



Ham Radio Rocks!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

June , 2009 Newsletter



Meetings are held the 2nd 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 Hz)
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz)

Sunday Night ARES Net at 9:00 P.M. on The K8EEN Repeater
Wednesday Night Social Net at 9:00 P.M. on the KD8EVR Repeater

New Ham Class in the Works

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Something a bit unusual is happening this year. The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring its second Technician Class course this year. Usually, the club has a class every couple of years.

This is necessary to meet the current demand. There was a lot of interest in when we were going to have another class just after the first one was completed.

It is anticipated that after this second class, the club will sponsor classes once a year starting in September. If we have a class this year in September, that would be three classes in one year. That would certainly be a record for our club.

The class will be held at the American Red Cross Annex building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio beginning Thursday, June 11, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

This is the same place that we hold our meetings. Plans are for an eight week course instead of the six week course just completed. The Instructors found that six weeks rushed things to where some of the subject matter had to be rushed through. Allowing an extra two weeks will allow the Instructors to present some demonstrations and answer questions in more detail when needed.

Instructors for this class will be Barry Butz (N8PPF), Mike McCardel (KC8YLD), Arlin Bradford (KD8EVR), and Don Russell (W8PEN). Any other club members that wish to help out, please contact Don Russell at w8pen@arrl.net or 740-397-0249.

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. This months program will be Field Day orientation. This is a must with all the new hams that may participate in our Field Day this year. Final plans will be released and installation of the Field Day logging program onto computers will be done. Bring your laptop if you do not have a current version of N3FJP's Network Field Day logging program.

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

Also check out the UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. and 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.

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

******The next Breakfast will be June 13, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the R&M South Side Dinner, 620 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio******

The MVARC will sponsor a testing session when the class is complete. The date of the testing has not been established as of yet, however, it will be either the Saturday immediately following the last class session, or the following Thursday.

Please let family members or friends know of this opportunity.

MVARC

**Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the April 13, 2009 Meeting.**



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1. Arlin Bradford | KD8EVR |
| 2. Jim Jennessee | KD8UT |
| 3. Vince Poland | KD8JMV |
| 4. Mike Langston | KD8JMZ |
| 5. Steve Barr | KD8GRM |
| 6. Jeff Butz | N8SMT |
| 7. Tom Evans | KD8SHA |
| 8. Don Russell | W8PEN |
| 9. Richard Hensel | N8WLC |
| 10. Austin Godber | KD7NMS |
| 11. E. Mike McCardel | KC8YLD |
| 12. Tony R. Spiegel | KC8UR |
| 13. Dick Huggins | N8RDH |
| 14. Larry J Helzer DVM | AA8WP |
| 15. Michael Deane | W8OIO |

President Bradford formally called the business meeting to order at 7:39 P.M.

Treasurer's Report: , Don Russell, W8PEN

Received \$53 in dues.

Savings Acct.	1032.55
CD #1	550.54
CD#2	771.46
Checking	172.33
Total	2526.88 not counting dues.

Repeater Report

2 Meter Repeater, Don Russell:

The repeater has been running good.

440 Repeater, Arlin Bradford:

The coverage has been expanded. Arlin has put in a new

commercial grade repeater that has been tuned up. It has increased the sensitivity and can now be worked anywhere in the county on an HT. It has also been linked to Mansfield and then via Mansfield to Berlin Heights, Elyria, Vermilion, and Gibsonburg. He has been approached by a fellow ham that wants to link us to Columbus and through Columbus to Circleville, Chillicothe, Jackson, Athens, Marietta, and Portsmouth.

EC Report, Arlin Bradford:

Skywarn will be April 29th at the Sheriff's office at 6:00 P.M.

The hospital has finally gotten their ham radio and Vince Poland (KD8JMV) and Mike Langston (KD8JMZ) have brought the radio in for us to see. It is and lcom 1800D-star dual band with power supply and antenna that will operate both digital and analog.

Technician Class and Exam, Mike McCardel:

They are three weeks into it and are maybe a little behind schedule. They have covered 4 of the ten chapters.

They have about 12 attendees. It varies from night to night. They will need VE's for the test.

Old Business:

Earth Day Challenge: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Mike reported that April 19th we need to be there at about 6:00 A.M for The Earth Day Challenge at Kenyon College Meet at the north side of the athletic center.

The motion to adjourn was made and approved by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Treasurer's Report May 30, 2009 for May 1 to May 29, 2009

Balance on 5-1-09: \$ 2580.93

Income:

Interest:

Dues: \$ 8.00

Donations:

50-50 Repeater Fund:

Expenses:

Postage: \$ 84.00

Equipment insurance: \$ 75.00

MVARC web server/computer \$ 435.00

Balance on 5-29-09: \$ 1994.93

Designated Funds

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 285.94

Field Day Fund: \$ 133.24

Barry N8PPF

Field Day 2009

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Arline Bradford, KD8EVR: "It is now official. Apple Valley is the location for this years ARRL Field Day 2009. The exact location is Floral Valley Community Center 850 Crestrose Drive, Howard, Ohio 43028. We will be located in the rear of the building next to the ball diamond. Apple Valley will be providing us with a very large tent to use during the event. This is the exact tent that was set up at the main office last week when several of us visited the sites." **Please check out the directions to our Field Day site at the end of this article.**

Operations will start at 2:00 P.M. Saturday June 27 and last through 2:00 P.M. Sunday, June 28, However there will be a lot to do before hand.

As always, Field Day set up will begin at 2:00 P.M. Friday, June 26 with the antenna raising. We will need all the help we can get in this endeavor, so please come when you can and help out. It is understood that not everyone can help out that early in the afternoon. Last year we were at it until almost dark, so come when you can.

Equipment set up will be from early Saturday morning until the official start of Field Day. There will be 3 HF stations. One for 80/40 meters SSB (voice), one for 20/15/10 meters SSB (voice), and one all band CW station (Morse Code). There will probably be one 6 meter SSB station. The club will operate as a 3A Club Portable, which means that we are a club or group operating 3 transmitters simultaneously. The 6 meter station is a VHF station and considered a free station to encourage operations on 6 meters, so it does not count in the total number of transmitters used. There will also be a GOTA station for beginning hams and/or beginning contesters. The GOTA station does not add to our transmitter total either, but needs to be operated by beginners and not by a seasoned contest operator. It is meant to encourage new hams or new contesters to give it a try.

What this means is that we need to limit our HF stations to three transmitters at any one time. It would be okay for one to bring their own radio and use it, however, he would have to let the Field Day Organizers know so we could shut one station down. I mention this only because we have a lot of new hams who may not be familiar with the Field Day rules. There has been a time or two in the past where someone has driven his mobile station up to our Field Day site and start operating. This can not be done without permission or knowledge of the Field Day organizers. Doing so could keep us from submitting our Field Day score to the ARRL. In such cases, please ask before doing.

There will be a Club picnic on the Saturday of Field Day. We usually start eating a 4:00 P.M. or so. The club is providing meats, drinks, plates, and utensils. Members are to bring a covered dish. Please bring your own lawn chairs this year. I suspect chairs will be in short supply.

Come hungry. Come ready to operate. Should be a great time for all.

Directions to Field Day Floral Valley Community Center on Crestrose Drive

By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

1.
 - Take US 36 tp the Apple Valley entrance (AppleValley BLVD - County Road 4A)
 - Turn left onto Apple Valley Drive
 - Follow Apple Valley Drive to Crestrose Dr
 - Left on Crestrose Drive
 - Community Center is on the left

If you don't like the winding roads through the Apple Valley labyrinth try one of these alternatives

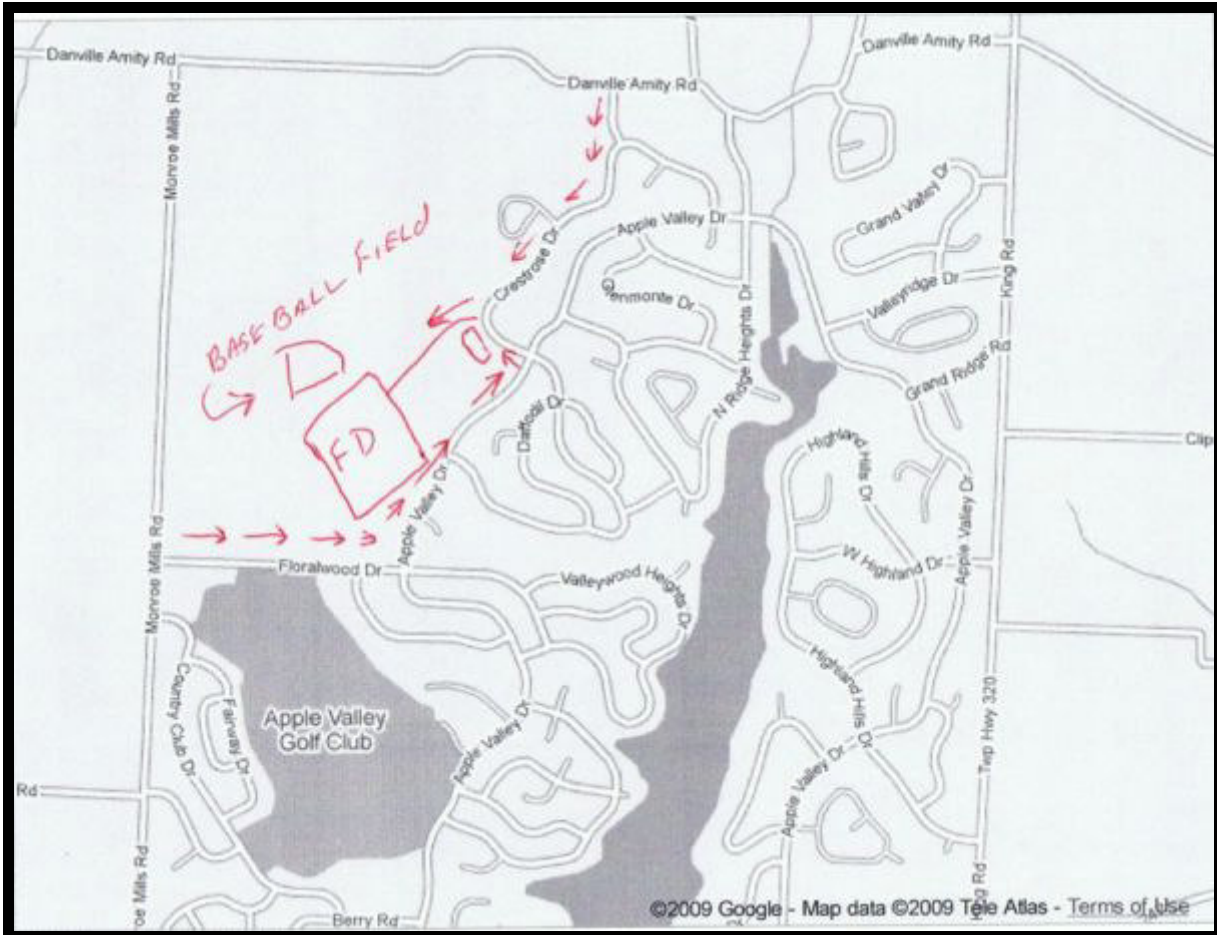
2.
 - Right now Monroe Mills is closed at US 36 Take US 36 East to Gilchrist Road - County Rd 8.
 - Following Gilchrist there is a sharp left at Vincent Rd
 - After turning left to stay on Gilchrist turn at next right, Harding - TwpRd 245
 - Turn left on Monroe Mills - County Rd 3
 - Turn Right onto Floralwood Dr - County Rd 97 Then turn left onto Apple Valley Drive - County Rd 4
 - Crestrose Dr will be first road to the left
3.
 - Take SR 3 to Amity
 - Turn Right (East) onto Danville-Amity Road - County Road 14
 - Turn Right onto County Road 84 Ridge Heights (aka Apple Valley)
 - Turn right onto Apple Valley Drive - County Road 4
 - Follow Apple Valley Drive to 2nd Crestrose Drive (Note: the first road you pass is one end of Crestrose Drive it will get you there but winds a good bit)

See maps on next page.

