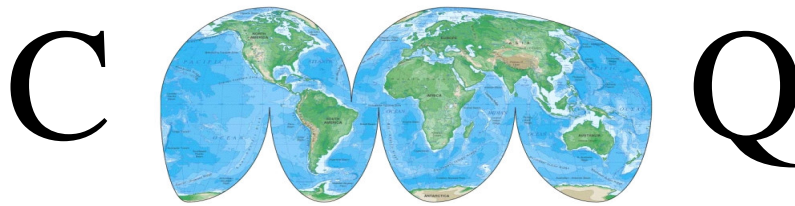


## MOUNT VERNON



AMATEUR RADIO CLUB      October, 2005

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RED CROSS ANNEX BUILDING  
REPEATER FREQUENCYS: 146.790 (-) K8EEN 444.750(+) KC8YED

### PIO Tidbits — October 2005

Just a reminder that the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club WILL be meeting at the Red Cross Annex Building at 300 N Mulberry St in Mount Vernon, 7pm Monday October 10, 2005.

Dave Gore of the Red Cross has asked for our help with establishing a communications center at the Red Cross Building. I, and hopefully one or two others, will meet with him Wed. Oct. 5 to discuss his plan and tentative set-up and how we might be of help. I'll report on this at the next club meeting, October 10 at the Red Cross.

On Saturday September 17, I attended the ARRL Ohio Section meeting in Columbus. Contained elsewhere in this Newsletter is Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips press release of the meeting. I found it an enjoyable experience and it gave me a chance to meet with and talk to several ARRL Field Officers including District 8 Director Jim Weaver. I got to meet and chat with W8OM, John Boyers of Plain City. During introductions John Proudly proclaimed that the OM stands for Old Man. John, who is 90 years old, said that he didn't choose the call, but rather it was assigned to him after applying for a new call after moving to Southern Michigan years ago. We also heard about how BPL has been monitored around the state, that Ohio House Bill 274 – written primarily to regulate Cellular Telephone usage while driving, should not limit the ham radio operator but that ham licensed attorneys are watching the Bill closely, and received an audio demo of digital modes which are commonly reported as interference but are legitimate amateur modes and need to be respected.

But my interest was best caught by the results of the Newsletter contest. The Ohio section is the section in the US with a newsletter contest. I began forwarding our Newsletter to the Ohio Public Information Coordinator shortly after I received my PIO appointment. This automatically enters us into the contest. This year's winner was "20/9 radio Club News" from Youngstown with a score of 84 points (out of a possible 100). Runner up was "Smoke Signals from Indian Hills radio Club and third place went to "News

Unwired" from the "Grant Amateur Radio Club."

What I found most exciting is that our own "CQ" placed quite well among the 41 entrants. Our Newsletter scored 78 points! The average score was 72.41 (a four percent increase over last years average of 69.50). There were only 4 scores better than ours. Excellent for a first year entrant! So Congratulations Don! Phil! and all contributors over the past year!! Job well done!

Remember we are scheduled for NIMS (National Incident Management System) training at our November 14th meeting. Larry Hatton, Knox County Emergency Management Agency, will be on hand to conduct the training.

Before the meeting we all should be familiar with the Incident Command System. NIMS - ICS 700 as well as other emergency response courses are available online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) via their virtual campus. Taking any of these courses will cost you only you time. I have taken two levels of ICS training (IS100 and IS200), The NIMS training (IS700)the NPR (National Response Plan, IS800) ((Oh, if the had just followed their own plan!)) and the Emergency Operations Center's (EOC) Role in Community Preparedness (IS275) . So far I have found them interesting, informative and useful. That's all for this month. Remember **Get On The AIR**

de  
KC8YLD, Mike

### **National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction**

Course Number: IS700

On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5. HSPD-5 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents.

This course introduces NIMS and takes approximately three hours to complete. It explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. The course also contains "Planning Activity" screens giving you an opportunity to complete some planning tasks during this course. The planning activity screens are printable so that you can use them after you complete the course.

What will I be able to do when I finish this course?

Describe the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS.

Identify the benefits of using ICS as the national incident management model.

Describe when it is appropriate to institute an Area Command.

Describe when it is appropriate to institute a Multiagency Coordination System.

Describe the benefits of using a Joint Information System (JIS) for public information.

Identify the ways in which NIMS affects preparedness.

Describe how NIMS affects how resources are managed.

Describe the advantages of common communication and information management systems.

Explain how NIMS influences technology and technology systems.

Describe the purpose of the NIMS Integration Center

### **MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Old Business:

Don, WA8YRS, reported on the status of the UHF control receiver for the 2-meter repeater. An Icom IC-4AT was donated by Mark, KC8JJX for use as the control receiver. This is a 440 MHz. handheld and will be modified to work with the repeater controller.

Mike, KC8YLD, reported using the Red Cross building as a place for our monthly meetings. It may not be a good idea since they backed out on the September meeting. That was a special situation though because they needed the room for training before sending people down South to help out after Katrina. The club decided to stick with the Red Cross and maybe have the Library as a back up meeting place until things settle down. It was also mentioned that the Red Cross would like us to help set up a communications room or something like that.

Barry, N8PPF, added that the New Hope building was not available on our regular meeting night and we would have to switch nights to be able to use the building.

New Business:

A discussion of the "Scout Jamboree on the Air" was held. Don, WA8YRS, said that if there was not enough volunteers to do this, it was not going to be done. Although there was comments that the club should do this event, there were no

volunteers to help, so we are not going to do it. Don may contact Jim William, N8IBR, in Johnstown. He does these events on a regular basis and may need some help.

Bob, N8QPM, gave a RACES report. The hospital antenna has not been checked for several months. Bob said he would start doing it on Saturdays.

Mike, KC8YLD, announced that Larry Hatton would attend the November Meeting to provide National Incident Management System training. This is to take a couple of hours and everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting. More in this month or next months Newsletter. You can also take this training on line at the FEMA website.

Jeff, N8SMT, moved that we move the Sunday Night Net from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Jeff claims he gets a lot of interference from the Mt. Gilead Repeater. (Or it could be from the 16/76 Columbus Repeater, as Jeff is very close to their transmitter site....Don). Discussion followed and the motion was approved with one Nay vote from N8QPM.

N8QPM motioned to adjourn. N8SMT and N8PPF second and third'd it.

Those Attending:

Ruben Clarke, KB2SAI; Mike McCardel, KC8YLD; Ron Bushong; Don Bunner, KB8QPO; Jack Koelbl, N8JQZ; Don Russell, WA8YRS; Jeff Butz, N8SMT; Barry Butz, N8PPF; Bob Ready, KC8RTC; Adam Burley, KC8QJR; Bob McBride, N8QPM.

### **REPEATERS AND STUFF** **BY DON RUSSELL, WA8YRS**

It is hard to believe it is almost October. Why, before you know it we will be opening our Christmas presents and putting that new "Christmas Radio" on the air. Well, some of us may. Remember last Christmas? How could we forget? Most of us went without power for several days. Lets all hope for a better Christmas this year.

Not much activity on the Repeaters these days. I guess everyone has Summer things to do and are way too busy. I expect activity to increase as we head into the Fall and Winter months. I for one have not been on the 2-meter Repeater very often. The 6-meter Repeater project is taking up the majority of my ham radio time right now.

The 2-meter Repeater continues to provide smooth sailing for those that use it. There is, however, the interference issue from the Mt. Gilead Repeater that is

especially bad on Sunday nights. Both groups run their Sunday night net starting at 9:00 p.m. The Mt. Gilead Repeater tends to over-whelm our Repeater if our users are too far out of town. From what I hear, we have an interference issue as far away as Sunbury. That is, the users receiver on 146.790 MHz. is overloaded by the Mt. Gilead Repeater, which is on 146.775 MHz. and makes it difficult to copy our Repeater at times. Also, some of the hams in Mt. Gilead leak over onto our Repeater input while using their Repeater. They have promised to use minimum power which helps a lot. Sometimes they forget though, which is understandable. Again, who's idea was it to put two repeaters within 20 miles of each other only 15Khz. apart? I have been tempted to up our output power at the repeater. That would no doubt solve the problems on the output frequency. If we increased our power, then we would saturate our coverage area with a stronger signal. I hesitate to do this however because then our transmitter coverage would be greater than our receive coverage. We really don't want that.

In last months Newsletter, I brought up the possibility of moving our Sunday Night Net either up one hour to 10:00 p.m. or back one hour to 8:00 p.m. This is something we have talked about in the past but always decided against it. My point was that something had to change. The nets were not very enjoyable for some of our members, due to the interference. Jeff, N8SMT, brought this up in the September meeting and said he had problems hearing the net on Sundays due to the interference. Bob, N8QPM, was against the idea and had several legitmist reasons why the net should stay at 9:00. One of the reasons was the lack of Net Control Operators. Recently, he has been the only reliable person acting as Net Control. At any rate, the club voted to change the time of the Sunday Night Net to 8:00 p.m. effective October 2, 2005. Announcements on the Repeater have been updated; and a twice daily announcement added. How about a few people stepping up and volunteering to help run the net? Bob should not have to "go it alone".

The 440 MHz. Repeater is little used. Pretty much the same status as last month. I am afraid Barry, N8PPF, and I have been ignoring this repeater as we work to develop the 6-meter repeater. There seems to be a slight problem with it. At least during the hot weather. After using the repeater for 20 or 30 minutes the audio gets very distorted. I am sure it was not doing this when we first installed it. Barry has a plan to put an extra fan in the Repeater box. We think during warm weather the box just gets too hot inside, especially inside the repeater cabinet itself. We will continue working on that because Barry and I both want the UHF repeater to become an active part of our ham community.

The 6-meter Repeater has been in continuous operation for over a month now. August 22, 2005 was the initial date. The Ohio Repeater Council is just going through the formality of officially approving our repeater. Barry has done a fine job on the receiver site. We still need to get his antenna up though. On the transmitter side, I have made some progress. At the Findlay Ham fest I picked up a 170 watt solid state amplifier to handle the heavy duty stuff. I also

purchased a new Ringo AR-6 antenna. We will run the amp at 50 or 75 watts output and increase that if need be. I think 50 watts will be plenty though. We will have to send a modified application to the Repeater Council if we decide on running more than 50 watts, but that should not be a problem.

One thing Barry and I have noticed in using the 6-meter Repeater is that hand held radios do not work as well as they do on 2-meters and 440 MHz. That is because a rubber ducky antenna is not very long, and they are way too short for 6-meters. I was prepared for this possibility because I researched what kind of coverage we could expect out of a 6-meter Repeater before we started building one. I don't think it is a big problem. Just don't expect fantastic results with a hand held and a rubber duck antenna. Of course, you can make or build your own antenna which would be longer than the standard rubber duck antenna. I would suggest a minimum of two feet with a loading coil in the middle of it.

Coverage should be about the same as the 2-meter repeater as far as mobile operations go. The limit here is antenna length. Just a quarter wave mobile whip will be 54 inches or so. A gain mobile antenna for 6-meter mobile work would be extremely long. Base stations should have coverage comparable, if not better than 2-meters. The problem is, most hams on 6-meters run horizontal antennas because they do a lot of SSB work. When they try using their horizontal antennas with a repeater whose antenna is vertical, they get reduced range and think something is wrong. The point is: If you are planning on using our 6-meter Repeater, think VERTICAL! Both mobile and base should use vertical antennas for any FM mode operation. But hey, if all you got is horizontal, don't let that stop you. It may just be fine for you as long as you are close enough. Give it a try! If everything was equal, then 6-meter repeater coverage should exceed that of 2-meters. However, neither receiver site nor transmitter site will have antennas as high or as far off the ground as our 2-meter repeater does. That being said, I can't wait for 6-meter skip! It might be fun!

That is it for this month. Please join us at the meeting.

**KATRINA/DIGITAL DEMO/AWARDS/BPL/OSSBN ALL FEATURED AT THE 2005 OHIOSECTION CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 18, IN COLUMBUS**

By Joe Phillips, K8QOE  
Ohio Section Manager

The annual Ohio Section Conference, at the Ohio EMA headquarters in Columbus, had a full house - 90 attended and participated. Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, opened with a brief period of silence for the victims of Katrina and recognition of the work of amateur radio operators to date.

Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, John Chapman, WB8INY, started the full agenda with updating all emergency (ARES) news - beginning with the ARRL starting a new national ARES Newsletter - and encouragement for local ARES units to apply for Homeland Security grants.

Ohio Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O, made two award presentations "for Meritorious Service" and updated everyone on the status of the OO program in Ohio. Then he gave a digital mode demonstration by playing the sounds of various digital modes and challenged the audience to identify the signal.

Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, updated all the ARRL news including the Grassroots Lobbying program. He gave a detailed list of ARRL Headquarters response to Katrina.

SEC Chapman returned with a full account of Ohio ham radio operators who are responding to the Gulf Coast recovery from Katrina. Included were television accounts of ham radio's newly found notoriety due to work in the flood damaged area.

Public Information Coordinator Scott Yonally, N8SY, announced the three top winners in the 14th annual Ohio Ham Radio Newsletter Contest and gave the statistics about the contest. This competition not only recognizes award winning work of newsletter editors but keeps track of the progress of all who enter.

What followed was the most popular event of all, the annual Section Conference PIZZA LUNCH. Here everyone gets to socialize and exchange ideas on the progress of ham radio all over our state.

After lunch, Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, announced the 12<sup>th</sup> member of the Allan Severson, AB8P, (SK) Memorial Award - Assistant Section Manager, John Haungs, W8STX, a former Ohio SM, and treasurer to at least eight different clubs and hamfests in the Greater Cincinnati area for almost four decades.

Next, assistant Section Manager Bob Winston, W2THU, an attorney specializing in ham radio law, discussed Ohio proposed legislation on cell phone usage in moving automobiles. Assistant Section Manager, Connie Hamilton, N8IO, then updated the conference with news of the Ohio Single Side Band Net (OSSBN).

The last major presentation was Ohio Technical Coordinator, Tom Holmes, N8ZM, who recreated the presentation of ARRL National Lab Supervisor, Ed Hare, W1RFI, on the future of Ham Radio and BPL. Each Section Conference always has a technical presentation recognizing as amateur radio operators, we are first a technical society.

## NEWSLETTER CONTEST

PIC Scott announced the three winners of the 14th annual Ohio Newsletter Contest - The Third Place winner: "News Unwired" from the Grant Amateur Radio Club Editor: Carolyn Donner, N8ST: Second Place winner: "Smoke Signals" from the Indian Hills Radio Club, Editor: Dee Logan, W1HEO: And the winner for 2005, "20/9 Radio Club News" of Youngstown; Editor: Jane Avnet, K8JAA.

Editor Jane, K8JAA, gave a short acceptance speech on how her newsletter was able to improve its score this year. Her newsletter now becomes ineligible for any award for the next five years as per the rules. Contest manager, PIC Scott reported 41 newsletters entered the contest; 27 of which are available on the Internet. With 100 points as the max, the top score was 84 points and the average point total of all 41 entries was 72.41. This is better than a four increase over the 2005 average of 69.50.

## **We have a new meeting place.**

We will meet at the American Red Cross training room on 300 N Mulberry Street in Mount Vernon. This is a block North of the Library and across the street from the old Mount Vernon High School Building. Mulberry is one way going south. Take North Main two blocks east of the YMCA then turn West on Hamtramck and then South on Mulberry.



## 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 Schedule:

\$20 regular

\$10 for second member in the same family

\$10 for over 65 yrs. of age

\$15 for those living outside Knox County

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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

**Classifieds**

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