MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

M V A R C
NEWSLETTER

MAR 1995

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ALL MEETINGS AT STATION BREAK SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 P.M.

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MVARC REPEATER FREQUENCY 146.790 (-) N8CIY/R

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MVARC EMERGENCY SPEED DIAL NUMBERS:

71 KC POLICE 73 MVPD 76 OHP 77 MV FIRE

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AMATEUR CLASSES

Classes started Feb 2nd and will last thru Apr 6th. A test session is scheduled for Sat Apr 8th at the Station Break following the course. Currently there are 22 enrolled in the class with 8 going for Codeless Tech, 5 for Tech Plus and 9 for General. Larry AA8KD and Kieth W8JZR are conducting the classes.

PURCHASES

The Club has bought a TV and VCR this year for the aid in classes as well as for the upcoming programs this year.

Also the Club has bought a new antenna for the 2-m machine. As soon as the weather gets warm enough for KB8JAA to stay home , it will be installed. With this and all of the other improvments made to the Repeater we hope coverage will be at it's best at this site.

NEW REPEATER

For the 440 band Fredericktown is soon to be in the Rep. Dir. Kelly N8NMQ has a 440 machine at his house on 442.325.

The coverage does not match the 2-m machine but for now we at least have the Freq. and with the large demand for air space we have to use it or lose it!

Packet Stuff

This is just a little note about Packet things. It looks like there is a little more activity on the air. It is nice to see Hams are still out there and on the air. Now that I am on day shift I will be leaving my HF Packet station on while I'm home in the evenings.

We are waiting for Charlie W8FXB to get hi

his HF Packet on the air and we will have a direct line down to FL. and will be able to get news back and forth. Jerry KB8JAA is there also. There are other Hams, Stanton N8IOL and Van KB8ORU in FL. also. It would be nice to see the looks on their faces when they find out that they missed the 15+ inches of snow. Anyways if you are interested in HF Packet and making HF Packet contacts you can use the node: N8PCE-7. When you connect all you have to type is "J" to get the "MYHEARD" list and any call sign that ends with "/H" is a call sign heard by the HF Packet side. If you want to connect to them from there just use the "X" cmd. What that does is switch you over to the other port and put you on HF Packet. If you see "W8FXB/H" the cmd you would use would be "X W8FXB" while you are still connected to N8PCE-7. If you need more help please call me.

73 Bob N8PCE

HT GIVE-A-WAY

If you are a member of the MVARC, on Apr 10th you have a chance to win one of 2 HT's that the Club will be giving away to a member. You don't have to be at the meeting but you do have to be a" PAID for 1995" member. With our class and hope to be new Hams and new members and if you know of any that has lost interest or you hear a new call on the air tell the new Ham about the Club and how to join in on all the fun.

EC'S CORNER

During the Feb Club meeting Bob McBride was appointed Knox county EC due to Ed Brown KB8NAL resigning from this post. Bob expressed his hopes and plans for the upcoming season and will be starting a refresher class this spring after connecting with county,state, federal and ARRL officials. Bob and all of us wish to thank Ed for all his hard work

CTCSS - WHAT CAN IT DO FOR YOU?

No, it isn't a new insecticide. It is **C**ontinuous **T**one **C**ontrolled **S**quelch **S**ystem. Some of the other names used for the same system are "Private Line" (or PL, by Motorola), "Channel Guard" (by GE), "Quiet Channel" (by RCA), and "Tone Squelch". It is a method used by FM VHF/UHF transceivers for increasing the usefulness of the limited number of frequencies available.

Most of today's transceivers have CTCSS encode ability built-in. Many also have CTCSS decode built-in or offered as an option. When a transmission is encoded, it carries a sub-audible tone along with its normal audio information,. There are some 40 tones available, in the range of about 60 to 250 Hz. Although the tone is not heard, a receiver with decode ability can detect its presence. The receiver will ignore any signal that does not carry the appropriate tone. When the tone is detected, however, it will open the squelch and let the audio be heard, thus the term "tone squelch". The normal squelch control does not function when CTCSS decode is being used.

How can this be useful to you? Here are some examples.

The Mt. Vernon repeater shares the 146.79 frequency with several other repeaters within 200 miles. At times, you may hear one of the others when you really just want to monitor our local traffic. What to do? Our repeater is encoded with a CTCSS tone of 71.9 Hz. If you set your transceiver to decode 71.9 Hz, you will hear our signal only and the others will be ignored.

Another situation arises when conditions allow a distant mobile station to reach our local repeater. His traffic is carried on our repeater, even though he didn't intend that. Quite often his signal is very weak and keeps kerchunking the repeater, to the annoyance of everyone. When this happens, our repeater can be put into CTCSS mode, which means that its receiver is set to decode 71.9 Hz. Signals not carrying that tone will be ignored. In order to make the repeater respond, you should set your radio to encode 71.9 Hz. If you have a memory dedicated to the repeater, you can set it to encode 71.9 at all times. (If the repeater isn't in CTCSS mode, it doesn't matter if your signal is encoded or not. While in CTCSS mode, the repeater announces that it is "in PL at 71.9". If your radio doesn't have encode ability, you can temporarily override the repeater CTCSS by keying 15 on your keypad.)

How about simplex operation? Suppose you and a friend want to monitor a frequency but not hear other conversations. Or you might be at a hamfest and want to keep in touch with your pal when he gets lost. There are just a couple dozen simplex frequencies and about 10^{12} hams using them. You and your friend can choose a frequency and CTCSS tone and set your radios to encode/decode. For example, you might use 146.58 Mhz with a tone of 100 Hz. Chances are you can find a combination that isn't very busy. You should still check the frequency before transmitting, though. Since your receiver will only respond when it detects a 100 Hz tone, the 146.58 frequency might be in use by someone using no tone, or a different tone.

Good luck,

Barry N8PPF

Editers Notes

This newsletter contains club events and artcles, without your input the next newsletter may have a lot of blank spaces.

PARTICPATE !

Interesed in joining the MVARC?

Here's how and how much:
Membership is $20 per year.
Reapeater and Autopatch priviliges, newsletter and all the club activities.
For more info contact:
MVARC
PO Box 372
Mt. Vernon, Oh. 43050

Or:

Attend a meeting !

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