

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

June, 2017



**Meetings are held on 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, OH 43050**



**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600KHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)
K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800
K8EEN Repeater: 444.600 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)**

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Presidents View

It is June, and means the Dayton (Xenia) Hamvention has passed and Field day is fast approaching. More on Dayton later in the newsletter.

Field Day will be here soon, June 24 & 25. We will be at Apple Valley again this year, so come out. We will be discussing the final plans for the weekend at our June meeting (June 12th at 7:00 p.m.) so be there to get the full scoop. It is always fun.

Disappointed that there was not a dual band DMR HT out at Dayton. There is one in the works by TYT MD in 2017 just not released (anywhere that I'm aware of) in the US yet (no mobiles either). I guess we will have to wait...

Hope to see everyone on June 12th at 7:00 p.m. for the monthly meeting. As usual if you are free through the week stop in at the Southside Diner at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays or Hardees at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays.

73,

Frank, KC8EVS

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club is recognized as a Special Service Club by the ARRL

At the May 8, 2017 meeting with 19 members present, Scott Yonally (N8SY), ARRL Ohio Section Manager, presented the MVARC a banner recognizing us as a Special Service Club. The ARRL Special Service club application was submitted by Tony Spiegel, KC8UR. The banner, pictured below, is hanging on the second floor of the Red Cross Training Center next to the MVARC amateur radio station.



A Special Service club is defined as a club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio. They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

Thanks Tony for nominating MVARC for this award.

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

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MINUTES FROM THE MAY 8TH, 2017 MVARC MEETING

Meeting called to order by KC8EVS at 2300 UTC.
There were 18 members and 1 guest present.

KE8GFW made a motion, & N8PPF 2nd it to accept the April Minutes as accepted. Approved.
W8PEN made a motion, & KC8REB 2nd it to accept the May Treasurers report as presented. Approved.

W8PEN reported both repeaters are operating normally, although we still are experiencing a static type noise on the 2 Meter repeater occasionally. He reported that our MESH network is still covering most of the City of Mt Vernon. The coverage area will increase as we add additional nodes.

KD8PSM reported that the county wide tornado siren test would be held and the first and third Fridays. These tests will be held at 12 noon. If you are available to participate, please do so.

KD8HSA reported that we had a good turn out for NVIS day, but as usual the propagation didn't co-operate. While we were able to work numerous stations from surrounding states, we had limited success in our own state.

Field day assignments were discussed, along with the meal arrangements.

Discussion continued about our 2nd station to be located at the Red Cross. We are holding off on buying any additional equipment and accessories until we are sure exactly what our needs are. KC8BB donated an extra 12 Volt power supply he had to help eliminate that cost. Thanks BB.

N8IBR stated that the stations who wanted to operate the Daniel Emmett Special Event Station this year, could use the club call sign of K8EEN from their home station if they wanted to. He plans to have an operation time schedule set up so that operators who wanted to take advantage of this change could do so and not have to worry about any one else being on the air at the same time. The club station will still be available to use for those who wish to operate from there. If you are interested in operating the special event, contact N8IBR to schedule an operating time and location.

KD8HSA mentioned that the club will still be operating from "The Gorge Overlook" in Mohican State Park during the Ohio State Parks on the Air this September. Stations interested in participating need to contact KD8HSA.

AC8PT moved, and KC8UR 2nd, that N8IBR be reimbursed the \$40.00 filing fee for the 990-D tax form. Approved.

W8PEN announced that a second Technician licensing class would start on May 11th, and would run 5 to 6 weeks into early June. There would be a VE testing session scheduled for the last week of the Class.

W8PEN also announced we would start our General class licensing class in September. Date to be announced shortly.

N8SY presented the club with an ARRL "A Special Service Club Banner" which is proudly displayed upstairs at the number 1 operating station.

AC8PT moved, N8PPF 2nd to close the meeting at 2346 UTC. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted
N8IBR, Secretary MVARC

Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN



Quite a bit of happenings to report on, so lets get to it.

Summer Technician Class Course

Due to popular demand, I decided to hold a small Tech Class Course. There was not much advertisement on this because things were organized and set in motion pretty fast. Sorry if anyone missed out.

We started the class on May 11th with five students. We have a great class with lots of participation. I am confident that everyone in this class will obtain their Tech license during the VE Test session being held June 15th at 7:00PM, Red Cross Training Center.

