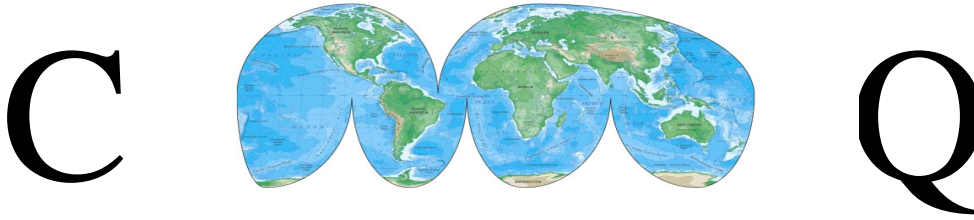


MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



November 2007 Newsletter

MEETINGS SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RED CROSS ANNEX BUILDING,
300 N MULBERRY ST, MT. VERNON, OHIO
FREQUENCIES: 146.790 Mhz (-) K8EEN /R , Simplex: 146.52 Mhz, 446.000 Mhz, and 446.125 Mhz (WA8YRS-L Echolink Simplex)
SUNDAY NIGHT ARES NET AT 8:00 P.M ON THE K8EEN REPEATER OPEN TO ALL

From The Editor By Don Russell, WA8YRS

As I was beginning to write this intro to the November Newsletter, I realized that this completes two full years as the club's Newsletter Editor. Actually, the first Newsletter I put out was the October 2005 issue, but most of it was ready to go when Phil, N1GTZ, decided that he had no time to finish it. Thus, a hurried up issue came out. Actually, it was pretty good, but I cannot take credit for that one. For the November 2005 issue, I made changes to the basic format of our newsletter. Most notable is the two column approach, which in my opinion, makes the Newsletter look more professional, and a better read.

I admit that I have really enjoyed creating these monthly masterpieces much more than I thought I would and presently have no desire to give this honor up. I could use some help though.

First, I would like to thank all those that send me in something almost monthly. This helps fill the pages more than you can imagine.

I am finding it harder than ever to come up with fresh ideas and things to write about. Anyone wishing to submit articles for this Newsletter, please do so. Aside from actually writing an article, suggestions of subjects would be nice. I don't need to know a lot about a subject to write about it. I enjoy doing the research that goes with broaching a new subject. Another way to help would be to point me to an interesting web page. So, again, please suggest away.

One may have noticed that last month's Newsletter was only eight pages long (four pages printed on both sides). It also contained more filler, or stuff not locally generated than I normally use. I thought it still turned out pretty

good, but I really like to use local stuff, filled with pictures when possible.

On to more interesting stuff:

Several Web Pages have come to my attention. A really good video created 1939 about Ham Radio can be watched here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGldf0VjQ4>

It is about 10 minutes long and really shows what ham radio was like back in those days. I liked it. The credits for this "professional video", which I believe was used as lead ins to the headlined show at local movie theaters is here:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0031834/>

For Morse Code Fans, here is an article from the Wall Street Journal. It includes a great video on Morse Code and ham radio. Scroll down and click "Play Video".

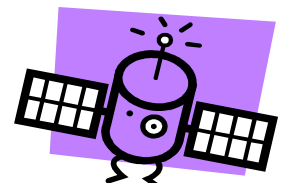
http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB119161604206850468-IMyQjAxMDE3OTAxODYwMTg2Wj.html

For Hams interested in contesting, check out this site:

<http://www.radio-sport.net/>

Sputnik and Echo By Barry Butz N8PPF

Lately there have been plenty of stories in the news about the Sputnik launch 50 years ago. I might as well add mine. At the time, I was a teenaged paperboy



delivering the Buffalo Courier-Express, a morning paper. The papers were delivered to my house in the early hours. My daily routine was to bring the papers in and read a couple front-page stories while I ate my Wheaties and folded the papers. (The folding was done so the papers could be tossed onto front porches as I rode by on my bike.) I was quite interested in science and space and like everyone else was astonished by the headlines announcing the launch by the Soviet Union. There were many stories about the launch and related subjects. My customers had to wait for their papers that day because I read every word in every article before starting out on my paper route.

