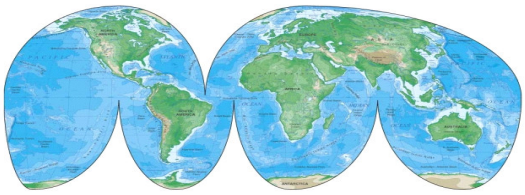
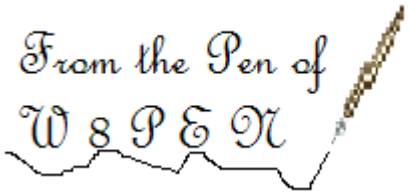
MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

C  Q

March 2008 Newsletter

MEETINGS SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RED CROSS ANNEX BUILDING,
300 N MULBERRY ST, MT. VERNON, OHIO
Local Community: K8EEN/R, 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz. with PL of 71.9 Hz.); KD8EVR/R 442.100 Mhz (+5 Mhz. with PL of 71.9 Hz)
*****SUNDAY NIGHT ARES NET AT 8:00 P.M ON THE K8EEN REPEATER OPEN TO ALL*****



Welcome to the March edition of the Mt. Vernon ARC award winning Newsletter "CQ". First off this month I would like to let readers know that I finally bit the bullet and applied for a vanity call sign. My call is now W8PEN. The reasons for this change are expressed in my regular column. Be sure to read it. Besides, I get a very catch intro, as in above.

Speaking of columns, I have changed the name of my regular column from "Repeaters and Stuff" to "Radio-Activity". I think it is a catchy column title, and more in line with what I wish to bring to the table in this column. Look for interesting ideas on how you can be Radio-Active.

Barry Butz, N8PPF, gave me some good news. He has decided to extend his column "Ham History" for a few more months. Apparently he found a few more interesting people that held key roles in the development of electronics and radio. Should continue to be an interesting read.

I would like to thank Mike Deane, W8OIO for being the first of what I hope to be many member profile articles for the coming year. I emailed Mike requesting that he be my Guinea Pig for a test membership profile story in the Newsletter. I gave him a list of things I needed. Not only did he respond, he wrote the article himself; and did a darn good job of it. It is a must read.

I will be contacting other members of the club hoping to get a monthly profile going. Members do not need to write it themselves as Mike did, but if that happens, I won't complain. I will send a list of questions to be answered. From the answers I will come up with a short article. I will also need a picture, preferably with the member doing something ham radio-ish. If you would like to be an early participant, please contact me.

Here are a few interesting web sites to enjoy::

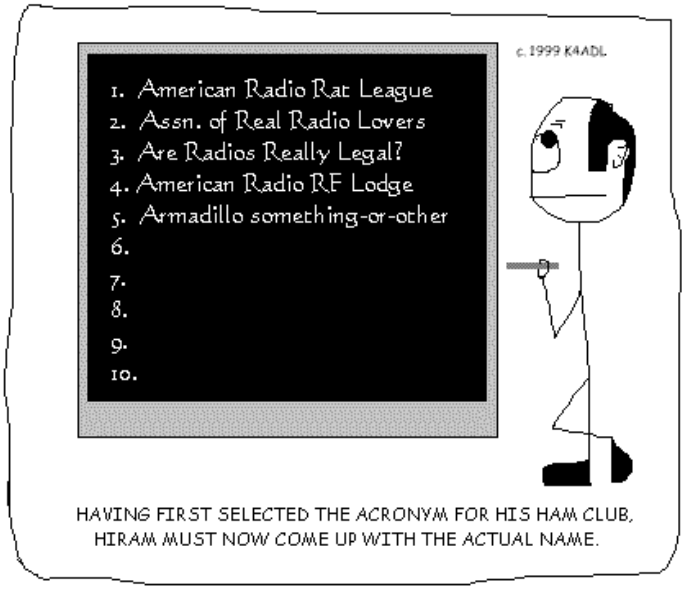
http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/

http://www.retrevo.com/

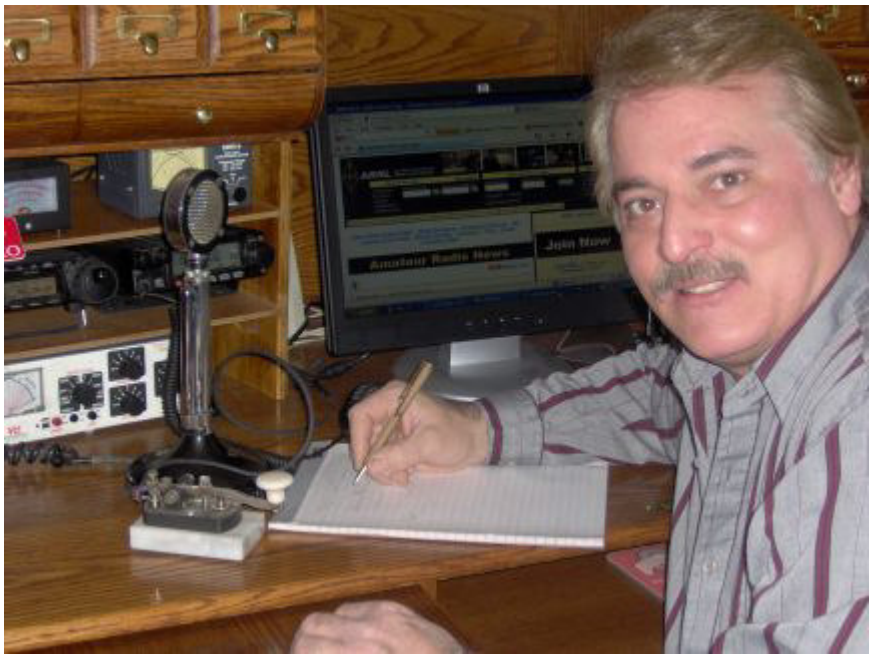
http://w1hkj.com/NBEMS/

Please see **Up coming Social Events on Page 4.**

73, Don Russell, W8PEN (EX- WA8YRS)



MEMBERSHIP PROFILE:
Michael Deane, W8OIO



Mike Deane, W8OIO

Well, where do I start and when did I first take an interest in Amateur Radio. I guess I would have to go back into the late 1960's when just a curious teenager fascinated with electrical sparks, smoke and the warm glow that the glass electron tubes emitted into the late night hours during those cold winter nights in my upstairs farmhouse bedroom.

I first took an interest in broadcast radio, listening to distant A.M. radio stations like WLS out of Chicago and WABC, broadcasting from New York City. Not fully understanding why I could receive them so well during the evening hours but not during the day fascinated me and raised an interest to seek out similar stations from around the states. My father had a portable Short Wave receiver manufactured by the Standard Corporation with a collapsible antenna mounted on top.

My interest in antenna's took place with that S.W. receiver as I found out by adding additional wire lengths I could receive even better than with the built-in antenna, receiving foreign stations like Johannesburg, South Africa along with European stations, all within my upstairs bedroom.

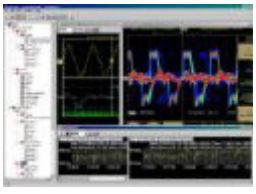
After graduating from High School, I enlisted in the United States Air Force as a radar maintenance technician learning the basics of electronic theory while stationed at Kessler A.F.B. in Biloxi, Mississippi. After completing Tech School I was reassigned to Avon Park Bombing Range in central Florida where I met Willard Tejhen, a Citizen Band enthusiast who introduced to me, two-way communication radio. My first base station was established in 1976 in my dorm room on Base, consisting of a Realistic 30-A 23 channel C.B. radio and a P.D.L. II quad antenna system with an assigned call sign of KOH 4949.

After being discharged in 1977, I continued with the C.B. radio hobby a few more years until around 1981 when I gave it a rest.

Around 1992 I decided to again take up the hobby purchasing a Uniden mobile radio installed in my truck. I didn't have a clue as to whom I'd be talking with as all of my friends had gotten out of radio and lived in a different area. I didn't know anyone around Butler much less Knox County. The first person I met locally on the C.B. radio just happened to be Bill Waits (N8OGX) who introduced me to another hobbyist by the name of Dick Huggins (N8RDH). As you can probably figure out by now, with those two Ham operators encouraging me to pursue a better mode of operating, I had no other choice but to obtain my Amateur license in 1998.

Presently my station equipment consists of the Yaesu 857-D (my favorite) with the FT 900 AT as a back-up HF rig along with the Yaesu FT 2800 and FT 1802 M for VHF operation on the 2 meter band. I have an Alinco 2 meter in the garage for monitoring with various HT's to go portable with. My antennas consist of the Inverted Parallel Dipole for HF, an Avanti PDL II quad for 10 meter operation, and a 10 meter vertical with dipoles for 2 meter and 440 mounted along with a 2 meter yagi beam for simplex operation. I have plans this year to homebrew a 6 meter yagi using the antenna analyzer my wife purchased for me this past Christmas. With the exception of the two 10 meter antennas, all others antennas are homebuilt as I enjoy building my own.

My favorite pastime in radio is the ragchew sessions that can take place at any moment and involves most any subject that might be brought up during the QSO. With that said, people are what I enjoy the most about this hobby as communications depends on more than one operating alone, it's an interdependent hobby where we depend on each other to complete the process. Each of You are the reason why I have enjoyed this hobby and look forward to our next communication together. As Porky the Pig would say, "That's All Folks" ... 73's and thanks for taking the time.... <mike> W8OIO



Build Something!

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU'

A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can t really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair. That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build, but are useful additions to the ham shack.

Here are a couple of sources:

* Elecraft (www.elecraft.com). In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about anything on the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation. I also have and use the W1 wattmeter.

* TenTec (radio.tentec.com/kits). While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits.

* QRP Kits (www.qrpkits.com). QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit ($40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience:

* Small Wonder Labs (www.smallwonderlabs.com)

* Wilderness Radio (www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html)

* Milestone Technologies (www.mtechnologies.com)

* Almost All Digital Electronics (www.aade.com/index.html)

* FAR Circuits (www.farcircuits.net)

* Jackson Harbor (home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm)

* QRPme (www.qrpme.com/)

* Linear Amp UK (www.linamp.co.uk)

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts only for a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out:

* American QRP Club (www.amqrp.org)
* Four State QRP Club (4sqrp.com/kits/kits.htm)

* NORTEX (www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm)

Ready to rock and roll? Here are a couple websites that you might want to check out before you dive in:

* Electronic Construction from A to Z (www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm). This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder.

* Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station (www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html). This site not only discusses kit building, but also radio theory.

* The Art of Kit Building (ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html)

I hope that I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

What have you built lately? Let Dan know. Email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

FIELD DAY 2008 RULES AND FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

(From the ARRL Letter, February 9, 2008)

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rules changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail <fdinfo@arrl.org>.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

"We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again participate transmitting the W1AW special Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet.

Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T shirts will be announced in the next few weeks.

Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from $8-$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, you are encouraged to order them no later than June 13.

CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, March 10, 2008 at the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. This months program is a demonstration of the "Ham Radio Deluxe" Program.

Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) is a suite of windows programs providing CAT control for commonly used transceivers and receivers. HRD also includes mapping and PSK31 software. HRD is free for Radio Amateurs, Shortwave Listener (SWLs) and charitable organisations.

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. Family and friends welcome. You do not need to be a ham or club member to participate in this event.

Come join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Each month we try a different place, so check the MVARC Newsletter for current information. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, can also be contacted for the latest news on the 2 meter or the 440 Mhz. Repeaters. Or tune into our ARES net each Sunday at 8:00 PM for current information.

******The next Breakfast will be March 8 at 9:00 AM at the R&M Southside Dinner, 620 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.******

FEBRUARY 2008
MEETING MINUTES

President Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, submitted the minutes for the February Club meeting in the absence of Secretary Jeff Butz, N8SMT.

There were no January minutes to be read.

Barry Butz gave the Treasurers report. They were not recorded, but see later in this Newsletter for the updated treasurers report.

Mike McCardel, KC8YLD presented the bill of $42 to be reimbursed for the Wave Theory pizza.

Don Russell,W8PEN, moved to pay the bill and Dick Huggins, N8RDH, seconded. The motion carried.

Larry "Doc" Helzer, AA8WP accepted the appointed of Field Day Chairman. Don, W8PEN, volunteered to be technical overseer and antenna specialist. Don is also to set up the CW station.

Dick Huggins, N8RDH, has been appointed as ARRL 50th year Affiliation Birthday Party Chairperson.

A Bicycle race and the Kenyon College Earth Day Marathon was discussed. Members present see benefit in participating. Mike will check with Marathon to see if they are expecting our help.

Health update on N8OGX surgery was pending.

Harold Rush, AA8BI and and Dave Patton, KC8UTL, status unknown.

Members discussed how we might be able to introduce local schools and possibly retirement homes to ham radio Mike, KC8YLD, to check and see if there is any intrest from outside organizations for this endeavor. This topic came up because of an article in the February Newsletter from the ARRL Club Newsletter.

It was announced that our monthly club breakfast is to be the second Saturday of each month at various area restaurants. The March breakfast will be March 8 at 9:00 AM at the R&M Southside Diner, 620 South Main Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Meeting was adjourned.

The monthly program was a video on soldering and accompanied by some hands on experience.

Members present:

Tony R. Spoegel	KC8UR
Larry J Helzer, DVM	AA8WP
Dick Huggins	N8RDH
Barry Butz	N8PPF
Don Russell	W8PEN
Mike McCardel	KC8YLD

73, Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Treasurer's Report

February 29, 2008
for February

Income:

Dues:	$ 0.00
Donations:	$ 0.00
Interest: $ .09	
50-50:	$11.00

Expenses:
Refreshments at Kenyon program: $42.00

Balance on 2-29-07: $2136.84

Designated Funds
Year 2005 Repeater Fund: $653.94
Field Day Fund: $108.30

Note that December's year-end report should have shown the balance of $2097.68 being on 12-31-07, not 10-29-07.

We now have 29 paid-up members, which is 17 fewer than last year. If you aren't up-to-date, please mail in your dues, or better yet, bring them to the next meeting. Last year we lowered the dues considerably, thinking that could encourage membership. So far it hasn't happened. Remember that the club needs funds to support its activities.

Barry N8PPF

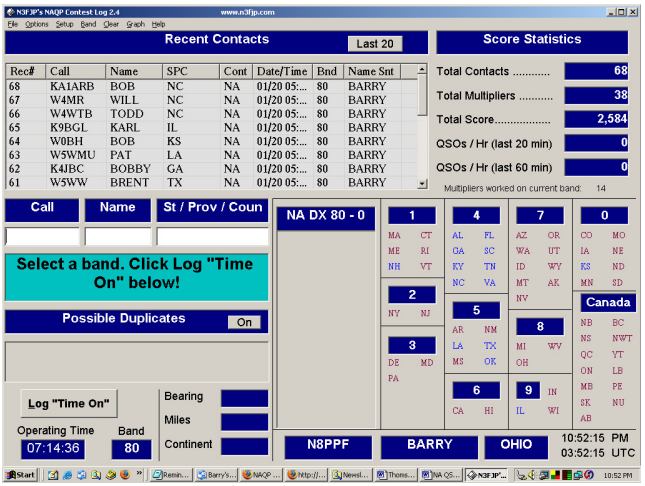
NORTH AMERICA QSO PARTY

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

Although I have done a little VHF contesting, my HF contesting has been limited to Field Day, which I enjoy tremendously. Don W8PEN told me about the North American QSO Party. He said it is a low pressure ARRL/NCJ contest held in mid-winter and mid-summer. Actually each season has three weekends – one each for CW, SSB, and RTTY. I decided to make a stab at the SSB contest on January 19. It lasts for 12 hours but you're only allowed to operate for 10 of those. When you take a break it must be at least 30 minutes.

Also, your power is limited to 100 watts. Being a little bashful, I didn't do any CQ-ing myself but used the hunt-and-pounce method of answering calls. It was fairly easy actually. The bands aren't nearly as crowded as on Field Day but there were still plenty of operators. I would say I was able to make a contact with about ¾ of the stations I answered, if not on the first try, then after a few tries. One station in Honduras was really coming in well but I wasn't able to reach him – too much competition. The information exchanged is simply call, name and state.

Early in the afternoon I started on 20 meters, then switched to 40 meters around 6pm. I finished up on 80 meters later on. The N3FJP logging software worked well. This is the same package we use for field day. It records the contact information, warns of possible duplicates, and keeps a running tally of your score and operating time.



When all was said and done, I had operated 7 hours 15 minutes, made 68 contacts in 38 states (including 2 Canadian provinces) and scored 2584 points. Results haven't been published yet, but comparing last year's, I might be in the top 70%! But that wasn't really the point anyway. I wanted to try the contest and have some fun, which I did. I will definitely enter again.

RADIO-ACTIVITY

By Don Russell, W8PEN

By now the majority of you know that I have changed my call sign from WA8YRS to W8PEN. Why in the world would I change my call after more than four decades of use?

I have mention Royce "Woody" Woodward, W8PEN, several times since becoming the editor of this Newsletter. Woody owned a frequency measurement lab out on New Delaware Road until his death in the mid 1980's. Woody was the closest thing I had to an "Elmer". I spend a lot of time out at his lab learning things I never new before. Learning was easy because it was all right there in front of you.

Dick Hambrick, WA8EHF, and I spent many hours installing a set of long wires for Woody. Woody had it all laid out. There was the center 50 foot telephone pole, the other telephone poles spaced in a circle about 300 feet away from the center one. I think we installed 9 or 10 of these long wires. It took a tractor to pull the wires tight enough not to have a lot of droop in them! Woody intended to use these wires as a "V beam" for ham radio. I don't know if that really happened or not, but I know he used the wires for his business, which was doing monthly frequency measurements for Broadcast stations required by FCC rules. Woody also did consulting work for broadcast stations.

Woody let us set up the Mt. Vernon Repeater on his property. For the receive site, we had a 90 foot tower about a thousand yards or so from his lab. We buried remote and audio cables and had the transmitter in his lab. We did not use duplexers back then. They were too expensive. As Woody's place was very high, at like 1340 feet elevation, the repeater worked really well. I also did Field Day out there for a number of years.

So there you go. After thinking about it for 10 to 20 years, I finally grabbed Woody's call for my own. In honor of Woody, W8PEN is now back on the air! I cannot wait for the next CW contest! By the way, I lost contact with Dick Hambrick. I looked his call up in the AE7Q call sign database and it expired in 1996.

QSL Maker

After having my call sign changed, I started thinking about a new QSL card. For the last several years I have been making my own QSL cards. I would use the Windows Paint program to design my QSL and then print it out on photographic paper. These look really good, although the photographic paper you can buy does not seem to be as heavy as standard QSL stock. Also, the QSL cards need to be 4 x 6 to fit the photo paper. Most

QSL cards are something in the order of 3-½ x 5, so that they fit in a standard non business sized envelope.

Two problems arose when trying to convert my QSL card design to my new call sign. Number one was that the picture I used to design my QSL card had been deleted off of my computer. Two, the QSL Card I had was designed to fit an index card which was 3 x 5. That makes a pretty cheap QSL card. 3 x 5 index cards run about $1.50 per pack of 50 at Staples. It is attractive, but I wanted something a bit better with photographic paper.

Enlarging the original card to 4 x 6 did not work. I lost too much quality in the enlargement process. I figured I would have to wait until I got another picture of myself at the rig. So what to do until then?

After mentioning my problem to Mike, W8OIO, Mike told me that he used a free program off the internet called "QSL Maker". Interested, I downloaded this program as we continued to talk.

QSL Maker was programmed by John McDonough, WB8RCR. It does exactly what is says it will do. It provides an easy and fast way to design and print your own QSL cards. I had one designed that I thought was pretty good before my QSO with Mike was over. You can download QSL maker at:

http://hfradio.org/wb8rcr

As I said, QSL maker does exactly what it says it will do. There are, however, a few things that I did not like about it. For one thing, The only graphic file it will read is Bit Map (bmp and dip). It would have been nice if it could read jpg and other popular graphic files. At first, I did not think this would be a problem. I would just put my jpg files into "Paint", and save them as bmp. Problem I ran into was that the image lost a lot of quality during the conversion process.

The other thing I did not like about it was that the image had to be for the background of the QSL card, meaning you could not load just a picture and place it where you wanted it. Again, not a big deal. I just went to the "Paint" program and created a graphic the size of the QSL card with the image where I wanted it placed on the card. This worked better than the file conversion. In fact, I was very pleased with the result. It is just something you have to work around though.

The program is very easy to use and had several options. With the "PAGE" option, you can decide how many QSL cards you want printed on a page, and the exact location of each QSL. This is a good option if you use 8 x 11-½ inch card stock that are perforated into post card sized dimensions or if you plan on cutting out your cards with scissors or a paper cutter. You print your cards and tear them apart or cut them out, making two or more attractive QSL cards. The "CARD" option lets you set your background image, or color of the card if not using an image. "CALL" lets you place your call on the card in any position and any size and color desired. "Address" lets you put your name and address in up to four lines, again, any size, color or font you wish to use. "BLOCK" is simply the QSO information box and can be placed anywhere on the QSL desired. It can also be shaded any color. "GREETING" is the lines containing "73" and "TNX QSL PSE", standard on most QSL cards and can be located anywhere on the card, any size, font, or color. You can also change the text to anything you want. Finally, "EXTRA" is two lines of text of your choice which can be placed anywhere, any color, any size. This can be used to proclaim membership or award status.

Positioning any of the above on the Card is done by using X and Y coordinates. Maybe not the best approach compared the click and drag windows procedures of today. It does work, and with a little cut and try, one can get these items exactly where they need to be.

For a really nice QSL card using strictly black ink, one might look for some color card stock. Mike said he found some at Walmart. That would make a great card at a very low price. I prefer the professional appearance of using photo paper, but doing so may be a bit more expensive. One idea is to design your QSL card to fit on the 4 x 6 photo paper, and then take the jpg file image to Walmart, or Rite Aid to make copies of them. If one waits for a sale, it is possible to get copies for 10 or 15 cents each. That would be a photo QSL card priced at $10 to $15 per hundred. Not a bad price at all. Probably a lot cheaper than you can print them at home.

As one can see, "QSL Maker" has lots of options and is pretty flexible. With some imagination a very attractive QSL Card can be created with very little effort. I would recommend "QSL Maker" to anyone that wants to make their own QSL cards without too much of a hassle. If you decide to check this program out, contact Mike or myself. We have designed a few attractive background images that can be used. The program itself does contain a very limited number of background images.

FCC DENIES PETITIONS TO BRING BACK MORSE CODE TESTING

(From the ARRL Letter, February 29,2008)
(Some people never give up…..W8PEN)

In a "Memorandum Opinion and Order" (MOO) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-59A1.pdf> released February 28, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a "Report and Order" (R&O)

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-178A1.pdf>

in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, that eliminated Morse code testing as of February 23, 2007.

The "R&O" amended Section 97.501 to remove the telegraphy requirement. In reaching this decision, the FCC noted in the R&O that "one of the fundamental purposes underlying our Part 97 rules is to accommodate amateur radio operators' ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and that the Commission had previously concluded that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of his or her ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The FCC also noted that another fundamental purpose underlying Part 97 rules is "to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public, particularly with respect to emergency communications, and that the Commission had previously concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video modes, because information can be exchanged much faster using modes of communication other than telegraphy."

The Commission therefore concluded that requiring an individual to demonstrate Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement "did not further the purposes of the Part 97 rules." The Commission also found that this reasoning applied equally to the General Class and the Amateur Extra Class, so "it rejected suggestions that the Morse code requirement be eliminated for the General Class license but retained for the Amateur Extra Class license."

In the wake of the FCC's actions in WT Docket 05-235, two amateurs submitted separate petitions to the FCC, asking them to bring back the testing. Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina California, objected to the FCC eliminating the telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, requested the FCC reconsider their decision for "'strictly procedural'" reasons.

Gordon asserts that "'the failure to keep the Morse code telegraphy requirement intact, at least as a required examination element for the Amateur Extra Class operator license, fails to take into consideration the significant national security implications that require retaining adequate examination safeguards to insure the viability that Morse code telegraphy provides, not only to the Amateur service, but the nation as well.'" Gordon argues that the requirement should be retained so that amateur operators can act as "a 'strategic reserve,'" because there is "no assurance that...voice or digital modes will even be operationally viable in future emergency communication environments."

The FCC was not persuaded, however, that eliminating the Morse code examination element will affect national security or emergency communications. "We agree with the commenters who point out that requiring applicants to pass a one-time telegraphy examination did not and would not guarantee a supply of skilled telegraphy operators. Moreover, nothing in the Commission's decision prevents an interested amateur radio operator from pursuing Morse code proficiency."

The FCC reiterated their prior conclusion that "an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules, i.e., to accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public. Accordingly, we deny the petition."

In the MOO, Ward states that he "encountered difficulty" in submitting his comments and reply comments to the NPRM electronically and that his filings were not posted on the ECFS (the Commission's electronic filing system) until after the deadlines had passed. He asserts that "there is no certainty that the Commission considered his comments and reply comments, that the late posting of his comments prevented others from replying to them, and that it is 'quite likely that other comments were treated improperly.'" As a result, Ward requested that the FCC "stay the proceeding, reopen the record and reconsider the NPRM after the close of the extended comment period."

The FCC claims that all comments in the ECFS "were considered before the Commission adopted the Report and Order, regardless of the how or when they were filed. Moreover, many of the 3900 comments and reply comments expressed the same view as Mr. Ward, so the substance of his views unquestionably was replied to and considered. Finally, he provides no evidence that ECFS mishandled other comments. No other party has complained that his or her comments were not received. We conclude, therefore, that reopening the proceeding for additional comments is not justified, and we deny the petition."

In summary, the FCC said neither petition asserted "any grounds for reconsidering" the decision in the Report and Order. "We believe that the actions taken therein will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service, and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees."

HOW TO SOLDER:
Members Learn How at January Meeting

At one time or another, most ham radio hobbyists decide that they would like to home-brew something, or build a kit. It may be something simple like a piece of test equipment for the shack, or just a funny device that lights up a lot of LED's. Big and small electronic projects all have one thing in common: The hobbyist must learn proper soldering techniques if the project is going to come to a successful conclusion.

Barry Butz, N8PPF

MVARC members spent some time after the January club meeting learning the fine art of soldering. Assisted by two videos that showed soldering basics, and with some instructions from local Technical Guru Barry Butz, N8PPF, members left the meeting feeling confident that they could indeed put a kit together that would work.

Left to Right: KC8UR, AA8WP, KC8YLD, N8PPF

The two videos, from a series of videos called "AmateurLogic.TV, were very interesting. The first video dealt with soldering basics from choosing your soldering iron, to proper soldering techniques. The second video was about soldering surface mounted parts. In the second video, members actually got to see a Softrock 40 software defined radio kit being put together. The Softrock 40 is a complete ham band receiver which plugs into a computer USB port and uses the computer and its sound card to define how the radio will work. Very interesting, and very cheap. Under $30.00 for the kit.

Those that missed the videos can watch them here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBZwaTpJ31E

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiwMKdaQCQ0

The soldering information is buried in the video so you will have to fast forward to it. Or, just watch the entire video(s). It is all interesting stuff.

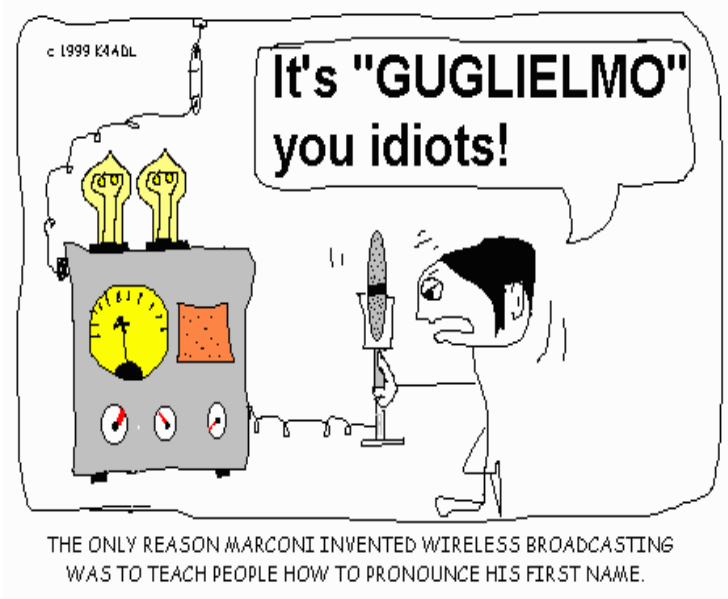
Information on the Softrock 40 receiver can be viewed here:

http://www.amqrp.org/kits/softrock40/version5.html

After the videos were viewed, Barry gave some hints on soldering and disordering (removing components from a circuit board).

All in all, it was a very interesting evening.

Don…W8PEN



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The ARRL letter is a weekly e-mail publication by the ARRL. You may read the entire ARRL letter by visiting the ARRL Web page at http://www.arrl.org/. **Other News** from: http://ky4ky.com/fyi.htm.

The ARES E-Letter is an e-mail digest of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Past issues of The ARES E-Letter are available at http://www.arrl.org/ares-el/. Issues are posted to this page after publication.

Project OSCAR is a monthly column written for Newsletter Editors. Columns will appear as space permits. You may download all the columns yourself at: http://www.projectoscar.net/beacon.php

Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to ham radio, with an emphasis on local activities, equipment reviews, and personal experience to wa8yrs@arrl.net or Don Russell, WA8YRS, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

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: