

Ham Radio Rocks

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club March, 2014 Newsletter



Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each Month at 7:00 PM at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 N. Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Local Ham Coumminity

K8EEN Repeater: 146.790 Mhz (-600 Khz With PL of 71.9 Hz) KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 Mhz (+5Mhz With PL of 71.9 Hz) R BE R

Sunday Night ARES Net at 9:00 P.M. on The K8EEN Repeater Wednesday Night Social Net at 9:00 P.M. on the KD8EVR Repeater

Success! We Have New Hams!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Sponsored a VE test session Saturday, March 1rst at the Red Cross Training Center. The testing was held in conjunction with The club sponsored Technician Class Course, which ended the Thursday before the testing.

We had three successful students earning their first amateur radio license. Linda Coulson, Rick Graumlich, and John Eaglesprite all passed the test and waiting for their Callsigns. Club member Scott Fields K8AEC passed his Extra Class examine, upgrading to an Extra. Scott Keyes, KD8WGO, from Granville also upgraded to Extra.

Congratulations to all the above. We had a 100% passing rate for the test session. A job well done.

A big thanks goes out to our VE's as well. E.Mike McCardel KC8YLD, Jim Jennessee KD8UT, Frank Counts KC8EVS, Emery Bennett W8TW, and Don Russell W8PEN. Prospective VE Jim Williams N8IBR was also there helping out. Thanks Jim!

One other from the class, Christian Graumlich, decided that he needed a little more study time and will take the exam in a few weeks. The club is committed to helping Christian obtain his license, as well as anyone else interested in ham radio.

Prospective hams should know that the Question Pool

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Training Center, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Please remember to check into the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. on the K8EEN 2-meter Repeater.

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.

Retired club members meet each Friday at 10:00 AM for a breakfast at Hardy's, 998 Coshocton Ave., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Come enjoy some good Ham Radio Fellowship and conversations. Oh, you don't have to be retired to join us. Contact Emery Bennett W8TW or David Byrd KD8RST for more information.

Join MVARC club members every second Saturday of the month for breakfast. Breakfast Coordinator Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, reports good turnouts for this event.

The next Breakfast will be Saturday, March 8th at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio for the Technician Class Exam has been updated for this year, effective July 1rst.

Don Russell, W8PEN, is busy updating the clubs study guide. The new guide is almost finished and work will start on creating the power point presentation for next year's class. Just remember. If you are planning on testing before July 1rst, use the Question Pool dated June 2010. If you are planning on testing July 1rst or latter, use the question pool dated July 2014.

Membership Profile

Jim Williams N8IBR

I received my first licensed in April of 1971 when my long awaited Technician Class License arrived in the mail the week before the Dayton Hamfest.

The first thrill of using my own call sign happened on 2 meters while mobile going to my first Dayton Hamfest in



1971. And yes Dayton was held in April back then. Like myself, I am sure that some of the older operators can remember attending a few Dayton Hamfest during freezing rain and snow storms.

In the past I have been employed in the commercial two-Way radio sales and service field, worked in a hospital surgical unit, had a bakery delivery route, and most recently retired after working 30 years in the baking industry for a large grocery chain.

My first exposure to Amateur Radio was as a youth in the late 1950's and early 1960's. My brother Lou (W8LKW), and family friend Howard Tharp (K8PWL) would allow me to participate when they built projects, and to be a supervised operator during events like field day. I vividly remember my first personal project asa 9 year old was building a simple working crystal radio set to earn a Boy Scout Merit Badge and thinking I had concurred the world.

During my early ham years, most of my operating activity was weak signal work on 6 and 2 Meter Single Sideband. I had a lot of fun on those bands running low profile stations. I upgraded in 1984 at the Dayton Hamfest to General Class and added HF activity to my resume.

Most of my activity from the early 1980's, to the mid 2000's was limited to field day and the occasional weekend contest. This was due to my work schedule and family commitments. I did manage to schedule vacation time to operate various events like Jamboree On The Air with local Boy Scout troops.

