

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

June, 2016



**Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm
at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross,
300 North Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio**



**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600Khz with PL of 71.9 Hz)
K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)**



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The view from the Presidents Desk

June is here and I'm home, well sort of, it seems home is somewhere between here, Cleveland, Mansfield and Louisville, KY. Scout Fest 2016 has come and gone, from what I hear it went well, except for the weather (wet and cold). In Florida it was sunny and 85. Dayton Hamvention has come and gone sounds like it was a good one. Few improvements if any to the convention site, but that is part of the adventure. June has activities they are moving forward. First is the Tour de Cure on June 11th. It is always fun to work this event. Our responsibility is the part of the route in the southern part of the county from Centerburg to Martinsburg along Sycamore Rd. The second event in June is Field Day and I hope to see all of you there. It will be held at the Apple Valley site again this year and is fun rain or shine. We have made great progress on several projects: MVARC Club Radio station (from what I have heard we have made our first contact from there), mesh node, and the new repeater. As I have been out of town I'm just getting up to date on all that has happened with these projects. Good reason to come to the meeting on June 13th to find out more about the progress. Speaking of the June meeting, it will be held out at the Field Day site in Apple Valley weather permitting at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there.



If you need directions or would like to ride out with me, give me a call or email and we can work something out. Well, I am late as usual getting this in to Bill so I better cut it short and send it in. Hopefully I'm not too late. Bill does a great job getting the newsletter together especially considering what he has to work with (me).

73, Frank KC8EVS



Emergency Preparedness

The Knox County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Exercise Design Sub-Committee is planning it's Hazardous Materials Exercise for 2016. This is an excellent opportunity for ARES membership to partner with Knox County EMA and the LEPC.



All MVARC members wanting to participate in LEPC exercises and other drills need to be affiliated with ARES and pursue these IS Certificates; IS-700 sets the stage for the other incident command courses, IS-100 and IS-200 describes the incident command structure, and IS-800 outlines the Federal response.

IS Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/is/crslst.aspx>
Search for Independent Study (IS) WEB based courses.

FEMA SID

<http://www.training.fema.gov/is/crslst.aspx>
To start the training process students, need to register for a FEMA SID (Student ID)

ARES Application

<http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/fsd-156.html>
The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Emergency Preparedness, continued on page 2

When completing the application be prepared to enter your station's capabilities and be sure to attach any completed ICS training certificates.

Knox Alerts

http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/knox_co_oh/wens.cfm

Knox County implemented a mass notification system. This system will be used by EMA to notify and activate Knox County ARES of a pending disaster or emergency situation via; phone messages, text messages, and emails.

Patrick Valentino KD8PSM
pvalentinoknoxco@gmail.com

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My participation in the Scout Fest

On Saturday May 14th, I probably drew the easiest assignment for Scout Fest. I was located in the Event Pavilion. With its large size, and excellent roof, I was able to stay dry on a very cold and wet day.

The Pavilion was the location for many excellent displays ranging from the Army Corp of Engineers, to several Scout camps located with-in surrounding states. There were also vendors selling various pieces of Scouting accessories.

I had numerous conversations with Scouts and their leaders from all over the State. Learning about each groups various activities.

During my conversation with one of the Knox County Troop Leaders, I was asked if we would be willing to put together a demonstration about Amateur Radio on July 14th 2016 for their day camp. This program would involve presentations starting in the early afternoon, lasting until at least 7:00 pm, possibly later.

I told him I would ask the group to put together a program, so we will be discussing this during the June meeting.

It was great to see the younger generation having so much fun and learning so many different things. If you get a chance to work with any youth group, I encourage you to do so. The rewards you get from the interesting conversations you can have are well worth the time spent.

Jim Williams, N8IBR

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

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Meeting called to order by KD8HSA at 2301 UTC.

AC8PT Moved, W8PEN 2nd the Motion to approve April 2016 minutes. Approved.

KB8QPO Moved, AC8PT 2nd the Motion to approve Treasurers report. Approved.

KD8HSA stated that as usual, the June meeting would be held at our field day site.

Repeater Report-W8PEN-146.790 all okay, the new Fusion repeater is still looking for a home. Originally it was thought we may be able to use KD8EVR's site, but due to his repeater being a main EMA/ARES link throughout the Northern part of Ohio, we will need to find another site. W8PEN stated he was looking into different possibilities.

KD8HSA mentioned the upcoming Scout Fest, and the Dayton Hamfest.

He also mentioned the upcoming Tour de Cure on June 11th and that we will need at least 5 volunteers to man locations throughout Knox County. Please contact KB2SAI or a club officer if you can help.

W8PEN mentioned we still need a food chairperson for Field Day.

The usual 2nd Saturday breakfast at Allison's has been moved to June 4th due to the Tour de Cure being on the 2nd Saturday.

N8IBR stated that the Red Cross has given us permission to run a Special Event Station for Daniel Emmett Days from the Annex Building on August 12th and 13th. These activities are scheduled to start at 1600 UTC, and end at 2200 UTC. Notification will be submitted to QST and should be posted in their August Special Events Section.

The August 6th Columbus Hamfest and its new location on the southwest side of Columbus was mentioned. The ongoing tower and antenna projects at the Red Cross Annex were discussed by W8PEN. We thank the many members (especially W8DEP who donated and installed the tower) who have given both time and materials to this project. We presently have the tower, an R-5 vertical (20 to 10 meters), and a Mesh Node up. When totally finished, we will have a station capable of operating multiple modes from 80 meters to 446 MHZ, with the MESH node on site. W8PEN also discussed the numerous different 80 to 10 meter antennas being considered for the Red Cross station.

A report was given on the station at the EMA Center. At present, the VHF/UHF station is operating well. The HF station is operational, but experiencing high noise levels on receive. This issue is being looked into, and hopefully will be resolved soon.

KD8PSM read an article on ARES/EMA and stressed members need to get any ICS course's they have taken, registered with ARES.

KD8HSA mentioned that KC8EVS would have more information on the proposed August 2017 balloon launch in the near future.

KD8HSA passed around a QSL card we received as the result of our NVIS day operations.

W8UMH moved, KE8ANS 2nd to adjourn meeting. Approved. Meeting Adjourned at 0024 UTC.

We had 17 members, and 1 guest present.

After the meeting adjourned, several members stayed to view the operating station that is being installed at the Red Cross complex. W8PEN made the first HF contact from the club station on 20 meters to a station in South America with a 5/9+ signal report.

Respectfully Submitted,
N8IBR, Secretary MVARC

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Last years Field Day was a record setter in contacts and points.

This should motivate us to do even better this year.

This years Field Day will be begin Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 2:00 PM and end Sunday, June 26, 2016 at 2:00 PM. It is a 24 hour event. The club is allowed to set up antennas and stations Friday, June 24, 2016. We will begin setup Friday at 2:00 PM. Those more ambitious can start setting up earlier Friday if they wish. In fact, I may be out there around noon setting up my canopy and tent.



The Club Picnic will have a different feel this year. Instead of grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, I am planning on ordering baked chicken and Baby Back Ribs from Kroger's. Then everyone bring a covered dish and we are all set for a picnic. The main reason for doing this is that I could not find a grill or a grill cook. We can discuss this more at the June meeting, which will be held at the Field Day Site.

The club will need to supply heavy paper plates, drinks, coffee, etc. Again, all this can be talked about at the meeting.

There are numerous extra points that we will be eligible for and we should try and get everyone one of them!

1. 100 percent emergency power: We do this every year. Each station needs to be run on a battery or generator. No commercial power (extension cord from the rest room is a no-no for station power). We can still use commercial power for other things like the freezer, lights, wifi, computers. Just not the transceivers.

2. Media Publicity: This is being handled by Terry Windsor, KE8ANS.

3. Public Location: Floral Valley Community Center qualifies.

4. Public Information Table: Will be handled by Don Russell, W8PEN.

5. Message Origination to Section Manager: I believe Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, or Jim Williams, N8IBR will handle this one.

6. Message Handling: Same as number 5.

7. Satellite QSO: Looking for a volunteer!

8. **Alternate Power:** We need at least one station on solar power to qualify for this one. Only need to make 5 QSO's to qualify. You should do much better.

9. **W1AW Bulletin:** Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, has volunteered to do this one.

10. **Educational Activity:** Tom Evans, KD8HSA, has volunteered to show how to tear down and set up the clubs Go Boxes.

11. **Site Visitation by an Elected Governmental Official:** Terry Windsor, KE8ANS, has the invitation letters ready to go.

12. **GOTA:** Need a volunteer here.

13. **Field Day Youth Participation:** Needs some work.

14. **Social Media Bonus (new):** Bill Bradley, KC8BB.

15. **Safety Officer (new):** Someone volunteered but can not remember who. Bill Bradley, KC8BB?

16. **Web Submission Bonus:** Usually handled by me, W8PEN.

Anyone wishing to help secure any bonus points, please attend the June Meeting at the Field Day site and let me know.

I usually give a rundown of what stations we will be running and what equipment we will be using. Since Station managers have been appointed this year, I really do not have much on the equipment, so this will be guess work.

Barry Butz, N8PPF and I have been talking about building some coaxial stubs to handle some of the station to station interference. Coaxial stubs can really reduce the interference, so this is something we will probably try, assuming Barry and I have time to work on it.

Station 1: CW (80 – 10 Meters)**Station Manager: Don Russell, W8PEN****Transceiver:** Kenwood TS-590S**Antenna:** 80 -10 Meter Windom plus an NVIS Loop or maybe a single band J-Poles for 20, 15, and 10 meters

The station will be set up for computer control, and CW sending using the function keys on the computer keyboard. There will also be a memory keyer available for those that like to send CW by hand. Most of our ops use the keyer. But it is nice to switch it up a bit.

This station has an advantage over the SSB phone stations in that we have all five bands to choose from. This keeps it interesting for us. If a band closes or we run out of stations to work, we just change bands and start over. That keeps the contacts coming and negates some of the disadvantage of competing with three SSB phone stations

Last year we made 602 contacts on CW. The year before we did 805. I would like to shoot for 900 contacts this year.

Station 2: SSB Phone (Main station for 40 Meters)**Station Manager: Jim Williams, N8IBR**

I believe Jim is planning on running a loop antenna this year.

This is a band in which the club has had a lot of success on. Last year we made 333 contacts on 40 meter SSB, which met our goal of 300 contacts. I would like to see the SSB guys go for 350 contacts this year. It will certainly be a challenge.

Station 3: SSB (Main station for 20 meters)**Station Manager: Barry Butz, N8PPF**

This is the money band for most contests. We only made 125 contacts last year on 20 meters. We can do way better than that. Lets set a goal of 350 contacts this year.

Equipment and antennas are yet to be determined.

While this station will be the main 20 meter station, it will be capable of at least 20 – 10 meter operation.

We should also try harder with this station to put more time in on 15 and 10 meters. These are two bands we often neglect.

Station 4: SSB (Main Station for 75 meters plus digital)**Station Manager: Scott Fields, K8AEC**

This station will be a bit different this year. Everyone always wanted to try digital so this year we are adding digital to this station. 75 meters is mostly open during the evening hours. When 75 is closed, this station can be doing digital on another band. We need to be careful here though and not have the CW and Digital stations on the same bands. That would cause big time interference to both stations.

Last year we made 309 contacts on SSB CW. That was very good. We should be able to match that plus some. So lets set a goal of 350 contacts for 75 meters and perhaps 100 digital contacts would be a good start for us there.

6 Meters:

Barry, N8PPF, usually supplies the 6 meter station. I am sure he will do so again this year. According to the FD rules, this station does not count in our transmitter class, so we can still operate 4A even though we will have five transmitters. We usually make a few contacts on 6 meters. Who knows though, if 6 meters open up, we can make a lot of contacts.

GOTA Station:

This year, the club may set up a GOTA station (**Get On The Air**). This station would be a free transmitter but may only be used by operators that have limited contest and/or operator experience. The GOTA station would use a different call from the FD stations and be allowed to work all bands.

We have tried GOTA stations before with very limited success. However, having one available so that visitors may do a bit of operating is certainly a good way to go. If there is anyone wishing to take charge of the GOTA station, please let me know.

Here is my crystal ball prediction for our Club Field Day 2014:

CW:	900 contacts
80 SSB:	350 contacts
40 SSB:	350 contacts
20 SSB:	350 contacts
15 SSB:	100 contacts
10 SSB:	75 contacts
6 SSB:	15 contacts

Total SSB: 1,240 contacts

If we achieve these goals, it will be another record Field Day for our club. You know what they say: "Records are made to be broken!"

This assumes that we will have enough operators to keep things going most of the night. I know things usually slow down around 2:00 AM as most operators get a little bit of shut eye.

Field Day Power:

All stations will be run on emergency power during the Field Day event. By doing so, we get 100 bonus points per transmitter for a total of 400 points. Traditionally, each station manager arranges his/her own power. That could be in the form of batteries and solar panels to small generators. I know the CW station will use my little Honda Generator and Barry will be using his Honda Generator. I am sure we can add a station or two if needed to these two generators. What we don't want is one big generator making lots of noise. In this case, smaller is better.

Field Day Logging Software:

Once again we will be using N3FJP's Field Day Software Package. Scott, N3FJP, just keeps improving this software and we will be using his updated software. So, if you used your computer last year for Field Day logging, please remember to update your software.

You can download the updated software here:

<http://n3fjp.com/fieldday.html>

I will also have a copy of the updated software at the June meeting and during Field Day. Contact me for the registration number that needs to be entered to be able to use the software.

As usual, we will network this software with all stations. As mentioned earlier, this gives us the option of operating any station on any band and still be able to log and check for dupes. We will need to be careful though. Before starting to operate one of our stations after some off-time, it will be necessary to check with each station to make sure the band you are planning to operate on is not being used by one of the other stations. I am hoping to have instructions on how to check this via the software at each station position.

Summary:

Field Day will be as successful as our members choose to make it. If we have lots of operators we can keep all stations running the whole period. If not, some stations will be off the air as operators get some needed shut eye. Please consider joining us this year and help make our Field Day a success.

By Don Russell

Welcome to June! It is Field Day time! Please see my annual Field Day assessment elsewhere in this Newsletter. Confession time. I volunteered to be Field Day Chairperson, but in fact have done very little to organize the event. I said early on I was not going to organize the picnic, however, no one stepped up to help with it, so I have tentatively decided that we did not need to grill at all. I have found that we can order the meat to be ready for Saturday and just pick it up. So this is what I plan to do. Fifty pieces of baked chicken, and two Baby Back Barbeque ribs party platters will be ordered. Then everyone bring a covered dish. If there are objections to this, please voice them at the June meeting and volunteer to organize the picnic.

Everything else is pretty much "same old". Antenna raising will be Friday June 24th starting at around 2:00 PM. Station managers will decide what antennas are needed and where and what equipment will be used.

I encourage everyone to participate in this years Field Day. Come join the fun. This is a good time for the Technician Class hams to experience Shortwave Radio. You might find it so fun that you start studying for your General.

New Repeater

We have a new repeater on the air in Mt. Vernon. The frequency is 444.600 (+5) with a PL of 71.9. The repeater is located at the home of Barry Butz, N8PPF. The antenna is at the 1200 feet elevation, however it is only about 30 feet above the ground. Coverage is good in all directions except for the East and Northeast area. Barry has a good size hill there and while mobiles should be able to make it, handhelds will be a challenge in that direction.

There is some talk of moving the repeater to the Red Cross. This would be a lower altitude, but may give better handheld coverage to the East. This repeater is intended as a local repeater only, but I would like base stations to be able to hit it from 30 miles out or so. Mobile coverage looks like 10 to 15 miles.

This is the Yaesu Fusion repeater and can do analog FM and digital C4FM. Please put this repeater into your radio and try it out. We need coverage reports. I may initiate a weekly net using this repeater just to promote some activity. In fact, I will commit to calling a net to order each Monday at 8:00PM on this new repeater. Please join me.

Local AREDN Project

Our Mesh project is once again slowed to a crawl. I am really frustrated. The good news is that, thanks to Scott Keys, AC8PT, we now have a Mesh Node at the Red Cross. The Radio and Antenna was donated by Scott. More good news. It works! I have a 100% link between my node and the Red Cross node. That is a distance of about three miles.

We also have a tunnel via the internet so that those not close enough to connect via RF, can connect via internet. This is just to get things started. The goal is total RF with several nodes capable of internet if and when needed for emergencies.

What we need is more nodes up and running. While waiting on the high profile nodes, we can be setting up our smaller individual nodes. Anyone within a mile or two of the Red Cross has a really good chance of linking to the node. And then someone can link to you and then the Red Cross through you. We need lots of nodes! I have a mobile unit that can be used to test different locations. So if you want to participate in this project, please let me know and we can set up a test link.

Lets get the project going again (Cheerleader Don here. Hi Hi.).

See everyone at the June Meeting, which is being held at the Field Day site.

Don, W8PEN

Swap and Shop

N8RPZ, Charlene Householder, has 25 feet of Rohn Tower, a 5 element Cushcraft 6 meter Yagi, and a non-working unknown brand of rotor for sale for \$300.00. Buyer is responsible for taking items down. She no longer operates 6 meters, and would like to remove them from her property. You can reach Charlene at 740-967-5198.

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net from the Knox County EOC on K8EEN KC8BB –Bill	6	7	8 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	9	10 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	11 <u>Tour De Cure</u> <u>Bicycle Event</u>
12 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN –Don	13 6:00 pm MVARC Meeting at Apple Valley Field Day Site	14	15 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	16	17 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	18
19 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8ANS –Terry	20	21	22 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	23	24 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	25 2:00 pm 2016 Field Day at Howard, OH in Apple Valley (Floral Valley area)
26 2016 <u>Field Day until</u> 2:00 pm 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KD8HSA –Tom	27	28	29 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	30	1 July 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	2
3 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN from the Knox County EOC KC8BB –Bill	4	5	6 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	7	8 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	9 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Fine Diner