Ham Radio Rocks!

The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

November, 2008 Newsletter

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. 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

A Note From the Editor

The following is something I promised to publish in the October Newsletter. As I was deleting files from the October effort, I realized I left this one out. I reread this article and it is still timely, so here it is. My apologies to Brent Stover, WD8PNZ.

Perhaps a few of our club members would like to help Brent, and Ham Radio out here.

Message from Brent Stover WD8PNZ

My name is Brent Stover and I am the ARRL Legislative Action Coordinator for the State of Ohio. One of my duties in this position is to recruit ARRL members to volunteer as Legislative Action Assistants in their home county. I am asking three ARRL members in each county, who are as passionate for this radio hobby as I am to help me shape the future of Amateur Radio for years to come. Without your help, our hobby is in jeopardy of being lost to highest bidder for the frequencies that we use every day for pleasure and public service. The job is not tough; in fact, I think you should have fun doing it. This position does not take up much time. A visit with your local Congressman at his or her home office once in a while and urging others to write letters to their Congressman and Senator, takes very little time and offers a large benefit. When legislators receive letters from their constituents, they do take notice and it does make a difference.

I, like most of you, work a job that requires me to work about 70 hours per week. Besides my work as an LAC, I am an AEC for Lucas County, Assistant Skywarn® Coordinator for Northwest Ohio Skywarn® District 1, Lucas County CERT, American Red Cross volunteer. I was also a Legislative Action Assistant before taking my current position, taking Senator Mike DeWine's group and other legislators on tours of our Skywarn® facility located in the Emergency Services Building of the Lucas County EMA. One thing I did learn in talking to many legislators is that they know nothing of the role that amateur radio plays in the arena of public service. We need to educate them and tell them how we want them to support the bills that the ARRL is presenting through the legislative process.

One of the threats to amateur radio that the ARRL is addressing is Broadband Over Power lines. BPL, as it is called, is where companies are putting internet frequencies on unshielded electrical power lines, making one big antenna and in the process making some parts of the amateur radio bands and some public service bands unusable. We are currently asking all amateur radio licensees' to write their Congressman and Senators to ask them to co-sponsor legislation relating to this matter. In the House, it is the Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007 H.R. 462. In the Senate, it is the same name but is numbered S 1629. There are sample letters on the ARRL website you can download and print out and these can be personalized in any way you wish. You can visit the website and read the entire bill.

If you want to protect the frequencies we enjoy today and keep them for generations to come, then you need to volunteer a little bit of time and help me build this grassroots Buckeye organization into a force that gets the attention of our representatives and makes amateur radio a hobby to be enjoyed for all licensed operators no matter what area of the hobby they operate.

For more information, or better yet, to contact me to tell me you are ready to volunteer; I have included my contact information.

Brent Stover, WD8PNZ, Ohio Legislative Action Coordinator
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Members - The Reason ARRL Is!
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Treasurer's Report
November 2008
for Aug 1 to Oct 25, 2008

Balance on 8-1-08:	$ 2415.63
Income:	
Interest:	$ 16.73
Dues:	$ 25.00
Expenses:	
50th Anniversary Food:	$ 100.00
Postage:	$ 42.00
Post Office Box Rental:	$ 42.00
Balance on 10-25-08:	$2273.36
Designated Funds	
Year 2005 Repeater Fund:	$694.94
Field Day Fund:	$133.24

Barry N8PPF

Art Towslee, WA8RMC, to Speak at November Meeting

Art Towslee, WA8RMC, of Westerville, Ohio, will our guest speaker at our November 10, 2008 meeting. Meeting begins at 7pm at the American Red Cross Building. The presentation will follow immediately after the meeting.

Art is President of Amateur Television in Central Ohio (ATCO) and will be giving a presentation on Amateur Television (ATV)

Art Towslee, WA8RMC has been involved with ATV since 1965 and is recently retired from his engineering job of 43 years. In the years since 1965 he has been involved in almost all aspects of ATV in the UHF/microwave bands including digital ATV. He is presently involved in writing a new ATV chapter for a future release of the ARRL Handbook . Art is the president of the ATCO ATV group in central Ohio and the editor/publisher of the ATCO Newsletter. Last year Art was blessed to become the Hamvention ATV moderator.

Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I got an e-mail from a ham down in Texas who had attended the Maker Faire (makerfaire.com). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, Make: (www.makezine.com).

He was amazed at the lack of any amateur radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits. Outside of a table with a Vectronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected amateur radio is getting from the mainstream. These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in amateur radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the "maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I blogged about this back in May:

(http://kb6nu.com/why-cant-dayton-be-more-like-the-maker-faire/).

One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new, young ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the

flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think that they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next one, and in addition to all the books and t-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

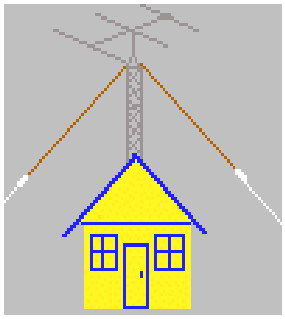
This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the 80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities.

As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

When Dan's not pontificating about ham radio, you'll find him working CW on 40m, teaching ham classes, or running for the ARRL Board of Directors. Read more by going to www.kb6nu.com. Send e-mail to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

My Favorite Antenna

By Don Russell, w8pen



Many club members have heard me comment on the virtues of the Windom Antenna. I like this antenna, and the more I use one in different situations, the more I like it. Yes, it does have a few drawbacks. The "perfect antenna" is very elusive. However, I have tried many other combinations of wire antennas, and I always seem to come back to the windom as my number one option.

Those of you that participated in last years Field Day at the Red Cross (2007, not this years event) may have noticed that there were no windom antennas put up. The reasoning here was that the year before, which was our first Field Day at the Red Cross in 2006, we had two windoms installed, and had a bit of an RF issue with each one. Those doing Field Day this year, may have noticed that the windom antenna was back in our arsenal. We used one on CW and beat the three SSB stations in total contacts. We used a ground rod at the station and that made all the difference.

We also used the windom antenna during our 50th Year ARRL Affiliation party with huge success. In fact, the antenna worked so good on 20 meters, I plan on using it in next years Field Day. Okay, we only made two or three contacts on 20 meters. But all the reports were 59 plus 10 or 20 db!

Many use a GRV antenna, which is a good antenna in its own right. The GRV antenna actually has some good gain on 20 meters. One of the reasons to use a GRV would be that, unlike the windom, the antenna radiates broadside on all the frequencies it was designed for. This means that if you place the GRV running North and South, it will radiate East and West on all frequencies. If you want most of your signal going North and South, then you would run the GRV antenna East and West. The windom antenna will radiate broadside only at the fundamental frequency at which it was designed. If the windom is cut to be a half wave length on 80 meters, then it will radiated broadside only on 80 meters. As you move up in frequency to 40, 20, and 10 meters, the Windoms radiation pattern starts to develop lobs. The higher you go in frequency, the more lobes in the pattern. They are pretty much unpredictable. If you are wanting to work into a certain area, you may have to use the "cut and try" method by placing the antenna in different positions until you start getting good reports from the desired area. The GRV is very predictable and can be set up favoring the area you wish to cover and forgotten about.

Okay, lobes are created. Well all that power has to go somewhere, so the power goes in the lobes. I read on a website that the gain of one of the lobes on a windom antenna can rival a full sized 3 element yagi in the favored direction. That is worth thinking about. May take a bit of playing with, but certainly a very cheap gain antenna can be had.

Also, notice I left out 15 meters for the coverage of a windom? A windom antenna works only on bands harmonically related to the antenna design frequency. Since 15 meters is not harmonically related, a windom will not easily work on 15 meters, if designed for one of the other bands. Although, I have found with an antenna tuner, I can work plenty of stations on 15 meters without a problem. A GRV covers 15 meters just fine.

Speaking of antenna tuners, in many cases, both antennas may require one. The design of the antennas are such that they provide a fairly low SWR on each band. This "fairly low" SWR can be as high as 4:1 or 5:1

in some cases, although usually less than 3:1. Still, on the HF frequencies this SWR creates very little loss. Both the GRV and the Windom antennas are very efficient antennas. The antenna tuner built into many modern transceivers work fine with either antenna.

Why then do I prefer the Windom over the GRV? A GRV is fed with a certain amount of ladder line. I believe typically 25 feet or so. Then coax the rest of the way. This ladder line should drop straight down. Then the coax is run towards the shack. In most antenna installations, this is pretty hard to do. Not impossible, just difficult. So, many run the ladder line into the shack, which upsets the balance and may affect tuning of the antenna. The Windom on the other hand, is fed with a 4 to 1 balun and coax. This means you can treat it as a single band dipole. Tape the coax to the tower, run it into the shack and you are ready to go. Due to the unbalanced nature of a Windom, radiation from the feed line is a problem, but that can be turned into an advantage by using an RF choke at 15 to 25 feet down from the balun. The part above the choke radiates a vertical pattern, which is good for DX on the HF bands. One other good reason is that a Windom is just a dipole antenna fed off center. Therefore, if you are using an 80 meter Windom antenna, the length of the antenna is the full 135 feet. More wire, better efficiency. The GRV is typically 88 feet long and covers 80 through 10 meters. I would say its performance on 80 would be lacking.

Want to make your own Windom? It is easy. Construct it just as you would a dipole, only the leg lengths are different: To build an 80 meter Windom which covers 80, 40, 20, 10, and 6 meters, one leg would be 90 feet long. The other leg would be 45 feet long. In between the wires you would have a 4:1 balun instead of the standard dipole center insulator. For a 40 meter Windom which covers 40, 20, 10 and 6 meters, one leg is 41.5 feet, and the other leg is 23.5 feet. Again, place a 4:1 balun in between the wires.

You can prune the Windom antenna in much the same way you would a dipole antenna, only you do not take equal lengths off each leg. Each leg is a percentage of the total dipole length. Everyone has their own idea of what ratio works best. Using my guideline for leg lengths, if you wish to prune the antenna, make your first prune on the longer leg. Measure the length and grab your calculator. Multiply the just measured prune length by 0.36 (that is zero point three six). The resulting figure is how much to want to cut off the shorter end to keep the ratio correct. I have built two Windoms and have not had to prune either one of them.

If you are going to prune to your exact frequency, then the formula I used for my windom antenna is 468 divided by the frequency in megahertz: 468 / 7.2 = 65 feet. Then the long leg is 65 X 0.64 = 41.6 feet. The short leg is 65 x 0.36 = 23.4 feet.

Remember, you may need a good ground. I use a 160 meter Windom at home, and I use a coax choke at the tower made up of 8 turns or so of feed line about 12 inches in diameter. Works for me, but each case is different and you may have to try a few things to keep the RF out of the shack.

Easy antenna to build and works at least as good as a dipole on all bands. Try one.

OHIO HAMS DISCOVER, FIX "DITTERS" ON 40 METERS

(From the ARRL Letter: October 31,2008)

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/2/>

According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits' so we could get this resolved as soon as possible," Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."

Once the general location had been pinpointed, Skolaut called on ARRL Ohio Section Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O for assistance. Swain immediately alerted his team of Official Observers (OO) to check out the situation. "Neither I nor the OOs could hear the transmitter," Swain said in his report. "In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. At just about the same time, I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] -- just above the noise level -- for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Swain also placed a call to Assistant Section Manager Bill Carpenter, AA8EY. "Bill lives within the target area. I briefed him on the situation and he went right to his station," Swain said. "Bill checked the frequency and told me he was hearing [the 'dits'] at about S9. He said he thought he might know who it could be and that would make some calls."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that

morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7. I called Bill's house and left a message telling him I was on my way to Westerville to track down the signal. If he wanted to ride along with me while I looked for it, he was more than welcome to come." Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

When Swain arrived in Westerville, he had a list of the names and addresses of 172 licensees in the area, as well as a general idea of where the signal should be, based on the data from the FCC's HFDFing station. He also had his HF radio, an all-band screwdriver antenna, a GPS receiver and a VHF radio for information and directions.

"I drove around the area checking the signal and noted that it was about S9 and climbing," Swain said. He and Carpenter met up and continued the search together. About 15 minutes later -- with Swain driving and Carpenter giving directions -- "we noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street, saying that there was an address on the list we should check out. We stopped at that address, but no luck."

Swain said he then injected 30 dB of attenuation and continued to drive in the same direction: "The signal was now reading 20 dB over S9 with the attenuator still on. We turned down the next street and the signal rose another 20 dB. I pulled into a parking lot and made a 360-degree turn as to determine the signal's direction. The turn indicated that we should proceed to a newly constructed housing area adjacent to the parking lot."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to the housing development and found that signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna. We went next door and spoke to the neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do."

With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter. No other explanation could be possible without the owner hearing the transmit relay clicking."

When Swain and Carpenter left the house, they listened to the receiver and discovered the signal had disappeared.

"This was a great example of coordinated cooperation by the FCC and OOs to resolve a problem in a timely fashion," Skolaut said. "The DFing station told us that hopefully the OOs could handle it as the FCC District Office was unable to work on the case at this time." Calling this a "splendid example of cooperation," ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, echoed Skolaut's praise: "I believe the response to the situation was as fine an example of symbiotic relationship between member-staff-FCC-staff-field organization as one might find. Extremely well done by all hands."

Radio Activity

By Don Russell, W8PEN

The fall contesting season is upon us. I am very excited about the ARRL Sweepstakes. It is the biggest domestic contest of the year. Other than Field Day of course. But hey, everyone says Field Day is not a contest. It is a training exercise. Right……

Those new to contesting should give it a go. This contest is divided into two weekends. One for CW (Morse Code) and one for SSB (Voice). This makes it nice for those that wish to fully participate in both modes. I like the CW event and am thinking of a pretty major effort in it. I will also do some of the SSB contest just for fun.

The Morse Code contest is November 1 through November 3, Starting Saturday at 5:00 PM local time. I know this contest will be over before one reads this, but most of you will be more interested in the SSB contest which runs November 15 through November 17. The SSB contest starts on a Saturday but due to the time change it starts at 4:00 PM local time.

The contest exchange for both contests is a little trickier than in most contests. Each station must send and receive this information:

- A consecutive serial number (contact number)
- Precedence:

  “Q” for Single Op QRP (5 Watts output or less)
  “A” for Single Op Low Power (up to 150 W output)
  “B” for Single Op High Power (greater than 150 W output)
  “U” for Single Op Unlimited
  “M” for Multi-Op
  “S” for School Club

- Your Callsign

- Check:

The last 2 digits of the year of first license for either the operator or the station. The same Check must be used the entire contest.

- ARRL/RAC Section:

For example, during my first contact which was with K8EEN, I would send:

Number 1 A W8PEN 65 OHIO

My number would increment by one for each contact I make. If I make 110 contacts during the entire contest, then my last number would be 110.

Lets say that K8EEN was operating as a Club event with more than one operator. I am their 22 contact during the test. Their exchange would be:

Number 22 M K8EEN 57 OHIO

Don't be put off by this exchange. It is actually pretty easy after you have said it or copied it a few times. It just makes it more fun. I understand this used to be a contest for Traffic Net Operators. They wanted more of a challenge than the typical 59 Ohio exchange. By the way, you may be tempted to drop your call since the station your are talking to already has your call. But your call is part of the contest exchange and needs to said in the correct order to count. Play by the rules. Everyone else does. Besides, it gives one a chance to double check the call.

For complete rules of the ARRL November Sweepstakes visit this web page:

http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html

This is the 75th running of the November Sweepstakes and as such there are many special prizes to be earned:

- Any station who submits a SS log with 75 sections worked will receive a special commemorative magnet free of charge.

- Any station who submits a log with a "Clean Sweep" (working all 80 ARRL/RAC sections in the contest) will receive a commemorative Clean Sweep whisk broom free of charge.