GPS Coordinates are
40 degrees 27.531' N (40.45885 Degrees N)
82 degrees 21.053' W (82.35083 Degrees W)

This looks like a very good location.

Altitude is 1190 feet. I had my eyes on the four light towers in the East parking lot. Looks like a great location for a Quad! There is plenty of room.



MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the May 11, 2009 Meeting.
By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1	Barry Butz	N8PPF
2	Don Blizzard	W8UMH
3	John Dial	KB8TEV
4	Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
5	Amy Blair	Not Yet
6	David Blair	None
7	Tony R. Spiegel	KC8UR
8	Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
9	Ann Bradford	KD8LFH
10	Vince Poland	KD8JMV
11	Mike Langston	KD8JMZ
12	Steve Barr	KD8GRM
13	Don Russell	W8PEN
14	Jim Jennessee	KD8UT
15	E. Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
16	Larry J Helzer DVM	AA8WP
17	Austin Godber	KD7NMS
18	Jeff Butz	N8SMT

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

Treasurer's Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF

Income

Interest \$10.20
Received \$43 in dues.
Donations \$10.00
50/50 Drawing: 19.00

Expenses:

Ohio Incorporation Fee: \$25.00

Balance:

At the end of April: \$2580.93 with a balance of \$720.94 in the Repeater fund and 133.24 in the Field Day Fund. Since then he bought \$84.00 in stamps to avoid the stamp price increase.

He has a bill for the equipment insurance in the amount of \$75.00 so if the club approves that he will pay it. A motion to pay the insurance was made and approved by voice vote.

EC Report, Ruben Clark:

The Skywarn class was held, they had about 40 attendees including a couple from the club.

Tour de Cure will be June 6th but they haven't asked us yet formally. Ruben is checking into it.

Technician Class and Exam, Mike McCardel:

They are three weeks into it and are maybe a little behind schedule. They have covered 4 of the ten chapters.

They have about 12 attendees. It varies from night to night. They will need VE's for the test.

New Business:

A motion was made to pursue a grant for a communications trailer by Austin Godber, KD7NMS and seconded by Larry Helzer, AA8WP. A general discussion followed and the motion was approved by voice vote.

A discussion was held concerning the need to update the club's website. Ruben Clark, KB8SAI stated the hardware needed to be upgraded at an approximate cost of \$500.00. After the discussion, Don Blizzard, W8UMH made a motion to pay for the upgrade out of the general fund. It was seconded by Austin Godber, KD7NMS and was approved by voice vote.

Mike McCardel made a motion to add the 440 repeater to the equipment insurance policy. It was seconded by Don Blizzard, W8UMH and approved by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved by voice vote.

Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Here it is June already....
Wow!

Some good news. Thanks to the help of Jack Koelbl, N8JQZ, I now have the big tri-band beam on the ground. I

have not had a chance to put the rotating dipole together yet. I do have some free time coming up this month and next, so perhaps it will be up soon.

I would like to have the antenna ready to go by the August running of the North American QSO Party. I figure that will be an excellent contest to give this antenna a test run. That should be easy enough to arrange.

Jack, N8JQZ, has a homebrew 20 meter rotating dipole



up in the air that he has been using for years. Says it works very nicely. So my hopes are high for this antenna.

A twist on this antenna was brought up by John Dial, KB8TEV. What if you added a short boom of about 3 feet to this antenna and strung wires about four percent longer than the driven element. This would be the reflector and some gain would be realized. Since this would in essence be a full sized two element beam, I would guess it would have almost as much gain as a three element tri-band beam that uses traps to shorten its elements. Like the one I just took down. Imagine the drawing I presented in the April 2009 issue of the Newsletter, but have the curve going the opposite way and no feed insulators in the center of the wires. This beam antenna would not weigh much either.

Sounds like something to consider.

Field Day:

Field Day is rapidly approaching. This year the club will be having its Field Day at Apple Valley. We have a very nice site picked out that contains many tall trees. There should be a write up and a map with instructions on how to get to the Field Day site somewhere in this issue. I would just briefly like to describe my vision as to our stations for this years event. As always, this is a best guess. Actual set up will depend on the number of members we have to help set up antennas and things.

75 meters and 40 meters SSB station:

Last year this station was a huge success. I see little reason to change things. We will once again use the 75/40 meter fan dipole from last year. Looks like we may even get it up a bit higher. I would also like to add a horizontal loop antenna to this station. That would be interesting. Loops play very well on 75 meters.

The Radio will be the same type as last year. We used Ruben Clark's (KB2SAI) TS-440S AT (with autotuner) last year and it performed very well indeed to the tune of 376 contacts. Nicely done.

20 meters thru 10 Meters:

This station may see some major changes over last years effort. Last year we stuck with the two vertical loop antennas and used Mike McCardel's (KC8YLD) Yaesu FT-857. This set up made 208 contacts while much of the time running about 50 watts to conserve battery power.

This year, I have a 20 meter double Zepp antenna I would like to try out. If we could get this antenna up about 40 feet, it should perform very well with its 3 db gain over a dipole. Also, Barry Butz (N8PPF) would like to try his fiber glass 30 foot antenna masts with inverted

V 40 and 20 meter antennas being used as guy wires. I see nothing wrong with trying it out. The loops may stay in the box, or we just may include them in the mix. Again, this depends on how many club members show up to help put the antennas up. Or, more importantly, how much help we get tearing things down at the end of Field Day. Always a chore because everyone is tired from the 24 hour event.

I would like to use Arlin Bradfords TS-440S AT for this station. They are very good radios so we should use one for each station. The auto tuner is certainly a plus.

CW Station:

Ah, my favorite. Last years set up played very well indeed. We made 615 total contacts with this station. Of course that was on all bands because we were the only Morse Code station in use.

Last years 80 through 10 meter Windom will once again be used. Why mess with success? Perhaps we can get it up a little higher this year though. Maybe we will go ahead and put the 20 meter loops up at the CW station to give us a bit more flexibility.

Last year we used my Yaesu FT-847 for the CW station. While it does have a 500 Hz. Filter installed, this radio is not the ideal contest rig. It obviously held its own though. This radio will be available once again this year, but if anyone has a better rig they would like to bring, please let me know. Keep in mind, whatever radio we use on CW should have narrow filters of at least 500 Hz. 250 Hz. Would be even better. The regular CW operators will have the option of rejecting any radios that are not so equipped.

GOTA Station:

Our club rarely runs a GOTA station. With the limited number of operators we have had most years, we felt it best to stick with three stations (plus the free VHF station). However, this year with the many new hams we have in our club (and County), we will be offering a GOTA station for use by New Hams, or by old hams not familiar with contesting. This is to be considered a learners station. It will be okay for one of our experienced operators to monitor, log, and so fourth. However, the experienced operators should not be the operator of this station. Let the newer hams have at it.

This station will provide a challenge in that it will be operating on SSB within the same band as our regular stations. The chance for intra station interference will be high. We therefore need to get some separation between the GOTTA station and the rest of the group.

The antenna will most likely be an 80 dipole fed with ladder line into a tuner. That will put a nice signal on all bands.

The radio will be whatever one we have available. We usually have more than enough radios to play with.

Computer Logging:

Once again we will use wireless Network computer logging using the N3FJP Field Day Logger. This has worked great for three years running. Ruben, KB2SAI, will be providing the wireless router for this years event. Everyone: Bring Laptops with wireless cards!

Emergency Power:

As with last year, the club will be going with strictly battery power for the stations. This means multiple batteries at each station. A few extra batteries as back ups would be nice too. Remember to bring deep cycle batteries. The kind you use on fish trolling motors, golf carts, etc. A regular car battery will not last long in this constant drain situation. In fact, you may end up damaging a regular car battery using it for Field Day. Those bringing batteries, please be sure they are fully charged before the start of Field Day.

Since laptop batteries will not last the 24 hours plus of Field Day, we are planning on using Barry Butz's (N8PPF) super quite Honda generator to supply power to all computers. We should also be able to run station lighting with this generator. This generator should be able to run the entire 24 hours on just a few gallons of gas. So, we get to have a quite Field Day and save money too.

Just in case, there will be several battery chargers available to recharge depleted batteries and perhaps a power supply or two..... Just in case.....

Club Picnic:

As always, we will have a club picnic Saturday afternoon during Field Day. Details should be elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Please join our club for this years Field Day. I think it is going to be a fun event for all ages.

A Tale of Two Tubes

*By Dan Romnanchik,
KB6NU*

A couple of weeks ago, I worked N4QR on 40m CW. I could tell by the tone of his signal that he was operating a homebrew transmitter. There wasn't any 60 Hz on his signal, and it didn't chirp exactly, but I could tell it wasn't



the pure tone you get out of today's radios.

I asked him about his rig, and he told me that it was a one-tube transmitter made with a 6L6. I forgot to ask him where he got the schematic, but a quick Internet search turned up the following:

- The May 2005 issue of the K9YA Telegraph (<http://www.k9ya.org>) has an article written by N4QR titled, "The Wonderful One-Tuber," that contains the schematic for the transmitter. The K9YA folks don't make issues of The Telegraph available on their website, but I was able to get a copy of the issue by e-mailing them.

- A 6L6 Classic (<http://www.io.com/~nielw/6l6/6L6.htm>)

- WB2MIC 6L6 Transmitter Project (http://www.metaphoria.us/hamradio/6L6_transmitter_schematic.htm)

The 6L6 is a pentode that, according to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6L6>), was introduced by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in July 1936. Apparently, it was used quite a bit in public address systems.

After the tube became successful, tube manufacturers introduced a number of variations, including the venerable 807. The original 6L6 was capable of delivering 19 W; the latest variation, the 6L6GC is rated for 30 W. The 6L6GC is still used in guitar amps, and is still manufactured in Russia, China, and by Groove Tubes (www.groovetubes.com) in the U.S. They sell a number of different 6L6 variants; the cheapest is \$16, the most expensive \$180!!

Tube #2:

One of the reasons I was interested in the 6L6 is because about a year ago I came across a schematic for a transmitter using 6A6 dual triode. I had just come into possession of a couple hundred tubes, and while I didn't have a 6A6 (at least I haven't found one yet), I do have a couple of 6J6 dual triodes. They're not quite as high power as the 6A6, but I'm still thinking about building a little transmitter with one.

As you might expect, there's a bunch of information on the Internet about this tube:

- The Jones Push-Pull Transmitter (http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html) was built with a 6J6 instead of a 6A6.

- Another schematic can be found on the AK0B website (<http://www.qsl.net/ak0b/>).

- 6J6 data sheet

(<http://www.gargnas.net:3000/tubedata/6J6.pdf>) from the GE data book.

One interesting fact about the 6J6 is that IBM used it in the 604 computer. Unfortunately, they found it to be not as reliable as they wanted it to be, but at first none of the tube manufacturers were interested in making a more robust version. This led IBM to set up a tube-making laboratory where they could experiment with designs. They developed a more reliable version of the 6J6 and finally convinced RCA to manufacture the tube. According to the author of the history of the 604 (<http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/IBM-604.html#new>), part of the concern is that IBM would decide to get into the tube business.

So, the next time you hear a signal that doesn't sound so perfect, remember that there just might be a story behind it. Ask the op about his transmitter, and listen to what he or she has to say.

When not pondering the mysteries of vacuum tube part numbers, KB6NU teaches ham classes, works CW on the HF bands, and blogs about ham radio at <http://www.kb6nu.com>.

ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE

From the ARRL Letter, May 29, 2009

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.

2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.



The case for owning a Communications Trailer

By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

At the May meeting, members voted to approve pursuing a grant to purchase a Communications Trailer for MVARC and Knox County ARES use. Mike give some pros and cons on the subject:

Case for owning a Communications Trailer:

Great community commitment for emergency response.

A great Recruitment / Publicity / Promotional Tool.

Expands how we can participate in the community e.g. Parades, County Fair, First Friday, Kids Day, Scout Jamboree, Turkey Festival, Tomato Festival, school demos etc.

Learning Facility, allows for operation at meetings and trainings, including Exam Prep classes and scout merit badge clinics.

Place to store other club equipment including watt meters, antennas, cables, laptop, cw key, generator etc.

Sheltered Field Day Base.

Sheltered event (e.g. EDC Marathon) Base or extra field station if used in conjunction with other clubs equipment.

Portable repeater / APRS digipeater operation.

The challenges and questions we need to address:

Can a club our size sustain the commitment in funds, energy, manpower, maintenance, insurance etc.?

Can we establish a working policy that will guarantee its quick and easy availability?

Who will have final say in its deployment?

Can we agree on a governing board?

Should this be the board of directors, President, Officers, EC?

Where do the needs and responsibilities of MVARC and ARES meet and diverge in respect to use of an equipment trailer?

Will we use it to the fullest extend to warrant the purchase?

Can we build better relationships with EMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, KCCH, Citizen Corps and are we willing to enter into effective MOUs with these agencies?

How do we address creating written use and safety policies and procedures and a means to demonstrate that they are being met during every use?

What is our liability, considering MVARC owned equipment, ARES owned equipment, and privately owned equipment on loan or pressed into service during an event or exercise?

"THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

From the ARRL Letter, May 22, 2009

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Mario Bedard, VE2FZH, of St-Andre de Kamouraska, Quebec, Canada, asks: Is an antenna tuner of any use in a receiving system with a long wire or dipole antenna? If not, should I disable it while strictly receiving?

The Doctor Answers -- This is one of those "that depends" kind of questions. A mismatched receive antenna will result in a reduction of both signal and atmospheric noise reaching your radio. If the atmospheric noise is much stronger than the internal noise in your radio, the resulting signal-to-noise ratio will be almost the same, even though the signal will be weaker. It is often the case -- especially on 20 meters and above -- that the external noise may not dominate and you won't hear weak signals that you might have heard with the tuner properly tuned.

It is somewhat more complicated with a transceiver with an internal automatic tuner. There may be no way to adjust it without transmitting, especially a problem if listening outside the amateur bands. That means that in listening mode -- unless it remembers the settings for each band -- you may have a mistuned tuner. That can be much worse than no tuner. If it's easy to bypass the tuner, try it each time and see which is better.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail doctor@arrl.org; or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.



Field Day, here we come!

Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

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The ARES E-Letter is an e-mail digest of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Past issues of The ARES E-Letter are available at <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el/>. Issues are posted to this page after publication.

Project OSCAR is a monthly column written for Newsletter Editors. Columns will appear as space permits. You may download all the columns yourself at: <http://www.projectoscar.net/beacon.php>

Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to ham radio, with an emphasis on local activities, equipment reviews, and personal experience to w8pen@arrl.net or Don Russell, W8PEN, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

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 are prorated for new members at the time of application. Visit our Web Page at www.mvarc.net

Dues Schedule: \$12 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family, for those over 65 yrs. of age, and for those living outside Knox County

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 372, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

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