



The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club



June, 2011 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

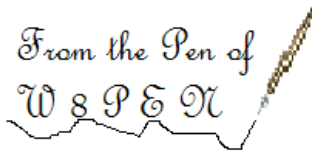
Local Ham Community

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)



Ham Radio Rocks!

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



Welcome to the Field Day Special edition of the MVARC Newsletter. This issue will be packed with information for the Field Day 2011 event and articles to help you understand and enjoy Field Day to its fullest.

To begin our quest to be one of the top Field Day setups in Ohio, the MVARC will host Tom Hain, KV8Q, during the June meeting. Tom is an upper tier contester who presented a program a few years ago. This time, Tom will present a program on his adventures in contesting and Dxing from the Maritime Provinces. Should be a fun and interesting evening, plus get the gang motivated for Field Day. Unfortunately, Tom does FD with the Delaware, Ohio club.

After Tom's presentation, we will be setting up the Field Day logging program. There will be a copy of the program on a thumb drive and a CD. This should accommodate those wishing to put the program on their net book computers as well as the laptops. The CW station will be using my larger laptop. Us old timers don't like to squint!

The Garage Sale was a success with \$114 collected for the club. According to Mark, AC8FV, AJ (Arlin's grandson) was outselling everyone. Brandon (KD8LPP) and Ray Ann (KD8NGW) showed their dance steps and videos on Friday and Arlin (KD8EVR) played some Bass on Saturday. Sounds like a fun day for those that participated.

I have an electric winch that I meant to put into the Garage Sale, but forgot to throw it in the car. Anyone

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, June 13, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Tom Hain, KV8Q will present a program on his adventures in contesting and Dxing from the Maritime Provinces. After his program, we will be installing Field Day logging software on computers. If you want to use your computer to log with on Field Day, bring it to the meeting.

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 Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio*****

that wants it can have it for a donation to the club. I think it will handle 1500 lbs or so and it does work. It runs on 12 volts and a cable is provided. I used it on my old boat trailer, but removed it when I sold the boat. If interested, contact me at w8pen@arrl.net or 740-397-0249.

Thanks to all those that helped out by donating items.

Tour de Cure is Saturday morning, June 11th, which conflicts with our Monthly Breakfast, so I imagine most of our Breakfast regulars will be helping out with the tour this month. I will leave the Breakfast in the schedule in case anyone is interested.

We have been handling a bit of traffic during our Sunday Night Nets lately. I found a really good form on the ARRL Webpage created by N7YSS. It not only contains the message form, but also lists the handling instructions and the key to the ARL text, all on one page. I have copied this form and it is on the last page of this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

May 1, 2011
for Feb 28 to Apr 30, 2011

Balance on 2-27-11: \$ 2684.11

Income:

Dues: \$ 24.00
Donations: \$ 8.00
50-50: \$
Interest: \$ 1.55

Expenses:

none

Balance on 4-30-11: \$ 2717.66

Designated Funds:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 384.94
Field Day Fund: \$ 66.25
Communication Vehicle Fund: \$ 540.18

June 1, 2011
for May 1 to May 31, 2011

Balance on 5-1-11: \$ 2717.66

Income:

Dues: \$ 12.00
Donations: \$
50-50: \$
Interest: \$
ARRL dues commission: \$ 15.00

Expenses:

Equipment Insurance: \$ 75.00

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

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Phone: 602-794-6262

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Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to Amateur Radio, with an emphasis on local activity, equipment reviews, and personal experiences to the Newsletter Editor. Articles are due on the Sunday before the first Monday of the month.

Newsletter Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN
w8pen@arrl.net
Phone: 740-397-0249

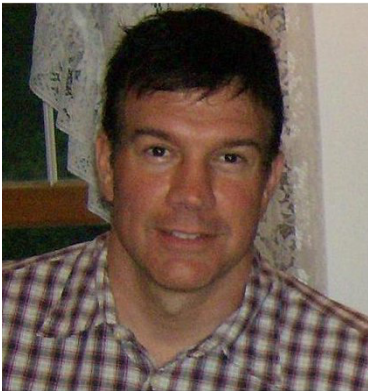
Balance on 5-31-11: \$ 2669.66

Designated Funds:

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$ 384.94
Field Day Fund: \$ 66.25
Communication Vehicle Fund: \$ 540.18

Barry Butz N8PPF

Making Your Field Day Software Behave



By Mark Bisenius, AC8FV

Every year, the stress level rises as we get closer and closer to Field Day. This year, I want to find out everything about our logging software, so we can relax and have fun!