- Clean Sweep coffee mugs will again be available for purchase. For the 75th Anniversary of SS, the mugs will be made of lead crystal and will be etched with the Sweepstakes logo. These crystal mugs will only be available for this year's Sweepstakes, which will make them a highly sought-after item. Price to be determined.

- The ARRL is again pleased to continue its PINS (Participation In November Sweepstakes) program for 2008. Anyone who completes 100 contacts on CW or Phone during Sweepstakes is eligible to purchase one of these attractive Participation Pins. Pins are based on claimed scores. Each pin includes the year and mode and has become a popular tradition in the November Sweepstakes event. Pins cost $6, which includes postage and handling.

- Magnets and Clean Sweep whisk brooms will be shipped without any action required by those who qualify. To order a Clean Sweep mug or Participation Pin, attach a note to the front of your summary sheet indicating the number of pins or mugs ordered along with your check. To order by credit card, you may either include your credit card information in the summary sheet, or call during regular business hours and we will take your info over the phone. If you enter electronically, send a copy of your summary sheet with a note and your check attached to: ARRL Contest Branch, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please put "Sweepstakes Mugs" or "Sweepstakes Pins" on the envelope to help us process your request faster.

- All orders for Sweepstakes mugs or pins must be received no later than January 31, 2009. Please note that we do not keep these items in stock; orders will be filled once we know how many requests we have.

I am the proud owner of two "clean sweep" mugs from past Sweepstakes. Maybe I can earn one more. Certainly if you enjoyed Field Day, this contest will give you the same thrills, if not more.

Murphy's Law Recks November Sweepstakes Plans (almost)

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Okay, I have this half page left and no material to fill it with. It is late Sunday evening and I just turned off my radio and computer after working the November Sweepstakes, CW. So, guess our members get to read about……

I have really been looking forward to this years contest season after about five years of doing only Field Day with the club and a few partial efforts in my favorite operating events.

As readers know, I updated my computer in the shack with a laptop, external keyboard, and USB to comport converters. During a contest, my radio is controlled by the computer program, including the sending of Morse Code. I do keep a paddle there just to have fun for a while. But the most efficient way to do a Morse Code contest is to let the computer do the work. Yes, I have been told that is cheating and it takes all the skill away. Not really. The real skill is decoding the code in your head amongst all the interference that a contest generates.

I have been working on setting up my station for a couple of months and I thought I was good to go. Well, about an hour before the start of the contest, I was testing my Ten Tech Omni 6+. It blew up on me! Okay, not the big bang thing, but "It don't work no more". No power out!

That should have upset me, but I always have my trusty Yaesu FT-847 as a standby. Trouble was, I didn't know whether I had the right cable to run computer control with it. Turned out I did, and it worked the first time I tried it. Amazing.

Long story made short by only half a page. I did okay in the contest. Not my best ever effort, but after the layoff, I was happy with it. I have not been doing much Morse Code lately, so I was a bit rusty and did not feel real comfortable with it until Sunday morning. I did run into our own Tony, KC8UR, during the test so Mt. Vernon was well represented. The FT-847 is not a contest radio by any stretch, but just like Field Day it did an adequate job for me. I am afraid I may have to put up with it for the contest season. I am glad I bought a 500 Hz. Filter for Field Day this year. That made it tolerable. I am really upset about my Ten Tech and may just get rid of it.

I made 430 or so contacts in 76 of the 80 ARRL sections available in the contest. Not the clean seep I was hoping for. I used to have a goal of 1,000 contacts or 100,00 points for this contest. I have never hit the contact goal, but have been close. I have met the point goal a few times. Perhaps this years effort will be something to build on.

MVARC Club Meeting is Monday November 10, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Annex Building, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. **Art Towslee, WA8RMC, of Westerville, Ohio, will our guest speaker giving a presentation on Amateur Television (ATV).**

Please remember the long running Sunday Night ARES net at 9:00 P.M.

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.

Note: This net has not been too successful yet. However, we will continue to run this net with the hope of more activity in the fall and winter months.

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 November 8, 2008 at 9:00 AM at Ryan's Steak House, 1515 Coshocton Ave. , Mt. Vernon, Ohio.******

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Mt. Vernon ARC Officers

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

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: