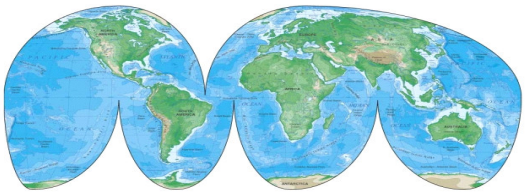
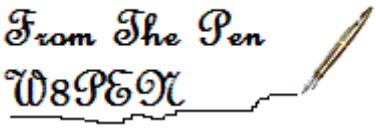
MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

C  Q

May 2008 Newsletter

MEETINGS SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 P.M. IN 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 9:00 P.M ON THE K8EEN REPEATER OPEN TO ALL*****



This is Saturday, May 3rd and I am just now starting to edit this Newsletter. The idea of organizing the Newsletter this late (I usually mail it on Sunday) is not a good one. However, this month I have been stumped on what to write about myself, let alone what I might ask of others. This is the complete opposite of last month, where I had plenty of material to work with. I thought last months Newsletter ranked right up there with the best of them and I even left out my regular column to make room for others.

It will be interesting to see how this Newsletter turns out. I do have three of the regular columns turned in. The exception is my column. Like I say, I have been stumped on what to write about.

Lets start with a few interesting web pages readers may wish to look at:

http://www.ok2kkw.com/om3rrc/6m_eme_om3rrc_2007eng.htm (First EME QSO from OM land on 6 meters)

http://static.videoegg.com/ted/flash/fullscreen.html?v=/ted/movies/ARTHURBENJAMIN-2005&cid=/ted/movies
(Ever hear of a matha-magician? He is amazing!)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0x6qr7-1Erc
(EA8H WW WPX contest video. Very nice)

http://www.aprstv.com/ (Video on building a copper J-Pole)

http://www.pari.edu/telescopes/OpticalTelescopes/sun/sunspots/ (Watch for Sunspots….. A little boring)

http://www.midnightscience.com/index.html (Remember the Crystal Radio Set?)

http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/22/10059/?nc=1
L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, SK. Also see:

http://www.legacy.com/knoxnews/Obituaries.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=108373425

And:

http://cebik.com/ (Huge antenna site in memory of W4RNL)

KV8Q Provides Entertaining Evening for Club Members

Tom Hain, KV8Q, shared his adventures of operating from Prince Edward Island in Canada at the April meeting of the MVARC. Tom operated from the Island in the IARU HF World Championship in July of 2007.

Heading to Prince Edward Island, Tom and his wife Debbie, KC8LYF, first stopped at the ARRL Headquarters in Newington Connecticut. The couple got a first class tour of Headquarters and was allowed to operate W1AW. Life is good.

During his commentary on the ARRL tour, Tom corrected an error that appeared in the April Newsletter which announced his planned presentation. The picture of the antennas were from the ARRL Headquarters, not Prince Edward Island. From the sound of it, the Islands antennas were better! Tony, KC8UR, quickly fessed up

to being the culprit when sending your editor the announcement of the program via email. Hey, Life is good for your editor too. Got away with one!

Tom Hain, KV8Q

Tom went on to describe the equipment and antenna set up on the island. Members viewed many pictures of the fine station there, which is capable of Mulit-Multi contesting (Multiple Signals on different bands at the same time, all in the same room!). Tom reported that running a Kilowatt from one station did not affect operations of the other stations. Remember the problems we have on Field Day sometimes? With just 100 watts? That makes this station very impressive indeed.

Tom described some of his operating strategies while doing the contest. He said one of the mistakes he made was switching to 40 meters instead of staying on the "HOT" band of 20 meters. Generally, his rates were lower on 40 meters. He said he was forcing the issue because he always did well on 40 meters at home.

While operating in the Single Operator High Power class, Tom finished in the TOP FIVE of all the US/ Canadian competitors. His final score was 1, 183,884 total points. He operated CW only.

When ask how he stayed awake for the whole contest, Tom commented that you do not get bored when running 100 plus stations per hour. For the non contesters out there, running stations is sitting on one frequency and calling CQ. Letting the other stations come to you. It is the fun way to contest!

At home, Tom said he uses a Ten Tech Jupiter and a GRV antenna. Operating at 100 watts and no beam antennas, KV8Q often finishes in the top 10 during DX contests. Very impressive.

Sorry for the skimpy details of this very interesting program. I should have taken notes but was very intent on the listening end, and forgot to take notes. If you don't want to miss interesting programs like this one, members need to come to the meetings. We have had fun this year!

HAM HISTORY #18

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

William Thomson, later known as Lord Kelvin lived in 1824-1907. Thomson was born in Belfast, Ireland, but moved early to Glasgow University when his father became professor of mathematics there in 1832. Educated at the city's university and then trained in mathematics at the University of Cambridge, Thomson junior gave Faraday conceptual help on dielectric and magneto-optic research soon after graduating; his precocity was recognized in his appointment to the professorship of natural philosophy (physics) at the University of Glasgow in 1846. In the following year Thomson heard James Joule speak on his controversial new theory that heat and work were exactly interconvertible. Thomson was skeptical about the complete reversibility this implied for the industrial steam engines he had long observed with his engineer brother James Thomson. By 1851 his brother had played a major role in formulating the two new thermodynamic laws of energy conservation and irreversible entropic increase; William also identified the existence of an absolute zero of temperature – a key thermodynamic feature of the dynamical theory of heat he advocated.

Thomson was soon asked to participate in plans for a new transatlantic telegraphic cable. He consulted Faraday for advice on the transmission and distortion problems expected in cables many times longer than previously used. Thomson's diagnosis that signal speed would decrease as the square of the cable's length proved to be as reliable as the sensitive mirror galvanometers he devised to register the exceptionally small signal currents. After the first attempts in 1857-58 failed for a variety of reasons, Thomson busied himself with standardizing electrical measurement until participating in the successful laying of another Atlantic cable in 1866.

A keen yachtsman with strong maritime interests, Thomson soon devoted himself to improving mariner's compasses. From the 1880s Thomson concentrated increasingly on developing light and traction engineering, especially in the cultivation of hydroelectric power. In recognition of his public services, he was raised to the peerage in 1892 to become Lord Kelvin – the first scientist to be so honored in Britain. After retiring from his Glasgow post in 1899, Kelvin devoted himself to wider causes, becoming the first president of the IEC in 1906.

The SI Unit of temperature is named after Kelvin.

Used with permission of the

International Electrotechnical Commission
http://www.iec.ch/100years/techline/

It's Antenna Time

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here in Michigan, the daffodils are blooming and the birds are singing. That means only one thing--it's antenna time! Since my lot is a city lot and not really suited to towers, I mostly play around with wire antennas. Currently, I have a random wire for 80m, a wire ground plane for 20m, and a 40m/30m "fan dipole" that also loads up on 15m and 10m. This year, I want to experiment with two new wire antennas--a horizontal loop and Windom antenna.

The "Loop Skywire" The concepts behind the full-wave loop antenna have been known for many years, but the antenna has become more popular after the publication of the article, "The Loop Skywire" in the November 1985 issue of QST. This article is available as a PDF from the ARRL website, if you are a member

(http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/8511020.pdf).

A lot more information is available on Internet. Just Google "loop skywire," and you'll find hundreds of references.

Basically, the antenna is a full-wave loop of wire for the lowest band that you wish to operate. For 80m, that would be about 272 feet. For 40m, the length will be 136 feet.

Ideally, you'd like to set up the loop so that the area inside the loop is at its maximum. This occurs when the loop is a circle. Unfortunately, that's usually impractical. From a practical point of view, most guys shoot for a square configuration using four supports.

Another consideration is how to feed the antenna. The Loop Skywire article calls for a coax feedline, but the practice these days seems to favor ladder line. The reason for this is that the SWR on bands higher in frequency than the band for which the antenna was cut can be quite high. Coax is quite lossy when the SWR is high, but that's not the case with ladder line.

