



**Ham Radio Rocky!**

## The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

### June, 2008 Newsletter

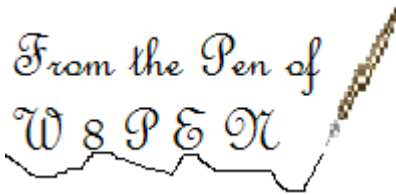
Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

#### Local Ham Community

K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9)

KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9)

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



Lets get started with some ARES items. These two articles came from the ARRL E-Letter, May 29, 2008:

### HAMS HEED THE CALL WHEN TORNADOES SWEEP THROUGH COLORADO

First thing readers may notice is the change in the Newsletter header. We have been using the old header for a long, long time. If I recall correctly, we had a contest to create a header for the Newsletter, and that was the one that took all the marbles. It has served us well, but I decided it was time for a change. I am not saying that the above header is any better, just different. Perhaps we should have another contest?

I did spend quite a bit of time on this header. Believe me, using my XYL, Darlene, as a sounding board, it had to has to be fairly good. She rejected my first ten or so efforts!

The problem was getting the correct balance so that the header looked good in color or black and white. While those receiving the Newsletter by downloading if from the web page get to see it in full living color, those that receive the Newsletter through the mail, only get to see the black and white version. The header had to look good both ways, as our old header did.

It is June and we all know what that means: Field Day! My intention is to have an annual Field Day issue of the Newsletter. We did that last year and it turned out well. Unfortunately, I have received very few submittals this year. This is my fault. I did not pursue the issue and send out a request for articles. What you will find is stuff written by me, or some items found on the web that I have permission to use.

On Thursday, May 22 at approximately noon MDT, a large tornado touched down in northern Colorado near the town of Windsor. Windsor, with a population of nearly 19,000, is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Fort Collins, and 50 miles north of Denver.

According to ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM, initial reports indicated that there was the possibility of extensive damage. Ryan said that Colorado ARES District 10 was activated and David Markham, W0CBI, the Colorado Section Emergency Coordinator, monitored the situation. The funnel cloud, accompanied by golf-ball sized hail, blackened the skies over Windsor as it knocked down power lines, shredded crops in fields outside the city and blasted whole neighborhoods; the southeast side of town was hit the worst by the storm. "It will be a long time before the town recovers from this," Windsor Mayor John Vasquez said. Ryan said reports indicated the Windsor tornado was just one of several that swept across northern Colorado and part of Wyoming: "The storm resulted in one fatality, and more than 100 people were treated on the scene for some type of injury with another 18 people treated at area hospitals. Damage is widespread and includes homes and business in Weld and Larimer Counties. We also received damage reports from the smaller towns of Gilcrest and Platteville." The Weld County Sheriff's Office



reported that the lone fatality, Oscar Manchester, 52, a US Marine and Vietnam veteran, was killed in a recreational vehicle that was destroyed in the storm at a campground west of Greeley, about 60 miles north of Denver. Colorado ARES District 10 Emergency Coordinator Randy Long, W0AVV, reported that 31 operators provided communications service to the Emergency Operations Center and Fire Department in Windsor, the Weld County Emergency Operations Center, the Larimer County Emergency Operations Center, the City of Loveland Emergency Operations Center, the Loveland Mobile Command post and two Red Cross shelters. "On Friday, the town was still without power and remained so until local utilities could complete a survey of electrical transmission lines in the affected area that is expected to take up to 48 hours," Ryan said. "A mandatory evacuation for sections of Windsor is in effect due to gas leaks and downed power lines. The National Guard is on duty and is responsible for escorting emergency responders in and out of the area." Colorado Governor Bill Ritter ordered the National Guard to aid rescue and cleanup efforts. He visited the town Thursday evening, saying the number of homes damaged was "significant" and declared a state of emergency for Weld County. Representatives from FEMA were on the scene conducting damage assessments. On Monday, President Bush approved Colorado's request for federal disaster aid to help with the costs of the storms and tornadoes, and declared Weld and Larimer Counties federal disaster areas. On Friday, Markham placed an additional 15 Amateur Radio operators in Larimer and Weld County on standby in anticipation of an overnight shift; he also requested adjacent districts to prepare in support of the ongoing operations if necessary. Windsor, Fort Collins and Loveland lie in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, where the Great Plains give way to steep hills. "It's very unusual to see [a tornado like] this by a mountain range. It's kind of a freak thing," said Captain Steve Fleming of the Poudre Fire Authority. Ryan said that at the peak of the ARES operation, "Colorado ARES District 10 had 55 operators supporting emergency response and relief efforts in the aftermath of the tornado that touched down near Windsor."

## CHINESE OFFICIALS GIVE KUDOS TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

As disaster recovery efforts continue following the earthquake in the Wenchuan area of China's Sichuan province on May 12, China's Information Office of the State Council reports that the death toll has reached more than 67,000 persons as of May 27. Communications in some of the surrounding areas were cut off, and communications in some other areas experienced network congestion due to drastically increased traffic. According to the Chinese Radio Sports



Association (CRSA) -- the Chinese IARU Member-Society -- Chinese government officials and the news media have recognized that when communications failed after the earthquake, Amateur Radio operators stepped in to provide vital links. CRSA designated 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz for emergency communications use during the quake, but these frequencies are now no longer restricted for this use; should a severe aftershock occur, CRSA said it will make the call for them to be kept clear again. On Monday, May 26, China Central Television (CCTV) reported that, "When all other communication means failed, Amateur Radio operators came out! An Amateur Radio emergency communication network was set up, and one of the commanders, Liu Hu [BG8AAS], called for Amateur Radio operators on air to provide services for disaster relief." Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, said, "Thankfully, one main repeater survived during the earthquake. This repeater provided 100 km coverage to Mianyang. Amateur Radio operators from Chengdu, Shenzhen, He'nan went to the center of the disaster area, set up repeaters in Beichuan County and provided various valuable first hand information from the center." CRSA officials said they hoped to report more detailed information on the role of Amateur Radio emergency communications in the big earthquake at a later date. In the meantime, Fan said, CRSA acknowledged that the main organizer of local Amateur Radio traffic, Luo Minglin, BY8AA, "continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang -- among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter -- to form an effective Amateur Radio communication network." Zhang Zhen, BG8DOU, said that right after the earthquake, "Two ham radio operators drove to the center of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of May 13. This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions and status reports, and was a main communication channel for public use. The repeater carried communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City who gave orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity." The CRSA said it appreciates the support given by the Amateur Radio community in helping to keep clear the emergency communication frequencies of 7050 kHz, 7060 kHz and 14270 kHz during the critical period after the earthquake: "Thanks for the cooperation and efforts made by all Amateur Radio societies." The CRSA also acknowledged having received inquiries and the "warm concerns" of Amateur Radio societies worldwide. -- Information provided by Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, via IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton VK3PC



# RADIO-ACTIVITY

By Don Russell, W8PEN

This is June, and we all know what that means: Field Day is coming! This year should be another successful year for the Mt. Vernon ARC. We have decided to have our Field Day at Larry "Doc" Heltzer's (AA8WP)



place. There is lots of room out there to string all sorts of antennas. This is a change from the challenge of setting up three stations at the Red Cross in Mt. Vernon. That was a challenge indeed, putting three stations on the air with minimum interference between each other. Not to mention the power lines running up the alley. But I regress....

Doc's place is high, so we should put potent signals out across the ether. If we get tired, there is a chance that we may be able to play on the Country Club Golf Course that borders his property(?). There are also several towers available that Doc intends on putting up someday. Oh, yes, they are laying on the ground, so if we use them we have to put the towers up. Plus, the Club has its own two sets of towers and two 30 foot antenna masts. Adding to that is Jeff Butz's, N8SMT, 40 foot fiber glass antenna mast, and we got lots of work to do!

Once again, we will have three stations running. Two SSB stations and one CW station. One SSB station will be dedicated to 75 and 40 meter phone. The other SSB station will be for 20 meters and higher. However, as we did last year, we will be able to run either station on whatever band is not being used at that time. As long as we have enough antennas up for each station. This is because of the Networked computer logging program we have used the last two years. All we really have to watch out for is two stations operating on the same band/mode, which is not allowed in the Field Day rules. Even the CW station can be used on SSB if we wish to run three stations on SSB. For that matter, we could run two CW stations and one SSB stations for a while if we have enough CW ops.

Here is a breakdown of each station. This is very preliminary, so it will remain to be seen what happens when we meet on Friday to put up the antennas.

## **CW Station:**

I will start with my favorite operation mode, CW. I will be in charge of setting this station. I am hoping that Don Bizzard, W8UMH, and Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, and myself, Don Russell, W8PEN, will be the main operators of this station. Of course, anyone wishing to operate CW

are very welcome to do so.

The CW station is going to be located in the front yard. Either on the porch or in my screened shelter I usually bring. We will use the fiber glass 40 foot pole as the main antenna mast. The antenna will be running North and South as to give us as much signal to the East and West as possible. We may add an antenna running the other way for full coverage.

We will once again use my Yaesu FT-847 as the CW radio. I am planning on getting a 500 Hz IF filter before Field Day installed in this radio.

One thing I would really like to try is to run this station the full Field Day on batteries alone. I have two deep cycle batteries and a couple of solar panels which I believe will make this possible. I also have one extra standard battery if we need to put it to use. So, the plan is to start on battery power and see what happens. I will bring my power supply as a just in case thing.

In fact, I think it would be nice for the SSB stations to follow my lead. If we could get all stations running on battery power for the entire Field Day, we would not only have a nice quiet Field Day, but would also save tons of money on gas! So, just how many batteries do members have that can be used? We need at least two deep cycle batteries per station.

For those worried about losing bonus points, the FD rules only require emergency power to the transmitters to qualify for 100 percent emergency power. We can still run our laptops, lights etc. on commercial mains.

## **75 - 40 Meter SSB Station**

This station usually makes the brunt of the SSB contacts during our Field Days. With the new Sunspot Cycle just getting started, I would imagine that this trend will continue.

With this in mind, I am planning two antennas for this station. One antenna will be our standard twin dipole antenna. This antenna is actually two antennas in one attached to one feedline. One antenna is cut for 75 meters. We try to get this antenna up as high as possible, including both ends. The other antenna is cut for 40 meters of course. The center obviously will be as high as the 75 meter antenna. The ends will be lower like in an inverted "V" antenna. We have had tremendous results with this antenna. I expect no difference this year.

The other antenna will be a 75 meter horizontal loop antenna. I have wanted to try one of these for a long time. The main draw back of a horizontal loop is that it takes four supports to install one. Looks like we will have plenty of supports and trees this year, so it would be a good time to try it. We should get this antenna up



at least 30 feet. The higher the better. It will be fed with ladder line into an antenna tuner, so it will work on 40 meters too. In fact, it can be used on all bands so maybe we will share it with the 20 meter SSB station.

The exact radio has not been decided upon. There usually seems to be plenty of radio available for FD, so that should not be a problem.

Battery power? Maybe.

### **20-10 Meter SSB Station**

With the new Sunspot cycle just beginning, 20 meters will be the bread and butter band for this station. Therefore it makes sense to have the best available antennas ready. I was not impressed with my 20 meter bamboo dipole that was used last year. Yes, we made plenty of contacts, but it seemed like a struggle. This year we will go back to the two vertical loop antennas that were so successful for us in the past. If readers will remember, this vertical loop system has two loops perpendicular to each other. One favoring East/West, the other Favoring North/South. With the apex at 30 to 40 feet, this antenna works well. Then antenna came from an antenna article from QST years ago. Claims were that this antenna is almost as good as a small tri-bander. While in the past, we have used this antenna on the other bands, I am thinking of adding coax to it rather than open line. That would make it easier on the operators, but would also limit it to 20 meters only.

I would also like to put up a 20 meter Extended Zep antenna. This antenna would have a gain of about 3 db over the standard dipole. Get it up 40 feet, and it should work well. We will feed it with ladder line, which will give us the advantage of loading it up on 40 through 10 meters.

As with the other SSB station, the radio for this station is yet to be determined.

### **Logging Software**

Once again we will be using the fine software from N3FJP. The program is called "Field Day Network Log" and it has proven to be exceptionally dependable and user friendly. The past two years we have networked all logging computers together. All operators at all stations have updated information on our score and how the other stations are doing. It is fun to do it this way. I believe "Doc" already has a wireless network at his house. We should be able to use it, which I will like. I will not have to tear my own home networking system apart.

### **Summary**

This should be a fun year. All club members should plan on coming out for a little bit of fun with friends. Operate

a little, chat a little, or just watch. We would be happy to have you stop by for just a little while, or the whole event.

See you there. Don, W8PEN

## **Ham Cram, or the One-Day Tech Class**

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I used to be skeptical of one-day ham radio classes, sometimes called "Ham Cram" classes. After teaching a couple of these classes over the past year, however, I've become a supporter of this method of teaching, at least for the Technician Class license test.

