

## The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

### MVARC Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

October, 2015



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

K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600Khz with PL of 71.9 Hz)

K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800

KD8EVR Repeater: 442.100 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)

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#### The View from the Presidents Desk



Wow, another month has come and gone. September is now in the log books and we turn towards the winter months. I hope everyone has made plans for their antenna system updates for this winter :) A couple of positive notes from September. The preliminary results are in for the North American QSO party. Looks like our team placed 25<sup>th</sup> in our section (8) and our members did well in their individual scores. I'm sure they will have a report somewhere in this newsletter. You can check out the results yourself at ncjweb.com. As I write this logs are being submitted for the Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) in which we participated. Ours is in and I am anxiously awaiting the results hopefully they will be out by the next newsletter, probably not but we can wish anyways.

Due to some last minute family obligations I wasn't able to attend, but despite my lack of participation :( it went well. I believe we will do well once they sort out all the logs. 78 logs have been submitted the last I looked. Thanks to all who participated in this years event. By the way, Tom KD8HSA has agreed to chair next years event. I look forward to this becoming a yearly fall event for the club.

Speaking of chairs we still need someone step up to chair Field Day next year. Remember chairing does not mean you do all the work just coordinate getting things done, we have plenty who will help.

We have something new happening next year, The Boy Scouts are planning a major event to take place at Foundation Park in June. I think that it will take place in June the weekend prior to Field Day. More to come concerning this event once they finalize what they want to accomplish. One thing that I know is going to take place is a special event station that will run Saturday 9am to 9pm and they are looking for operators. So it will be a good time to sit down and operate a nice Icom station as they will donate the equipment for the event.

October meeting is coming up soon, October 12, at 7pm there at the Red Cross facility. Again we have a lot to discuss so don't miss, plus Jim N8IBR will be making a presentation concerning message handling. Hope to see you there.

Hope to talk with you soon on the repeater, Friday mornings 10am at Hardees or breakfast at Allison's 9am October 10<sup>th</sup> or the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is also another eating event that takes place at the South Side Diner at 5pm on Wednesday. Plenty of times to get together and discuss whatever.

73  
Frank KC8EVS



- Oct 7 @ 5:00 pm** Dinner at the Southside Diner, South Main St.
- Oct 9 @ 10:00 am** Breakfast at Hardee's on Coshocton Rd
- Oct 10 @ 9:00 am** Breakfast at Allison's Finer Diner  
Located at Coshocton Rd and Gilchrist Rd.
- Oct 11 @ 9:00 pm** ARES Sunday Night Net on the K8EEN Repeater.
- Oct 12 @ 7:00 pm** Mt. Vernon ARC meeting at the Knox County Red Cross Training Center, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon
- Oct 14 @ 5:00 pm** Dinner at the Southside Diner, South Main St.
- Oct 16 @ 10:00 am** Breakfast at Hardee's on Coshocton Rd.
- Oct 18 @ 9:00 pm** ARES Sunday Night Net on the K8EEN Repeater
- Oct 21 @ 5:00 pm** Dinner at the Southside Diner, South Main St.
- Oct 23 @ 10:00 am** Breakfast at Hardee's on Coshocton Rd.
- Oct 25 @ 9:00 pm** ARES Sunday Night Net on the K8EEN Repeater
- Oct 28 @ 5:00 pm** Dinner at the Southside Diner South Main St.
- Oct 30 @ 10:00 am** Breakfast at Hardee's on Coshocton Rd.
- Nov 1 @ 9:00 pm** ARES Sunday Night Net on the K8EEN Repeater
- Nov 4 @ 5:00 pm** Dinner at the Southside Diner on South Main St.
- Nov 6 @ 10:00 am** Breakfast at Hardee's on Coshocton Rd.
- Nov 8 @ 9:00 pm** ARES Sunday Night Net on the K8EEN Repeater
- Nov 9 @ 7:00 pm** Mt. Vernon ARC meeting at the Knox County Red Cross Training Center, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mount Vernon

**The Mt. Vernon Amateur  
Radio Club Officers**

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President KC8EVS called meeting to order at 7:09 pm

12 Members and 2 Guests present

Members introduced themselves to visitors, Don Finneran from the Local American Red Cross Office, and Pat Valentino, KD8PSM, also from the Local Red Cross office, and representing The Knox County EMA Director.

