



**Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm  
at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross,  
300 North Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio**



**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600Khz with PL of 71.9 Hz)  
K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800  
KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>View from the Presidents Desk</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Earthday Half Marathon</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Minutes of April MVARC Meeting</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MVARC - NVIS Day</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>I'm Extra Ignorant</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Radio Activity</b>	<b>6-7-8</b>
<b>May-June Calendar</b>	<b>9</b>

**The view from the Presidents Desk**



It's May and time to be outside! Lots of exciting stuff happening soon. We just finished a busy month with the Earth Day Challenge and NVIS, all went well. The Earth Day Challenge started off cool but the sun was out and it warmed up nicely. NVIS, well I was able to contact all the states surrounding Ohio and no one within the state on 40 meters. There was a QRP contest going on at the same time and they were quick to respond so I had lots of fun.

By the time you read this I will be probably be in Florida enjoying the sunshine and four of my grandchildren, wish I could say I miss you but...

While I'm not there a lot will be going on. Scout Fest should be happening if all gets worked out with the city. It will be something to see and enjoy. If you are there take pictures to share with the group.

The weekend following Scout Fest is Dayton. Yup, I'll miss that also. I will be in Louisville, KY. There is a small convention taking place that weekend and I will be attending (NRA).

**continued next column**

This month's meeting will be full and lots of stuff happening so be sure to attend and get the latest update on ARC station, EMA station, Mesh network and the new repeater to name a few things.

73

Frank KC8EVS



**Emergency Preparedness**

All MVARC members are invited to join Knox County ARES. Here's a simple scenario that could significantly impact the life and safety of Knox County residents.

This is a drill "Knox County is currently experiencing a 9-1-1 outage". 20 ARES members are needed for immediate deployment to Knox County Fire, EMS, Police and other county response agencies. This is a drill.



Here's an example of some of the gaps that exist with the 9-1-1 outage scenario; how will I know that I am needed, who is deploying to what agency, when do I need to be there, what do I bring, where do I setup, how long will I be deployed?

Want to be part of the Knox ARES solution? You must register with both ARES and Knox Alerts. When your registration is complete, email KD8PSM with your name and call-sign to complete the process.

Patrick Valentino KD8PSM  
[pvalentinoknoxco@gmail.com](mailto:pvalentinoknoxco@gmail.com)

**Emergency Preparedness, continued on page 2**

When completing the application be prepared to enter your station's capabilities and be sure to attach any completed ICS training certificates.

### Knox Alerts

[http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/knox\\_co\\_oh/wens.cfm](http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/knox_co_oh/wens.cfm)

Knox County implemented a mass notification system. This system will be used by EMA to notify and activate Knox County ARES of a pending disaster or emergency situation via; phone messages, text messages, and emails.

Patrick Valentino KD8PSM  
[pvalentinoknoxco@gmail.com](mailto:pvalentinoknoxco@gmail.com)

---



---

## Earthday Half Marathon

By Jim Williams

### 2016 EARTHDAY HALF MARATHON, ANOTHER SUCCESS

The club would like to thank the following members for their assistance in making the communications at the marathon a job well done.

W8PEN, KD8EVS, KD8HSA, KC8BB, KE8ANS, KD8WSI, KE8ANV, KB8QPO, KD8EVR, AC8PT, and myself, N8IBR, provided communications coverage over the half marathon course again this year.

While the temperature at the beginning of the event was a little chilly, the day was bright and sunny, and at the end seasonably warm.

We again enjoyed the use of the Fredericktown Fire Departments all terrain Gator vehicle. Thanks to KD8EVR for securing the use of it. And a Thank You letter has been sent to the Fire Department.

The event began at 8 AM, and ended around 1130 AM. There were no known health issues related to the event again this year.

Remember we have the Tour de Cure coming up in June. If you are able to participate in this event please try to attend our May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for more details.

Again, thanks to all who participated in the Earth Day Event.

N8IBR, Secretary -MVARC

### The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

**President:** Frank Counts, KC8EVS  
[fcounts@gmail.com](mailto:fcounts@gmail.com)  
Phone: 740-358-9131

**Vice President:** Tom Evans, KD8HSA  
[tom65@embarqmail.com](mailto:tom65@embarqmail.com)  
Phone: 740-625-5138

**Secretary:** Jim Williams, N8IBR  
[n8ibr51@centurylink.net](mailto:n8ibr51@centurylink.net)  
Phone: 740-967-0627

**Treasurer:** Tony Spiegel, KC8UR  
[tony516@embarqmail.com](mailto:tony516@embarqmail.com)  
Phone: 740-392-7586

**Call & Repeater Trustee:**  
Don Russell, W8PEN  
[w8pen@arri.net](mailto:w8pen@arri.net)  
Phone: 740-397-0249

**Equipment Trustee:**  
Barry Butz, N8PPF  
[n8ppf@mvarc.net](mailto:n8ppf@mvarc.net)  
Phone: 740-397-7540

**Directors:**  
Emery Bennett, W8TW  
[eabenn2002@hotmail.com](mailto:eabenn2002@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 740-397-8127

David Byrd, KD8RST  
[dbryd@roadrunner.com](mailto:dbryd@roadrunner.com)  
Phone: 740-392-6325

Barry Butz, N8PPF  
[n8ppf@mvarc.net](mailto:n8ppf@mvarc.net)  
Phone: 740-397-7540

Jeff Butz, N8SMT  
[jaylynn4@gmail.com](mailto:jaylynn4@gmail.com)  
Phone: 740-965-9368

Don Blizzard, W8UMH  
[w8umh@yahoo.com](mailto:w8umh@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 740-392-9753

John Barr, KD8FXX  
Phone: 740-326-1090

Scott Fields, K8AEC  
[ballixxe@yahoo.com](mailto:ballixxe@yahoo.com)  
740-393-2349

Terry Windsor, KE8ANS  
[ke8ans@gmail.com](mailto:ke8ans@gmail.com)  
740-507-6329

**Newsletter Editor &  
Facebook Editor:**  
Bill Bradley, KC8BB  
[wjabradley@yahoo.com](mailto:wjabradley@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 740-397-0267

**Minutes For The April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 MVARC Membership Meeting**

Meeting called to order by KC8EVS at 7 PM.

Motion to approve March meeting minutes made by W8TW, 2<sup>nd</sup> W8PEN. Approved

Motion to accept treasurer's report made by W8PEN, 2<sup>nd</sup> W8TW. Approved.

**President KC8EVS Reports:**

Discussed Earth Day Half Marathon. Those participating were to assemble at the NCS site at 7 AM.

Reminded group about the upcoming ARES NVIS day to be held at the Centerburg Conservation Club.

Brief review on the Scout Fest coming up in May.

Future events, Dayton and Columbus Hamfest's, Field Day, and Ohio State Parks on the Air were discussed.

**Committee Reports:**

W8PEN discussed both the old and new repeaters. At present he hopes to get the 145.440 repeater pair approved by the Ohio repeater co-ordination council. If not, we may have to look into putting the new repeater on 440 Mhz.

W8PEN moved, and W8TW 2<sup>nd</sup> that the club authorize spending \$350.00 to purchase the necessary duplexer and lightning arrestors for the new repeater. Approved.

KC8EVS announced that the Red Cross is allocating both secure storage space (on the first floor), and an operating station (to be on the second floor). They also have approved our putting up a tower and antennas.

W8PEN informed the group that W8DEP was donating a tower and its installation at the Red Cross Building. W8PEN moved, KB8QPO 2<sup>nd</sup> on a motion that if needed the Advisory Board and Club Officers be allowed to meet and authorize any reasonable expense's so the Red Cross project can go forward. Approved.

W8PEN also noted that we should have at least 3 MESH NODES located around Mt Vernon area soon. They will be located at KD8EVR's tower, The Red Cross tower, and the 146.790 repeater site. These Nodes should give us good coverage in the City, and possibly some of the outlying area.

KC8EVS reported that the committee dealing with the EMA station had meet with EMA Director, Mark Maxwell, and AEC KD8PSM, and additional meetings were planned to get the EMA's station up and running.

KC8EVS appointed N8IBR, W8PEN, and KE8ANS as a committee to put together a special event station during Daniel Emmett Days in August.

KC8EVS also said he had been contacted by KD8NZZ who is planning a High Altitude Balloon launch in Knox County during August of 2017. More in the future on this event.

KE8ANS moved, KB2SAI 2<sup>nd</sup> a motion to give KC8BB a check for \$50.00 to cover newsletter expenses. Approved.

N8IBR reported we have received our equipment insurance renewal form. It was suggested we gather information on all our equipment and file the same with the insurer. Officers will take care of this.

KB2SAI moved, KB8QPO 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn meeting at 8:31 PM. Approved.

Submitted by

N8IBR, Secretary -MVARC

MVARC NVIS Day Participation

Your MVARC participated in the ARRL Ohio Section ARES NVIS Day to make as many contacts with Ohio operators and especially designated anchor stations. There were eight members that gathered at the Centerburg Conservation Corps Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> to erect NVIS antennas and make contacts.

We had a total of four antennas erected for this exercise. Frank, KC8EVS, brought his dual band inverted “V” military style AS2259 at 15 feet sloping to one foot, Terry, KE8ANS, brought a dual band long wire inverted “V” at 15 feet sloping to 2.5 feet, Don, W8PEN, had his mobile 40M antenna mounted horizontally on the side of the building about 8 feet up, and also the clubs 40M Windom strung 10 feet above the ground.

We used two radios for this exercise; the club’s HF Go Box Yaesu 857 and Terry’s Icom 706 MKII. However, due to band conditions we only made one 40M contact with an Ohio station in Licking County. We did have better luck on 75M making 20 contacts with Ohio operators four of which were designated anchor stations. Most of the 75M contacts were made with the Icom and the long wire inverted “V”.

The 40M band was active and Frank made over 30 contacts with stations outside of Ohio using his inverted “V” military style antenna. However, the 40M band skip was such that no one had luck contacting the Ohio anchor stations and everyone eventually moved to 75M. We received signal reports of 55 to 59 except with W8SGT in Columbus where we got a 44 and a 52 on 75M while on 40M out of state we were getting similar 55 – 59 reports.

We had a good day working with NVIS antennas, however the weather could have been a little better as it was chilly and windy in the morning and warmed slightly by afternoon. The CCC was a great place to set up and work with plenty of space, trees, and shelter. MVARC personnel attending were: Frank: KC8EVS, Tom: KD8HSA, Don: W8PEN, Jim: N8IBR, Scott: AC8PT, Terry: KE8ANS, Bill: KD8WHQ, and Ralph: W8LFR.

Frank and Tom admiring the AS2259 antenna

Long wire dual band inverted “V” antenna





40M Mobile Antenna mounted horizontally



Frank logging his 40M contacts with Bill supervising



Article and pictures submitted by, Terry Windsor –KE8ANS

=====

**I'm Extra Ignorant**  
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Hi, folks:

Here's my column for April. This column is going out to 385 clubs. We should hit 400 soon!

=====

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

**I'm Extra Ignorant, continued on Page 6**

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

73,

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

---

When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well-- operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. and you can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

---

### **Radio Activity**



**By Don Russell, W8PEN**

April was an extremely busy month for our Radio Club. Currently, the club is working on four individual projects and having great success with each one.

### **EOC**

The club and the ARES has partnered with the Knox County EMA to evaluate the communications room at the EOC (Emergency Operating Center) and perform necessary modifications and/or update to make the room useful in the event of an emergency. For now, there are five club members working closely with Pat Valentino, (KD8PSM) who is the Assistant Knox County EC and assistant to Mark Maxwell, Knox County EMA Director, to get this done.

**Radio Activity, continued on page 7**

Members of the group are: Frank Counts (KC8EVS), Tony Spiegel (KC8UR), Terry Windsor (KE8ANS), Bill Bradley (KC8BB), and Don Russell (W8PEN).

This group is going through the process of background checks, EMA / ARES identification cards, and finally being recognized as a volunteer group that will eventually have unlimited access to the EOC Radio Room. This will take some time and is only the start. Once this group has gone through the process, others will be invited to join us. They will also be required to take the ICS 100, ICS 300, and ICS 700 FEMA courses that are available online. This is a joint ARES / Club project.

Headway is being made. The EOC has all the equipment and antennas needed. The Yaesu FT-8800 is a very good choice for VHF/UHF, however, the antenna being used is not. The antenna is a 2 meter antenna, whereas a 2mtr/70cm antenna would be more useful.

The EOC has a Kenwood TS-2000, which again is a good choice. With the current antenna positioning, the noise level on 80 meters is and S9 plus and S6 on 40 meters. These are the two bands that would be most useful in a regional emergency so we are working to get the antennas repositioned to eliminate the noise. We are also seeking to replace the RG-8X coax currently being used with double shielded coax to further reduce the noise level. Possibly, we will have to go with a different antenna, like a folded dipole or loop, but for now we will continue to work with the antennas we have.

### Red Cross

The club is working closely with Rod Cook, Executive Director of South Central Ohio American Red Cross to set up an amateur radio station at the training center. This includes erecting a tower for antennas and setting up both a VHF/UHF station and an HF radio. There will also be a Mesh Node on the tower.

The tower work has already been done by club members. There is now a 30 foot tower donated by Dave Phillips (W8DEP) in place against the main building near the training center. We have yet to install the antennas. One antenna will be a Cushcraft R5 vertical antenna donated by Jim Williams (N8IBR). This will cover 20 – 10 meters plus 6 meters I believe. We are planning on an 80 – 10 meter Windom or End Fed wire antenna to cover the other bands. A decision on what kind of VHF/UHF antenna has not been made yet. Looks like we will be looking for some kind of gain vertical antenna and a four or five element 2 meter beam aimed at Columbus.

Scott Keys (AC8PT) has donated a complete Mesh Node which consists of a Ubiquiti Rocket M2 and a dual polarized 2.4 GHz antenna plus shielded Ethernet cable to run into the building. This will be an excellent Node for this part of Mt. Vernon.

### Mesh Project

Speaking of our Mesh Project, things are building up steam in this department. Soon we will have a Node on the East end of Mt. Vernon. We will have a Node at the Red Cross. Early this summer, I am expecting the Node at the Water Tower to be up and running.

In the meantime, Scott Keys (AC8PT) and I have been experimenting with what we have running. I have connected my node to Scott's node via the internet. Scott has connected to a bunch of other nodes, mostly down south in W4 land. This has permitted Scott and I to play around with other nodes and see what is possible. And a lot is possible!

Currently, Scott and I have Chat Rooms online. These are rooms in which several hams can go to and talk via keyboarding. There is also a MeshChat set up. This MeshChat broadcasts the conversations to all other MeshChat nodes so there is a group discussion ongoing most of the time. It is interesting just to read through. MeshChat also has a file server on it in which you can upload or download files. We also have a web server up and running and a PBX connecting phones. You can pick up a phone and talk to any ham that has a phone on one of the nodes. Lastly, we have a version of Winlink up and running. With Winlink, you will be able to send and receive emails. I am planning a video cam, but have not had time to work on that.

In summary, I think a lot will happen with the Mesh Project this summer. I hope we have a lot of members willing to put up nodes. Yes, most of the time, things will just sit there. But after all the playing is done, I am hoping this project will become a big part of our ARES.

### New Repeater

There is one other project going on. The club is putting up a new repeater. We were hoping that this repeater would be on 2 meters. Unfortunately, after much conversation with the Ohio Area Repeater Council, there are not any 2 meter frequency pairs available in our area. Therefore we have decided to go to 70cm.

As reported last month, the club has a new Yaesu Fusion Repeater and was planning on replacing the existing repeater at the K8EEN repeater site with it. Difficulty in adding an external controller has changed our thinking. We will be putting this new digital repeater on 442.100 MHz. It will be a dual mode repeater offering both analog FM (standard FM) and C4FM, the new digital mode. We are hoping to get this repeater on the air sooner than later.

Does the frequency sound familiar? Arlin Bradford (KD8EVR) has offered the club his repeater frequency and all the equipment at his tower site (antenna and duplexer or combiner) so we can get our new repeater up and running quickly. Arlin was wanting to take his repeater offline for a while anyway and said if he decides to put up another repeater, he will put it on a different frequency.

See last months newsletter for information on equipment needed to go digital on this repeater. One needs to buy the dual band equipment mentioned last month.

That is it for now. See you at the meeting.

Don, W8PEN



# May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>KC8BB –Bill</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Finer Diner
<b>8</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>W8PEN –Don</b>	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>MVARC</b> <b>meeting at the</b> <b>Knox County</b> <b>Red Cross</b> <b>Building</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s  Boy Scout “Scout Fest” @ Foundation Park	<b>14</b> Boy Scout “Scout Fest” @ Foundation Park
<b>15</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>KD8WSI –John</b>  Boy Scout “Scout Fest” @ Foundation Park	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s  <b>Dayton</b> <b>Hamvention</b> <b>Dayton, OH</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Dayton</b> <b>Hamvention</b> <b>Dayton, OH</b>
<b>22</b> Dayton <b>Hamvention</b> <b>Dayton, OH</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sun- day Night Net on K8EEN <b>KD8HSA –Tom</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>W8PEN –Don</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Memorial</b> <b>Day</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>June 1</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee’s	<b>4</b>