I continued to climb the licensing ladder by passing the Advance class test in 1997, and then the Extra class test in 2003. I retired in November 2012, and now have as much time as I desire to spend with this great hobby.

I was a MVARC member the first time beginning in the late 1990's through the early 2000's. I rejoined the club last year after retiring, and plan to remain a long term member.

During my MVARC membership term's, I have meet many individuals whom have influenced my continuing education and interest in our hobby. I learned many of my present operating skills from Don (W8PEN) and others when they gave talks at club meetings on proper operating procedures for field day, contest events, and casual rag chewing operations.

I then became involved in The National Traffic System when former club member Don Frazier (KA8FCC) presented information about message traffic handling to the club. I am now quite active in the NTS at the local, state, and regional levels. During the week, I check into 2 to 3 nets a day, and handle over 100 pieces of message traffic a month. Remember, you don't have to be an HF operator to participate in the NTS as there are many local 2 meter traffic nets in the state of Ohio.

Another of my interest involves the making of homebrew wire antennas for the HF bands. These projects can be very simple to construct and inexpensive to build. The emphasis being on inexpensive.

I have tried many different wire antennas over the years and still read as many books on the subject as I can get my hands on. You would be surprised how well a simple wire antenna might work for your home or field day type stations. I try to put up the antennas that will maximize my receive capabilities, because as the old saying goes, "If you can't hear them, you can't work them," Believe me, this is quite a true statement.

The modes that have recently caught my eye are the digital modes that have been discussed at recent club meetings. I plan to try out these modes in 2014 as lower power operating has always interested me.

I have always ran 100 watts or less at my stations to keep peace with my neighbors. As many older hams know, in days gone by, many of the older televisions and stereo systems were easily overloaded by transmitted radio signals. So, as I have always had neighbors close by, and even though I was meeting the FCC purity requirements, I ran-lower power to be a good neighbor.

My present home station is a simple one. I run an Icom-735 and Yaesu FT-857D on HF. I have a TYT-UVF-1 handheld to use on VHF and UHF along with the FT-857D. The antenna system here consist of a R-5 vertical for 20 through 10 meters, a full wave horizontal loop for 80 meters, a home brew multi-band dipole for 40 through 6 meters, and a 6 db gain vertical on VHF and UHF. I am active on SSB and slow speed CW on the HF bands. I operate mainly FM on VHF and UHF. I do plan to add more bands and modes in 2014.

I look forward to seeing you at club functions or working you on the air.

73's Jim Williams N8IBR

MINUTES MVARC JANUARY 13TH 2014 MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting called to order by KD8UT at 7:06 PM.

Introduced new officers and directors for 2014.

Welcomed N8PPF's guest John Lunn.

December Treasurer's report was read and approved. Motion W8TW, $2^{\rm nd}$ N8PPF

December secretary's report read and approved. Motion N8SMT $2^{\rm nd}$ W8PEN

Committee reports:

W8PEN reported repeater itself was operating okay. Echolink computer is set to reboot nightly, which has solved intermittent connect issues.

W8PEN reported Technician license class would start Thursday January 16 at the Mt. Vernon Red Cross building running from 7 to 9 pm. Have 3 students for sure, with possibly 2 to 3 more. The class will run through February, with testing session in March.

Old business:

Discussion continued from previous meetings on what to do with the Emcomm vehicle. An initial motion was made to return the vehicle to the city, but was tabled until more research can be done. We need to talk to Arlene and the mayor to find out more about the terms of our agreement with the city on the vehicle.

There was discussion about the possibility that one member had been left off the recent ballot by mistake. It was brought up that W8UMH had agreed to run for Director, but was accidently omitted from the ballot. KD8UT suggested a special election be held at the February meeting to correct this situation. N8SMT is going to check his notes for clarification on whether or not W8UMH had agreed to run. He will report back in February.

New business:

KD8UT ask for ideas on programs to be presented at monthly meetings.

Also discussed was continuing the practice of holding some club meetings at remote locations. Especially the

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June meeting prior to field day. This meeting is usually held at the field day site.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:02 PM. Motion made K8AEC, 2nd W8PEN

Submitted by Secretary Jim Williams N8IBR

14 people present 13 members 1 guest N8IBR JIM WILLIAMS W8TW EMERY BENNETT KD8RST DAVID BYRD N8PPF BARRY BUTZ KC8MAB AL COULSON KC8EVS FRANK COUNTS KD8UT JIM JENNESSE KD8QPO DON BUNNER W8PEN DON RUSSELL N8SMT JEFF BUTZ

KD8HSA TOM EVANS **K8AEC SCOTT FIELDS** KC8UR TONY SPIEGEL JOHN LUNN-GUEST

ARRL membership: Is 25% asking too much?



By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In the March 2014 issue of QST, ARRL CEO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, makes a big deal of the fact that ARRL membership is now up to 162,200 members and is growing at a rate of about 1% per year. After patting the ARRL on the back about this, WJ1B launches into a discussion of different programs that WJ1B feels have contributed to the membership growth.

Let's take another look at the numbers, though. As the editorial points out, 10,300 ARRL members are international members, meaning that 151,900 U.S. hams are ARRL members. Another article in the March issue, "New Licenses," notes that the total number of licensed radio amateurs at the end of 2013 717,201.If you do the math, you'll find that only slightly more than one in five licensed radio amateurs are ARRL members. I personally don't think that's so hot,

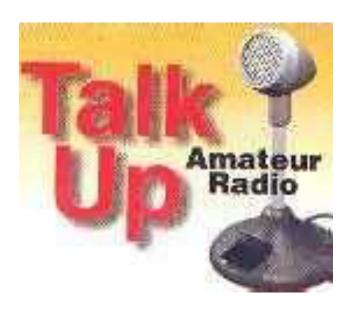
and it's certainly not worthy of all the self-congratulation going on in this editorial

The licensing article also points out that "the amateur radio population in the US grew by slightly more than 1 percent last year." That being the case, ARRL membership has grown at about the same rate. If all the programs noted in WJ1B's editorial were so effective, wouldn't you expect membership growth to be at least 2%?

I've said this before, and I'll say it again. I think the ARRL should set a goal to enroll at least 25% of licensed radio amateur as members. I think that this is achievable, and it seems to me that any group calling itself "the national organization for amateur radio" should have at least one in four amateur radio licensees as part of its membership.

What do you think? Is reaching 25% asking too much? If you think I'm right, please reach out to your ARRL division director and tell him so. More members would mean that the ARRL could deliver more services and have more clout in Washington. That sounds like a good thing to me.

When he's not worrying about ARRL membership, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands, teaching amateur radio classes, and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Radio Activity



V Beam Antenna

Last month I was talking about rotatable dipoles and Loop antennas. Here is another idea. How about a V Beam to provide some gain on 20 through 10 meters? Heck, it would probably work great on 6 meters.



V Beams can provide solid gain at relatively low cost when compared to a Tri-band Yagi or Quad antenna. Unless you buy used, you are talking a minimum of \$1,000 just for a yagi antenna and an antenna rotator so that you can rotate the darn thing. One can put up standard TV tower rather cheaply if buying used. New tower though, you would be talking perhaps another grand.

Even if you bought all new wire and feedline, putting up a V Beam should cost less than \$200. Depending on how long you make the V Beam, performance could be comparable to a 3 element yagi. The big drawback is that you will need some land. A V Beam probably would not be a good idea on a city lot.

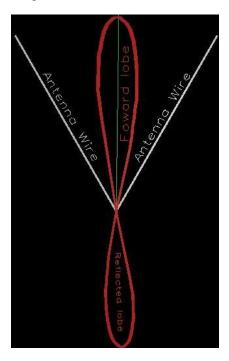
Another matter would be that of the feedline. Most V beams are fed with ladder line into an antenna tuner. If you don't have an antenna tuner, add that to the cost of the antenna. This is the way I would do it. If one wishes to use a V Beam on just one band, then a matching network could be designed that would allow the antenna to be fed with coaxial cable.

If you have a suitable tree, the apex of a V beam can go there. If not, a 30 foot mast would be acceptable. Personally, I would pick up some used tower sections. Two sections plus a 10 foot mast would work well.

How Long? You would want a V beam to be at least a wavelength on the lowest intended operating frequency. Two wavelengths would be much better and the gain increases the longer you make it. So for a small V beam for 20 – 10 meters, one would need a V beam to be at least 66 feet on each leg. 132 feet would be much better. Exact length of the legs are not critical and can be 66 feet to whatever is convenient for your situation.

If the apex is at 30 feet then the ends of the V beam can be around 8 to 10 feet. Just low enough not to be a hazard to someone walking by. The angle between the wires should be about 40 degrees. I think that would put the end poles about 100 feet apart.

There was an article is QST a few years ago about putting up a V Beam. I think this guy used 90 feet per leg. I also believe he used 3 or more legs and switch in two of the legs depending on what direction he wanted to work.



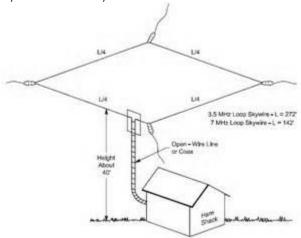
A V Beam radiates forwards and backwards with gain. Gain is slightly better going forward, but there is not much of a front to back ratio and there is plenty of usable gain both ways. The gain pattern is through the V shape between the wires. There is no gain on the sides. I would be more interested in working contest stations in the densely populated East and West Coasts, so a single beam facing East or West would give me a good signal both ways. If I wanted North and South coverage, I could add an additional wire and use a relay to switch two wires in and out.

Back to the Loop

Jim Williams N8IBR has convinced me that a one wavelength horizontal loop antenna would be a worthwhile project.

Jim has been using horizontal loops for several years now and swears by them. Loops are very quiet antennas when receiving and pack a pretty good punch when transmitting as. Currently, Jim has an 80 meter loop up about 25 feet high and use coax to feed it into the shack.

The ARRL Handbook and the ARRL Antenna book have had the same horizontal loop article in them for years. Not sure if it is still there, but I would think so. Until recently, that antenna was said to work on 80 – 10 meters when being fed directly with coax. I believe the current article uses ladder line. Personally, I would try the coax feed first and if that did not work out, then go to ladder line. Coax is easier to work with and one wavelength loop antennas by nature are very broad banded.



I would like to consider putting up a horizontal loop, but am pretty spoiled with my windom antenna. I cover 160 – 10 meters with it. From the road, you can barely see the windom antenna wires. And that is even if you are looking for them. I really do not want to go back to lots of wires hanging off my tower.

Perhaps I can figure out a way to temporarily hang a horizontal loop antenna when I want to work a contest. Then I could have the best of both worlds. A good antenna when in need, and a clean antenna farm when not contesting.

I feel the same way about the vertical loop. Yes, I would like to have one available but don't necessarily want some eyesore that is only used a few days a month at best.



AFFILIATED CLUBS COORDINATOR REPORT...

From the Ohio Section News, February, 2014

It's hard to believe it's time to write another newsletter article, but yet here we are in February, which from my window, looks the same as January. Let me jump right into the good-stuff –

HAMFESTS!

The Mansfield Hamfest will be Sunday February 16th, by the time you read this, it will be history! I am looking forward to attending, my husband Gary, KE8O and I like to make a day of it. When I accepted the ACC position, one of the first things Gary asked me was "does this mean we're going to more hamfests?" I knew I was in

trouble right then and there! I have been reading all the newsletters that come my way and I try to put as much information from each club in my newsletter article and on my blogsite as possible. If you have an event, class, testing session, or anything radio related you would like to have on my blog please send it my way and I will put it out there as soon as I receive it.

What's the Scoop?

Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association..

This month's meeting will be on February 26th at 7:30pm and the topic is preparedness - In this newsletter article, Club President Dave Self, K8SSN says "This month the Program will be about preparing for **ANYTHING**. As hams we need to be ready for all the things that might be bestowed upon us. Such as, tornado's, hurricanes, major earthquake, brownouts, blackouts and not to forget the zombie apocalypse."

The club also inducted two new members into the 2013 GCARA Hall of Fame: Jay Adrick, K8CJY and Tom Denham, K8VOE. Congratulations to them both!

Follow the GCARA on the web and on Twitter...@W8DZ

Highland Amateur Radio Association..

I am fortunate to receive the HighlandARA MONDAY MORNING MEMO, which takes the place of their newsletter, and has weekly updates on their club happenings. It's a great idea and I have learned a lot from reading them each week. This week they shared their pick for Web Site of the Week - www.n2yo.com. If you need a place to track earth satellites, Ham, television, military, GPS, radio and a host of others. It also shows which of the satellites are the brightest to your eyes in the early morning and evening skies.

Also in the 'MMM' -

At 8:30 PM each Monday evening, Bob, K8TQK, calls the 144.252 Mhz two meter weak signal activity net. He normally has around 30 check-ins from as far as 400 miles from his Bainbridge QTH. Tuesday evening sees activity between 8-10 on the 222.1 MHz. calling frequency. N4PZ conducts an activity night from the Chicago area on 432.1 mhz each Wednesday.

Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS)...

PCARS had an interesting time at their last meeting.....Don't you hate it when you go to your normal meeting place (in this case a local restaurant) and they are closed? As the President and Vice President of PCARS said in their newsletter articles that it wasn't closed for the night, but forever! Luckily things worked out for them and things are coming together!

PCARS VE sessions are scheduled for 10:00 am on the first Saturday of every even numbered month.

February 1st, April 5th, June 7th, August 2nd, October 4th, December 6th

Special General Class VE Test Session (Open to anyone) - March 4th – 7 pm

Special Amateur Extra Class VE Test Session (Open to anyone) - March $19th-7\ pm$

OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society...

OH-KY-IN meets at the St. Bernard Municipal Building (Recr. Hall) at 120 Washington Ave. in St. Bernard (corner of Washington & Tower) on the first Tuesday of every month (except when elections conflict) at 7:30 PM. Please enter the doors that face the high school on Washington.

Visit OH-KY-IN on the web: http://www.ohkyin.org/

ARRL Special Service Club..

If your club is not an ARRL Special Service Club, this may be the year to do it! If you think your club is ready to take this step, and you would like assistance filling out the form or discussing what you need to do, contact me. If your club is not ready to take this step, contact me and we can discuss how we can turn your club into a SSC.

Include me on your club newsletter distribution list and if you are a social media person, follow me on Twitter, Facebook and on my ACC blog.

73, Sandy, N8YS

Affiliated Clubs Coordinator sandymackey@gmail.com

FROM THE SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

From the Ohio Section News, February, 2014

Ohio HF Emergency Preparedness Net. Tues at 7PM on 3850 kHz (+/-)

Ohio Digital Emergency Net (OHDEN) Tues at 8PM. 3585 kHz and 7072 kHz USB.

Ross T. Stillisano KB8JTZ Memorial Award Winner: David Rickon NF8O, of Medina, OH

Greetings and salutations from the Northeast corner of the Buckeye State where the temperature is 39 degrees and raining.

Many thanks to the Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club for having me at their recent club meeting. It was fun, had a great time, and I look forward to my next visit. Many thanks to everyone who attended the ARES Forum at the Mansfield Hamfest. We had great attendance and there wouldn't be any forum without you.

There will be another ARES Forum at the Toledo Hamfest in Perrysburg on Sunday, March 16th. Check out www.tmrahamradio.org for hamfest details. This forum will be especially important as I'll be announcing details from the Ohio ARES Leadership meeting.

Just a reminder, the Ohio ARES leadership meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15th at the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center. Meeting starts at 10AM and will conclude at 3PM

This meeting is for all those who hold ARES appointments including Assistant Emergency Coordinators and Official Emergency Stations. There's quite a bit on the agenda so please ensure your county and district is represented at this annual meeting.

DEC Eric Jessen N8AUC writes...

Ohio ARES Tenth District will be holding a Special Training Event on Saturday, March 1, 2014. This training is offered free of charge to all interested radio amateurs. The location will be the Lubrizol Conference Room at Tri-Point Medical Center. This link will get you to a map of the location, along with available driving directions. Click on the link, and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

http://www.lakehealth.org/lake-locations/tripoint-medicalcenter.

Doors will open at about 8:30AM for coffee and donuts, with the actual training beginning at 9:00AM.

Lunch will be provided to all attendees, and you should be on your way home before 4:00PM. Since lunch will be provided, and the room only holds 68 people, advance registration is required.

After all, we need to know how much food to have on hand. You can register for this event at http://dl0.mediaex.com/2014-dl0-mar. Just click on the link, and a form will pop up. Fill it in, and you're good to go. Contact me directly if you have any questions. Hope to see YOU there!!!

In final...

There are many public service events scheduled throughout the year. These events rely or depend on amateur radio for situational awareness among other things. These events need your help.

Please get in touch with your Emergency Coordinator or District Emergency Coordinator to find out when they are. Mark the dates down on your calendar so you can plan accordingly.

That's all I have for this week. Thank you for everything you do for amateur radio.

73, de Matt W8DEC

Section Emergency Coordinator w8dec@arrl.net



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| EIGHT | delivering this message. This is a free public service. Need additional mobile or portable equipment | FORTY SIX | Greetings on your birthday and | best SI | IXTY EIGHT | Sorry to h | near you are ill. | |
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| ELEVEN | assistance. Establish Amateur radio emergency communications | | radio operators at Am ha wonderful time. | | Н | andling | Instructions | |
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| | Anxious to hear from you. No word in some time. Please contact me as soon as possible. | FIFTY THREE | forward to getting together aga Received your It's apprec | in. cioted: nu | ımber, autho | rized unlim | ited) | |
| THIRTEEN FOURTEEN | Medical emergency situation exists here. Situation here becoming critical. Losses and damage | FIFTY FOUR | many thanks. Many thanks and good wishes. | de | elivered with | in hou | Cancel message ers of filing time; | |
| FIFTEEN | from increasing. Please advise your condition and what help is needed. | FIFTY FIVE | Good news is always welcome. delighted to hear about yours. | VELA | iginating sta <u>KC</u> Report dat | | of delivery (TOD |)) to origi- |
| SEVENTEEN | Property damage very severe in this area. REACT communications services also available. | FIFTY SIX | Congratulations on your, | I III III II | iting station. (D Report to | | station the ident | tity of |
| SEFERICEN | Establish REACT communication with on | FIFTY SEVEN | worthy and deserved achieveme Wish we could be together. | sit. | ation from w | hich receive | ed, plus date and | d time. |
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| NINETEEN | Request health and welfare report on (State name, address, and telephone number.) | FIFTY NINE | Congratulations on the new arri- mother and child are well. | | ethod of deli <u>(E</u> Delivering | | reply from addr | ressee, |
| TWENTY | Temporarily stranded. Will need some assistance. Please contact me at | SIXTY | Wishing you the best of everyth | ing on or | iginate mess | age back. | Hold delivery un | |
| TWENTY ONE | Search and rescue assistance is needed by | SIXTY ONE | Wishing you a very Merry Christ | mas and H) | (G Delivery b | y mail or la | indline toll call n pense involved, | not re- |
| TWENTY TWO | local authorities here. Advise availability. Need accurate information on the extent and | SIXTY TWO | a Happy New Year. Greetings and best wishes to yo | | rvice origina | | | rantel and |
| | type of conditions now existing at your location. | | pleasant holiday season. | | Designed | by Dav | e, N7YSS | |

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

| Street | |
|---|------|
| Phone NumberLicense Class ARRL Member (Y/N)E-Mail Extra Donation (Optional) bers are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one? No | |
| ARRL Member (Y/N)E-Mail Extra Donation (Optional) bers are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one? No | |
| Extra Donation (Optional) bers are entitled to a free MVARC E-Mail address. Would you like one? No | |
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