With the help of Lori Randal KE8GFZ, we have revised our Technician Class Course a bit. We included a lecture from Lori on Electronics, Electronic Components, Math, and Propagation. The students really enjoyed this and we are planning on keeping the lecture in our January course. In fact, we are going to expand on the lecture a bit, and have two lectures. One for the electronics, and one for propagation. The rest of the course will use our usual power point presentations.

I am looking at most, if not all of the students, to participate in the upcoming General Class Course set to begin in September.

General Class Course

Speaking of the General Class Course, while we have not set a firm date, I believe we will start the course in early September. Prerequisite will be having a Technician Class license.

It has been decided that we will use the **ARRL GENERAL CLASS STUDY GUIDE**. Briefly considered was using the **KB6NU NO NONSENSE GENERAL CLASS STUDY GUIDE**, which is a free download off the internet. This study guide did not go into enough depth to make it more than just an experiment in memorization. While the ARRL study guide is more expensive, I think it will also be more beneficial to the students.

Students will be responsible for purchasing their own book.

Red Cross Club Station

Jim William N8IBR and I did some work on the antennas at our club station located at the Training Center. We took down the folded dipole and installed a 160 – 10 Meter End Fed Dipole which was donated by Scott Keys AC8PT. We did this partially for cosmetics. I in particular did not like the folded dipole hanging from the tower. The end fed dipole appears to be working well and is hardly noticeable going from the tower to the tree. We had no problems getting the internal antenna tuner of the Yaesu FT-900 to tune the antenna from 160 -10 meters CW and SSB. Time will tell as far as how well our signal gets out.

440 Repeater

The clubs new 440 MHz repeater appears to be working well. We at least have good mobile coverage throughout Knox County. Hand Held coverage appears to be very good around Gambier, and of course Mt. Vernon. We have not had enough activity to check out all areas, but that will come.

A few small adjustments are planned. These small adjustments may make a small improvement in coverage, or may do nothing. Don't know until we try.

[Radio Activity, continues on page 5](#)

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Mesh Network

Our Mesh Network keeps growing, although it has been a bit on the slow side. What we have up is working very well. We are set to add a node on East Gambier Street thanks to Mary Sargent KE8GFY. Mary is one of our new hams from the January class and has a lot of experience with computer networking. I am hoping she will be part of the technical team getting everything to work.

We are looking at the possibility of setting a node up at the EOC (Knox EMA). There is also a possibility of setting up a node in the Mt. Vernon Downtown area. More on this later.

The current goal is to set up mesh phones at the EOC, KCH, and the Red Cross. This would provide us with phone service between these organizations regardless of the status of other phone networks. We will also have email service between these three ARES supported agencies, which will allow us to transfer files between the three without relying on the internet.

See you all at the June meeting.

2017 Field Day Preview

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Well, it is that time of the year again. Welcome to Field Day!

From the ARRL:

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a camp out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, pre-planned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.



[Field Day, continues on page 6](#)

Locally, this years Field Day will again be held at the Apple Valley Floral Community Center. This has proved to be a very nice site for our Field Day event. Plenty of trees make putting up effective wire antennas simple and quick.

This years Field Day will be begin Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 2:00 PM and end Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 2:00 PM. It is a 24 hour event. The club is allowed to set up antennas and stations Friday, June 23, 2017. We will begin setup Friday at 2:00 PM.

Those wishing to stay Friday night are welcome to. I plan on bringing my camper and making a full weekend out of it. We need someone to safeguard things anyway.

The Field Day Picnic will begin sometime around 4:00 PM or 5:00 PM Saturday. Last years picnic went very well and we are planning much the same this year. Last year, we ordered Baked Chicken and Baby Back Ribs. The Ribs were a bit messy, so we are thinking of simply ordering the baked chicken for this years event. Ordering the food eliminated the need of a grill cook, who would much rather be operating.

Everyone should bring a covered dish. The club will supply heavy paper plates, drinks, coffee, etc. We can further discuss this at the June meeting.

This year, the club will operate four stations. Two SSB stations, one CW station, and one Digital station. We will once again be using the N3FJP Field Day Logging Software. Since all stations will be set up to work any band and mode, we will have to coordinate who is where and when.

Remember, even though we have appointed station managers for each station, anyone can operate any station. Don't be afraid to ask if you can operate. One important thing would be that if you are a Technician Class licensee, please make sure you have a higher class license operator sitting with you as the control operator. To break FCC rules is to break contest rules, so please abide by FCC rules. This is especially important at night when fewer operators may be available.

The following is a station breakdown:

40 and 80 Meter SSB

Jim Williams N8IBR will once again head up this station. It will be up to him as to what antennas and radios he will use. Jim has indicated that he would like to work mainly 40 meters. This will present an opportunity for another station to work 80 meter SSB when that band opens.

10 – 20 Meter SSB

Barry Butz N8PPF will be responsible for this station. I suspect that 20 meters will be the money band as 15 and 10 meters may be dead due to poor propagation. Lately, 20 meters has been closing at night, so this station should have an 80 meter dipole set up so that we can use it on 80 SSB as well.

Along with Barry's usual antenna set up, we plan on using the clubs Cushcraft R5 antenna. The change in radiation pattern by switching antennas randomly may be a game changer.

Barry will also have a 6 meter SSB station available.

Digital Station

Scott Keys AC8PT will be running the digital station. This is only the second year we have done digital. We are looking towards an improvement in our digital score.

Scott will be using his Yaesu FT-991 and Fldigi software. This will be an all band station and we will have to coordinate closely with the CW and SSB stations to minimize interference issues.

Personally, I am planning on helping with digital when I can. Looks like I may have a few more CW operators this year, which would free me up for doing other things.

CW Station

As usual, I will set up the CW station using my Kenwood TS-590S. This station will work all bands. I will try to have an assortment of keys and keyer's available so that newcomers as well as old timers can try their hand at CW.

I am thinking of changing the antenna from the trusty 80 – 10 windom to an 80 – 15 fan dipole. Or maybe two separate antennas. One for 80 and 40 meters, and one for 20 and 15 meters. Also, I am considering putting a loop antenna up this year.

That is it for our Field Day preview. Missing are my predictions on how many contacts we will make on each band. I will strive to make over a thousand contacts on CW. We have never hit a thousand contacts on CW, but we keep trying. If the SSB guys strive for this goal as well, we will indeed have another successful Field Day.

Directions to Field Day

Floral Valley Community

Center on Crestrose Drive

US 36 to the Apple Valley entrance (Apple Valley BLVD, County Road 4A): Stay left onto Apple Valley Drive. Follow Apple Valley Drive to Crestrose Dr. Turn Left on Crestrose Drive. Community Center is on the left.

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

US 36 East to Monroe Mills, (County Rd 3): Turn Right onto Floralwood Dr (County Rd 14) Then turn left onto Apple Valley Drive (County Rd 4). Crestrose Drive will be first road to the left

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 (Twp. Rd 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 Drive will be first road to the left

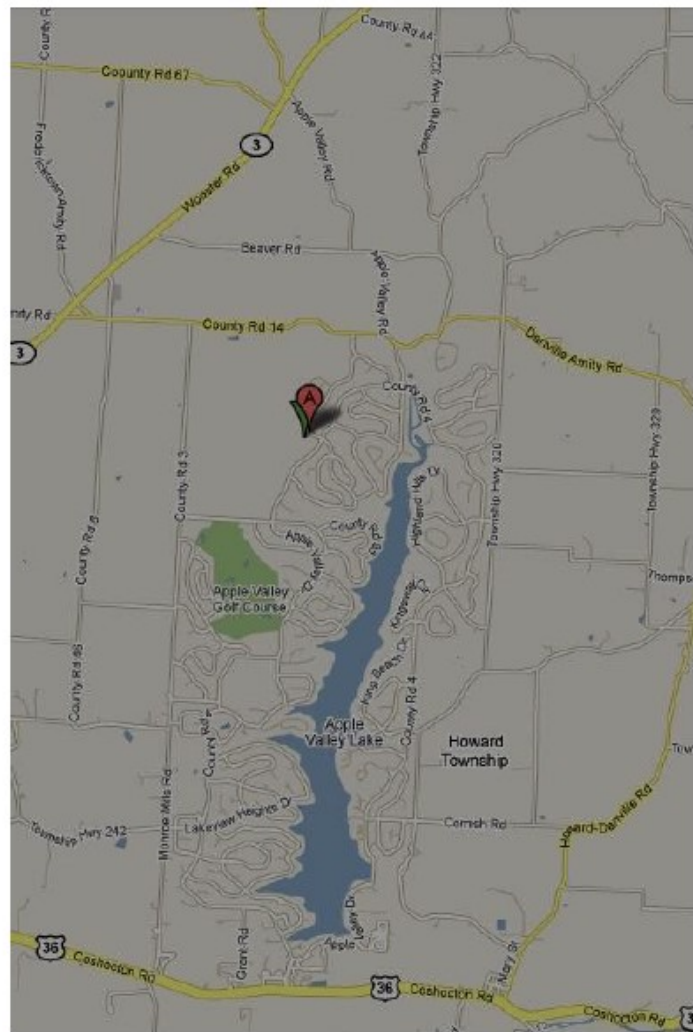
SR 3 to Amity Danville Amity Road (County Road 14):

Turn Right (East), then turn Right onto County Road 84 Ridge Heights (aka Apple Valley). Turn right onto Apple Valley Dr (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.

GPS Coordinates are:

40 degrees 27.531' N (40.45885 Degrees N)

82 degrees 21.053' W (82.35083 Degrees W)



Dayton 2017

Well, just to start off I have to give the Dayton club that puts on the Dayton Hamvention a lot of credit. Moving something this large and so well established to a new location with all volunteers, they did a great job. Were there things that went wrong? Yes. Is there room for improvement? Yes. But in general I think things will work at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Is it the same as the Hara Arena? No. I think that the Hamvention has been held there since 1961, which is a long time in one location. Hams don't like change, that is a given, and this is a big change but I think for the good.

Friday, Xenia has never experienced such a traffic jam as this. It was as if the whole town (man, women, and child) got up that morning and headed to the fairgrounds at once. So there was a monumental traffic jam and for a couple of hours it was slow moving. By Saturday they figured it out and traffic move much better. This is your typical county fairgrounds, parking is mostly on grass. The flea market was in the infield of the race track which was grass. So if and when the storms came in, they did, it turned to mud. I don't know how much this hampered attendance, probably did, but there seemed to be plenty of people there all three days.

I liked the layout of the fairgrounds. The buildings surround a courtyard and were well marked so you knew where you were. Sometimes at the Hara Arena since all the buildings were connected it was easy to get turned around and/or miss something altogether. At least it was for me. It was clean, plenty of restrooms that worked and were clean. Food vendors were all around the courtyard and in the flea market, fair type food and good. Some of the vendors were located in three big tents and there were two problems that I know of with the tents, poor lighting and leaks when it rained. I have been told that both of those problems will be addressed by next year.

This year I stayed for all three days. I did not get a hotel room but camped just south of Xenia at Caesar Creek State Park. I had a great time even though I had to sit out a couple of thunder storms in a tent, but that has happened before. The campground is approximately 20 minutes from one of the remote parking spots (same distance to the fairgrounds) where I parked on asphalt and had no problems getting out. So if you like to camp it might be an alternative way to enjoy Hamvention and one of our state parks. I plan on doing it again next year and look forward to seeing some of your there also.

Did I purchase anything? Ask me at the meeting or Hardees and I will let you know.

Will I go back next year? Yes, the Hamvention grew into the Hara Arena it will do the same here.



This is a picture of the courtyard, showing the main buildings surrounding the courtyard



This shows the tents and a storm that was moving in fast on Friday.



This was one of the drop off points for the remote parking. Fortunately I did not have to walk through all that mud, rode on one of the many golf carts or wagons being pulled by a tractor.

CONTESTING FOR FUN

by Barry Butz, N8PPF

June 2017

Last December I reported that the MVARC Contesters had done well in last year's ARRL November SSB Sweepstakes and hoped we had bested our 2015 scores. Well, we did! According to the final results, out of 36 clubs entered nationally in all classes, we were in 10th place. Congratulations to W8PEN, N8IBR, KE8ANS, and N8PPF who landed at 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 9th places in Ohio in our class.

In contests sponsored by CQ Magazine, you are notified of your final score after deducting for errors. Some errors cause loss of the QSO and others also invoke a penalty. In the 2016 CQ Worldwide DX SSB, of over 7500 logs, the average score reduction was 12%. Despite my best efforts, that's about what I have often suffered. But this time I got an email telling me that of my 127 contacts, I had 0% errors and 0% reductions. So even though my final standing of 14/70 in the 8th call district was pleasing, I'm most pleased with my 0% error rate.

Coming up June 10-11 is the ARRL VHF contest. This is one that everyone from Tech to Extra can enjoy. Last year I made 47 contacts on 6m SSB.

Of course June 24-25 (with setup on the 23rd) is the granddaddy of them all: FIELD DAY. What can I say except "Be there or be square".

June, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB –Bill	5	6	7 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	8	9 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	10 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison’s Finer Diner
11 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	12 7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting	13	14 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	15	16 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	17
18 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN, KE8ANS –Terry	19	20	21 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	22	23 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	24
25 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KD8HSA Tom	26	27	28 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	29	30 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	1 July
2 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB –Bill	3	4	5 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	6	7 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	8 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison’s Finer Diner
9	10 7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting	11	12 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	13	14 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	15