Motion to approve August meeting minutes made by KD8HSA, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W8PEN. Approved.

Motion to accept September Treasurers report made by K8AEC, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W8TW. Approved.

Repeater report: W8PEN and others discussed recent deliberate interference to the repeater, and steps being taken to solve the problem.

### President's report

KC8EVS reviewed the recent Simulated Emergency event conducted by the Knox County EMA office, and discussion followed covering possible improvements we could make in our participation.

Discussed training on Radiograms and digital communications.

Asked N8IBR to prepare a presentation on Radiograms and the NTS for the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Asked KC8UR to prepare a presentation on Digital communications for the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Appointed KC8BB and W8PEN as nominating committee for the upcoming election for 2016 officers.

Appointed KD8HSA chairman for the 2016 Ohio State Parks on The Air Event.

Asked for volunteers to head next year's Field Day operations.

Discussed the Boy Scout Jamboree which will be held next June in Foundation Park.

### Old Business

KD8HSA and others reported on the successful operation of the Ohio State Parks on The Air operated by seven club members. They made 181 contacts, and worked 41 different Ohio State Parks. There was discussion about the possible upcoming changes in the ARRL Radiograms to become more compatible with the ICS-213 forms most government and public service agencies are using.

W8PEN reported that the MESH network was progressing, but still in its early stages.

### New Business

Pat Valentino, KD8PSM, representing EMA Director Mark Maxwell, gave an in depth review of the Simulated Emergency Event and to thank the membership for their assistance. He then advised the members that the EMA Director was planning to hold possibly up to 4 of these types of training sessions a year and would like to include the Amateur Community in those training sessions.

Discussion about the possibility of changing from a set yearly dues fee, to a donation based on what members wanted to give was discussed, and it was decided to have the officers and Board of Directors look into this further and report back at a future meeting.

Motion to Adjourn, by W8TW, 2<sup>nd</sup> by W8PEN 8:47 pm Approved.

50/50 drawing was won by guest Don Finneran. He donated the proceeds to the club.

Respectfully Submitted  
N8IBR Secretary MVARC



**By Don Russell, W8PEN**

First off, I would like to congratulate Bill Bradley, KC8BB, on his first club newsletter. The September issue was a very good read and I look forward to reading many more. Bill cannot do it alone though. Please, if at all possible, send Bill an article once in a while. Local input makes the newsletter tons more fun than reading something written by someone outside the county. Want a great Newsletter? Want to win next years Ohio Section Newsletter contest? Then contribute to the cause.

### **The Demise of BBHN/HSMM?**

Bill Bradley, KC8BB, sent me an article announcing the demise of Broadband Hamnet HSMM, a project that some members of our club are working very hard on.

Apparently, the FCC has some rules in the making that may cause manufacturers of Wifi routers to lock the firmware so that it cannot be modified, thus ending the practice of upgrading certain commercial routers for use in ham radios BBHN/HSMM network.

For sure, if the FCC passes these rules, it may worry manufacturers enough to lock routers, although I do not think that that is the intent of the rules. That being said, the FCC is well known to go into panic mode about ham radio rules and regulations. I remember in the early 1970's, the FCC went into panic over the Amateur Radio Repeater Systems that seemed to be springing up everywhere. They made specific and unrealistic rules regarding the operation of repeaters, including needing to apply for a repeater license with a special repeater call sign. My brother, Chuck (then WA8ONN) and I battled through the new regulations and was the first Ohio repeater licensed under the new rules. I believe the call was WR8AA or WR8AB. Something like that. Forward to 2015. I don't think the FCC has the resources or desire to limit development of BBHN/HSMM.

But what happens to our network if manufacturers do lock the firmware to routers? Well, life goes on. I don't think it will be a big deal for these reasons:

1. There are lots of used routers that can be upgraded still being sold or in use. If firmware is locked, I would guess that many companies would purchase the new routers creating even more upgradable routers. This may even reduce the cost of buying used upgradable routers.
2. Hams are currently working on alternatives to upgrading router firmware. <https://www.raspberrypi.org> and <http://www.qsl.net/w6dps/BBHNpi.html>, are sites showing the possibilities using Raspberrypi microcomputer modules and a wifi dongle. You can do this right now for under \$100. Downside is you need to know a little bit about Linux and of course the Raspberrypi module. However, all you need to know is online.
3. There has also been experimental use of Doodle Labs DL435-30 data transceiver. This is BBHN/HSMM on 432 MHz! I am Sure Doodle Labs 2.4 GHz, 3.0 GHz, and 5 GHz could be made to work also.
4. Our served Agencies (via ARES) like BBHN/HSMM.
5. Most importantly, hams will not let BBHN/HSMM die. You can be sure of that.

**Radio Activity, continued on page 5**

I am sure I could think up a few more reasons. Locally, we will continue our slow process with our network.

So, where do we stand locally on our mesh network efforts. Unfortunately, not much has happened. I was hoping to get everyone on the same page by now, but for reasons beyond my control, I have not done so.

I am still hoping to have at least two nodes in high profile places before winter sets in. As I said last month, we have the equipment. It will cost the club nothing. We just need a little help getting the stuff installed. Current regulations do not allow hams to climb commercial towers unless certified to do so. A reasonable regulation, I think.

Still, there is time. We just need to get it done.

Along with the two permanent 2.4 GHz nodes already going at my home and Barry Butz's (N8PPF) home, we are also playing with two 900 MHz nodes. It is my belief that stations not line of site to one of our high profile nodes should be able to connect to the 900 MHz nodes. Right now I have my 2.4GHz node and my 900 MHz node working together via a switch. I can access the 2.4 GHz node via the 900 MHz node or the 900 MHz node via the 2.4 GHz. It works rather well in fact. Once set up, everyone will be able to connect to everyone else, regardless of frequency used. Just need to get it in the real world.

That is it for this month.

See you all at the October meeting.

### **Start an amateur radio virtuous circle**



By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ham\_instructor Yahoo Group ([https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ham\\_instructor/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ham_instructor/info)) recently, we talked about the classes that we are going to be offering this fall. About his Tech class, Bob, K0NR, noted, "Currently have about 30 students signed up. We keep thinking we'll run out of interested people but they keep coming."

I've noticed the same thing here, too. I keep thinking that I am going to run out of people to teach, but I have no problem at all filling my classes. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that the more people that have taken my class, the more people there are that want to take it.

**Virtuous Circle continued on page 6**

Of course, this makes perfect sense. If there are more people out there who have amateur radio licenses, there are more people out there talking about amateur radio, and actually doing amateur radio. And, the more people out there talking about and doing amateur radio, the more likely it is that other people will become interested in amateur radio and get their licenses as well.

It's an amateur radio "virtuous circle."

What does this tell you? Well, if you're in a place where amateur radio seems to be dying out, or belong to a club that is slowly fading away, start a class! I think every club should hold classes at least once a year, even if that first class has only one or two new students. Those first few students are the start of your virtuous circle.

Don't know how to start a class? I can help you there. Start by reading my blog post, "Teaching a one-day class" (<http://www.kb6nu.com/teaching-a-one-day-tech-class/>). It has a lot of practical information, including tips on how to select a venue, how to publicize the class, how to get people to sign up for the class, and finally, how to teach the class.

You might also want to join the ham\_instructor mailing list I mentioned earlier. It's a relatively low-volume list, but the subscribers have a lot of experience that you can tap into.

Also, get a copy of my free Tech study guide (<http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/>). Not to brag (well, OK I am bragging), but I really think that it's the best study guide for a one-day class. The study guide presents the topics in exactly the same order as I cover them in class. Read through it and you'll see what I mean.

If you need more help, or even just some encouragement, e-mail me, and I'll do what I can to help you. Seriously.