One reason I'm an advocate of the one-day class is that I think a lot of people "learn by doing." I'm not an expert on pedagogy, but my guess is that more people learn by doing than learn by reading or by listening. That being the case, isn't it a good thing that new hams get their licenses quickly so that they can begin doing--thereby learning--more quickly? Second, people are busy. Tell them that the class is going to eat up one evening a week for six to eight weeks and a lot of them will tell you that they just don't have the time to do it. Squeezing in six to eight hours on a Saturday is, however, something that they can do.

Critics of the one-day classes say that if people just cram for the test, they may learn enough for just long enough to pass the test, but they really don't know enough to be "good hams," whatever that may be. There's some truth to this. It's important not to abandon them once they get their tickets. I encourage all of the students to join a ham radio club and make myself available to answer any questions they may have as they get started in ham radio. Critics also say that releasing this horde on the amateur bands will create nothing but chaos. Fortunately, I've personally seen no evidence that the hundreds of folks that have taken these classes across the country have created said chaos.

I would encourage you to give this a try. Make your next Tech class a one-day class. You don't conduct Tech classes? Well, get started! Another benefit of the one-day class format is that it's easier to find teachers since it takes less time for them, too. As I mentioned previously, over the past year, I've taught two "ham cram" classes. We've learned a few things along the way. Perhaps the most important thing is to stress that students should study the material before coming to class. The study guide we use is one that I've written. You can find the KB6NU No-Nonsense Study Guide online at <http://www.kb6nu.com>. You can also purchase a pre-printed version of the study guide at [www.booklocker.com/books/3408.html](http://www.booklocker.com/books/3408.html).

Another key is to not get bogged down on a particular

topic. Our class runs from 9 am to 3 pm, at which time, the VEs come in and give the test. To cover all of the material, you have to keep one eye on the clock and keep plowing ahead. To help you do this, a set of PowerPoint slides for teachers of Ham Cram Tech classes is available at <http://w9pe.us/>. We conducted our first class last August. Nine out of twelve passed the test that day; the remaining three passed on their second attempt. In early May, we taught our second one-day class. This time, eleven out of twelve passed. I am encouraged by these results, and I am planning to make these one-day classes a regularly-scheduled event here in Ann Arbor. Time will tell if these people become active, life-long hams, but so far, so good. If you have any questions about our experience with the one-day class, please e-mail me at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Station Grounding the Topic During the May Meeting

By Don Russell, W8PEN

The importance of station grounding was brought to our attention by Don Blizzard, W8UMH, during the May meetings program.



Don Blizzard, W8UMH

Several important points were brought up. Don pointed out that one does not need a direct hit to take on damage. A close lightning strike can cause equipment damage due to voltage surges on the commercial mains. One thing that can be done to help prevent this is to bond all your grounds together. In other words, if you have several ground rods around your house. Lets say one at the electric meter, one at the telephone entrance, and one for a station ground, then a wire should be run to each ground rod to keep all ground rods at the same potential. In addition to this, the station, TV, computers, and other sensitive electronic equipment should be connected to surge protected outlet boxes. You can pick this up at most department stores. Be sure to get one

that indicates it has surge protection, and not just a plain outlet box. The computer section of the store is a good place to hunt for these.



Artists Conception of W8UMH's Grounding

For grounding all his equipment together in the shack, Don uses a flat piece of copper running in back of the equipment. Then he attaches each piece of equipment via flat grounding wire you can get at the hardware store. You should not use round wire such as regular hookup wire. You should not daisy chain (run wire from piece to piece). Each piece of equipment should have its own grounding wire running to the grounding strap. This prevents grounding loops, which is most noticeable by a hum on the audio of the transmitter or receiver.

During his presentation, Don entertained us with a few stories of close calls with lightning that have happened during his long ham career.

This was a very good presentation. With the warm summer months and the potential for series thunderstorms, this was also a timely program.



The Wednesday Night Dinner Crowd

## CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

*MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, June 9, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The program for the June meeting will be talking strategies and set up details for Field Day. This will be a very important meeting for those wishing to participate in Field Day this year.*

*Please remember the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. Please note the change in time, which was effective May 4, 2008.*

*Also check out the new UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. This 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. Family and friends welcome. You do not need to be a ham or club member to participate in this event.*

*Come join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Each month we try a different place, so check the MVARC Newsletter for current information. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, can also be contacted for the latest news on the 2 meter or the 440 Mhz. Repeaters. Or tune into our ARES net each Sunday at 8:00 PM for current information.*

*\*\*\*The next Breakfast will be June 14th at 9:00 AM at Ryan's Steak House, 1515 Coshocton Ave., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.\*\*\**

## **The Top Ten Reasons to Participate in Field Day**

**By Don Russell, W8PEN**

Yes, I am a CW operator. This is just for fun....

10. At least for one weekend you do not have to do yard work.
9. You can tell everyone you are there to operate, not eat food!
8. It impresses the heck out of the XYL because you have to go help the club set up technical stuff like antennas and radios.
7. You might get your picture in the paper.
6. You get to be a real Ham and work Shortwave!
5. If you are a CW operator, you can sit at the SSB Station and pretend you are enjoying it.
4. No one cares if you drink beer, coke, tea, or coffee. You are part of the team. We are Hams!
3. If the group is on a hill, you can point in almost any direction and say "That is a good place for the antenna..... And be right!
2. You can sit with the CW operators and pretend you know Morse Code
1. You get needed training in setting up equipment and operating under sometimes harsh conditions and you are having fun while doing it!

## **Treasurer's Report**

June 1, 2008  
for May

### Income:

Dues:	\$ 8.00
Donations:	\$ 2.00
Interest:	\$ .03
50-50:	\$ 6.00

### Expenses:

Insurance:	\$ 75.00
April program:	\$ 25.00

Balance on 6-1-08: \$2056.66

### Designated Funds

Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	\$676.94
Field Day Fund:	\$108.30

Barry N8PPF



## Field Day

**June 28, 2008 at 2:00 P.M.**

**Set up 2:00 P.m. on Friday, June 27.**

Location:

QTH of Larry "Doc" Heltzer  
8757 Martinsburg Road  
Mt. Vernon, Ohio



## Field Day Notes:

- Field Day chairperson Larry "Doc" Helzer, AA8WP is planning a covered dish picnic during Field Day. Last year the club bought hamburgers, brats, and drinks. Members brought a covered dish. It will probably be the same this year. Detailed plans will be made at the June Meeting.
- We will once again network all our logging programs so that participants and visitors can see the progress we are making. Plans are to locate a projector in Doc's garage. This should work much the as it did at the Red Cross. It was always impressive to see. We will be using Doc's wireless network to communicate between computers and the clubs registered version of "Field Day Network Log" by N3FJP. If you wish to use your laptop during Field Day, bring it to the June meeting and have the logging program installed. We can never have too many laptops!
- Antenna raising will begin a 2:00 P.M. Friday, June 27. This is a bit early, but it helps to get an early start. If we can get the antennas up and some of the equipment ready, it will make Saturday morning that much easier. This translates into not being as tired at night and maybe lasting the entire Field Day.
- Barry, N8PPF, will probably be setting up his 6 meter SSB station, as he has the last two Field Days. A VHF or UHF station counts as a free transmitter, so we will still operate as a 3 transmitter class.
- Don Russell, W8PEN, will be bringing his satellite antennas again. Last year we tried to make a satellite contact but was not successful. Still, it was fun trying. We will use Don's FT-847, which means that the CW station will be shut down when trying for the sat contact. This will be made much easier by having the CW station located on Doc's front porch, or in Don's screened in shelter.
- Beware all CW operators! Don Russell, W8PEN, has set a goal of 500 CW contacts for this year. This is what we will strive for. Take that as a challenge and run with it (not the other way though)!
- Think battery power! The CW station is going strictly battery power for Field Day. It is calculated that this will take two batteries to run the 24 hour period. It would be nice if we could get two batteries for each of the SSB stations and try to run a Field Day off of batteries instead of the generator. At the least, we should be able to have a quiet night. A generator can be available as a back up source.



# MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes for the May 12, 2008 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

## Attendees:

1	Larry Helzer, DVM	AA8WP
2	Don Bunner	KB8QPO
3	Tony Spiegel	KC8UR
4	Dick Huggins	N8RDH
5	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
6	Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
7	Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
8	Steve Seymour	KC8IKE
9	Don Russell	W8PEN
10	Tom Evans	KD8HSA
11	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
12	Jeff Butz	N8SMT
13	Barry Butz	N8PPF

President McCardel formally called the business meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

The April Minutes were read and approved as read.

## Treasurer's Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Report for March and April:

### Income:

\$12 in dues

\$15.79 Interest on our savings account.

\$15 from the fifty/fifty drawing

### Expenditure:

\$41 postage

### Total

\$2140.63

### New Expense:

Tonight he wrote a \$25 to Tom Hain for Speaker

### Expenses.

He has a \$75 bill for insurance on club equipment. It is a \$5000 policy.

Barry has two tickets to the Butler County Hamfest on June 1<sup>st</sup>. They are available if any body is interested.

## Repeater Report: Don Russell, W8PEN

The 2-meter repeater is working well. Someday he will look into the intermittent audio problem.

Arlin has made some audio adjustments to the 440 repeater although Don thinks the audio quality could still be improved the courtesy beep is no longer so loud. Arlin has another repeater to replace the existing one when he gets a chance and hopefully that will improve the audio.

## EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.

The Tour de Cure is coming up June 7<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is available let him know.

GOBA is coming up June 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> they will be in Knox County Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. And again if anyone is available please let him know.

## Saturday Breakfast: Don Russell, W8PEN

The breakfasts have been going OK This past Saturday was at Ryan's, Doc, Don, Dick Huggins and Jerry Walker They haven't decided whether to go back to Ryan's or R&M next month.

## Wed. Night Dinner Report: Dick Huggins, N8RDH.

Last Wednesday they had a nice attendance with 9 people including long lost Phil Buble N1GTZ

## Special Events Station 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event: Dick Huggins, N8RDH.

Dick, with the help of McCardel filled out and sent in the application. It will be in the August QST Magazine. The Event will be at Dick's house on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> from 1600 Zulu to 1600 Zulu. Mike McCardel volunteered to make a certificate to send to any contacts we make. Mike said he was open to any design ideas. The frequencies will be 14.240, 7.240, 3.840, and 28.340 +/- 10.

## Field Day Report: Doc Helzer, AA8WP.

Doc said he will need some tables. Mike suggested we set aside good portion of next month's meeting to discuss the particulars of setting up at Doc's house.

## Earth Day Challenge Marathon: Mike McCardel KC8YLD

Mike said 5 people attended from the club. The APRS worked well but it did have trouble interfacing with the computer but they did employ a roundabout fix that did the job.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.



# A VISIT TO TEN-TEC

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

In late April Connie and I made a visit to the Ten-Tec factory in Sevierville, TN. We called ahead and were told to stop in anytime, no reservations needed. Entering the front door, we saw a salesroom where they display their products and also non-competitive accessories such as antennas, meters, and MFJ products. We were greeted by salesman Stan Brock WD0BGS who offered to give us a factory tour. He explained that Ten-Tec's business was about 40% ham radio, 40% commercial radio, and surprisingly, 20% was the non-related activity of making dies for plastic injection molding. These are produced for customers such as auto companies and others who use them to make items such as dashboards and most any other plastic part

In the electronics area of the plant, an automatic machine places surface-mount components on circuit boards. The components are not single pieces but come on reels resembling movie film.



At the final assembly and test area, each radio is burned in for several hours.



Next step is soldering the complete board in a machine that looks like a high-production pizza oven. It has a metal belt that the boards travel on, being heated along the way, and then reappear at the other end.



Back in the office, there is a room displaying Ten-Tec products of past generations. There is also an operating desk where you can try out the current models.



Ten-Tec has about 90 employees, half of them being hams. Unfortunately, many leave work at noon on Friday so the plant wasn't too busy.

If you go to the Smoky Mountains National Park or to Gatlinburg / Pigeon Forge, you will pass through Sevierville. If you have a spare hour, a visit to the factory is worthwhile. By the way "Ten-Tec" stands for Tennessee Technology", as you might have guessed.

#### **Newsletter Credits**

**Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN**

**Clip Art and Cartoons** thanks to [http://wm8c1.50megs.com/radio\\_clip\\_art.htm](http://wm8c1.50megs.com/radio_clip_art.htm), <http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/>, [http://pages.prodigy.net/kg0zz/clipart/ham\\_art3.htm](http://pages.prodigy.net/kg0zz/clipart/ham_art3.htm), <http://www.arri.org/>,

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Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to ham radio, with an emphasis on local activities, equipment reviews, and personal experience to [w8pen@arri.et](mailto:w8pen@arri.et) or Don Russell, W8PEN, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

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