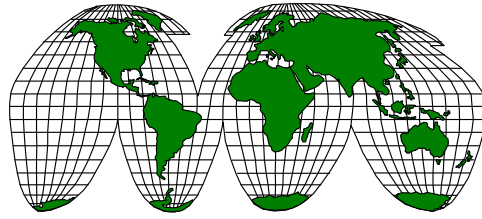


MOUNT VERNON

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

March 2004

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE BIG BROTHERS OUTER LIMITS 7:00PM

REPEATER FREQUENCIES: 146.790(-) K8EEN 444.750(+) KC8YED

SPEED DIAL #'S 7770=AAA (Howard St. Garage) 7771=Sheriff 7773=Police 7776= Highway Patrol

7778= MV Fire 7779=Report Repeater Problem # to shut off Auto Patch

Important News

**SKYWARN TRAINING THIS MONTH AT 6:30 AT OUR REGULAR MEETING.
PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**

Newsletter being E-Mailed

The newsletter has been sent to everyone via hard copy as well as emailed as a link to the site that we have it posted on. I encourage anyone with an email address to let us know. This helps us with the cost of stamps.

Letter from the Editor.

Well my fellow hams it has been a busy month. We had a meeting this month with several members of the club. We formed an emergency operations planning committee. We have worked on the Knox County Emergency Communication plan and made great progress. I should have all the changes done hopefully by the meeting this month. Please remember that this Month's Meeting is at 6:30 due to SKYWARN training. We are going to be hosting a Tech class and you might see ads in the paper and on Knoxpages.com. I am also going to try and get it on the radio. I encourage all of you to invite one person to the class or to our meeting. Please remember to make plans to be at the meeting, and remember the early time at 6:30 p.m. We will have information at the meeting regarding RACES team

Thanks,

Jeff Hall

Knox County PIO for the Arrl/ Vice President or MVARC

Letter from the President:

Dear Amateur Radio Friends,

Hopefully this newsletter finds you in good health, awaiting the arrival of spring. ☺ We must remember that with warmer weather, we will also be getting some storms. I am sure we will be needed once again for weather spotting and reporting wherever we are. Please remember to check-in during inclement weather if you are available – the more information we have, the better our reporting will be. With that said, please remember (like you haven't heard it enough) that our club meeting will begin promptly at 6:30pm this month. We will be having Sky Warn training. Everyone that attends will be certified and learn some valuable information about weather spotting. I encourage all of you to come out. We will also be holding our regular meeting immediately after the training.

Last month's meeting was pretty productive. Our county's emergency plan that included Amateur Radio was out of date (*very* out of date). We decided to give Bob (N8QPM) some help in getting it updated. To do this we formed a committee and we meet on Feb. 28th to discuss the plan. We worked out what we could and now we have an updated, workable plan for the county. I want to thank everyone involved for their input in getting this done. We are getting ready to gear up for field day this year and hope it will be one of the best we ever had. If you think you may be able to help in any way, please let us know. Other than that, there's not too much else going on.

Our newsletter emailing begins this month with a test to make sure everyone can get a copy. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please let Jeff (KC8WXL) or myself know. This will help us save on printing and mailing costs.

Not much else to say this month other than hope to see you at the meeting!

73's,
Ruben Clark, KB2SAI



"Gentlemen...tonight we will begin the Malicious Interference Net with a round of anonymous whistling, followed by free style profanity. Remember...no call signs!"

P.S. From our friends at another club in town (Ha Ha)



Robert J. McBride, Sr.
Knox County Emergency Coordinator
 Amateur Radio Emergency Services

2855 Apple Valley Drive
Howard, Ohio 43028-9382
Phone: (740) 393-0970
Cellular: (740) 398-1277
Email: bob.mcbride@voyager.net

Monthly Report: ARES February 2004

The February ARES Nets are as follows:

Date:	Feb 1, 04	Feb 8, 04	Feb 15, 04	Feb 22, 04	Feb 29, 04
Number of					
Check Ins:	11	12	12	12	9
Time Ended:	9:22 P.M.	9: P.M.	9:21 P.M.	9:18 PM	9:13 PM
Net Control:	N8QPM	KC8WXL	KB8SAI	N1GTZ	KB8TEX

Check Ins:	N1GTZ	N8QPM	N8QPM	N8QPM	N8QPM
	KC8GBY	KB2SAI	KC8WXL	KB2SAI	KB2SAI
	KC8YED	N1GTZ	N1GTZ	KC8GNL	KB8GBY
	N8QHY	W8PMJ	N8QHY	KC8YED	N1GTZ
	KC8UA	KC8YED	AA8WP	W8GTS	N8QHY
	AA8WP	KC8GNL	WA8YRS	WA8YRS	AA8WP
	N8PPF	N8QHY	N8PPF	KC8UTL	W8GTS
	K8TMC	KC8CSQ	KC8JEZ	N8QHY	KB8ORU
	KC8WXL	W8GTF	W8GTS	KC8RTC	
	KC8QJR	AA8WP	KC8QJR	N8PPF	
		N8PPF			
		AA8WP			
		KC8JEZ			
		KC8YLD			
		KC8NFH			

Please, remember to check in to the Sunday night ARES Nets at 9:00P.M.

The Sunday night ARES nets schedule is as follows:

First Sunday Net Control: N8QPM Bob McBride, Sr.
Second Sunday Net Control: KC8WXL Jeff Hall
Third Sunday Net Control: KB2SAI Ruben Clark
Fourth Sunday Net Control: N1GTZ Phil
Fifth Sunday Net Control: KB8TEX Dan Crowthers

1. We have scheduled a Sky Warn Training Class on March 8, 2003 at 6:30 P.M. The reason for early time is due to the fact that the meteorologists needs to get home after the training and he will have a three hour drive.
2. We still need more ARES members so we can do a better job in an emergency and for Skywarn NETS. Please, let ask other hams you know to volunteer.
3. **Do you have answers to these questions yet?**
I ask this question last month and have not got back any Emails yet.

Please email me back and let me know how prepared you are. I have not got an answer back yet. I need to know how prepared every one is and what equipment they have so I can assign personnel during a disaster.

4. Remember the National Weather Service needs information during severe weather.

Where are you located? Town (closest street intersection) or if in the country street location (Closest state route and intersecting street). If you are on a give the county road name and number and closest intersecting street. Please, remember the net control cannot see you. Your report is important and needs a location for the weather service to track the storm.

Wind speed is one of the important items needed. Weather the wind speed is measured or estimated. If trees or limbs are down, how big are they?
Was the tree healthy? Is there other damage to houses, barns or other structures?

Rainfall amounts measured or estimated amounts? When did the rain start and when did it end? Is there flooding and how much? Is this a common flooded area?

Hail size how large in diameter? Pea size, dime size, nickel size, quarter size, or measured.

Cloud Type: Rotating, Wall cloud, Funnel cloud, Tornado and direction of travel.

5. I will be taking a class running Monday nights until the end of April. I will not be attend the monthly meetings. I can be reached at the telephone numbers above or by Email. Feel free to contact me.

73's from N8QPM and have a good month!

Minutes Feb 9, 2004 Monthly Meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:12 pm local time.

Introductions

Treasury Report: \$356 in savings + \$512 in checking. Add \$655 to repeater fund due to recent sales at the Mansfield Hamfest.

Old News:

Issue 1: Sheriff's department tours were postponed.

Issue 2: Calling list when Bob, N8QPM, is unavailable - see New News.

Issue 3: CERT training - no change, still no sponsor.

Issue 4: 440 repeater is in full operation and in its final configuration.

Frequency is 444.750 +

Issue 5: MVARC's Newsletter will be emailed starting next month. Last 3 to 4 Newsletter's will be posted on our website as .pdf files this Wednesday.

Issue 6: This year's picnic was voted in to be held the same day as Field Day. Vicki, KC8DZQ, will coordinate picnic food and other picnic arrangements with Dave, K4AWO, and Don, WA8YRS. We will have a tent.

New News:

Issue 1: Bob, N8QPM, plans something better for this year's March SET exercise compared to last year.

Issue 2: Emergency Preparedness Skywarn training is next month. Meeting will start a half-hour early at 6:30.

Issue 3: 6 minute ARRL video on Emergency Preparedness will be shown at the end of this meeting.

Issue 4: Our Emergency Communication Plan (including the calling list) for Knox County is in need of a SERIOUS update. We will no longer wait until summer to do this. A committee will meet at noon, Sat. Feb 28, at Ryans to work on the Plan. The Committee will consist of Jeff Hall, Ruben Clark, Dan Crowthers, Dick Huggins, Dave Rankin, Steve Dick, Bob McBride, and Bob Bruff. Jeff will call Bob, N8QPM, to give him the time of the committee meeting.

Issue 5: The ARRL proposal for new Band and License allocations was discussed.

Issue 6: It was voted not to participate in this years annual Largest Garage Sale on May 15th due to its proximity to the Dayton Hamfest.

Issue 7: March 28 is the Lake County Hamfest.

Issue 8: An official Thank You was proposed for George F. who donated the Collins S-Line that sold for \$655 at the Mansfield Hamfest.

50/50 drawing - Ron W8PMJ won.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm local time.

Attendance Feb. 9, 2004 Monthly Meeting.

Name	Call
1. Phillip Buble	N1GTZ
2. Harold Rush	AA8BI
3. William Waits	N8OGX
4. Dick Huggins	WD8QHY
5. Bob Ready	KC8RTC
6. Howard Horton	KF8ZL
7. Stephen Dick	KC8YED
8. Emery Bennett	N8OVE
9. Bob Bruff	N8PCE
10. Don Russell	WA8YRS
11. Dave Rankin	K4AWO
Attendance Continued...	
12. Leon Bolender	KB8YL
13. Barry Butz	N8PPF
14. Jeff Butz	N8SMT
15. Ron Carruthers	W8PMJ
16. Dan Crowthers	KB8TEX
17. Vicki Crowthers	KC8DZQ
18. Ruben Clark	KB2SAI
19. Jeff Hall	KC8WXL

High Frequency: Radio Sports Part 2

By Don Russell, WA8YRS

Last Month we covered some of the basics of contesting. Those of you who have played High School or College sports are prime candidates to be Radio Sportsters. Indeed, anyone who has stayed physically active in sports is will find Radio Sports attractive. The younger generation that grew up on video games should find contesting exciting too. In fact, video gamers would do extremely well in Radio Sports. They are finally facing human competition instead of the computer.

Why do I like to contest? For all the reasons above and more. I find the fast pace of contesting exhilarating! I like making friends over the air. Okay, the contacts last a second or so, but in the aftermath of a contest there are large groups of hams that help each other learn about contesting and how to do it better. Even the ups and downs of contesting can be fun. I remember one year during the 160 meter Contest, I had worked about everybody I could hear. That was about 400 or so QSO's at the time. This was only the first night of the contest too! Well, I put down on a clear frequency and had the computer logging program call CQ for me (more on computer logging latter). I had a good paperback book handy and started to read this book. Every now and then I would get an answer to the CQ, give the contest exchange, and then go back to CQing and reading my book. I read about half the book that early morning. When I checked the log, I had averaged 30 QSO's per hour for 6 straight hours. I was truly amazed. It did not seem like I was that busy! The next night, things were slow, but I made another 300 or so QSO's. Oh, that was the year I finished ninth in the world in the ARRL 160 meter contest. I have tried, but have never really been able to read a book and contest at the same time since then. Maybe I will try it again this year.

Pro and Con

While I enjoy contesting, there are many hams out there that despise it! They believe it is a worthless, immature use of our frequencies. Here are just some of the reasons contest haters give: It does not take much skill to have a 2 second contact. It takes much more intelligence to carry on a QSO and really get to know a person. Most testers are inconsiderate and will intentionally QRM a Rag Chewer just to make a contest contact. Contesting makes the bands too crowded, and it is not very enjoyable for those that do not wish to be in the contest. Contests are held way to often. There is a contest of some sort going on every weekend.

I actually agree with some of the statements above, but to a lesser degree. Here is my take on contesting: Just like DXing, it takes a lot of skill to "Run" a frequency. Running a frequency is when you sit on one frequency and call CQ, letting the other testers find and call you. You can actually get a pile up going, and it takes skill to manage a pile up efficiently and not miss anyone. Testers will tune away if it takes to long. Yes, it takes a lot of intelligence to have an interesting QSO. I do not consider myself all that intelligent, but I have long QSO's all the time. I enjoy contesting too, so I get the best of both worlds. Just like any group, SOME testers are rude and inconsiderate. There are some that will do almost anything to squeeze out that last contact, including breaking into a QSO and asking non testers for a contact (ouch!). Luckily, the average tester is courteous and polite. On the other hand, I have been harassed by non testers quite frequently. Seems that there is a group of hams

that like to tune around the band during a contest.

When they find a likely candidate, they will just start talking right over him.

Then they tell the contester to get off "their frequency" because they have been on it for hours. If the poor contester does move to another frequency, they will follow him and do it again. Funny thing is, you can never get their call letters. They seem to mumble them when they identify. Guess they know they are in the wrong. This happens mainly on 75 meters. When it happens to me, I usually just ignore them. If you don't give them the satisfying reaction they are seeking, they will eventually move on.

One year I wasn't really working in the November Sweepstakes, SSB but wanted to give a few contacts out to my contesting buddies. It was early Sunday morning and the band was not too bad, so I found a nice clear frequency and started calling CQ. I made a few Q's, then this Canadian guy got on and started complaining that I was on his frequency. So I asked him if he was in QSO with someone and would like me to move, which I would have been happy to do. Like I said, the band was in good shape and not too crowded. He told me he wasn't using the frequency right now, but he was monitoring the frequency and may wish to use it later! Okay, let's get real! This is ham radio. It is a first come, first serve business! I will usually yield to a traffic net, but in this case, I kept using the frequency. Of course, all of the sudden there was someone "tuning up" on that frequency. I am sure it was my Canadian friend.

As far as there being a contest every weekend, that is true. There is something going on most weekends. There are about a dozen major contests a year, some of which are CW only, SSB only, or only on one band. Most weekends there is a minor contest or QSO party going on. The bands do not seem to be over crowded on these weekends though. During the major contests, the bands do get way too crowded to conduct normal QSO activities. There is an ongoing argument over whether there should be a "Contest Free" part of each band. I go along with this. It would be nice. There are already unofficially recognized parts of some bands that experienced contesters try to avoid. On 75 meters, very few contesters tune above 3.9 Mhz. Yes, you do hear some activity, but it is usually from rookie contesters. Of course, if I hear someone running stations up there, I am going to be on his list! On 20 meters, I rarely tune above 14.300 Mhz. 40, 15, and 10 meters do not have such a zone. Actually, 10 and 15 meters are such large bands that there is no over crowding, so the only problem band would be 40 meters. The WARC bands are totally contest free. Of course, I realize that someone used to operating on a certain frequency could be upset if that frequency was in use when he wanted to use it.

Contest Stations

Serious contesters tend to push the limit as far as equipment goes. While you don't have to have top of the line equipment to finish in the top ten of a contest, it certainly does help! Serious contesters spend big money for big antennas and the best equipment money can buy. I am semi-serious, and believe me, I spend enough on this stuff!

Contesters and DX'rs are what keeps the manufacturers on their toes. They know they can sell the radios if they can convince these two groups that they will have an edge. Read an equipment review. Most reviewers put the radio through a contest to see how well it really works.

Can't afford top of the line? Don't worry about it. I did very good at contesting with a pretty cheap radio for years. My main set up was a Yasue FT-757 GX II and an 80 meter dipole fed with open wire antenna to a tuner. This gave me 80 through 10 meters, and was very effective. Use what you got and if you find you enjoy contesting, improve gradually, starting with the antenna.

Next month we will get serious with the How To of contesting. Will cover how to search and pounce

effectively and how to run a frequency. See you then.

Here is an amusing excerpt from the book "The Victorian Internet" by Tom Standage, which tells the story of the development of the telegraph:

The best telegraph operators often felt nothing but scorn toward the small-town, part-time operators they often encountered on-line, who were known as "plugs" or "hams." Speed was valued above all else; the fastest operators were known as bonus men, because a bonus was offered to operators who could exceed the normal quota for sending and receiving messages. So-called first-class operators could handle about sixty messages an hour - a rate of twenty-five to thirty words per minute - but the bonus men could handle even more without a loss in accuracy, sometimes reaching speeds of forty words per minute or more.

Wandering workers who went from job to job were known as "boomers." There were no formal job interviews; applicants were simply sat down on a busy wire to see if they could handle it. Since they could find work almost anywhere, many boomers had an itinerant lifestyle; a great number of them suffered from alcoholism or mental health disorders. In a sense, the telegraph community was a meritocracy - it didn't matter who you were as long as you could send and receive messages quickly - which was one of the reasons that women and children were readily admitted to the profession.

New operators usually started out by filling in on an occasional basis or taking seasonal jobs at parks, summer camps, and resorts, and the more talented would soon gravitate toward the cities. Once a young operator had gained a foothold in a city office, he or she could expect to be subjected to a humiliating induction ritual, known as "salting." Sometimes the operator would be sent bogus messages addressed to "L. E. Phant" or "Lynn C. Doyle." But usually the unwary beginner would be asked to operate a wire with a particularly fast sender at the other end, who would start sending at a reasonable rate but then gradually pick up the pace. As the novice operator struggled to keep up, the other operators in the office would soon gather round to watch, and eventually the operator would be forced to admit defeat and "break." Salting was also known as hazing or rushing.

Young Thomas Edison was legendary for being able to take down messages as fast as anyone could transmit them. Edison was taught Morse code as a teenager by a railway stationmaster, whose three-year-old son he had plucked from the path of an oncoming train. He rapidly became an expert operator, and there are numerous tales of his prowess. At one stage the disheveled Edison took a job in Boston, where the operators thought rather highly of themselves and liked to dress like gentlemen. Taking him for a country bumpkin, they asked a very fast operator in another office to salt him. But as the speed of transmission increased, Edison kept on receiving happily at twenty-five, thirty, even thirty-five words per minute. Finally, having received all the messages without any difficulty, Edison tapped back to his opponent: "Why don't you use your other foot?"

Submitted by N8PPF

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

P O Box 372
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Interested in joining the MVARC?

CLUB DUES SCHEDULE

\$20 for First member in household
\$10 for each additional household member
\$15 for those living outside Knox County

EDITORS NOTE

This newsletter contains club events and articles.
Without **your** input the next newsletter may contain more

blank spaces. Please submit your articles to Jeff Hall KC8WXL, before the 23rd of the month or before. Please send via email to kc8wxl@mvarc.net. The sooner there here the faster I can get the newsletter done and sent to you. THANKS ...

Classifieds

Only Need to Ask, Inc
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Remote start and other auto electronic services.

Embroidery service (get your call on hats or other clothes)