When not teaching ham classes or publishing amateur radio study guides, Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands (mostly 40m and 30m). His #1-rated amateur radio blog can be found at KB6NU.Com, and you can e-mail questions, comments, or complaints to [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). **By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

[Contesting for Fun](#)  
By Don Russell, W8PEN

[Selected upcoming contests:](#)

**Oceania DX Contest, CW**

0800Z, Oct 10 to 0800Z, Oct 11, 2015

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=151>

**Arizona QSO Party**

1600Z, Oct 10 to 0600Z, Oct 11 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 11, 2015

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=482>

**Pennsylvania QSO Party**

1600Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11, 2015

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=153>

**[Contesting for Fun continued on page 7](#)**



**FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint**

1700Z-2100Z, Oct 10, 2015

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=154>**Iowa QSO Party**

1400Z-2300Z, Oct 17, 2015

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=484>**New York QSO Party**1400Z, Oct 17 to 0200Z, Oct 18, 2015 <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=473>

This is just a handful of the upcoming contests. It is not possible to list them all in this short column.

**Improving your Search & Pounce Technique**

Many contesters prefer to Search & Pounce (S&P) during a contest rather than run a frequency by calling CQ. Search & Pounce is simply the art of tuning up or down the band and working all the stations you hear that are calling "CQ Contest".

Most experienced contesters use a combination of S&P and running a frequency. We will cover running frequencies by calling "CQ" later. Right now, let's give some pointers on how to S&P.

First and most importantly, if you wish to have a good score, you must S&P quickly. As fast as you can go. It can be a lot of fun and rates of 60 QSO's per hour or greater are possible.

Start at one end of the band. I like to start at the top of the band and work down. Others start at the bottom and work up. I don't think it matters much. However, if you find that you are following a station which is also S&P'ing and you have to wait on that station to complete contacts, then give the frequency knob a spin and go to the opposite end of the band and work from there.

At the beginning of the contest there will be many strong stations calling CQ. Work these first. They should be easy catches. Tune in the first station. When he completes his CQ give him a call. Just say your call, not his. He already knows his call. If he answers you he will give your call back so you know he is talking to you and then the contest exchange. Type or write fast! He may be in the contest to win and every second you waste can cost him a contact. You will become a very respected contester by being as efficient as possible.

Now, send your exchange. Here you can give his call and then the exchange. Many contesters just give the exchange. There is some valid arguments though that indicate you should give his call and then the exchange. Whichever way you do it, remember to do it quickly.

Here is a typical contest exchange:

"CQ CQ DE K8EEN KILO EIGHT ECHO ECHO NOVEMBER"

"WHISKEY EIGHT PAPA ECHO NOVEMBER"

"WHISKEY EIGHT PAPA ECHO NOVEMBER FIVE NINE OHIO"

"KILO EIGHT ECHO ECHO NOVEMBER 59 OHIO"

(or simply: "THANKS. 59 OHIO")

"THANKS. QRZ CONTEST KILO EIGHT ECHO ECHO NOVEMBER"

Pretty simple, yes?

**Contesting for Fun, continued on page 8**

After you finish this contact, quickly tune in the next station and give him a call. What if he answers other stations rather than yours? Well, if you are smart, don't wait too long to move on. I usually give two calls out to a station. If he doesn't come back to me, I write down his call and frequency and move on. I will check the frequency and try again later if he is still there, but I will waste no more time with him right then. Better yet, save his frequency in your radios memory. I would still write the call down and maybe the exchange if you have it real quick.

So you have worked through the whole band and have worked quite a few stations. What to do now? Give the dial a spin back to wherever you started and go through the band again picking up weaker stations if you hear them. You will be surprised how many stations you either missed or have come on the air since your first time through. Remember, propagation is always changing. So the band you are on could have shifted to a different area and present a whole new list of stations to work.

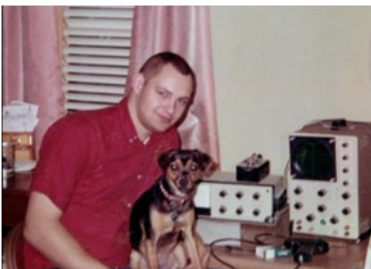
Another choice and one which I employ often if all the bands are open, is to switch to the next band up or down. Most contests let you work the same station on different bands. You can keep the stations coming by employing this S&P method. It works especially well during DX contests. Even if it is a contest in which you may only work each station once during the contest, it is likely that the stations you just worked on the previous band are still there and not on your new band.

You can work a lot of stations simply by working through a band and then switching to a new band. When you have worked all the open bands, go back to the first one. Chances are that a whole new group of stations are sitting there waiting for you.

Each time through a band, look for the weaker stations that you may have missed. You will also start running into Dupes. (Duplicates are stations that you have already worked on a given band or contest). If you are using a computer contest logger, then set up the Partial Call feature and keep an eye open for dupes. The partial call feature allows one to type in just a few letters and numbers to reveal the whole call of duplicate stations. Watch the partial call feature to quickly identify duplicates and move on to the next station.

Most importantly, do things in high gear to do well in a contest. Speed becomes less critical if you just want to have a bit of fun. In that case, work at your own speed. Just be sure to send the exchange efficiently so that you do not slow up someone really trying to win the darn thing.

### Chuck Russell



Chuck Russell, AC8R, ex-WA8ONN, became a Silent Key Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Chuck was a present Mt. Vernon ARC club member and was a very active club member in the late 1960's through the 1970's.

Chuck was the "Father" of the Mt. Vernon Repeater system, being one of the early pioneers of designing and building repeater controllers and associated equipment. In all, Chuck was responsible for, or helped in the design and installation of five different repeater systems under the calls of WA8ONN/R, WR8AB, and N8CIY/8. Chuck obtained the frequency pair of 146.19 MHz and 146.79 MHz from the Ohio Area

Repeater Council. This frequency pair is still in use today.

Chuck did not operate much. He preferred the technical side of amateur radio and spent many late hours designing and testing new ideas for various ham radio projects.

Besides Ham Radio, Chuck enjoyed fishing and playing with his grandchildren.



REPEAT REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

I would like to thank those members who have forwarded their current information to me. As explained previously, some information has been lost, and we are trying to become current on all membership information.

I understand some members don't have e mail accounts, while others share those and phone numbers with family members. Please advise your situation on those. We also need to know who is an ARRL member. The ARRL information could affect our club's affiliation status with the ARRL. So, we need that information.

If you are worried about your information's security, we do not share any personal information (phone numbers and E-mail addresses) with any other organization. It is only used for club business. We respect your privacy.

We need the following member's information to complete our records:

MEMBERS CALL	ARRL MEMBER?	PHONE NUMBER?	E MAIL ADDRESS?
<u>KD8NGS</u>	X	X	
<u>KD8FXX</u>			X
<u>AC8FV</u>		X	
<u>KD8RZZ</u>	X	X	X
<u>KD8WSJ</u>	X	X	X
<u>KC8VTA</u>	X	X	
<u>KD8WSI</u>		X	
<u>N8RLW</u>	X	X	
<u>KD8YYY</u>	X	X	X
<u>KE8ANV</u>	X	X	
<u>KD8UT</u>		X	
<u>KE8ANZ</u>	X		
<u>KE8ANU</u>	X	X	
<u>KE8ANX</u>	X	X	
<u>KE8ANP</u>	X		
<u>KE8ANQ</u>	X		
<u>KE8ANR</u>	X		
<u>KE8AOB</u>	X	X	
<u>KE8ANY</u>	X	X	
<u>KE8AOC</u>	X	X	
<u>KF4HHZ</u>			X
<u>KE8ANT</u>	X	X	
<u>KD8PSM</u>	X	X	
<u>N8OGX</u>			X
<u>KD8PSK</u>	X	X	
<u>KE8AOA</u>	X	X	
<u>KE8ANS</u>	X		

You can forward the information in a number of ways. The easiest would be to bring your information to any club function and give it to any Officer present. You also can e mail me at [n8ibr51@centurylink.net](mailto:n8ibr51@centurylink.net) , call me at 740-507-3623, or mail the information to "The MVARC, ATTN: SEC N8IBR, P.O.BOX 372, MT VERNON, OHIO 43050".

By the way we are 54 members strong and growing.  
Again, your help in getting our records up to date is greatly appreciated.

Thanks and 73,  
N8IBR SECRETARY MVARC

