored. As stations call CQ, we can nail them! Also call CQ ourselves.
Alternate energy station: Up to KC8YLD and KC8YLE if they still want to do it. We can shut down the CW station to run this one, that way we will not change our "class"
Use same logging program as last year. May run wireless. I did download the wireless net version. Will be checking it out and pay the registration if it works. A little concern about the distance the CW station will be from the rest of the group for the wireless thing. We will be 200 or 300 feet to reduce "same band" interference.
We need laptops for the logging computers!! I have one. We need at least two more.
We also need a generator. We used K4AWO's last year. I think WD8QHY wanted us to use his new generator. I will ask.
We have 2 towers and 2 or 4 masts to put up. N8SMT is providing another two masts besides what we already have. Setup will start Friday evening around 6 pm
N8PCE is arranging for the Porta pot
KB8QPO is going to mow our work area like he did last year.

I am planning a Public Information booth. Any help would be appreciated.
Need the rest of the carports for the picnic and food area.
The club will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. Everyone brings a covered dish.
Jeff is supplying fresh water.
That is all I can think of. E-mail me if someone thinks of something else.
73,
Don

| ATTENDANCE | May 9th, 2005 | MONTHLY MEETING |
|---|---|---|
| Name | Call | e-mail (if not already on record) |
| 1. Phillip Buble | N1GTZ | |
| 2. Don Bunner | KB8QPO | |
| 3. Leon Bolender | KB8YL | |
| 4. Mike McCardel | KC8YLD | |
| 5. Zach McCardel | KC8YLE | |
| 6. Stephen Dick | KC8YED | |
| 7. Robert McBride Sr. | N8QPM | |
| 8. Ruben Clark | KB2SAI | |
| 9. Don Russell | WA8YRS | |
| 10. Adam Burley | KC8QJR | |
| 11. Emily Bain | KC8YAE | |

MINUTES May 9th, 2005 MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:06pm local time.
Treasury report: Same as last month save for a telephone bill. Don reports $90.00 in field day fund.

Old News:
Issue 1: BBBS is closing the basement meeting room. All meetings will take place upstairs. A $25 dollar fee is now being charged for use of the upstairs room. Currently we're looking at the Red Cross building as a new meeting place. We are in good standing with them. For now we stay at BBBS and pay the 25 dollars.

Issue 2: The portable 2-meter tape measure antennas. Construction will take place after the meeting.

Issue 3: Sat, June 4th Foxhunt will take place at 3pm local time at the old Big Bear Supermarket parking lot.

Issue 4: Repeater issues were not a issue this last Sunday! Don, WA8YRS, and Barry, N8PPF, did some work on the repeater just before and maybe fixed the problem.

Issue 5: UHF repeater is to be moved but not this month.

Issue 6: Application is in on the 6 meter repeater.

Issue 7: Webpage update. Recorded CW practice CD set is to be placed on our website.

Issue 8: Field Day committee meeting is to be held Sunday 15th, at 2:00pm at the Wendy's on Cosocton Ave.

New News:

Issue 1: Bicentennial Event: We have already received our event call of W8V. We'll be meeting at Memorial Park July 16. Newark Amateur Radio, NARA, will be holding Land of Legends Bicycle Event July 9th, 2005. Please contact Tim, KA8PCP, at ka8pcp@yahoo.com if you can help out.

Issue 2: Cost of the telephone line is our biggest single expense and little used. The club should consider dropping it pending regulations check.

Issue 3. On voice vote it has been decided to PL our repeater full-time.

Presentation Jeff, N8SMT, on construction of tape-measure beam.

## REPEATERS AND STUFF

## BY DON RUSSELL

As promised, Barry (N8PPF) and I made a trip to the repeater site and fixed the problem we were having with the repeater. The problem was simply a loose coax connector going from the transmitter to the duplexer. I feel guilty about not checking that sooner, seeing how simple it was. I was sure I had checked all those cables before winter set in. Obviously not. The repeater has been behaving much better now. In fact, probably due to a better transmit signal and low SWR since tightening the connector, there have not been as many problems with the Mt. Gilead Repeater. These problems were discussed in detail here last month. There are still a few over deviating signals on the Mt. Gilead Repeater, but many of the problems have all but disappeared. I am playing the waiting game here. I really don't want to add a narrow band IF filter to our repeater unless it is really needed.

