



Ham Radio Rocks

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club May, 2013



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 Community

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)

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



Spring is starting to warm up and Summer is well on its way. I spent most of last week working on getting my boat in the water and the much dreaded yard work. This weekend I was finally able to put the boat in the water and do a little fishing with my brother Chuck, AC8R. The rest of the weekend was spent doing..... Yard Work! Well, now it is Sunday and time to put out this newsletter. So, been a very busy week and weekend here at the shack of W8PEN.

With the warm weather, many hams turn their thoughts to Field Day, the most popular ham radio operating event. This year, Field Day is scheduled for 2:00PM Saturday, June 22nd though 2:00PM Sunday, June 23rd. As usual we will set up antennas Friday, June 21 starting around 2:00PM. Someone mentioned we were now allowed to start setting up earlier, but I feel the 2:00PM is a good start time.

I am hoping to use more trees and less antenna masts this year. That will make tear down Sunday afternoon when everyone is tired a bit easier. But we will see. Last year, I think we only used two antenna masts anyway. Might be hard to do better than that.

This year will be particularly challenging for the club as a few key participants of previous Field Days will be missing. Namely Larry "Doc" Heltzer AA8WP,

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, May 13, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 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.

Also check out the UHF net on the KD8EVR Repeater. This net runs each Wednesday at 9:00 P.M. and 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.

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 May 11, 2013 at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Arlin Bradford KD8EVR, Ann Bradford KD8LFH, Ruben Clark KB2SAI, and Melinda Clark KD8RZZ. This will put some pressure on our younger hams to step it up. I am sure they will be up to it.

I think we are also looking for someone to organize the annual Field Day picnic. For as long as I can remember, Doc, AA8WP has done this. We will miss him! We are looking for a grill cook and someone to coordinate the picnic details. Sorry, I will be too involved in the technical side of things to be much help with this part of Field Day. Besides, I am a terrible grill cook. Just ask Darlene.

In next month's Newsletter, I will have the annual technical details of this year's Field Day. The only station I am sure of right now is the CW station, which I will be setting up. We need volunteers to set up the SSB stations. As in the past, there will be three SSB stations, but we need equipment and operators. Please let me know if you are interested in providing radio equipment and of course, want to operate during this event. If you want to operate though, just come out. We will put you to good use. Operators are always needed for the midnight shift too.

The Top Ten Reasons to Participate in Field Day

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Yes, I am a CW operator. This is just for fun....

10. At least for one weekend you do not have to do yard work
9. You can tell everyone you are there to operate, not eat food!
8. It impresses the heck out of the XYL or OM because you have to go help the club set up technical stuff like antennas and radios.
7. You might get your picture in the paper.
6. You get to be a real Ham and work Shortwave!
5. If you are a CW operator, you can sit at the SSB Station and pretend you are enjoying it.
4. No one cares if you drink beer, coke, tea, or coffee. You are part of the team. We are Hams!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

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Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to Amateur Radio, with an emphasis on local activity, equipment reviews, and personal experiences to the Newsletter Editor. Articles are due on the Sunday before the first Monday of the month.

Newsletter Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN
w8pen@arrl.net

3. If the group is on a hill, you can point in almost any direction and say "That is a good place for the antenna..... And be right!
2. You can sit with the CW operators and pretend you know Morse Code
1. You get needed training in setting up equipment and operating under sometimes harsh conditions and you are having fun while doing it!

Treasurer's Report

May 1, 2013
for March 31 to April 30, 2013

<u>Balance on 3-30-13:</u>	\$	2678.91
<u>Income:</u>		
Dues:	\$	
50-50:	\$	7.00
Interest:	\$.67
HTs for class - sale	\$	150.00
Donations:	\$	
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Equipment Insurance:	\$	75.00
<u>Balance on 4-30-13:</u>	\$	2761.58
<u>Designated Funds:</u>		
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	\$	536.39
Field Day Fund:	\$	88.00
Communication Vehicle Fund:	\$	471.04

Barry Butz N8PPF

AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

The Ham Radio Bucket List

I am sure we all are aware of what a "Bucket List" is. Popularized by a movie "The Bucket List" starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson, two people who were told they had limited time left on earth embarked on an adventure to fulfill their dreams, before they kicked-the-bucket.

I was recently inspired by a post to the AMSAT-BB list by Les Rayburn, N1LF. He recalled his meager and poor beginnings in ham radio 40 years ago, barely

affording his simple station. He went on to state "My Elmer used to let me borrow his copy of QST and I'd dream about all the great adventures that I'd have "someday" in ham radio. Being a child of the Space Age, key articles among them were anything related to the New Frontier.

"EME (Moonbounce), Meteor Scatter, and satellites all seemed like the stuff of science fiction---and I longed to experience them all. But they were exotic, and required equipment far beyond my reach. I resolved to accomplish them all someday and added them to a sort of ham radio "bucket list" that I hoped to accomplish before my ham career was over."

Well five years ago he checked off the first of this list after working meteor scatter with the aid of WSJT software. More recently he made his first satellite QSO with Art, K4YYL on FO-29, a Japanese amateur satellite.

This hit home with me because working the ISS was one of the reasons I got my ticket ten years ago. It only took me 8 years to get around to building and working a satellite ground station. I still haven't talked directly with someone on the ISS but I have bounced packets through it and have made other satellite QSOs. What finally got me started was a demo by an 18 year old student who convinced me, I could do it.

All this got me to thinking, what might be on other folk's Ham Radio Bucket List and how can we help each other achieving the challenges on it. This has the makings of a great club project written all over it. It might also lead to common knowledge, expertise and confidence to turn new accomplishments into educational tools that can be shared as "look what I just did" moments.

This all leads us to this month's club challenge. What if club members shared their bucket lists with each other and worked together to make them happen, or, perhaps, making up a club bucket list and start chipping away at it. Regardless the challenge is to get together share information, learn and do something new and exciting. I wonder how much Helium I need to carry a Raspberry Pi with a camera to a height of 100,000 feet

I would be really interested on hearing back from anyone who takes up this challenge.

About and Around the Ohio Section

I would like to thank Anthony Luscre K8ZT for joining the Section Cabinet as the Assistant State Manager for Educational Outreach, Anthony brings a wealth of hands on educational experience and a good understanding of core curriculum requirements. he has attended two of ARRL's teacher's institutes and energy just seems to follow him around. We on the cabinet are all very excited to have him on board.

I really like April as a newsletter month. I am very gullible and get sucked in by all the "April Fools" articles. I think it bodes well for our hobby and reflects well on hams in general that we have a sense of humor.

One correction from last month. I reported the Cambridge ARA W8VP June Special Event date incorrectly the correct June date is the 8th. Cambridge is celebrating their 100th year of existence by doing a different special event each month. Also, all the events are this year, so where I made a reference to 2012 it should be 3013. I apologize for my errors.

Alliance ARC visited the K3LR super contest station in March and hosted Matt Welch W8DEC who presented "Overview of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service" at their April meeting.

At the OH-KY-IN ARS April meeting their program featured member Duffy Beischel WB8NUT, who'll informed them "more than we may wish to know" about digital radio modes (PSK, CW, MFSK, D-Star and more).

The Lake County ARA began the month with the Sky Warn class, conducted Ham Exams on April 6th, and ended the month with the MS Walk April 27th.

PCARS held a testing session April 6 their next is June 1.

Congratulations to Team K8BF for their outstanding efforts in the California QSO Party 2012. The team came in #2 in the USA in the Multi-Multi Category and #1 in Ohio! I loved the Dark Sucker Conspiracy article!

The Civil Air Patrol was the topic at Massillon ARC in April, presented by their own Charles Scherger KB8STV and Don Wade, W8DEA. They elaborated on how CAP uses Radio in Communications and Direction Finding of downed

Aircraft. Each Aircraft has an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). Congratulations on receiving your Special Service Club Certificate!

Western Reserve ARC staffed a table at the 2013 Austintown Home & Garden Show. At the end of March, They handed out information and talked ham radio to all who would listen.

Mount Vernon ARC just finished their support of the Earth Day Challenge Half Marathon & 4 mile run. Reduced by half its length this year it supported many more runners than in the past. It's also bike race season in Knox County. MVARC supports more than their fair share of biking events each year.

Delaware ARA - the only thing as intense as their competitive contesting spirit is the Tom Foolery in their April newsletter issue. It is so prevalent, in fact, you will see the notation, (Not April Fools), when something isn't an April Fool's joke, or am I being deceived?

The Greater Cincinnati ARA holds their Annual Auction April 24, Their March meeting program was "Message Handling for fun but not for profit!" By Ted Morris, NC8V. Beginning in June their most recent newsletter will require a password to read.

The Lake Erie ARA will hear Bill Fraedrich's, WB9LBI, presentation "Updates on Traffic Handling" at their April 30 meeting held at Stancato's Italian Restaurant. He will go beyond a description by demonstrating how it is done. Bring an HT along to participate. Eric Jessen, N8AUC, with Carl Gedeon, KB8VXE, presenting a program on Digital Communications at Harry's Steakhouse on March 26th.

Until next time get out of meeting mode!

73,

E.Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

ARRL Assistant Section Manager - Education and Youth Outreach

ARRL Ohio Section Affiliated Club Coordinator (interim)

kc8yld@arrl.net

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the March 11, 2013 Meeting



By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Tom Kern | KD8OZV |
| 2. Emery Bennett | W8TW |
| 3. Larry Helzer DVM | AA8WP |
| 4. Matt Ware | KD8PSK |
| 5. Tom Evans | KD8HSA |
| 6. Don Russell | W8PEN |
| 7. Jeff Butz | N8SMT |
| 8. Barry Butz | N8PPF |
| 9. Scott Fields | K8AEC |
| 10. Tony Spiegel | KC8UR |
| 11. Frank Counts | KC8EVS |
| 12. Jim Jennessee | KD8UT |
| 13. Don Blizzard | W8UMH |
| 14. Don Bunner | KB8QPO |

President Jennessee opened the meeting at 7:08 P.M.

Don Russell, W8PEN gave the repeater report and said both repeaters were working well. Echo Link is up and working on both repeaters.

Old Business:

Skywarn training will be next Monday, March 18th @ 6:30 at Memorial Theater.

There will be a Hazmat exercise April 18th. Please see the website for details.

Pan Ohio Hope Race is coming up July 25th-28th from Cleveland to Cincinnati with an overnight stop somewhere in the Mt. Vernon area.

The Tech Class has been completed and all five students have passed their test. Don is considering having a general class instruction also the next time we do it this fall.

The Earth Day Marathon is coming up April 21, 2013. It will only be a half marathon this year so it won't be quite as much work as in the previous years. Please contact Mike McCardel if interested.

New Business:

Don Russell made a motion to make a donation to the Knox County Red Cross in the amount of \$120.00. The motion was seconded by Emery Bennett and passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Minutes for the April 8, 2013 Meeting.

Attendees:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 15. Jeff Butz | N8SMT |
| 16. Emery Bennett | W8TW |
| 17. Tom Evans | KD8HSA |
| 18. Melinda Clark | KD8RZZ |
| 19. Ruben Clark | KB2SAI |
| 20. Steve Barr | KD8GRM |
| 21. Don Russell | W8PEN |
| 22. Matt Ware | KD8PSK |
| 23. Scott Fields | K8AEC |
| 24. Melody Brent | KD8RZV |
| 25. Tony Spiegel | KC8UR |
| 26. Jim Jennessee | KD8UT |
| 27. Frank Counts | KC8EVS |
| 28. Don Blizzard | W8UMH |
| 29. Carl Payne | AC8LQ |
| 30. Arlin Bradford | KD8EVR |
| 31. Howard Tharp | K8PWL |
| 32. Charles Fisher | KD8NGP |
| 33. Barry Butz | N8PPF |
| 34. Mike McCardel | KC8YLD |

President Jennessee opened the meeting at 7:07 P.M.

Barry Butz, N8PPF, gave the monthly treasurers report. A motion was made and seconded to pay the equipment Insurance bill in the amount of \$75 and was passed by voice vote.

The March meeting minutes were read by Jeff Butz, N8SMT. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Scott Fields, K8AEC, and seconded by Don Russell, W8PEN. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Don Russell, W8PEN gave the repeater report and said both repeaters were working well. He is considering dropping the Time Warner cable

connection and going with Century Link DSL but hasn't decided yet.

Ruben Clark, KB2SAI, gave the ARES report and said the Skywarn training went well with 25 people in attendance. The Local Emergency Planning Committee HAZMAT Exercise coming up next Thursday. It will be a tabletop exercise.

Old Business:

The Earth Day Half Marathon is coming up April 21, 2013. There will also be a four-mile run and they will both start at 8:00 A.M. and they expect to wrap everything up at about Noon. Since it is a half Marathon we will only need to cover six checkpoints. We should all meet up at 7:30 A.M. please contact Mike McCardel if interested.

Arlin Bradford mentioned that there will be a bike race this coming Saturday, April 13th. Starting at the Community Center in Gambier. The race starts at 1:30 P.M. and should be finished by 3:30 P.M. Please contact Arlin if interested. There will be another race in June but Arlin doesn't have the exact date yet.

New Business:

Field Day Weekend will be June 22-23 and will be at Apple Valley again this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Remember When? Remember Now.

By Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

Editor's note: This article was originally published in the January 2008 MVARC newsletter and is from the ARRL E-Letter of December 14, 2007.

At one time or another we have all drifted back to happier, simpler times to help ease the stresses of life. While many professionals might agree that an occasional trip down memory lane is healthy and often therapeutic, few would recommend that we live in the past. Our human brains are wired to remember things that are comforting and suppress unpleasant memories. That is why we tend to use phrases like "the good old days" even if the time in reference was peppered with hardship.

Depending on how you look at it, ham radio like the automobile, has either hardly changed over the last 100 years or has advanced dramatically because of technological progress. Today's automobiles are loaded with safety features and convenience

gimmicks yet the basic car is still a wheeled vehicle that burns fossil fuel in an internal combustion engine in order to transport passengers from point A to point B. In comparison radio operators still modulate and demodulate electromagnetic signals to communicate with stations near and far. Computer processing and micro electronics play a big part in how these illustrations have evolved, but have things really changed?

Amateur Radio is just one of many sectors where we see state-of-the-art technology blended with traditional concepts. A trip to any marina will find modern sailboats made from composite materials and loaded with the latest navigational electronic devices but the basic component, harnessing energy from the wind to propel a vessel, has not changed in the thousands of years since its discovery. I am sure that you can think of your own examples where the application of modern technology has reshaped an old-fashioned idea, but the point is that while it is nice to remember and replicate things from the past, we live in the present.

Many people have an image of Amateur Radio as a nostalgic remembrance of another time when radio seemed to be magical when in fact it has always been cutting edge and futuristic. This portrayal of ham radio is reinforced by radio amateurs themselves through their reluctance to accept change and their insistence on preserving old technologies. The propensity to look back is not as prevalent in other activities as it is in Amateur Radio. When I go fishing I don't run into any anglers sporting woven rattan creels and bamboo fishing poles yet there is not a day that goes by when I am not reminded that "real radios glow in the dark" or some other witty reference to bygone times. How far back do we want to go to be authentic before it becomes absurd? "If it ain't spark it ain't radio?"

Years ago companies like Heath provided a way for many to get involved with Amateur Radio through kit building. The radio kit was less expensive than factory produced gear and, depending on the skill level of the builder, the finished products performed pretty well. Maintenance and repairs were easily performed because the builder had an intimate knowledge of the circuitry. Today, mass production and robotic manufacturing processes help drive down the cost of electronic equipment and in many situations make replacing a device more cost effective than repairing it. A current manufacturer of Amateur Radio that started life as a kit company quickly experienced a similar evolution. After a few short years of producing kits,

the company found that they could offer a better product at a lower cost by providing assembled circuit boards populated with surface mount components. Assembly is a matter of plugging-in boards and configuring systems similar to how a computer is built. Digital electronics has allowed the experimenter to trade-in the soldering iron for computer software codes and the term home-brewing, once a common ham radio activity, has now given way to a more descriptive phrase -- soft-brewing.

Developers like Joe Taylor, K1JT have completely re-written the rules when it comes to EME, meteor scatter and other exotic digital modes once reserved for the eccentric radio amateur. Today many hams employ WSJT software with modest stations to ricochet information to one another via the lunar surface. Other software experimenters are developing new modes and tools for the radio amateur to exploit the power of digital processing. Commercial interests are able to offer feature packed equipment that is relatively less expensive than gear offered in the past, and hams are finding applications for this stuff that could only be imagined a short time ago.

Amateur radio has many examples of innovation and creativity. Sometimes an idea can be ahead of its time. Take for instance an article that appeared in the July 1934 issue of QST that suggested "International Round Table Nets and Globe Circling Relays" using an elaborate network of tape machines and relays to remotely control HF stations as far as 200 miles away so that the ARRL broadcast could be made simultaneously in all 48 United States. We are able to do that exact thing today using Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) but there are some who will argue that this is not "real" radio. Phooey!

ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW was a forward thinker who moved in the same circles as Edison, Ford and Firestone, people who changed our world. Maxim was innovative and has many inventions to his credit. When the spark gap transmitter used at Maxim's station 1AW, could no longer generate radio signals it was replaced by a modern transmitter that used vacuum tubes. When asked if there were plans to repair the spark gap transmitter Maxim acknowledged the position of employing modern technology when he remarked "The voice of the spark set at 1AW will not be heard again." (QST, January 1923, pg 14)

Maxim was always looking beyond the horizon. Displayed in a showcase at ARRL headquarters is

NORTHERN OHIO WIDE AREA UHF REPEATER LINKS

MT. VERNON, OHIO	442.100/+ 71.9
APPLE VALLEY, OHIO	FUTURE
MARENGO, OHIO	FUTURE
MANSFIELD, OHIO	443.075/+ 151.4
ELYRIA, OHIO	443.9875/+ 162.2
VERMILLION, OHIO	53.290/52.290 107.2
SANDUSKY, OHIO	146.805/- 110.9
GIBSONBURG, OHIO	443.1875/+ 107.2
POLK, OHIO	443.675/+ 162.2
REPUBLIC, OHIO	147.255/+ 107.2
REPUBLIC, OHIO	443.4375/+ 107.2
BERLIN HEIGHTS, OHIO	442.675/+ 162.2

Please note the frequency/split(+ or - 5 Mhz) and CTCSS in hertz.

CODES FOR ECHOLINK **(KD8EVR-R Via W8PEN-L)** **And K8EEN-R**

#00	CONNECT TO RANDOM NODE
#01	CONNECT TO A RANDOM LINK
#03	CONNECT TO RANDOM USER
#08	ECHOLINK STATUS
#09	RECONNECT TO LAST CODE
#*XXX	CONNECT TO NODE XXXX
#	DISCONNECT
#79	K8EEN REPEATER
#80	K4OBX-R HATTERAS ISLAND, NC
#82	KG8FV-R ASHLAND, OH
#84	W8DF-R BATTLE CREEK, MI
#100	KD8EVR ARLIN BRADFORD PC/IPHONE
#102	K7FED-R HENDERSON, NV

For more information on using these codes on the KD8EVR repeater or the K8EEN repeater, please see the February 2013 issue of our Club Newsletter

the Elser-Mathis cup. This trophy was inspired by Col Fred Johnson Elser, W6FB and SCM Lt Cmdr Stanley Mathes, K1CY after Elser learned of Maxim's fascination with the planet Mars. The unique wooden cup is waiting to be awarded to any radio amateur for the first Amateur Radio Contact between Earth and Mars. I am certain that "tongue may have been firmly planted in cheek" when this award was conceived but I believe that this trophy may be awarded to some radio amateur in my lifetime.

I would like to think that if Mr. Maxim were here today he would be very happy to see that Amateur Radio and the ARRL have stood the test of time and continue to attract newcomers to the hobby nearly 100 years since the League was founded. However I would not be surprised if The Old Man shook his head in bewilderment to

find that we have spent much time and energy worshipping the past instead of looking ahead to the future.

It may be comforting to stroll down memory lane and fire up the vintage radio for the evening. The warm glow of the tubes and the refreshing aroma of heat radiating from the chassis will create soothing reflections and transport you back to a time when there was no internet, e-mail or cell phones. As you blow smoke rings from your briarwood pipe and replicate the authenticity of what you refer to as "real radio," try to remember that the icons of technology that you pay homage to were once state-of-the-art, modern appliances that filled the dreams of many. As much as Amateur Radio owes to its past, adoration of vintage radio should not take away from Amateur Radio's future.

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 and for those over 65 yrs. of age.

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:



THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE
RADIOGRAM
 VIA AMATEUR RADIO



NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
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TO

TELEPHONE NUMBER

THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT

AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

REC'D	FROM	DATE	TIME	SENT TO	DATE	TIME
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THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE
RADIOGRAM
 VIA AMATEUR RADIO



NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
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TO

TELEPHONE NUMBER

THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT

AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____
 NAME _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

REC'D	FROM	DATE	TIME	SENT TO	DATE	TIME
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