How does it perform? Well, it's been my experience that guys with loop antennas often have the strongest signals here at KB6NU. And they seem to get through even when band conditions are poor. Guys who use them also report that they are great DX antennas as well. So, all things considered, it sounds like it's worth a shot.

The Windom Antenna The Windom antenna is an antenna that I've just become familiar with. It's intriguing because, like the loop antenna, it is also a multi-band antenna.

The Windom is a half-wavelength antenna, but instead of feeding the antenna in the middle as you would a dipole antenna, you feed it about 1/3 of the way from one of the ends. At this point, the feed point impedance is about 200 ohms. With a 4:1 balun, you can feed it with 50-ohm coax.

The interesting thing about this antenna is that the feed point impedance is 200 ohms not only on the fundamental frequency, but it's close to 200 ohms on all harmonics of that frequency. So an antenna cut for 40m, will also have a feedpoint impedance close to 200 ohms on 20m, 15m, and 10m.

You do need a 4:1 balun for this antenna to operate properly. Fortunately, these are not difficult to make. I made one a couple of years ago, just for fun (http://kb6nu.com/even-more-fun-with-baluns/). Now, I have an application for it!

There's all kinds of information on the Net about the Windom antenna as well. One of the Web pages I found most useful was written by W8JI:

(http://www.w8ji.com/windom_off_center_fed.htm).

I certainly have my hands full this antenna season. Whatever you decide to put up, remember to be safe.

When Dan isn't thinking about antennas, he's operating CW on the HF bands or teaching ham radio classes. He's just published a printed version of his No-Nonsense Tech Class Study Guide. See his blog, www.kb6nu.com, for more details.

"Radio Scouting" To Be Explored at Dayton Hamvention

By Gary Wilson, K2GW

DAYTON, OH – May 1, 2008 Scout Leaders will be reaching out to Ham Radio Operators at the Dayton Hamvention May 16-18 to encourage them to provide Amateur Radio opportunities to Boy Scouts back in their home towns. A forum session will given on Saturday, May 17 at 9 AM in Forum Room 2 explaining how hams can reach out to Scouts to get them involved in the exciting world of Amateur Radio. And, for the first time, an exhibit booth will be staffed by veteran "Ham Scouters" to answer hams questions and provide them with resources about "Radio Scouting". Booth 631 in the Hamvention's East Building will be location of the Scout Radio outpost.

Bill Ragsdale, K6KN, District Chairman of the Yolo District of the Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America is leading the effort. Bill says "This is how we

assure the future of your local ham community by growing the next generation of amateurs via the Boy Scouts. At the same time, we also build community awareness about amateur radio. Scouts have a built-in sense of adventure which ham radio complements".

Hams will also learn how to teach Radio Merit Badge and help their local Scouts participate in Scouting's largest annual event, the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). "Each October, a half million Scouts around the world talk to each other via Amateur Radio. Tips on how hams can let their local Scouts participate will be shared". Visit http://YoloBSA.editme.com/Dayton for further information.

Hams can also learn about a new program being developed for 2010's 100th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. "Scout Camps On The Air (SCOTA) promises to be a fun way for hams to help encourage Amateur Radio Operations at Scout Camps and other large Scouting Events", says, Matt Murphy, KC8BEW, of the Muskingum Valley Council, BSA, who is coordinating that program.

The Boy Scouts of America currently serves more than 4 million youth and adult members. So stop by booth 631 and the forum session to learn how you can help some of them become the next generation of hams.

Red Cross Disaster Action Team Drill Turns into the Real Thing

BRIDGEPORT, CT, February 2, 2008 -- The American Red Cross Mid-Fairfield County Chapter held a drill to familiarize Disaster Action Team (DAT) members with the territory serviced by the chapter, gain experience in the use of GPS to navigate to a destination, learn about the use of radio during a deployment, and compare the operation of VHF/UHF amateur radios and Red Cross 47.420 MHz radios. The Greater Bridgeport Amateur Radio Club (GBARC) supports the Red Cross with nine fully qualified and trained Red Cross Disaster Action Team volunteers.

The plan was to deploy five Red Cross vehicles to different destinations within the ten served communities covering over 200 square miles. Each vehicle would deploy with a ham operator carrying a handheld VHF/UHF radio and four of the vehicles would have a permanently installed Red Cross 47.420 MHz radio. In order to gain experience, only non-hams were to operate the Red Cross radios. A base station would be situated at the Bridgeport chapter house. Two amateur radios capable of simultaneously handling a total of four amateur VHF/UHF frequencies and a Red Cross radio operating on the 47.420 MHz frequency were installed at the base. The amateur radios would use repeaters located in Norwalk, Fairfield, Milford and Bridgeport. There are no repeaters for the Red Cross radios in the area.

Just minutes prior to the start of the drill, a real incident occurred and the volunteers responded. Radio contact using the 47.420 MHz frequency was not possible once the vehicles were on scene at the incident site four miles away in Stratford. This was due to an intervening hill that prevented line of site communications. Amateur Radio, however, performed flawlessly using repeaters in Bridgeport and Fairfield. The variety of available repeater locations and their antenna height provides the flexibility and capability to virtually eliminate communications problems due to terrain or structural interference. -- John Russo, KA1JXW, Public Information Officer, Greater Bridgeport Amateur Radio Club <russojg@snet.net>.

Five Offer Support To EDC Marathon

On April 20, 2008, five members of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club rose early to help supplement the communications for the 2nd Annual Earth Day Challenge Marathon.

Club president Mike Mccardel, KC8YLD, acted as net control and oversaw operations from the end zone of Mcbride Field on the campus of Kenyon College. Mike met Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, at McBride field shortly before 6:30am where Arlin lent his 2m antenna and mast and then headed to Mount vernon with his "Gator" to be the trail vehicle for the race.

Base Antenna provided by KD8EVR

Meanwhile Zach McCardel, KC8YLE was in route to the McBride Field to drop off the club computer to be used to track the APRS radio which Zach would exchange to Arlin at Aide Station 4 (AS4). Zach then headed off to AS4 where waited for the race to come to him. Don Russell, W8PEN, meanwhile, was headed for Danville to assist Emily Bain, KC8YAE with set up for turn-around post in Danville at the Kokosing Gap Trail (KGT) trailhead. Don then headed for Aide Station 5 (AS5). With all units in place the race began at precisely 7:00:30.

KD8EVR'S Gator Location via APRS

Throughout the race the club members communicated through the K8EEN repeater with little difficulty. There were a couple of radio glitches and occasionally Don and Emily and Zach switched to reverse input to communicate but all in all things went smoothly. As the last walkers passed AS4 Zach handed over his APRS outfit. The unit was made of of a Kenwood TH-D7A(G) running 5 watts attached to a Garmin GPS V. Location packets were sent every 3 minutes. Between checkpoint AS4 just West of Layman Road on the KGT and Danville, we were able to recover over twenty points. Net Control was receiving the data with a Kenwood TM-D700A dual bander set to send/receive voice on the K8EEN repeater and receive/send data on 144.39, the universal APRS frequency. Because of a bad audio patch cable we weren't able to have the club computer directly input points as they received. However being the enterprising hams we are. We were able input the data manually using google maps to plot the data.

After the APRS hand off Zach proceeded to AS8 at Carey Road. Don relocated to AS6 so that we could best get a better report of runners as they neared the half way point. Because we were tracking runners at key check points by entrant number and time we were able to estimate, with accuracy of between 2-3 minutes where any runner was at a given time. This was especially helpful to race officials by letting them know, at Gambier, when the relay team exchanges were taking place and noting who was still on the course and where within a quarter mile they might by extrapolation. We predicted the lead runner's finish at 9:30am and he arrived 25 seconds early (Yes 10 MPH for 26+ miles!!). We were predicting the final walker to arrive at the finish anywhere between 2:33pm and 2:35pm at every check point click of consistent miles every 17 minutes, (note this was the person Arlin was trailing so we had decent times on her anywhere on the course). She really picked up the pace the last mile and finished at 2:29.

After all the participants cleared each of the club members on the way back from Danville they were allowed to secure their stations and head on home. Of Course Zach returned to McBride field and assisted me until the end of the race. We were set up in line with the finish line under a pop-up canopy with the antenna cable running through the roof braces to keep them off the ground. It was just before the next to last participant finished when a gust of wind began to blow things off the award table, located about 25-30 feet away from the canopy our radios were set up. The wind suddenly picked up and begin to spin and funnel someone yelled Dust Devil and someone else quickly laughed Tornado. Just then the Canopy was gone, the radio was dangling from the antenna coax twenty feet in the air. One second Zach was intently listening to the radio and recording packet information and the next his earphones for gone floating around the with the radio and instead of being under a tent it all sky. The just as quickly it wind quit, the canopy parachuted back the earth and the the radio, power supply and Zach's ear set were returned gently to the turf. We returned everything to table and went about our business as we received a round of applause from some of the participants and workers who were standing around.

Zack McCardel, KC8YLE

It was a great day and I really enjoyed working it.
……E. Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. This Months Program will be by Don Blizzard, W8UMH, on proper station grounding techniques. This is an important topic with the threat of summer thunderstorms.

Please remember the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M. Please note the change in time, which was effective May 4, 2008.

Also check out the new UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. This is a social net. Please join us for the fun of it.

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 May 10th at 9:00 AM at Ryan's Steak House, 1515 Coshocton Ave. , Mt. Vernon, Ohio.******

New Repeater Net Organized

A new Wensday Night Net has be started by Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, on the 440 Repeater, KD8EVR/R. This net will be a social net and any topic is game. Perhaps topics for the following weeks net will be decided upon each week during the net. We just have to see how this works out.

There have been low check ins so far, but Arlin is hoping that once the net gets some publicity, things will begin to take off. If you have UHF capabilities, please join us. We need to know how well and what areas this new repeater covers.

New Time for Sunday Night ARES Net

As repeater listeners have often heard: New time for Sunday Night Net is 9:00 P.M. Turnout for the 8:00 P.M. time has been low for several months now. Dick, N8RDH, suggested we go back to the original time of 9:00 P.M. for the summer months with the hopes of increasing activity.

Time announcements have been running on the K8EEN repeater for some time now. The first net at the new time was the May 4th net.

This may be a permanent change, depending on what happens with the Mt. Gilead repeater. Members will remember the reason for running the net at 8:00 P.M. was to avoid some interference caused by the Mt. Gilead Repeater, which is only 15 Khz away from our frequency.

The problems were twofold; One, Members close to Mt. Gilead where having trouble hearing the Mt. Vernon Repeater due to the bleed over from the 146.775 Khz output of the Mt. Gilead Repeater. Secondly, some of the Mt. Gilead hams put strong enough signals into Mt. Vernon area that they would bleed over from 146.175 Khz to 146.190 Khz, causing some of the weaker stations using the Mt. Vernon Repeater to be covered up.

It is not known if Mt. Gilead Repeaters users were having similar problems, although it does not appear to be so. We do not run very much power at our repeater. Our coverage is such that there is no need to. We also have few if any stations running high power with tall antennas on our repeater. It is only good operating practice to keep the power to a minimum anyway.

Don, W8PEN

EIGHT TORNADOES RAVAGE EASTERN VIRGINIA

(From the ARRL Letter, May 2, 2008)

When tornadoes swept across the state of Virginia on Monday, April 28, local Amateur Radio operators responded to the call for assistance. According to Ken Murphy, KI4GEM, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Portsmouth, an EF3 tornado touched down in Suffolk, Virginia around 4 PM local time, plowing its way east into Norfolk, damaging scores of homes, stores and cars and downing dozens of trees and power lines; Suffolk is about 20 miles from Norfolk, Virginia. Soon after the tornadoes touched down, Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a State of Emergency and directed state agencies to take all necessary actions to aid in the response to widespread damage from the severe weather. About 140 homes were destroyed, damaged or deemed uninhabitable.

The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed eight tornadoes in Virginia: City of Suffolk (strong EF3), City of Colonial Heights (EF1), Brunswick County (EF1), Gloucester County (EF0), Mathews County (EF0), Halifax County (EF1), Surry County (EF1) and Isle of Wight County (EF1).

"The tornado produced severe damage to many structures, downed large trees, and destroyed power lines. Approximately 200 injuries were reported and several homes and businesses were destroyed. There were no fatalities," Murphy said. Upon spotting the tornado, Murphy placed a call on the Portsmouth repeater, asking for someone to notify the National Weather Service and the local EMS. A SKYWARN net was activated on another repeater; Portsmouth Emergency Coordinator Dave Livingston, K5SFM, and Bill Farmer, KI4GWC, served as Net control.

"This was an unusual activation in that an ARES AEC from one locality -- Portsmouth -- would not normally be on the scene of a tornado touching down in another locality -- Suffolk," said ARRL Virginia Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC. "Murphy requested that NWS be notified of the tornado and that the fire department and emergency teams be notified so they could respond. The Deputy Fire Chief of the Driver Volunteer Fire Department (who was the on-scene commander at the time) was concerned about the number of onlookers entering the disaster area. There were many power lines down and trees in the roadway and on buildings, as well as damaged natural gas mains. Some buildings were gone leaving a massive debris field."

The Driver VFD Chief requested that ARES activate in order to assist the local teams; 10 members of the Portsmouth ARES group responded. "The Chief had Murphy assign hams to the roadblocks at the major intersections to assist the police on the scene with traffic and crowd control. We also kept the Chief informed of the locations of other reported funnel clouds. At one point, the Fire Chief on the scene was advised that one of the team members was tracking the rapidly moving weather still in the area with the help of APRS," Clements said.

A spokesperson for the City of Suffolk said the area around Sentara Obici Hospital in Driver (a community within Suffolk) was hardest hit. The hospital was damaged but still able to treat patients. A spokesperson for the hospital said about 60 injured people were being treated there, and he expected most to be released. "We have lots of cuts and bruises and arm and leg injuries," he said.

Clements said that no further assistance from ARES has been requested. "All local police, fire, and EMS communications are intact and functioning. As in any disaster, the Emergency Management Officials are asking that unless you have a specific assignment from an on-scene agency (Red Cross, Salvation Army, official search and rescue teams and the like), please do not just show up at the stricken areas to offer assistance."

TEN NEW SATELLITES IN ORBIT

(From the ARRL Letter, May 2, 2008)

Ten satellites reached orbit April 28 aboard an Indian PSLV-C9 rocket launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center. The primary payloads were India's CARTOSAT-2A and IMS-1 satellites. In addition to the NLS-5 and RUBIN-8 satellites, the rocket carried six CubeSat <http://www.cubesat.org/> research satellites, all of which communicate using Amateur Radio frequencies. All spacecraft deployed normally and appear to be functional at this time.

The SEEDS satellite was designed and built by students at Japan's Nihon University. When fully operational, SEEDS will download telemetry in Morse code and 1200-baud FM AFSK packet radio at 437.485 MHz. The satellite also has Slow-Scan TV (SSTV) capability. Several stations have reported receiving SEEDS CW telemetry and the team would appreciate receiving more reports from amateurs at their ground station Web page

<http://sat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/gs/english/cardform_e.html>.

AAUSAT-II <http://aausatii.space.aau.dk/eng/> is the creation of a student team at Aalborg University in Denmark. It will downlink scientific telemetry at 437.425 MHz using 1200 or 9600-baud packet.

Can-X2 <http://www.utias-sfl.net/nanosatellites/CanX2/> is a product of students at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, Space Flight Laboratory (UTIAS/SFL). Can-X2 will downlink telemetry at 437.478 MHz using 4 kbps GFSK, but the downlink will be active only when the satellite is within range of the Toronto ground station.

Compass-One <http://www.cubesat.de/> was designed and built by students at Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The satellite features a Morse code telemetry beacon at 437.275 MHz. Compass-1 will also provide a packet radio data downlink, which will include image data, at 437.405 MHz.

Cute 1.7 + APDII
<http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/index_e.html>

is a satellite created by students at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. This satellite will not only provide telemetry, it will also offer a 9600-baud packet store-and-forward message relay with an uplink at 1267.6 MHz and a downlink at 437.475 MHz.

Delfi-C3 <http://www.delfic3.nl/> was designed and built by students at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. It includes an SSB/CW linear transponder. The satellite will be in telemetry-only mode for the first three months of the mission, after which it will be switched to transponder mode. Delfi-C3 downlinks 1200-baud packet telemetry at 145.870 MHz. The linear transponder, when activated, will have an uplink passband from 435.530 to 435.570 MHz and a corresponding downlink passband from 145.880 to 145.920 MHz.

Treasurer's Report
April 30, 2008
for March and April

Income:

Dues:	$ 12.00
Donations:	$ 0.00
Interest:	$ 15.79
50-50:	$ 17.00

Expenses:

Postage:	$41.00

Balance on 4-30-08: $2140.63

Designated Funds
Year 2005 Repeater Fund: $670.94
Field Day Fund: $108.30

Barry N8PPF

From April, 2008 EMCOMM Newsletter:

You Might be a Ham Operator if…

A friend remarks that you have a lot of CBs in your vehicle, and it turns into an hour-long rant on how ham radio is not CB.

Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.

You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.

The local city council doesn't like you. You actually think towers look good.

Your HF amplifier puts out more power than the local AM radio station.

You refer to your children as your "harmonics".

You have pictures of your radio equipment as wallpaper on your computer's desktop.

Every family vacation includes a stop at a Ham radio store.

The first question you ask the new car dealer is: "What is the alternator's current output"?

You buy a brand new car based on the radio mounting locations and antenna mounting possibilities.

You have tapped out Morse code on your car's horn.

You always park on the top floor of the parking deck, just in case you might have to wait in the car later.

When house hunting, you look for the best room for a radio shack, scan the property for possible tower placement and check for CCRs.

The real estate agent scratches his head when you ask if the soil conductivity is high, medium, or low.

You have Ham radio magazines in the bathroom.

You have found yourself whistling "CQ" using Morse code.

You really start to miss people that you've never met.

You walk through the plumbing section at the hardware store and see antenna parts.
-- Author unknown

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the April 14, 2008 Meeting.

By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1	**Tom Evans**	**KD8HSA**
2	**Dick Huggins**	**N8RDH**
3	**Tom Kern**	**----**
4	**Ruben Clark**	**KB2SAI**
5	**Mike McCardel**	**KC8YLD**
6	**Tom Hain**	**KV8Q**
7	**Deb Hain**	**KC8YLF**
8	**Tony Spiegel**	**KC8UR**
9	**Larry Helzer, DVM**	**AA8WP**
10	**Don Russell**	**W8PEN**
11	**Arlin Bradford**	**KD8EVR**
12	**Don Bunner**	**KB8QPO**
13	**Jeff Butz**	**N8SMT**
14	**Jeff A. Butz**	**----**

President Mike McCardel, KC8YLD informally opened the meeting by asking Tony Spiegel KC8UR to introduce this month's presentation by Tom Hain KV8Q.

President McCardel formally called the business meeting to order at 8:23 P.M.

Treasurer's Report:
No Report. Our Treasurer, Barry Butz, N8PPF, is on vacation.

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.
Skywarn class we had was successful we had 38 attendees. Ruben attended the Ohio Ares Section Conference in Columbus. No specific information to report except that it was good to network with the other county EC's. He particularly noted Licking County's impressive program with two specifically designated vehicles.

The tornado drill we had March 26th went pretty good. Ruben mentioned he has a map of the 15 tornado warning horn locations.

Ruben asked that whoever conducts an upcoming weather net that he please send him a report with the number of people that checked in etc. So he can send the report in.

The Tour de Cure is coming up June 7th. If anyone is available let him know.

GOBA is coming up June 14th – 21st they will be in Knox County Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. And again if anyone is available please let him know.

Citizen Corps meeting is coming up this Thursday at the EMA office at 7:30 P.M.

Ruben introduced Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, who has a report on the Hospital Antenna. Arlin stated the hospital antenna was laying flat on the roof along with the hospital's antenna. They reinstalled the antennas and ours is now working fine. Jan Lake from the hospital is getting on board with the other hospitals in the area by installing ham radios. They haven't decided what they are going to buy and she asked Arlin for his recommendation. He is asking the club for input. A duel band most assuredly, a quad band would be nice but not necessary. The ability to use crossband repeat would be a very desirable function. He is partial to the Yaesu 8900 because he is familiar with it and it is a very nice duel band radio with crossband repeat but he will entertain other suggestions. A general discussion ensued.

Ruben said he was thinking of getting the club a demonstration of the MARCS radio system. Arlin suggested he get in touch with Dick Miller from the Butler area.

Ruben announced that he has appointed Arlin as his Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) and looks forward to his assistance.

Wed. Night Dinner Report: Dick Huggins, N8RDH.
Last Wednesday they had a nice attendance with 8 people.

Dick suggested we change the Sunday Night Net time back to 9:00 P.M. since Morrow County has been off the air. A general discussion ensued, Dick then made a motion to recommend to the Net Manager (Ruben Clark) that we move the Sunday Night Net to 9:00 P.M.; it was seconded by Arlin Bradford and carried by voice vote.

Dick also mentioned that we had previously discussed having a Special Events Station in September since it's our 50th year Anniversary of belonging to the ARRL. He has an application that has to be submitted within the next 30 to 45 days if it is to be included in QST. Mike McCardel volunteered to help Dick getting the application filled out and sent in. It was decided to do it the last weekend in September (27th -28th). Dick Huggins offered

to host the event at his house. After discussion Arlin Bradford moved to have the Special Event as a 24 hour event from noon September 27th to noon September 28th Seconded by Don Russell. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Field Day Report: Doc Helzer, AA8WP.
Doc said his house is available for Field Day this year if the club wants to use it. He sits on 2 acres. A discussion ensued. It was decided to do some more investigation on a site and to decide at the next meeting.

New Business:
Don Russell, W8PEN, suggested we start having a net on the 440 repeater. Mike McCardel asked Arlin Bradford if he would take on the responsibility of being the club's net manager for the 440 repeater. Arlin said he would. A discussion ensued when to have the net. Don moved to recommend to the new net manager that we have a net on the 440 repeater on Wednesday night at 9:00 P.M. Dick Huggins seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.

Tony Spiegel, KC8UR, made a motion to reimburse tonight's speaker Tom Hain, KV8Q, $25.00 to cover his expenses. Doc Helzer, AA8WP, seconded the motion. It was carried by voice vote.

President McCardel reminded everyone that the Earth Day Marathon is this coming Sunday. It begins at 7:00 A.M. There are 8 checkpoints laid out 2 miles apart. Four of which cover both coming and going. It should be over within 8 hours.

He stated it was a lot of fun last year and he wants to try out some new stuff this year like keeping track of numbers and time, APRS and other things. If anyone is available please let him know.

Mike presented some maps he had made which show all the hams in Knox County. If anyone wants one they are welcome to help themselves.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

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Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN

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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 w8pen@arrl.et or Don Russell, W8PEN, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

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