Just to do a complete job, I climb all the way up the water tower, checking the cable and connections along the way. The ladder to the second landing is kinda scary, but the view at the top of the water tower was worth the climb. I am now assured that the antenna is mounted securely and very stable.

Last month at the meeting we decided to put the repeater in PL full time. This was done to cut down on some interference from stations outside our area, and perhaps help control the Mt. Gilead issue a bit. After some reprogramming on the voice announcements, we are now running PL full time. If the repeater gets put in another mode and forgotten, it will return to PL mode at 11:05 P. M. automatically. Any member who has a rig that does not have PL can still access the repeater by touch toning "15". That will put the repeater in "open" mode for a short time. The repeater will go back to PL mode after 60 seconds of no one transmitting. You will then have to touch tone "15" again. I have two old Icom HT's and they work fine with this method. Heck, I talk so much that I never have to re-enter the touch tone number! The Mt. Vernon Repeater is, always has been, and always will be (as long as I am involved with it) an open repeater to anyone who wishes to use it. Club member or not. The intent of having the repeater in PL mode full time is to eliminate stations that are using other repeaters on our frequency, but close enough to also key our repeater up. So invite your friends to get on our repeater and talk to you. I like an active repeater!

A month or so ago, we had someone talking on the repeater that I presume was not a ham. Actually a child's voice. Maybe a relative of a local ham with itchy fingers got hold of a hand-held for a while. The incident was very brief and caused no problems. He was properly ignored and maybe he just got bored. That is a good way to handle that problem. The incident did get me thinking of ways prevent

this from happening again. I plan to add a mode to the repeater that will help keep us legal in such situations and still be able to use the repeater. It will be a mode that requires a 3 or 4 number access code in order to use the repeater. The code will be given out to members. If any hanky panky goes on, the control operator can put the repeater in this mode and the potential "pirate" will not be able to access the repeater. The code will work exactly like the "15" code discussed above though I may make the reset 15 seconds instead of a minute. That means one would have 15 seconds after the repeater transmitter drops to start transmitting again, or you would have to re-enter the access code. This mode is not intended to be something that we would use on a day to day basis. Just a fail-safe plan. Our repeater users are very friendly and well behaved, so I really doubt if we will ever need to use this mode. Let me know what you think of this at the June meeting or via e-mail.

Field Day is this month. Although the FD committee has not actually gotten together yet, I believe everything is being put together for a successful Field Day. I again will supply the majority of the antennas for our three main stations. We will use Ruben's (KB2SAI) and Phil's (N1GTZ) transceivers for the two SSB stations. We will use my transceiver for the CW station. Plus, my rig has the capabilities of running the satellite station if Adam (KC8QJR) wishes to try this. We may set up a VHF/UHF station. If someone has a dual band vertical antenna we can use for this station let me know. A dual band rig would also be useful. I would like to set this VHF/UHF station up so that the receiver scans the FM simplex frequencies and whom ever is nearby can catch those stations that call CQ FD. Of course, there is nothing wrong with calling CQ FD ourselves. That would be four stations, but the VHF/UHF is a free one, so we will again operate in the three transmitter club class. Our exchange will be 3A Ohio, or 3 Alpha Ohio. We will be using the same computer logging program that we used last year. Everyone really liked this one and it was very easy to use. Not sure how many computers we have available, but we seem to always have plenty available.

Jeff (N8SMT) has donated some old real estate signs. I plan on painting over these signs and putting the directions to Field Day on them. There are four signs so we can have one sign at each turn. This will be much better than what we tried last year. If anyone has a little artistic or creative skills and wish to do the signs, let me know. Otherwise we will have my painted signs and probably mailbox type lettering with arrows pointing the way.

I would also like to set up an information booth this year. We could use hand-outs like ARRL leaflets, copies of our old Newsletters, and maybe a sign up page for the Tech Course that is being planned to begin this fall. I might even bring some old copies of QST's as handouts. Anyone wishing to contribute to this effort, either with donations for handouts or willing to man the information booth, let me know. If you have any ideas about how the information booth should be set up, lets talk.

One last thing. Mike (KC8YLD) is looking for help to provide some communications for Mt. Vernon's Bicentennial July 16. I would like to encourage everyone that can possibly help to volunteer. May I remind everyone that the city of Mt. Vernon has been letting us use one of their water towers for our 2-meter repeater. They don't have to do that. Lets give a little bit back to the community, and encourage the city to make more use of our skills. We have to start somewhere. Remember all those meetings that many members complained about never being invited to disaster drills and/or events? All those hours talking about emergency communications? Know is the time to participate. It will be good relations and good training for us. Oh, Mike is also coordinating a Special Event station at Memorial Park. We will need operators for that too. At least one General Class or higher needs to be there all the time.

Sorry for taking up so much space. Had a lot to say this month. You guys can cheer now that I am done. See you next month, same time, same page.

**Vacuum Tube Daze**

A tongue-in-cheek look at the days when tubes ruled.
By Phillip Buble, N1GTZ

Episode 11: Of Big Bangs and pigeons.

Nope the big bang I speak of is not of power output tubes exploding but of the creation of the universe. So what has this got to do with vacuum tubes you may ask? Hang on and you shall see.

We may have forgotten but the big bang was not always the start of our universe. Through the 40's, 50's and into the 60's the "steady state" theory hung on, little proof of any bang, big, little or otherwise existed. As early as 1948 George Gamow predicted the universe should be aglow in the remnants of the big bang, cooled way down and well red-shifted into the microwave band, at about 5 degrees Kelvin. Ralph Alpher and Robert Herman confirmed Gamow's mathematical theory in 1950 with more math of their own, and there it remained, a mathematical theory only. Amazingly enough the tube technology of the late 40's was capable of detecting this radiation, now called the CMB (cosmic microwave background). Unfortunately few took the theory seriously so no one bothered to look. No one pursued the matter further through the 1950's. Along comes Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson into the picture in the early 60's.

Now don't be fooled, Penzias and Wilson weren't looking for any CMB either. They worked for Bell Labs and had taken over a microwave antenna used earlier to test the newfangled communication satellites. Communication satellites still being in low earth orbit at the time this antenna was able to swivel and turn any which way toward the sky. The two were going to use it to do a rather routine sky survey for microwave point sources but they didn't get far. They got stuck with what they thought were bad tube electronics. Try as they might they couldn't get rid of a noise spike at 2.7 degrees Kelvin. It was in every reading they took, from every direction. I could imagine how often they ripped apart their tube-type low noise amplifier trying to find the bad component. When two pigeons took up residence in the microwave horn leaving "white dielectric substances" all over Penzias and Wilson evicted them in hope of solving their trouble. No luck. Luck did play a part in the ordinary telephone conversations scientists tend to have and as luck would have it by 1965 Penzias and Wilson were finally hooked up with those familiar with Gamow, Alpher and Herman's mathematical theory. In Astrophysical circles the folklore is one of them remarked "Either we've seen a pile of pigeon shit or the creation of the universe."

This is not the first time pigeons played a part in radio. Nikola Tesla was the inventor of radio in this country. He received the patents several years before Marconi. Tesla also had a love for pigeons. One bird in particular was his favorite. In his words "I loved her as a man loves a women." When she died in the 1920's Nikola knew his life's work was over. And it was.

Wilson and Penzias received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1978

No word about the pigeons.

The End.

**Letter to the Editor of the Mount Vernon News:**

Dear Editor,

As an Amateur Radio Operator, sometimes referred to as a Ham, as a member of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club (MVARC) and as a member of the Knox County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), I read with keen interest, last Friday's column "Communication Key in Disaster Drill" by Cheryl Splain.

My attention was particularly peaked by the quote "It never fails to come back to communication," said Larry Hatton, director of Knox County Homeland Security and Emergency Management. "We need to continue to work on that."

There appeared to be several glitches in communications during the drill, which I am sure will remedied. That's why such drills take place. Some examples were, cell service didn't work in some areas and people had to move to get a signal, a deputy wasn't on the frequency as other essential personnel, there was initial confusion as to the location of the Red Cross shelter and there was a lack of manpower to monitor and record the event.

This begs the question, "Why wasn't the Knox County ARES activated during the drill?"

The ARES is the one of the largest and oldest emergency communications (emcomm) groups. Sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), ARES has Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with FEMA, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, the National Weather Service, and the Department of Homeland Security. ARES team members receive training in communication during emergency situations to assist the above named agencies in meeting their communications needs during emergencies and disasters.

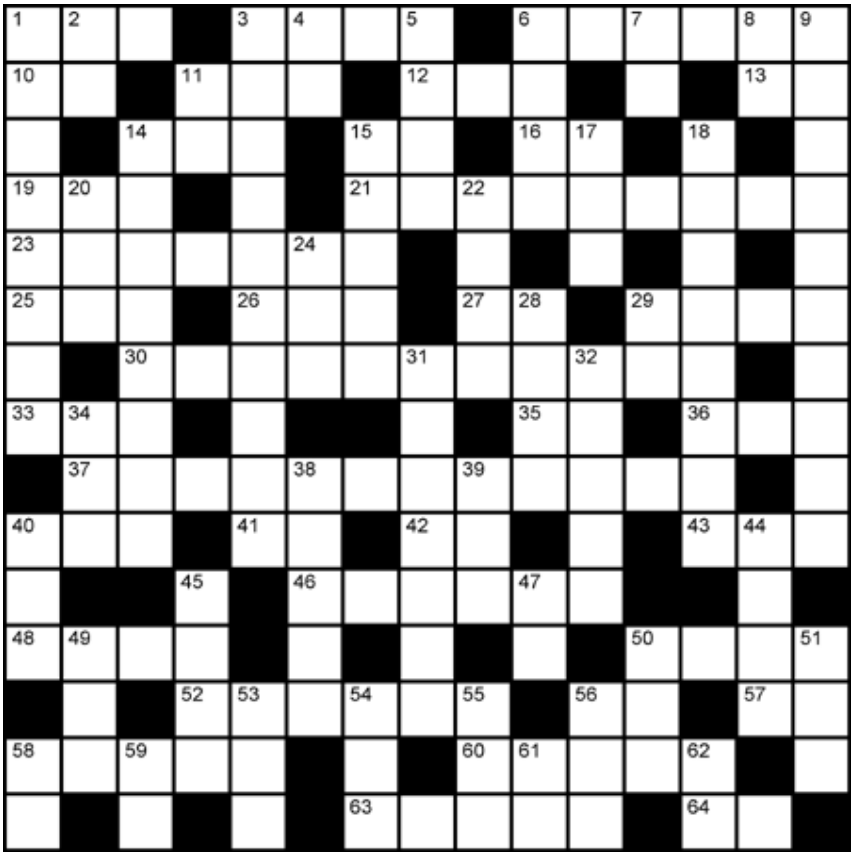
Ham radio reestablished communications lost when the WT Towers fell on 9/11. They were the first to establish communications link immediately following the Tsunami last December. They are routinely used to assist emergency services during wild fire emergencies. It is the Knox County ARES who activates the Skywarn Weather watch net each time a weather watch or warning is issued for Knox County. When the tornado sirens activate it is very likely because a local Ham spotted a funnel cloud or witnessed dime sized hail and reported back to the National Weather Service.

For some reason Amateur Radio in Knox County seems to be a forgotten and underused resource. I hope that Mr. Hatton's plan "to continue to work on (communication)," includes the resources of local Amateur Radio.

Sincerely,

E. Michael McCardel, KC8YLD
Knox County / ARRL Public Information Officer

## Eclectric Electric #4



**By H. Ward Silver, N0AX May 25, 2005**

**Across**

**1. Club managers**
**3. Sparks**
**6. Lights in the sky**
**10. Most-used mode on VHF+ (abbr.)**
**11. Obsolete abbreviation for frequency**
**12. Most western ARRL division (abbr.)**
**13. Stores data in a PC (abbr.)**
**14. What gets on you when climbing a pine tree**
**15. Metal used in rechargeable batteries (chemical symbol)**
**16. Smallest of the 48**
**19. Internet access service**
**21. Disrupt a contact**
**23. Maker of radios with round and wing symbols**
**25. ARRL section and Federal Agency (abbr.)**
**26. Field Day sleeping berth**
**27. Home state of 23 Across (abbr.)**
**29. Person holding a GM call sign**

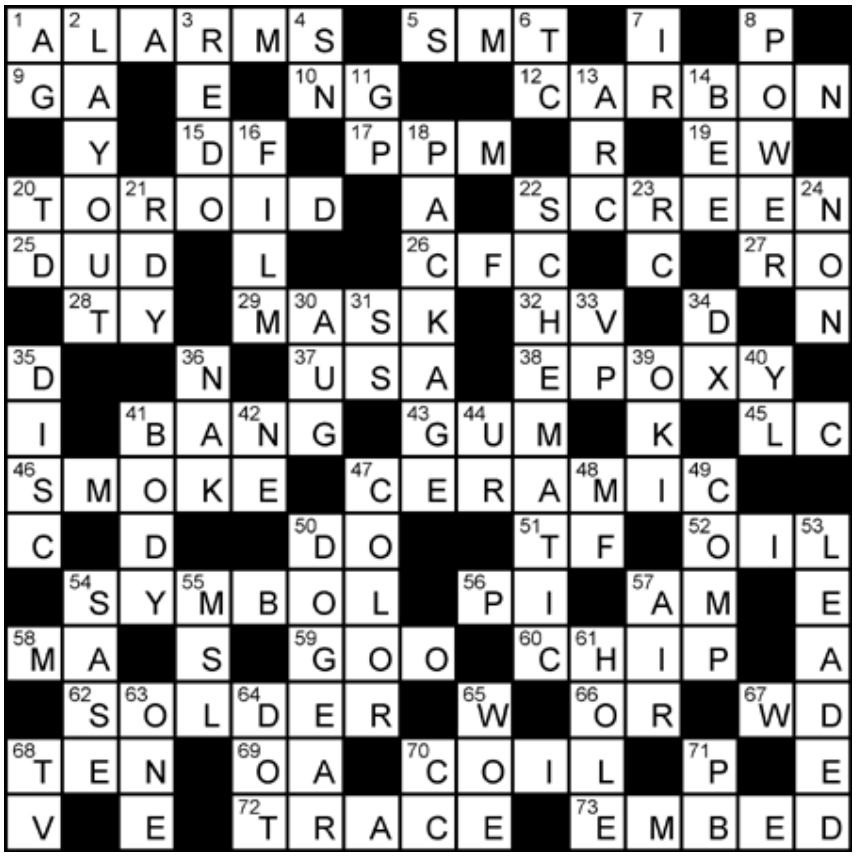
**Down**

**1. Lubricant**
**2. Undesired mixing products (abbr.)**
**3. Those who apply**
**4. Phone signal report (abbr.)**
**5. Stabilizes satellite position**
**6. Land area**
**7. Store and retrieve (abbr.)**
**8. Most common thread type (abbr.)**
**9. Soliciters of business in the media**
**11. West Coast state or adjacent country (abbr.)**
**14. Overmodulation product**
**15. Queues of operators working a DX station**
**17. Gets you a unit of overseas postage**
**18. International relief agency (two words)**
**20. Normal practice**
**22. Three of something**
**24. Prefix meaning "not"**
**28. Measure of size in two dimensions**

**30. Changes ac voltages**
**33. Annual ARRL disaster drill**
**35. Most southwestern EU continental country (prefix)**
**36. Official ARRL station that relays bulletins**
**37. Wallpaper**
**40. To get data add AM, G, or PAC**
**41. Rustproof metal (abbr.)**
**42. Indicates wire size (abbr.)**
**43. Measure of match between transmission line and load (abbr.)**
**46. Look for**
**48. Controls quiescent operating parameters**
**50. Definition of T9 note**
**52. Inventive or smart**
**56. A long, long way to run**
**57. Prefix meaning "no longer"**
**58. Antenna eaters**
**60. An overheated component in flames**
**63. List of topics and pages**
**64. Quiet (abbr.)**

**29. Opposite of NW**
**31. Add "pro" to get "wasteful"**
**32. Adjust to equal value**
**34. Prefix meaning "of ecology"**
**38. Grant or deliver**
**39. Place for mobile stations**
**40. Large container**
**44. Long, thin conductor**
**45. Shows you passed your exam**
**47. Home state of the ARRL (abbr.)**
**49. Opposite type of digital filter from FIR**
**50. Average or expected number**
**51. Abbreviation for exponentiation**
**53. Littlest bit**
**54. Roman numeral that is the square root of 49**
**55. Angular measurement (abbr.)**
**56. Repair**
**58. Transmit or southern state**
**59. The two components of a radio wave (abbr.)**
**61. Magnetic metal (chemical symbol)**
**62. Equalize (abbr.)**

**Solution to last month's puzzle**




## A Pause For Thought

Human speech is like a cracked kettle on which we tap crude rhythms for bears to dance to, while we long to make music that will melt the stars.

--Gustave Flaubert
*Madame Bovary*
(1857)

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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 Schedule:

$20 regular

$10 for second member in the same family

$10 for over 65 yrs. of age

$15 for those living outside Knox County

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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_____

Other Comments

## Classifieds



## For Sale

2-meter transceiver Radio Shack model HTX-252 $75

Azden transceiver older Unit $50

40 ft tower free for removal.

100 ft 75 ohm hardline. Free

Contact Jim Weber at 740-599-6849