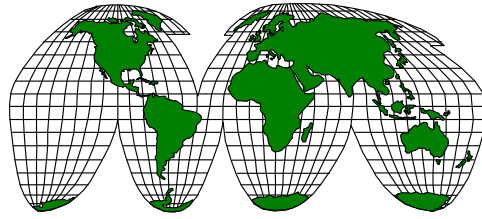


MOUNT VERNON

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

May 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 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 its been a great month for me. Ruben and I went on a spotter mission and learn some valuable things. I would like to address the newsletter we are currently having a problem with content. I need all submissions to be to me via my email kc8wxl@mvarc.net by the 25th of each month. If its not in by then I will run what I have. Please help with this it really helps me. Well its that time again Hamvention May 14,15 and 16 in Dayton. I hope as many of you can attend. I am working on something's to promote Field Day I will talk about it at the meting.

Thanks,

Jeff Hall

Knox County PIO for the ARRL/ Vice President or MVARC

Letter from the President:

My fellow hams,

Hello. I hope everyone is doing well. I have been battling a stubborn head cold/sinus infection for about 2 weeks now – I think I'm finally starting to get over it. ☺ Some interesting weather we have been having lately, although not as exciting as we are lead to believe. I'm sure there are plenty more storms headed our way this spring. Remember to be prepared in case we do have a weather situation. The more help we have, the better! ☺

Field day is approaching soon! I hope all of you can make plans to come out and enjoy a good time. Field day is open to everyone. If you know someone even slightly interested in Amateur Radio, then bring them out and let them get on the air! I'm hoping this year's weather is nice, so we can all enjoy ourselves. We are planning on having lots of food and plenty of fun.

At our last meeting we voted to extend an initial free membership to those that take club-sponsored classes and pass. This means anyone in our current Technician class that passes their exam will have the remainder of the year's club membership at no cost. We hope this will give them more incentive to get involved with the club and enjoy Amateur Radio.

Our website is in need of updates. We will soon change the layout to better suite our needs and make it easier for us to update. As a reminder, club email addresses and webspace are free to members. If you are interested in either of these, please let me know. We encourage the use of club email, since it makes it easier for us to send out information to members.

That's all for now.....hope to see you at our meeting – if not, have a great month!

☺

73's,

Ruben Clark

KB2SAI

MVARC Club President



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

The April ARES Nets are as follows:

Date:	April 4, 04	April 11, 04	April 18, 04	April 25, 04
Number of				
Check Ins:	11	11	12	11
Time Ended:	9:18 P.M.	9:24 P.M.	9:24 P.M.	9:18 M
Net Control:	N8QPM Bob	KC8WXL Jeff	KB8SAI Ruben	N1GTZ Phil
Emrg Coord:		N8QPM Bob	N8QPM Bob	N8QPM Bob
P.I.O.:	KC8WXL Jeff		KC8WXL Jeff	
Club Prez:				
Check Ins:	N1GTZ Phil KC8GBY Jerry KC8YLD Mike N8QHY Barbara AA8WP Doc KC8RTC Bob KB8TEX Dan N8PPF Barry	N1GTZ Phil KC8YED Steve KC8GBY Jerry AA8WP Doc W8GTS Gary AB8BI Harold N8PPF Barry N8QHY Barbara	KC8GBY Jerry KC8YED Steve WD8QHY Dick WA8YRS Don AA8WP Doc KC8RTC Bob N1GTZ Phil N8QHY Barbara	KC8GBY Jerry KC8YED Steve N8QHY Barbara WD8QHY Dick N8PPF Barry KC8JEZ AA8WP Doc KC8YLD Mike KC8UTL Dave

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. The Skywarn Steering Committee Meeting April 3, 2004 was uneventful and did not have much to send back to the group. The weather service paging system will be changing at the end of this month due to the Ohio EMA restructuring of the system. I will have to see how it will work. This was not the best time for the change over but the weather service did not have a say in the matter.
 The tornado sirens will be tested the first and third Fridays each month at 12 :00 PM. We need NET Controls who can do check ins for these nets. If you are available and you do not hear anyone else on the repeater, please take check ins and send me a report on all that checked in .

2. This is important so I am leaving this in for this month. Remember the National Weather Service needs information during severe weather.

Please report the following information when you are reporting severe weather.

Where are you located? Town (closest street intersection) or if in the country location closest state route and intersecting street. If you are on a give the county road name 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 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.

3. I hope every one has gotten their rain gauge. If you do not have one, go out and buy a rain gauge. Rain gauges can be purchased for \$1.69 at Wal-Mart up to hundreds of dollars for a digital rain gauge you can hook up to your computer. Try to get a rain gauge graduated on tenths. Remember to put your rain gauge in an area where it will not be blocked by buildings or trees.
4. The Ohio ARES EC meeting at the Ohio EMA building in Columbus, Ohio on April 24, 2004. The meeting was full of information. The hospitals in different regions of Ohio have large range in what is being done with emergency equipment and procedures for amateur radio operators. The ARES is going to a digital network using Winlink 2000 software for secure messaging. This system will use Paclink and Pactor for TNC protocol and will use both radio waves and the internet. Nodes are setup for HF transmission of traffic across the continental United States. The Winlink network is a global network. Software will be free for the ARES will use Winkink for transmission for emergency traffic. To find out more go to the following web site for information. <http://www.winlink.org>

The President's Citizen Corps Initiative consists of the following volunteer programs:

Neighborhood Watch Programs

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

Volunteer In Police Service (VIPS)

Disaster Supply Kits

There will be training for these organizations and the most likely place for the ARES is the

CERT program. To find more information on the CERT program,

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CERT/>. I will find more information on this subject in the next month and let everyone know the plans for Knox County.

The ARES

73's from N8QPM and have a good month !

High Frequency: Radio Sports Part 3

By Don Russell, WA8YRS

Welcome back to High Frequency. This month we will continue with the contesting subject. As far as operating goes, there are two methods to use during a contest. One is "Search and Pounce". This is the typical Mt. Vernon Field Day procedure where one slowly tunes the frequency and call other hams that are calling "CQ Contest". It can be very effective, and is generally much easier for beginners than method number two, which is "Running" a frequency. Running a frequency is fun and exciting if band conditions are right. Running a frequency is simply camping out on one frequency and calling "CQ Contest". It can be much more effective than Search and Pouncing if you have a good signal on the band. It is, however a good thing to combine the two methods during a contest to get the maximum benefit from both.

Search and Pouncing

Let us begin with the simpler method. Search and Pounce is used for a number of reasons. One, it is easier for the rookie contesteer to tune in a station, get his Contest Exchange, and then give him a call. Experienced contesters don't wait to get the Contest Exchange however; they dive right in if it is a station they have not worked before. In the quest to work all the multipliers possible for a given contest, Search and Pounce is necessary. You need to hunt down some of the rarer multipliers. If you are a QRP station, or a Low Power station with minimum antennas, Search and Pounce may be your only alternative during a contest. Your signal may be much too weak to control a frequency by calling CQ. Even a well equipped the Low Power (100 watt) station can only hold a frequency for just so long before the High Power guys crowd him out.

So let's start to Search and Pounce. First you should tune your transceiver to one end of the band. Some contesters like to start at the top of the band and work down, others prefer to start at the bottom and work up. Practically speaking, it makes no difference. I do both. If I get into a situation where another station is Search and Pouncing in the same direction as I am, and consistently getting the new station in his log before I do, I will go to the opposite end of the band and start Search and Pouncing in the other direction. That way I am not being held up by the other station always making the new QSO first. Okay, I have tuned my first station in. By golly, it's K8EEN, the club station for the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club! Imagine that! This is Field Day by the way and I am working in the non-social class, 1B (1 transmitter portable, one operator).

Here is how it would go:

K8EEN: CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY FROM K8EEN K8EEN CONTEST

ME: WA8YRS

K8EEN: WA8YRS 3 ALPHA OHIO

ME: QSL, 1 BAKER OHIO

K8EEN: QSL AND THANKS, QRZ'ED CONTEST FROM K8EEN

Simple, isn't it? This by the way is on SSB. Always use phonetics when giving your call on SSB during a contest. It saves having to repeat stuff. CW would be slightly different, but you get the picture. Some operators just say thanks, meaning that they got your info correct and continue calling CQ. Other stations always say QSL. If he does not ask for a repeat, you can be confident that he got everything okay. On CW, I just send a T U. meaning I got it and thank you. Some send G L (good luck), and others send 73.

Sometimes the station you are working will not get everything the first time. He/She may ask you to repeat all or part of the exchange. Do that, but just once. The station you are working is trying to obtain the highest score he can get. So don't waist his time by repeating the exchange two, three or four times! Speed is of the essence for the serious contesters. If it is obvious that the station you are working is having trouble hearing you, then you may have to repeat the exchange several times. He will usually let you know when this is the case. My suggestion would be to get a bigger antenna (Hi Hi)!

With contact number one under my belt, I tune to the next station and work him. Then the next, etc. If a station does not come back to me, on my second or third call, I will put him in my VFO memory and move on. Depending on how many memories my transceiver has, I may have many stations in my memory and go back to them and try to work them from time to time. CQing stations tend to stay on one frequency as long as the Running is good.

When I come to the end of the band I will either go back to the other end and start over again, or switch to a new band and work it the same way I worked the first band.

Depending on propagation, two or three bands will be open at any one time, and this is a very effective way not to run into dupes. Dupes are duplicate contacts on the same band, which is not allowed in most contests.

How do you get better at search and pouncing? Tune faster, call faster, give your exchange faster! Practice Practice! I have a program that actually simulates a contest. When running the program, you call CQ and simulated stations call you. You give your exchange and copy theirs down just like a real contest. It is a little boring because you don't have a true radio to tune around, make decisions on which band to operate on etc. It does however, get you used to copying the exchange down and typing in call letters. Oh, this is a CW program. I hear there is one for voice, but I have never tried to locate it. It would be fun too.

This closes another session of High Frequency. Next month we will discuss how to Run a frequency effectively. Stay tuned.

Minutes April 12, 2004 Monthly Meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm local time.

Treasury Report: \$356.24 in savings + \$430 in checking. Repeater fund is \$1031.74

Old News:

Issue 1: We will not be getting the old sheriff's tower.

Issue 2: Bob and this year's set exercise was discussed.

Issue 3: Skywarn cut its budget this year. They were expecting 20 to 25 people to show at last month's skywarn training. So was Jeff, KC8WXL, from his own inquiries of club members. Only about 10 showed. Is this going to happen when we have other training? The general consensus is yes!

Issue 4: What will it take to get people active in the club was extensively discussed. Steve will give a demonstration next month.

Issue 5: Emergency Communication Plan draft has been completed and only needs to be submitted.

Issue 6: Thank-you letter to George Barry still needs to go out.

New News:

Issue 1: An incentive plan to join technician classes was discussed. The first idea was to give those that pass a year's club membership paid in full. Alternatively we discussed making radios available for their use. The latter idea was shelved. A vote was taken on the former idea and it passed 10 to 1.

Issue 2: MVARC's website will be redesigned to make it easier to update. Along with the upgrade Jeff, KC8WXL wants to compile some CD's about the club, ARRL video etc. and mail them out to schools, newspapers and so on. \$20 was earmarked for this by vote.

Issue 3: Newsletter will be posted on our website without e-mail addresses.

Issue 4: The Salvation Army has donated a building for our use during emergencies. \$63 is in the field day fund. A field day committee meeting is

scheduled for April 24, Sat 11:00 am at Ryans.

Issue 5: Volunteer examiner application forms were passed out.

Issue 6: Weather spotter software was demonstrated.

50/50 drawing. Don Bunner KB8QPO won.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm local time.



This is Barry Butz' shack at the meeting he will share what equipment he has.

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

3851 Columbus Rd

Centerburg, Ohio 43011

740-625-(only) 6659

740-625-6649 fax

www.onlyneedtoask.com