Many people and recent articles state that Sputnik was visible as it flew over in the night sky. I don't think this is accurate. Sputnik was just 23 inches in diameter and would be awfully hard for the naked eye to see at its 100-mile altitude. In 1960 the US launched the first communications satellite, called Echo. It was nothing more than a metallized Mylar balloon inflated to 100-foot diameter. It definitely was visible at twilight. I used my Dad's Kodak 620 reflex camera to take a time exposure of its pass. The picture showed the track but was marred by a jiggle from a cat trying to climb the tripod. Echo was a passive satellite. It served as a reflector for transcontinental radio signals.

SAN DIEGO AREA HAMS ACTIVATED AS WILDFIRES RAVAGE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(From the ARRL Letter, October 26, 2007)

As fires raged through parts of the San Diego area and other areas in Southern California, ham radio operators did their part to ensure the safety of residents either affected or threatened by the fires. ARES groups in San Diego were activated on Monday, October 22 and continued to assist their served agencies until early Wednesday morning. Sixty hams were called to service by the County of San Diego's Emergency Medical Service.



According to ARRL San Diego Section Emergency Coordinator James J. Cammarano II, KG6R, hams assisted at the San Diego Medical Operations Center, six trauma centers and 16 community hospitals. Hams served as a resource, Cammarano said, "to be used in case primary circuits to hospital communications were lost due to either overload or power interruptions." In addition to these 60 amateurs, another dozen or so hams were activated by the Red Cross.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response

Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, learned that San Diego ARES volunteers were activated and now they are in standby mode. "They are ready to go at a moment's notice, but there are currently no plans for re-activation," he said. As in any emergency situation, information can quickly change and the ARRL will continue to monitor the situation and inform members if the situation changes.

As the fires started to spread, hams started a FIRENET on the Palomar ARC 146.73 MHz repeater. Howard White, KY6LA, of La Jolla, who was among those who served as net control operator under extremely stressful conditions, disseminated a preliminary log of his experience. Excerpts follow:

"With flames starting to engulf the county and no active single source of information, as best as I could determine Charlie NN3V stepped into the information vacuum to start the 'FIRENET' as an ad hoc operation on Sunday afternoon. Early contributors included Gayle K6GO and Gary W6GDK. Initial operations started by collecting fire information as to fire location, wind directions, shelter locations and initial evacuations. Hams provided eyes and ears on the ground where the danger was. Soon however the fires seemed to be heading down to the Poway area so Charlie and the other Poway hams needed to evacuate....

"Day One: Is the fire near us? Where is the head of the fire? What directions are the heads going? What are the winds doing? Should we evacuate? What roads are closed? What about our animals? Where should we go? What should we take? What is the route to avoid the flames? Can you help us find missing people or pets? Can you help us get barrels of water for animals? Can you help us find food and water? Can you get the police to deal with looters?

"Unlike Katrina, the questions and answers did not abate at night. It was nonstop. Terry K3PXX needed routing around the fires to evacuate his Animal trailer. Terry reported on Fires as he drove through Poway and back to San Marcos EOC. ROARS hams had evacuated Ramona and the 147.03 repeater and were looking for help to be routed safely out of the area. Fires broke out in Coronado Hills in San Marcos. People needed to be evacuated. Brian KF6C asked where to evacuate his 4 children. San Marcos EOC needed to be activated and FIRENET held the fort for them until they could get there and became operational to evacuate San Marcos. George KG6IDE tries to drive up to Ramona to evacuate elderly parents but we turn him back to avoid the flames...

"0130 Tuesday: N9XF reports flame proceeding down 76 from Fallbrook. Tom KI6IET, who is blind, but stays at his post as my backup net control, needs to be evacuated. Evacuation arranged ok. Rob WA3IHV calls from his office at Palomar hospital to tell us his family was evacuated OK and horses survived...

"2100 Tuesday: FIRENET hams drive to Qualcomm Stadium and load trucks with food. Dan leads ham relief convoy with food and supplies to Mira Costa College. Fire victims at shelter express gratitude for first food delivery..."

"2350 Wednesday: KG6VVN signs off as net control as the 146.730 repeater runs out of fuel and goes off the air..."

Orange County update: Acting Section Emergency Coordinator Cathy Gardenias, K6VC, provided this update on the situation in the ARRL Orange Section as of October 25: "Slide Fire/Green Valley is 17% contained; Grass Fire is 70% contained. Santiago Canyon Fire was 50% but was reduced last night as it turned and headed for the Riverside County border of the Cleveland National Forest.

"Amateur Radio operators have been utilized. The San Bernardino County Fire EOC has been using ECS and ARES members in the EOC to monitor communications and other jobs needed. At the command post at the Rim of The World High School near Lake Arrowhead, ECS and ARES members who have been fully trained in all ICS and S190 (bush training) are handling communications and other needs. This is according to Jeff W6JJR DEC for ARES San Bernardino County and a Public Information Officer (Miles) from the EOC in San Bernardino. The EOC is at Level III at this time.

"SATERN [Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network] Amateur Radio operators at all the shelters have been volunteering their time as non communicators, but as helpers for those who are in need."

As of Friday afternoon, CNN reported that 14 of the nearly two dozen fires were under control. Nearly 800 square miles has burned in Southern California, and seven deaths have been blamed on the fires, with dozens of injuries.

Ron Roberts, Chairman of the San Diego Board of Supervisors estimates that 560,000 people were ordered to evacuate their homes, and thousands more were evacuated in San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Firefighters received help from Mexico, the state and federal governments and even inmates from California's prisons. About 7000 firefighters were battling the blazes, including 2300 inmates from California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, according to Governor Schwarzenegger.

President Bush visited the area on Thursday and declared a federal emergency for seven counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura. FEMA Administrator David

Paulison said that the President's action authorizes FEMA to "coordinate all disaster relief efforts, which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives, protect property and public health and safety and lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe." Schwarzenegger estimated that at least \$75 million in federal aid would be needed. -- Some information from The Weather Channel and CNN

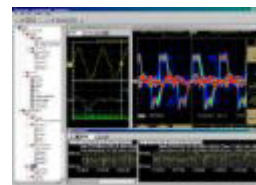
ARRL AND MFJ TEAM UP TO OFFER 40 METER TRANSCEIVER KITS (From The ARRL letter, November 2, 2007

Earlier this fall, ARRL introduced the third edition of its "Low Power Communication" book, written by Rich Arland, W3OSS. This new edition includes the complete assembly manual for a 40 meter transceiver kit produced by MFJ Enterprises.

"ARRL has also bundled the book with the kit, giving readers a firsthand experience at project-building and operating," said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. This is the first time ARRL has offered a publication bundled with a radio kit. Inderbitzen said orders for the kit have been brisk. "We're delighted that MFJ agreed to collaborate with us on this unique publication and product undertaking. See: <http://www.arrl.org/catalog> for more information.



Barry Butz, N8PPE, PRESENTS



Working With Oscilloscopes

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Monday, November 12, 2007
After The Regular Club Meeting
Starting at 7:00 P.M.

MUSEUM OF RADIO AND TECHNOLOGY

Huntington, West Virginia

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

Early in the summer we visited the Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, WV. It was well worth the time.

Housed in a former elementary school, it has about ten rooms filled with historical equipment and memorabilia. We had a personal tour given by one of the volunteers.

This room has a collection of early radio receivers. Our guide is showing us a counter full of crystal sets. He also demonstrated a rotary spark transmitter, which was very impressive.



The museum has a ham station, WV8MRT. Here, KC8DLG sits at the desk full of classic gear.



There is also another larger shack that was being used that day for the West Virginia QSO Party.

The central hallway is lined with floor model radios from the 1930s and 40s. Here is a beauty, a combination

unit having a classy AM-SW radio, a record changer, and best of all, a wire recorder that could copy phonograph records or record from the radio. Notice the clock to start automatic recording.



The radio exhibits span the time from the earliest days to about the 1950s. Here are some fine portable and tabletop radios from the 50s.



The newest gear was early computers from the 1970s and 80s, such as an IMSAI 8080 and Commodore Pet.

Other exhibits include military radios, Hi-Fi equipment, the studio and transmitter from AM broadcast station WMMN, and the West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame. There is a good library. I had been looking for an article from the January 1983 QST. They had the magazine and made a copy of the article for me.

The museum is run by volunteers, who are very friendly and eager to help visitors. Admission is free. Donations are accepted. For more pictures and info, see their website at

<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT/>

Wednesday Pizza Hut Location Changed

Dick Huggins, N8RDH, has reported that the traditional Club Wednesday Pizza Hut Dinner has been changed to the **Wednesday Donatos Dinner**. The location of Donatos Pizza is 221 West High Street, Mt. Vernon. It is on the North East corner of West High Street and Sandusky Street. Be there around 5:00 pm.



Dick cited continued poor service from Pizza Hut as the reason for the change. If members are happy with this new site, I will try to get a copy of their menu and post it in next Months Newsletter..... Don, WA8YRS

November Treasurers Report

Income:

Dues: \$20.00

Interest: \$16.91

Expenses:

Post Office Box rent: \$40.00

Postage stamps: \$41.00

Balance on 10-29-07: \$1920.67

Designated Funds

Year 2005 Repeater Fund: \$634.94

Field Day Fund: \$108.30

Barry N8PPF

Oscilloscope Demonstration Set for November Meeting

Barry Butz, N8PPF is set to give an Oscilloscope demonstration at the November meeting. If you have ever been curious about how to use one of these instruments, now would be a good time to learn.

Barry is retired from Rolls Royce where he was a mechanical engineer, and involved in setting up many tests of the Natural Gas Compressors built at the Mt. Vernon Facility.

He has been a volunteer Ham Radio instructor for many years and enjoys teaching electronic theory and math computations.

Lets have a large crowd meeting night. Everyone will be sure to learn something interesting..... Don, WA8YRS

Repeaters and Stuff

By Don Russell, WA8YRS

This column is getting easier to write, now that we are down to one club repeater..... That may not really be a good thing. However, I will also be reporting on Arlin Bradford's (KD8EVR) repeater.



The 2 meter repeater continues to run flawlessly (knock on wood!). No problems have been brought to my attention.

Have you noticed the lack of interference to our channel lately? That is because the Mt. Gilead repeater has been off the air due to another lightening strike. I did check earlier in the week, and they are back on the air. Actually, we have had few problems with them since we went to PL full time and changed our Sunday Night Net to an 8:00pm start time. Having a net on both repeaters at 9:00pm did not work very well, so I am glad that we made the move. I know for some of you it is not a good time, but in the long run, the move was worthwhile. I encourage everyone to try and join us on Sunday Nights at 8:00pm when they can.

Arlin's repeater is doing a good job coverage wise. He must have been working on it because he has a better signal out at my QTH now. I also am able to hit it with the hand held pretty easy, which before, I had trouble doing. Just as a reminder, his repeater is on 442.100 Mhz (+), with a PL of 71.9 Hz.

The repeater still has no ID, so if you use it, make sure you identify the repeater on your first call and whenever you identify your station. For example: "This is WA8YRS monitoring through the KD8EVR repeater". And: "This is WA8YRS clear the KD8EVR repeater".

It would be fun to get several mobile stations running around to check how well they get into the repeater from different locations around Knox County. I know Arlin wants to cover the entire county with it, if possible.

My Echolink simplex station is still on most of the time from 5:00pm until 10:00pm. I have been surprised by the lack of echolink stations checking in. I thought there would be more stations accessing my link. However, it is fun to touch tone random repeaters, links, or users as instructed in the September issue of the Newsletter. I have talked to many stations while taking my two mile walk around the neighborhood by using this feature. I also found that I can hit the link from inside the Red Cross building during the October meeting. Maybe I can give a demo at one of the meetings.

Now that we have all these new HF operators, 10 meters for all the with the Technician license, just when will the next sunspot cycle peak? Well, I decided to do a little web surfing to find out.

According to Mausumi Dikpati, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research's High Altitude Observatory in Boulder, Colorado, we are now at the bottom of cycle number 23. At its peak, cycle 23 was a strong one. 10 meters was open to Europe from early morning to late afternoon and even into the evening. Even 6 meters delivered almost daily bridges to Europe! That is about the time I put a 6 meter beam up. I don't normally work DX, but I did a lot of listening and there was plenty of DX on 6 meters then.

The next cycle, cycle 24, is predicted to begin by late 2007 or early 2008. Get this: At its peak cycle 24 is expected to be 30% to 50% stronger than the last one! This information is based on a new computer model, which when tested proved to be very accurate in predicting the past eight cycles. I guess they back tracked and compared the prediction of previous cycles to what actually happened. Sounds logical to me.

Cycle 24 is expected to peak around 2012, then slowly decline until it hits minimum again, I would guess around 2019 or so. We should have a lot of fun with this cycle!

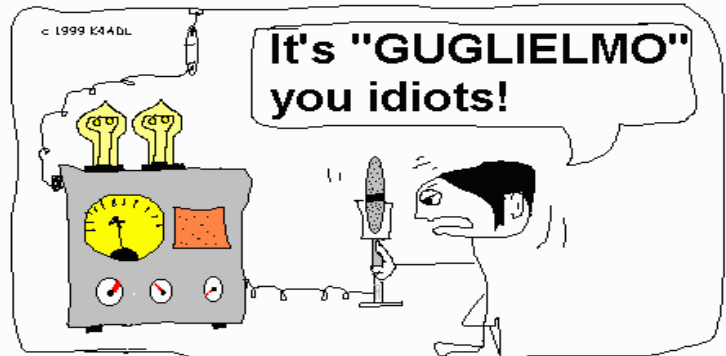
Sunspots are the dark blotches that temporarily appear on the Sun when magnetic field lines near the star's outer layer push through the surface

For those not familiar with sunspot cycles and how it affects shortwave radio, Sunspots affect the F Layer of the earth's atmosphere. The relationship is that more sunspots better enable the F layer to reflect radio signals back to the earth. Since the F layer is the highest layer of the atmosphere, you get more bang for your buck (or watt in this case). Even without sunspots, the E layer still reflects some during "E skip conditions, but not nearly as much as the F layer. During sunspot minimum years we learn to live with band openings only during the daytime and usually only up to around our 15 meter band. And zilch at night! Of course, there is always E layer skip, which, the E layer being lower in the earth's atmosphere does not provide the long distance skip paths we live for. E skip can affect all bands from about 20 meters up, but is most pronounced on 6 and 10 meters.

We may have to take the good with the bad though. According to Richard Behnke, director of the US National Science Foundation's Upper Atmospheric Research Section, higher sunspot activity can also yield solar flares and coronal mass ejections, which spew radiation and charged particles in Earth's direction. This prediction suggests we're potentially looking at more communications and navigations disruptions, more satellite failures, possible disruptions of electrical grids, blackouts, and more dangerous conditions for

astronauts," he says.

But hey, when all that is not happening, the bands will be wide open! See you at the meeting.



THE ONLY REASON MARCONI INVENTED WIRELESS BROADCASTING WAS TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO PRONOUNCE HIS FIRST NAME.

A Thanks from One Ham to Another

President Mike McCardel received this email a month or so ago:

On behalf of the Dague family, I would like to thank all amateur radio operators in Knox County for their dedication to Ham Radio. About 30 years ago my late father, Michael Dague - KI6IGG, became interested in amateur radio, in great part due to the enthusiasm of some hams in the Mt. Vernon area. Even though he did not actually earn an FCC amateur license until 2007, the seed of interest had been sown and continued to grow throughout his life, exhibiting itself in his interests in radio and other types of electronics hobbies. Having finally earned the ham radio privileges this past March, he felt very proud to finally be an amateur radio operator...and we thank all of you for the encouragement that led to that pleasure.

Clint J. Dague, NR6T
Facilities Engineer
Goodrich Aerostructures Group
8200 Arlington Ave.
Riverside, CA 92503

cell: 951-232-0145
desk: 951-351-5344
fax: 951-351-5288

My Thanks also goes out to Mt. Vernon and Knox County hams both past and present who continue to welcome new hams with open arms. We tend to forget how technical our hobby really is; and how much effort most people go through to get their license. Code or no Code, Ham Radio is mysterious and magical to the general public.

Clint Dague, NR6T, has our sincere condolences on the passing of his father, KI6IGG.Don, WA8YRS



Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County

201 North Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 (740) 392-BOOK www.knox.net

October 2, 2007

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 372
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

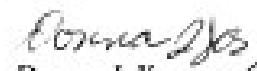
Dear Sir:

I wanted to write and thank your organization for the lovely donation made to the Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County. The books that your organization donated are:

- Noax's Radio Puzzler, by H. Ward Silver*
- The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, by Ward Silver*
- The ARRL Antenna Book, 21st ed.*
- Understanding Basic Electronics, by Larry D. Wolfgang*
- The Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook, by Martin Davidoff*
- Transmitter Hunting, by Joseph D. Moell and Thomas H. Curlee*
- The ARRL General Class License Manual for Ham Radio, by Ward Silver*
- QST Devoted Entirely To Amateur Radio*
- The ARRL Extra Class License Manual for Radio Amateurs*
- The ARRL Operating Manual for Radio Amateurs, 8th ed.*
- The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications, 2007*

The books are a very welcome addition to our nonfiction section and I know that our library patrons will appreciate this donation. The books have been processed and are being displayed in the West Entry window; I wanted library patrons to be aware of this donation. The display will be up for a few weeks. Again, thank you for your thoughtful donation.

Sincerely,


Donna J. Young
Mem/Gift Books

Branches.....

EXTENSION SERVICES 201 N. Mulberry Street Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 392-BOOK	FREDERICKTOWN COMMUNITY LIBRARY 1 Budget Drive Fredericktown, Ohio 43019 694-BOOK	DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY 612 S. Market Street Danville, Ohio 43014 599-BOOK	GAMBIER COMMUNITY LIBRARY 115 Meadow Lane Gambier, Ohio 43022 427-BOOK
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Newsletter Credits
Editor: Don Russell, WA8YRS

Clip Art and Cartoons thanks to http://wm8c1.50megs.com/radio_clip_art.htm, <http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/>, http://pages.prodigy.net/kg0zz/clipart/ham_art3.htm, <http://www.arrl.org/>,

The ARRL letter is a weekly e-mail publication by the ARRL. You may read the entire ARRL letter by visiting the ARRL Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/>. **Other News** from: <http://ky4ky.com/fyi.htm>.

The ARES E-Letter is an e-mail digest of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Past issues of The ARES E-Letter are available at <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el/>. Issues are posted to this page after publication.

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 wa8yrs@arrl.net or Don Russell, WA8YRS, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

President: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD	kc8yld@arrl.net	Phone: 740-599-6614
Vice President: Don Russell, WA8YRS	Wa8yrs@arrl.net	Phone: 740-397-0249
Secretary: Jeff Butz, N8SM	Jaylynn@copper.net	Phone: 740-965-9368
Treasurer: Barry Butz, N8PPF	n8ppf@mvarc.net	Phone: 740-397-7540

Membership Form

Club dues run from Jan. 1 until Dec. 31 and are collected during the last quarter of the year. You can mail in the dues to the address below or bring them to a meeting. Dues are prorated for new members at the time of application. Visit our Web Page at www.mvarc.net

Dues Schedule: \$12 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family, for those over 65 yrs. of age, and for those living outside Knox County

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: