

Ham Radio Rocks

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club November, 2013 Newsletter



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 Coumminity

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

Christmas Dinner & Club Meeting Reminder

Please remember to join use for the clubs annual Christmas Dinner and December Club meeting. This popular club event will be held Sunday, December 8th at 6:00PM at the Parkside Restaurant and Tavern, 108 Mount Vernon Ave., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

All members should have received an RVSP invitation for this event. If you do not have yours, please see the last page of this newsletter for a copy. Friends of the club and those interested in ham radio are also invited and must fill out the RSVP and send it in.

2014 Technician Class Ham Course Starts in January

The Club will sponsor their annual Technician Class Ham course starting sometime in mid-January. Course dates and locations will be announced in the December Newsletter.

Anyone interested should contact Don Russell W8PEN. Course Study Guide will be available sometime in December.

The course is conducted free of charge by members of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club and the study guide is provided free of charge.

Don't miss this opportunity to join the growing High Tech hobby of Ham Radio.

The next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will be Monday, November 11, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the Red Cross Training Center, 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.

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.

Retired club members meet each Friday at 10:00 AM for a breakfast at Hardy's, 998 Coshocton Ave., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Come enjoy some good Ham Radio Fellowship and conversations. Oh, you don't have to be retired to join us. Contact Emery Bennett W8TW or David Byrd KD8RST for more information.

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 Saturday, November 9th at 9:00 AM at Allison's Finer Diner, 11587 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Uno, Dos, Tres...



By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

If you have done any amount of listening to shortwave radio outside of the ham bands, you have undoubtedly run across "numbers stations." The broadcasts from these stations consist streams of numbers or letters, often in a computer-generated female voice speaking in Spanish. Every now and then, a numbers station pops up on 30m, sending five-character groups in Morse code.

According to the Conet Project,

(http://www.irdial.com/conet.htm), "Shortwave Numbers Stations are a perfect method of anonymous, one way communication. Spies located anywhere in the world can be communicated to by their masters via small, locally available, and unmodified Shortwave receivers. The encryption system used by Numbers Stations, known as a 'one time pad' is unbreakable. Combine this with the fact that it is almost impossible to track down the message recipients once they are inserted into the enemy country, it becomes clear just how powerful the Numbers Station system is."

The Conet Project sells a CD with a number of recordings for \$55, but you can find a bunch of mp3 files at http://www.archive.org/details/ird059 for free.

Recently there was a thread on the Glowbugs Google Group about numbers stations. One fellow mentioned "The Numbers Station," a movie released earlier this year starring John Cusack. IMDB (http://www.imdb.com) says that The Numbers Station is about "a disgraced black ops agent dispatched to a remote CIA broadcast station to protect a code operator. Soon, they find themselves in a life-or-death struggle to stop a deadly plot before it's too late." It's currently available for streaming on Netflix, and I watched it recently. It's kind of violent (lots of people get shot), but it's a decent thriller.

Jim, K6FWT mentioned ENIGMA 2000 (http://www.apul64.dsl.pipex.com/enigma2000/). The group's website describes ENIGMA 2000 as "a UK based online group, whose aims are to bring together listeners and enthusiasts who monitor and gather information on 'Number Stations' and other related radio transmissions. Through our Yahoo Group monitors can share their logs, discuss frequencies, thoughts and opinions on this most

emotive subject." Jim says, "These folks are SERIOUS enthusiasts. I have heard that they surpass many intelligence services with their thoroughness. You can get in up to your eyeballs if you don't watch it."

These stations have been around since World War II. I remember as a kid in the 1960s and 1970s, reading articles about numbers stations in Popular Electronics and Electronics Illustrated. They're as much of a mystery today as they were back then.

When he's not listening to numbers stations, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwaeek@kb6nu.com.

App for Android Available

From "Weavers Words", November 1rst ARRL Great Lakes Division Director: James E Weaver, K8JE k8je@arrl.org

In case you missed it and are interested, ARRL members using Android tablets and telephones can download an app to access digital QST. With this app, ARRL members who use Android devices are able to read QST online or to download it to read offline. The QST app is free in the Google Play Store

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.br anded.arrl

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.br anded.arrl (search for "QST").

Members must have a valid ARRL web login to access digital QST. For help, visit the digital QST help site http://www.arrl.org/digital-ast-faq>.

If you need more help, telephone Member Services at 860-594-0200 or 888-277-5289 (US only) or email <u>circulation@arrl.org.</u> (From an ARRL online release.)



WRC-15 is Already Demanding Attention

From "Weavers Words", November 1rst ARRL Great Lakes Division Director: James E Weaver, K8JE k8je@arrl.org

in its role of protector of Amateur Radio frequencies, the ARRL has filed its support of three recommendations to World Radio Conference 2015 (WRC-15). recommendations were made by the FCC's WRC-15 Advisory Committee (WAC) and clearly support the interest of Amateur Radio. Details of the filing are covered under Recent News in the web item titled "ARRL Supports FCC WRC-15 Advisory Committee Recommendations Affecting Amateur Radio and dated 1/28/13." The details of this article are not the topic of my writing, however. The topic is the World Radio Conferences (WRC) that are held every three or so years to review and update the International rules for telecommunication operation -- the rules that make up International treaty that govern how the militaries, governments, commercial broadcasters and citizens of the world use radiowaves -- and how ARRL and the many other Amateur Radio national societies work closely to our frequencies and uses.

process for developing and modifying communications treaties is a highly-complex one that involves a veritable myriad of people, agencies and steps. I do not know all the ins and outs of the process; however, It is a critical process with a crucial outcome. During the course of several days about a year and a half from now, delegates of WRC-15 will convene to develop new and modified communication treaty clauses. This Conference theoretically could essentially wipe Amateur Radio out of the picture. Don't run out to sell your gear before it becomes nothing more than boat anchors, though. I am not suggesting that this fate is likely in anything approaching the foreseeable future because I am not. In fact, my purpose is to shed just a little light on a process that few amateurs realize has been highly successful in keeping our favorite pastime viable.

This is where ARRL comes in. In my opinion, the League's most important service to Amateur Radio and radio amateurs is as an advocate. Whether a ham is a Big Gun DXer or if they limit their operation to VHF/UHF with an HT, or whether they are an old-time licensee or a newly license, every US amateur benefits from the work ARRL puts in to protect and enhance the very frequencies on which we operate.

So, what is a WRC; what are they and how do they work.... and how is ARRL involved?

WRCs are functions of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The ITU is an agency of

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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 <u>Sunday before</u> the first Monday of the month.

Newsletter Editor: Don Russell, W8PEN

w8pen@arrl.net

the United Nations (UN). The ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Among other things, it calls WRCs every three or so years to "update" the international telecommunications treaty. This is the treaty that guides the world's countries in how they use the radiowave spectrum.

Preparation for a WRC begins years before it is held. Government and private agencies organizations that use the spectrum review existing treaty clauses to determine if they want their national delegation to the Conference to push for changes in the existing treaty or want to stand pat. The result usually is a mixture of "changes" and "stand pats." Closer to the opening of s WRC, members of the national delegations to the Conference are selected. In the case of the US, delegates are a mix of government workers and private citizens. Typically, a few of the delegates are ham operators. More amateurs --ARRL experts -- ultimately go to the Conference and serve on advisory committees. Incidentally, there usually are amateur operators among other national delegations as well as among ITU officials and workers.

ARRL's pre-conference activities also begin long before a WRC is called to order. Working through the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), input concerning the needs and wants of the Amateur Service worldwide are shared among the Union's national Amateur Radio organizations in other countries. The IARU is an international watchdog organization and spokesman for ham radio globally. Its structure enables Amateur Radio to present an informed, logical face to the world's governments. There are more than 180 member societies to IARU. The skill of their leaders in advocating for hamming is evidenced through the successes in protecting and expanding amateur frequencies that have been achieved during past WRCs. These successes were achieved thanks to the skilled work of amateur leaders in working side-by-side official delegates.

Incidentally, the IARU is the brainchild of ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW. It was founded in Paris, France in 1925.

Bit of History

By Don Russell, W8PEN

Shortly before Field Day this year, I received a letter from Richard "Dick" Sowler W8FEM. It contained some very interesting bits and pieces about our club and the members of the 1950's and 60's. There was also a CD that contains some pictures.



I have always meant to share this letter with fellow club members and finally got ambitious enough to scan the letter into a doc file so that I could size it down to something that would fit in the Newsletter.

I am sure a few hams locally will remember names, calls, and maybe faces from this letter and pictures. I myself remember a majority of them. Al Watts W8OPU was my ham radio instructor. Most of the hams mentioned in the letter were club members when I was first starting out.

So, here it is. There is not enough room in the Newsletter for all the pictures, so I have selected a few interesting ones. Please read and enjoy this blast from the past. Dick's information is at the end of the letter. I am sure he would be tickled to hear from a few of the Mt. Vernon Hams. Read and enjoy.

Hi DON!

I was an MVARC member during the 1950s and early 1960s, left Mount Vernon for college in 1961, and became a permanent resident in Berrien Springs, Michigan in 1966. During the 1970s my dad, Clayton Sowler, WB8SVF, (ex-WN8GTD and ex WN8SVF) received a Novice class license and was an MVARC member. In the 1980s, after his health made participation in ham radio operation and MVARC activities impossible, I lost my primary source of info about the MVARC and hams in the Mt Vernon area.

Last summer when my online Google search for a ham friend I had lost track of, Al Watts ex-W8OPU, led me to the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club web site and the Feb. 2012 issue of the MVARC Newsletter. I was happily surprised and delighted to discover that the MVARC and K8EEN (a great cw call sign) are still alive and well. The MVARC web-site, newsletter, and Face Book site are very well done.

While I quickly scanned that MVARC Newsletter the first items that caught my attention were Mike's article, "Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Featured in CQ Magazine', and the photo of Woody in his lab. I was particularly interested in Mike's well written article because I wrote the CQ magazine article. Then I saw your My Elmer article/column. When I read the first paragraph of it I was reminded of several lines that Woody's daughter, Dawn (SK), wrote to me in a letter (which I still have) after Woody died. "He gave unstintingly of himself whenever there was someone in need or someone whose horizons could be expanded". " I'd have to say that dad had many sons, and you were among them." Don, it was our privilege and good fortune to be included in that group of "sons". I'm glad to learn that one of Woody's "sons" was able to get Woody's call, W8PEN, (aka whiskey 8 pretty english nurses).

A short time after Woody moved to Mount Vernon I visited him at his (rented) home/temporary lab in the left apartment of the old two story brick house on Mansfield Avenue across the street from Dan Emmet Elementary School. That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. The house and its location were not ideal for a radio frequency measurement lab, but served until he was

able to purchase land and build his home/lab on New Delaware Road. Coincidently, after Woody built and moved into his new home/lab my parents purchased the 111 Mansfield Ave. house next door to (south of) Woody's Mansfield Ave. home. My dad's ham rig was set up in the basement of that house. My mother lived there for 42 years before moving into The Living Center where she lived until her passing in February 2006. We have had very few visits to Mt. Vernon since 2006.

I have often referred to Woody as my mentor in electronics and radio, but he was much more than just that. Woody became a very close friend of mine and one of the significant influences in my life. Many things that I did for or with and learned from Woody prepared me for the career path in electronics that I have traveled. As you probably know, during the 1950s and 1960s Woody's business consisted of radio frequency measuring in the lab and on the road, installing and servicing (primarily General Electric) radio communication equipment, and providing engineering consulting services to broadcast radio stations. I was fortunate to have been exposed to and worked in all three of those divisions of Woody's business. Woody encouraged me to get a Commercial Radiotelephone License that then enabled me to (legally) adjust, and repair radio communications equipment and also perform technical duties at commercial radio broadcast stations. (FCC rules and regulations have changed since then). When Woody was the chief engineer (on a retainer) at WMVO I recall helping him replace the WMVO main control room/studio audio gear - i.e. mixing board, turntables, tape recorders, etc. - in one night! That was not only a challenge for us, but also a challenge for the announcers and dJ's who had to operate the new and unfamiliar equipment the next day. During my teens I became acquainted with the WMVO staff and for a period of time - among other things - was the tech that set up the equipment and did the audio mix for the remote radio broadcasts from churches on Sunday mornings. Later Woody was responsible for my being hired as a transmitter engineer at WMAN in Mansfield during several summers when they needed an additional engineer. The WMAN chief engineer had a two-way radio service business with a service shop in the WMAN transmitter building. At times I "double dipped" and serviced two-way radio gear while on duty at the transmitter building. Woody was supportive when I finally decided to attend Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, my parent's alma mater. Upon graduation I went to work for the Heath Co. (Heathkits) in nearby St. Joseph, Ml. A few years later I was hired by Andrews University, where I spent the majority of my working years. Unfortunately, after I left Mount Vernon for college my visits with my Mount Vernon ham friends - including my good friends, Woody and his family - were few and far between.

During the 1950s Jim Ashton, W8FNW, and David Nash, ex-K8SOI, also became Woody's "sons". Jim lived outside of town. Dave lived three houses north of my parent's home (two houses north of Woody's Mansfield Ave. home) at the intersection of Mansfield Avenue and Nash Drive. The three of us worked for and learned much from Woody.

Thanks to Woody, Jim chose a career path in radio and electronics After graduating from Valparaiso (Indiana) Technical Institute Jim went to work for the State of Ohio Highway Department doing two-way radio system maintenance until his retirement. He also operated his own two-way radio system maintenance business on the side. Jim and his wife, Damaris, W4FNW, live in their Delaware, Ohio home during the summer and in their Florida home during the winter. Jim is an active "county hunter". Last summer during a visit with Jim I gave him a pdf copy of the February 2012 MVARC Newsletter in which his name is mentioned. An announcement on page 1 of that newsletter motivated Jim to travel from Delaware to Mt. Vernon to attend an evening dinner meeting of MVARC members at Wendy's. After the meeting he called me via phone and stated that he was sorry to have missed you and Mike, but nevertheless had a great time meeting with the group. He was delightfully surprised to see and visit with two ladies that he had not seen in many years: Dick Huggins' wife (Dave Nash's sister) Susan; and a relative of his who is the wife of another ham that was present.

Since Dick Huggins is Dave Nash's brother-in-law you probably know about Dave. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Indiana Institute of Technology in 1965. While in college he worked for an amateur radio equipment sales and service business. After graduation he was hired by the Ohio Bell Telephone Co., but shortly thereafter was "caught in the military draft'. He chose to enlist in the US Navy. After basic training and officers candidate school, Dave was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy's Civil Engineering Corps. About 30 years later Dave became Commander of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Chief of (Naval) Civil Engineers with a rank of Rear Admiral upper half (2 stars). After about three years in that position he retired from the Navy. Since retirement from the Navy he has held executive positions in several engineering companies including his own.

My introduction to ham radio occurred on a 1946 summer afternoon in Battle Creek, Michigan when a buddy of mine and I crawled into the back seat of his brother's Pontiac two door sedan and watched him (W6YFT) operate his Gonset 10 meter mobile rig. By the time I moved to Mount Vernon during the summer of 1948 I had acquired a used Hallicrafters S-41G receiver, learned the morse code and a little theory, and was actively SWLing. My Class B ham license and W8FEM call were issued in February of 1950 when I was a freshman at Mount Vernon Academy where my father taught. In 1952 I upgraded to an Advanced Class license. Years later I became an Extra Class licensee.

Mount Vernon's ham population was rather small during the years I lived there. The hams I remember were: W8CPU Jim White, W8DGC Frank Hawkins, W8DMM Harold Miller, W8DMO Lewis Owen, W8EOH Monroe Bovard, W8EOZ Don Hilliard (now WOPW - my grade school pal whom I learned the code and studied the ARRL License Manual with and who was licensed a few months before I was), W8FNW Jim Ashton, W8FOJ Larry

"Mousey" Ware, W8NTP (W8 Nelly's tight pants) George Barnes, W8OPU (W8 old pitiful useless) AI Watts, W8OPV Dottie Watts, W8OUZ (W8 old uncle zed - later K4HNU in Florida - Bob was the first ham I met when I moved to Mount Vernon during the summer of 1948), W8PEN Woody Woodward, W8ZIO Louis O'Brien, WA8OTF Spencer Burrows, WN8GOR Ron Skantz, K8AKK Bob White (who became manager of the Mount Vernon News, president of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, and Mount Vernon mayor for several years), Tom Reasoner K8LFA, Dave Nash K8SOI, KN8LDB Ralph Jacobus, Doug Rhodes KN8MPO, and Bill Phillips whose call I don't recall. Unfortunately, there were likely several others whose names and calls I don't remember.

You will recall that Woody had a substantial sized collection of radio and electronic parts and equipment. Following somewhat in his footsteps I have acquired more radio and electronics "stuff" than I need. Included in my collection is: Woody's James Millen Grid Dip Meter that I acquired from Marjorie after Woody's death; a (used) Hallicrafters SX-28 receiver that I bought in 1952, sometime later sold to a ham friend, then 20 years or so later bought back from him; several other World War 2 era and later shortwave receivers; Heathkit and other test equipment; etc., etc.

Currently three generations of ham transceivers sit on my ham shack desk. The ICOM IC-746PRO is the one that usually gets used. The HF antennas are a Hy-Gain 18AVT-WB vertical, a Hy-Gain TH3MK4 beam, and an 80/40 meter (horizontal vee shaped) dipole. My Heath SB-200 linear is undergoing a power supply filter upgrade. My dad's Drake 2B receiver is next in line or restoration.

Since the 2013 ARRL Field Day will occur shortly, you may be interested in seeing photos of the K8EEN operating positions set up on Woody's property during the 1958 ARRL Field Day. The enclosed CD contains those Field Day photos and several other photos for the MVARC archives. A description of each photo is listed below.

Richard "Dick" Sowler - W8FEM 8869 George Avenue Berrien Springs, MI 49103-1407 e-mail: w8fem@arrl.net Tel: 269-471-2241



Woody (W8PEN) front, and Dave Nash (K8SOI) operating K8EEN 40 meter CW during 1958 Field Day



Al Watts (W8OPU) front, and Doug Rhodes operate K8EEN 80 rig Field Day 1958



(L to R) Bob Fry (W8OUZ / K4HNU), Dick Sowler (W8FEM), Clayton Sowler (WB8SVF) and Harold Miller (W8DMM) TAKEN IN 1976



Dick Sowler (W8FEM) 1953



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 and for those over 65 yrs. of age.

	Name	Call-Sign
	Street	
	City	StateZip Code
	Phone Number	License Class
	ARRL Member (Y/N)	E-Mail
	Extra Donation (Opt	ional)
Members a	re entitled to a free MVARC	C E-Mail address. Would you like one? NoYe
f yes please	e enter password	
Other Com	ments:	

Attention all MVARC members and friends:

The 2013 Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 6:00 P.M. at the Parkside Restaurant and Tavern. We have selected this location because of its ability to host our group in a private room. The room is available for parties of between 30 and 60 attendees. For this reason we are requesting that you make your reservation by returning the form below along with a check for your meal(s) by November 20th. Please make checks payable to the *Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club* and indicate on the memo line that this check is for the Annual Dinner. (You might want to include your 2014 dues at the same time!)

When: Sunday, December 8th, 2013

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Where: Parkside Restaurant, 108 Mount Vernon Ave, Mount Vernon, OH

Menu: Your choice of: Sirloin Steak, Chicken Parmesan or Broiled Tilapia (Pre-selection of main dish required)

Your choice of: Baked Potato, Sweet Potato, Rice or Vegetable House Salad, Dessert, and Beverage (coffee, tea, soda, etc) are included Each meal will be provided for **\$18.00** which includes Tax and Gratuity.

Don't forget that our annual meeting includes the election of club officers for 2014.

I look forward to seeing ALL of you at this year's dinner!

73,

Jim Jennessee, KD8UT President, MVARC

> Please return with check by November 20, 2013 Make check payable to: *Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club*

Name:		Call:
Meat Selection: Sirloin Steak Chicken Parmesan Broiled Tilapia	Qty:	
Number of Meals:		X \$18.00 = Total:
	Please retur	rn check to:
	MVARC P. O. Box 3 Mount Veri	372 rnon, OH 43050