First, go to N3FJP.com, navigate to the Field Day Network Log 2.5 download link, and download FDNET25.exe. Make sure it's 2.5, which is the network version. MVARC already has a Field Day network license and password, so don't pay again!

Click the default installation prompts during setup. Open Field Day Network 2.5 from the "Start" menu, and enter our Field Day call sign, which is K8EEN, and our MVARC password if you have it. You can log up to 30 contacts without a password, so you really don't need it until Field Day. The EDT offset from UTC time is 4 hours.

On the "Amateur Station I.D." screen, the entries should be: "Call Sign" = K8EEN, "Class" = (4A last year), "Section" = OH, "Hours added for UTC" = 4, "Operator's Initials" = (your full call sign).

Next is "Path to network log file." We want to connect each client laptop through the network, to the shared FDLog.mdb log file on the network server computer.

Since the network path from all client laptops to the FDLog.mdb file on the network server is identical, we can enter the same path on every laptop. Click "Done,"

and the main program screen should appear, indicating that you've successfully connected to the FDLog.mdb file on the network server.

If you get an error message instead, check the network path you entered. If it's correct and another laptop using the same path is successfully connected, this points to a problem with your computer.

Check that your WiFi is turned on and connected to our Field Day wireless network's SSID (network name). A password may be required if it's not an open WiFi. Next, try turning off your firewall to see if it's blocking your network access. If not, it's probably your computer's network configuration.

If nobody can connect, most likely there's a problem with the network. A wireless router's speed auto-negotiation can cause frequent "unable to open database" errors by momentarily dropping connections. Since FDNet 2.5 doesn't require much bandwidth, setting the router to the minimum speed of 1 Mbps, significantly increases the reliability of an 802.11b network, by using Binary PSK (BPSK), the simplest and most robust PSK modulation.

Longer-range connections are especially vulnerable to interruptions, which wreak havoc on a router using DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol), by causing client IP assignments to expire. This can cause a temporary outage as the router's DHCP struggles to automatically re-configure.

A line-of-sight to the router's antenna can dramatically increase performance. The signal can even be attenuated by people passing in between, so it helps to locate it above 10ft. if possible.

If all else fails, you could "Browse" back to the default FDLog.mdb log file that was created on your computer during installation: C:\Program Files\Field Day Network 2.5\FDLog.mdb, and begin logging contacts there, bypassing the network.

When operating off the network, you can click "File" at the top of the screen, select "Backup Options," and select a USB drive, where the program will update a backup log file (LogBckUp.dat) every 15 minutes in case your hard drive crashes.

When the network problem gets resolved, simply reenter the network path to the shared FDLog.mdb log file on the network server, and continue logging contacts. After Field Day, all FDLog.mdb log files can be combined with one mouse click, while automatically checking for duplicates.

So why network? We get real-time dupe (duplicate) checking, and the software will warn a client laptop when another station is working the same band and mode, which is prohibited. Our "Score Statistics" refresh every

60 seconds, so we can see how far ahead of the CW tent we are. (Trash talk.)

There's also a "Sections Worked" chart on the main screen, which changes color as Sections are worked. Clicking "Map" at the top of the screen opens a map of all Sections worked in full-color. At the end of Field Day, a summary file is generated and submitted to the ARRL by email.

Before each session, double check that the proper "Band" and "Mode" are selected at the bottom of the screen, and that you're the only station working it. Enter your call sign by clicking "Operator" at the top of the screen.



You don't need to use the tab key, space bar, caps, or the mouse, when entering a contact's Call Sign/Class/Section. Type the exchange all in one string, and the program automatically advances to the next field in all caps. Then hit "Enter."

A backup file (LogBckUp.dat) of FDLog.mdb is automatically updated on the network server, and on every client laptop every 15 minutes. And by default, a succession of permanent backup files of FDLog.mdb are created by date and time in: C:\Program Files\Field Day Network 2.5\BAK2011 on every computer every 15 minutes, if a contact has been added to the database.

To check that you are connected to the network at any given time, click "Setup" at the top of the screen, and then click "Done." If the main screen reappears without an error message, you're most likely connected.

Or you can enter your own Call Sign, Class, and Section as a contact, and it should appear in the "Recent Contacts" log within 60 seconds, if you're connected to the network. Don't forget to click on it, or use "Find" to retrieve it, and "Delete" it from the log afterward.

By clicking "Network," at the top of the screen, you'll see all the other laptops and the server when you're connected, along with the band and mode each station is

working.

By clicking "Options" at the top of the screen, and selecting "Post Contest Mode," you can input the correct date and time for any contacts entered from a paper log. Contacts are logged to the FDLog.mdb database on the network server in real-time, so you can reboot your laptop if you need to.

N1IR's 3-part tour of FDNet 2.5 is worth a 15-minute watch on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hl2hdqzvdws>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTUer57yUHY&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhmt69NTE_M&feature=related

We'll be setting up our laptops following our June 13th Meeting. A good time to pre-test your laptop on the network is in the evening after the antenna raising, which begins at 2PM (1800 UTC), Friday, June 24th.

CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day. This is Kilo Eight Echo Echo November!

FEMA Administrator Praises Hams



By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

At the Earthquake Communications Preparedness Forum, held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in Washington, DC, FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, had some kind words to say about ham radio. He noted that ham radio really is valuable "when all else fails."

The Web page describing the conference

<http://www.fcc.gov/event/earthquake-communications-preparedness-forum>

has a video of all the talks given at the conference. Fugate's remarks begin at the 18:45 mark. His remarks

about amateur radio start at about 29:20.

I think it's great that the head of FEMA thinks so highly of hams. Before you get all excited about this, though, listen to all of Fugate's comments. He has some interesting comments about all of the different ways that responders gather information and provide information to the public in an emergency. I think listening to all of the remarks will help give those of you who are involved with emergency communications more of an overall perspective, and may even help you evolve our role into something that's more useful in the future.

At one point, for example, Fugate held up a cell phone and told the audience to think of this device as both a data point and a sensor. Folks with cell phones can help emergency responders by sending video and audio of the situation, preparing the responders for what to expect when they do arrive. I don't know how many ARES/RACES groups have incorporated video into their emcomm plans, but it sounds like it should be.

Also important, says Fugate, is a solid knowledge of communities, local geography, and place names. I'm not sure if that's normally a part of emcomm training, but it sounds like it should be.

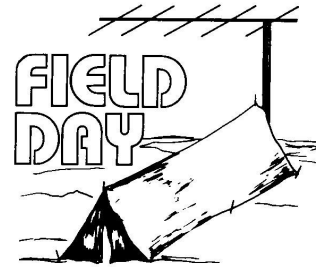
I'll be the first to admit that I'm not an emergency communications geek, so perhaps I'm talking through my hat. It seems to me, however, that it's important to listen to what guys like Fugate are saying and work with them to make amateur radio even more relevant and useful in emergency situations.

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When he's not pondering the state of ham radio, you'll find KB6NU teaching classes; working on WA2HOM, the ham radio station at Ann Arbor's Hands-On Museum (www.wa2hom.org), or operating CW on the HF bands. You'll find his blog at www.kb6nu.com, or you can e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Field Day 2011: A Preview



By Don Russell, W8PEN

For better or for worse, Field Day is almost upon us. I am hoping that the rain will quit long enough for us to at least set up the antennas. Bennett Park in Apple Valley has been confirmed for this year's Field Day. Antenna set up will begin Friday, June 24th at 2:00PM.

Bennett Park will be a bit of a challenge for us. Not very many trees. The trees that are there are not very tall. So we will be relying on masts and if necessary towers to set up the antennas. I am hoping that we will have enough antenna masts that the towers will not be necessary. They take a lot of muscle to put up and down. The one exception is if we use Arlin's (KD8EVR) beam for 20 - 10 meters.

An issue not resolved yet is how many stations we will have. Last year we had four stations plus the VHF station that put us in the 4A transmitter class. There was some talk of expanding that to at least five transmitters plus the VHF. This would have been a good move at Floral Valley where there is plenty of room. Perhaps not such a good move at Bennett Park. There is plenty of room, but maybe not enough antenna supports. We will talk about this at the June meeting.

Here is the somewhat annual pre Field Day report that I always seem to write up. I am going with the four station scenario plus the 6 meter station and a GOTA station. Neither of those stations will change our class, so we will be Four Alpha (4A) once again. We can expand or reduce as our needs require.

75 Meter SSB

Station number one will be the 75 meter SSB station. This band is typically good from early evening on through late morning. If we have the operators this band is capable of 200 plus contacts. Probably more like 300. But we will need to keep it going.

Obvious choice for the antenna is a dipole up as high as

we can get it. The transceiver is yet to be determined. This will be the case with all our stations. The FD group will just have to decide what the best fit is at each station for what equipment is available.

40 Meter SSB

Station number two will be the 40 meter SSB station. With no foreign broadcast stations to worry about, this band should be good from the start of Field Day to the finish. We know from past Field Days that 40 meter SSB is key to our success. I would be disappointed if we did not make between 300 and 400 contacts on this band.

A 40 meter dipole will be used and the transceiver will be determined during station set up.

20 - 15 - 10 Meter SSB

This station is also key to our success. Most contesters claim one should stay on 20 meters as long the band is open because the rates will always be higher. From my experience, I cannot argue with that point. While I would love to have a separate station for 15 and 10 meters, I just don't think we can make that happen. Too bad. With the new Sunspot cycle, 10 meters will be open a bunch. Maybe we will rethink this a bit and add 10 meter SSB to one of the other stations and make this one a 20 and 15 meter station.

The antenna for this station will be either Arlin's 3 element beam or a 20 meter Extended Zepp. I have always wanted to try the Extended Zepp antenna on Field Day and now may be the time. The Extended Zepp has a gain of about 3 db on 20 meters and can also be tuned to 15 and 10 meters. Ladder line is used to feed this antenna, so a good antenna tuner will be needed. I am afraid the transceivers internal antenna tuner will not handle this antenna unless a 4:1 balun is used at the radio. Always possible of course.

The transceiver is yet to be determined.

80 - 10 CW

The 80 - 10 CW station rounds out our HF hardware for Field Day 2011. We now have some very good CW operators in our club and that has certainly helped our Field Day efforts. I am expecting 600 plus contacts from this station. As always, us CW operators will try really hard to keep the SSB guys working hard to avoid being embarrassed.....

There are two options for the antenna. The one I would like to use is the 160 Meter Windom provided by Jeff Butz (N8SMT). It is 265 feet long and was a fantastic antenna for us last year. due to space limitations we may use the 80 Meter Windom which is about half as long at 135 feet. We have used the 80 Meter Windom in past events and it has always been a good performer on

all bands. It is a good antenna. Just not quite the kick that the 160 Meter version has.

The transceiver is set for this station. We will use Mike Dean's (W8OIO) Yasue FT-8900. Actually, it may be my radio by now by squatters rights as it has been on my shelf for the last two years. What do you think, Mike? This radio performs very well on CW, so I am glad to have it back for its third year as the CW station transceiver.

It would be great if one of our members had a memory keyer we could use to take the drudgery out of calling CQ. Presently we use a standard keyer with no memory or the keyer built into the radio itself. Being able to program "CQ" and perhaps 4A OH would be a blessing for the CW ops. Yes, the logging program provides this feature. But I found out last year that the software plays pretty sloppy CW. I will check our logging computers performance. Maybe I had the power saving features set too high and was limiting our computing power, which could cause choppy CW. One more thing to do before FD!

6 Meter SSB

On 6 meters, Barry Butz (N8PPF) generally sets up a station, so I will once again leave it up to him. I understand he is working on a 6 meter moxom antenna. Should be interesting.

GOTA

This station may or may not come about. We have tried GOTA stations in the past with not too good of a success rate. I believe for our group, perhaps we should set up a GOTA station in the parking lot or to one side of the lot and have it ready for visitors. If we get visitors, then after a tour of our site, they can use the GOTA station and make a few contacts. This way the GOTA station will not need to be manned unless we have visitors. It would be a good idea however, to tune in a station in the contest and let it play. Perhaps remove the microphone so no one can transmit without authorization.

Keep this station simple. Perhaps 40 - 10 Meters SSB with a 40 Meter Windom antenna. That antenna would be short enough not to get in the way. Plenty of action on 40 and 20 meters.

Satellite Station

There has been some talk about finally having a satellite station available. Mike McCardel (KC8YLD) is planning this station I believe. We will just have to wait and see what comes of it.

Logging Software

We will once again use N3FJP's Field Day logging software due to its networking ability. Everyone enjoys being able to keep an eye on our running FD score. It provides some incentive for operators to step up their own efforts. Especially fun in the competition between the SSB stations and the CW station. Lots of fun with lots of ribbing going both ways.

Last year we had a problem with how many computers could be connected to the network at one time. I am hoping our computer guys get this fixed for this year so we have seamless networking.

Power

The past two years has seen the club relied mostly on battery power for the stations. I see no reason to change that. It makes for a very quite Field Day with no big generator running, not to mention the gas we save. As in the past two years, I hope to have a couple of super quite generators available in case we need to recharge batteries. The permanent shelter has commercial power which can be used for any none FD station power such as lighting, coffee pots, etc.

Picnic

Our annual Field Day picnic usually starts at about 4:00PM Saturday. Larry "Doc" Heltzer (AA8WP) will again be organizing this event and doing the majority of the "In House" cooking / grilling. Doc always has a treat in store. The club will provide meat and drinks. Everyone please consider bringing a covered dish. I hear that Arlin is planning on pancakes for the morning crew.

Have Fun

Finally, please join us for a fun weekend of radio and friendship. Family, friends, and anyone interested in Ham Radio are welcome to attend part or all of our Field Day event. Lets make this the best Field Day the club has ever had. I love trying to beat that every year!



"CQ Field Day!"

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the May 9, 2011 Meeting.



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1. Brandon Hunt	KD8LPP
2. E. Mike McCardel	KC8YLD
3. Larry J. Helzer, DVM	AA8WP
4. Mark Bisenius	AC8FV
5. Tom Evans	KD8HSA
6. Steve Barr	KD8GRM
7. Bart Hains	KD8LDT
8. Dave Patton	KC8UTL
9. Patrick Valentino	KD8PSM
10. Ray Ann Bradford	KD8NGW
11. Ann Bradford	KD8LFH
12. Arlin Bradford	KD8EVR
13. Matt Ware	KD8PSK
14. Barry Butz	N8PPF
15. Charles Fisher	KD8NGP
16. Jeff Butz	N8SMT

President Bradford opened the meeting at 7:07 P.M.

Treasurers Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF

<u>Balance on 2-27-11</u>	<u>\$ 2684.11</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$ 24.00
Donations	\$ 8.00
Interest	\$ 1.55
<u>Expenses</u>	
None	
<u>Balance on 4-30-11</u>	<u>\$ 2717.66</u>
<u>Designated Funds</u>	
Year 2005 Repeater fund	\$ 384.94
Field Day Fund	\$ 66.25
Communications Vehicle Fund	\$ 540.18

Barry made a motion to keep our current insurance company for the club's equipment and to pay the yearly bill. The motion was seconded by Larry Helzer and approved by voice vote.

Vice Presidents Report: Mark Bisenius, AV8FV

Mark reminded everyone that the Garage Sale is coming up at Arlin's house. Please drop things off by Wednesday May 25th.

Field Day: Larry (Doc) Helzer, AA8WP

Doc said they were spending about \$200.00 on food. He also asked if anyone had a bread-making machine. The bread was very popular last year. Arlin said that he would bring one. Arlin said he was planning on making pancakes at 9:00 A.M. on Field Day Sunday morning. Arlin confirmed the commitment for Bennett Park in Apple Valley. Mike McCardel made a motion to set aside a \$100.00 so Doc can get supplies. The motion was seconded by Charles Fisher and approved by voice vote.

Barry Butz mentioned that in past years we have had problems getting all the laptops connected to the same network and he has found out that the problem is with the standard version of Windows and he is asking if someone could contact Ruben Clark and see if he can supply a server version of Windows on a machine for the network. Arlin said he would contact Ruben. Barry suggested everyone bring their laptops to the next club meeting so we can make sure everything is running OK.

New Business:

Mark reminded everyone that there will be a Fox Hunt this coming Saturday after the Saturday Breakfast at Allison's Diner.

Arlin reminded everyone that Saturday June 11th. is the Tour de Cure bike race. He will need 6 or 7 helpers so please contact him if you want to help.

Sunday June 12th is the Miss Ohio Festival Parade in Mansfield. Everyone meet at the Key Bank on Marion Avenue in Mansfield at 11:00 A.M.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave Patton and seconded by Charles Fisher. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Arlin introduced Roger Norcross from ODNR who talked about his team's rescue efforts after Hurricane Katrina.



Charging Batteries Simplified



By Don Russell, W8PEN

I have read a lot of articles on how to charge deep cycle batteries. Some articles get really complicated by checking battery temperature and controls the rate of charge depending on this battery temperature. Others monitor the air temperature to calculate what voltage the battery should be charged to. I believe the battery charger at the 2 Meter Repeater site monitors the air temperature and thus determines optimal battery voltage.

These are all very interesting, but I wanted a way to simple trickle charge my multitude of 12 volt deep cycle batteries so that they would be ready to go when I was. I decided to use a Radio Shack 4 amp regulated power supply as my trickle charger. Cost was the biggest factor. I had collected four of these power supplies from various hamfests. They were all in use except one.

I measured the voltage of this power supply and it was right at 13.8 volts. Exactly what it was supposed to be. I wanted it to be a little higher though so I took the cover off of it. There was a potentiometer used to set the voltage, so I cranked the voltage up as high as it would go. It has been a few years but if I recall, that voltage was something like 14.1 volts max. Good enough, I thought.

The reason for the increased voltage was that I intended on putting a 4 ampere or better diode (or rectifier) in the positive line to protect the power supply in the event of a commercial power failure. The diode is meant to keep battery voltage from back feeding into the power supply and damaging the electronics. I figured there would be a 0.5 volt drop in voltage when I inserted the diode. I was close. Actual voltage drop was 0.4 Volts giving me a 13.7 Volts in which to trickle charge my batteries. This was close enough for my purposes.

Such a small charging system will take a long time to fully charge my batteries. If I was in a hurry though, I could just use my regular battery charger. This trickle charge system has worked well for me for about four years. I have not had to replace any of my batteries. The batteries I charge are two deep cycle 12 Volt lead acid batteries and two large deep cycle 6 Volt batteries

that are placed in series to give me 12 Volts. The three sets of 12 Volt batteries are placed in parallel and attached to my trickle charger. I make no attempt at distributing the charge between the various batteries, even though they are all of different amp hour ratings. I works for me. All my batteries stay at about 13.7 Volts until needed.

There is a risk factor in keeping batteries charged in this way. One is that if you overcharge the batteries during trickle charging, the batteries will use a lot of water and you will either dry up your batteries or be adding water very frequently. I must have mine set pretty close. I started checking water level once a day, then once a week, and then once a month. I now check water levels about every 6 months and rarely have to add water. The other side of the coin is the possibility of under charging your batteries. I understand that this can cause

corrosion on the internal battery plates and reduce charge efficiency of the battery. This I may be guilty of. I will say that my batteries have always lasted much longer than I expected they would in certain services. So I figure a little bit of undercharging is a good trade off to having to add water to the batteries frequently.

Caution should be had when wiring the batteries in parallel. Make sure that there is a fuse in the wires going to each battery.

If you need to keep your batteries ready to go, you may wish to try this method. Like I say, it works for me and I am willing to take the risks I have mentioned (there may be other risks involved that I have not thought of).

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

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:

