

**The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 372, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050**

October, 2017



**Meetings are held on 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, OH 43050**



**K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600KHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)
K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800
K8EEN Repeater: 444.600 MHz (+5 MHz with PL of 71.9 Hz)**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Our Presidents View	1-2
MVARC Meeting Minutes for September	3-4
More Ohio State Parks on the Air Pictures	5
Radio Activity	6-7
Contesting for Fun	8
HAM? HAM radio? ham radio? Amateur Radio?	8-9
September / October Calendar	10

Presidents View

Good morning to all, as it is morning as I write this. Fall is setting in and it has been cool the last couple of mornings. It looks like it might warm up through the day, but if history holds out this won't last. I like this weather and look forward to enjoying it.

I have just put up a couple of dipoles for 80 and 40 meters we will see how these compare to the 160 meter OCF that I have up. If the weather holds out I hope to put up a loop to play with also.

I haven't had time to work on any other projects so no pictures but I have a couple in process and gathering the needed components. I will let you know just as soon as I get everything together and start assembling them.

Look forward to seeing you on the 9th at our monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Red Cross Training facility there on Mulberry Street.

Frank, KC8EVS

Presidents View, continues on page 2

Ohio State Parks On The Air

(OSPOTA)

We had a great time this year, and the weather could not have been better. We activated Mohican State Park, from the Gorge Overlook. I want to thank all who came out to participate:

Tom, KD8HSA

Berry, N8PPF

Louie, KE8HNF

Michael, KE8HGE

Greg, KE8GFK

Don, W8PEN

Terry, KE8ANS



We made 72 contacts total and contacted 22 of the 74 state parks that could be on the air. As usual the radio that I sat at did not want to talk within the state. I did manage a couple of special event stations along Route 66 and the Midway in San Diego, CA.



We finally took the sling shot away from Terry KE8ANS and got the antenna up in the air! When you see Terry next ask him how his thumb is. Also I have a short video to explain... The second picture is of Michael, KE8HGE and Greg, KE8GFK helping Tom, KD8HSA set up his vertical.

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club OfficersPresident:

Frank Counts, KC8EVS
fcounts@gmail.com
Phone: 740-358-9131

Vice President:

Terry Windsor, KE8ANS
ke8ans@gmail.com
740-507-6329

Secretary/Treasurer:Call & Repeater Trustee:

Don Russell, W8PEN
w8pen@arrl.net
Phone: 740-397-0249

Equipment Trustee:

Barry Butz, N8PPF
n8ppf@mvarc.net
Phone: 740-397-7540

Directors:

Barry Butz, N8PPF
n8ppf@mvarc.net
Phone: 740-397-7540

Don Blizzard, W8UMH
w8umh@yahoo.com
Phone: 740-392-9753

Scott Fields, K8AEC
ballixxe@yahoo.com
Phone: 740-504-8204

Bill Bradley, KC8BB
wljabradley@yahoo.com
Phone: 740-397-0267

Newsletter Editor &Facebook Editor:

Bill Bradley, KC8BB
wljabradley@yahoo.com
Phone: 740-397-0267

[More Ohio State Parks On The Air pictures on page 5](#)

KC8EVS, Frank, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

August Meeting Minutes accepted: Motion by Scot K8AEC and seconded by Barry N8PPF.

No treasurer's report this month with the passing of Secretary/Treasurer Jim Williams N8IBR (SK).

17 people in attendance; 15 MVARC members and two guests.

Guest Presentation:

Frank, KC8EVS, introduced Rod Cook, Red Cross Executive Director East and South Chapters, who discussed ways MVARC personnel could help with national deployments to assist with Hurricane Irma recovery efforts. The Red Cross needs approximately 160,000 volunteers giving a minimum two-week commitment to assist with this effort. Call the Mount Vernon office and ask for Doug (Community Volunteer Leader), for more information and to sign up for deployment training. Rod Cook also discussed the need for local Disaster Assistance Team members to assist victims within Knox County during fires and local emergencies. Contact the local Red Cross office for more information. Rod stated he is happy the MVARC is using the Red Cross Training Center and providing ARES activities.

Repeaters:

Don, W8PEN, reported both repeaters are working however the 146.79 repeater appears to need a new DVR battery. Don and Barry will check the DVR operation.

Mesh:

Don, W8PEN, reported no new news. The phone and email systems are working. Don also provided two printers, one for the Red Cross ARES and one for the Knox County Hospital Mesh node. Both will be installed soon. Don is also discussing with Pat, KD8PSM, about putting a Mesh node at the EOC.

ARES:

Pat, KD8PSM, has scheduled a SET meeting for all MVARC members wishing to join ARES at the EOC September 20 at 7 pm. New ARES members will be fingerprinted, have a background check, and be photographed for their ARES badging.

Old Business:

Tom, KD8HSA, reported on the Ohio State Parks on the Air event that eight MVARC personnel attended and worked both HF radios. We set up at Mohican State Park in the shelter by the Gorge and deployed three antennas. The weather was nice (for a change) and several contacts were made. The MVARC go box was exercised to ensure it was working.

New Business:

Discussion of interest in participating in Winter Field Day (<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>) scheduled January 27/28, 2018. MVARC personnel could use the facility and radios at the Red Cross Training Center.

This is not an ARRL event like Field Day but could be fun and provide an opportunity to use the equipment to verify its operation. More discussion at next month's meeting.

There was also a discussion of club members being able to use the radios for contesting if they do not have an HF transceiver and would like to participate in local or DX contests. No further action required.

Frank stated he would work with N8IBR's (SK) family, to get the information Jim had at home related to MVARC business. It was noted that the Post Office Box rent is coming due and the club's checkbook needs to be retrieved to pay this and any future bills. Barry, N8PPF asked about the MVARC Post Office Box key and Frank stated he and Don each had a key.

A nomination committee was put into place to start the process for 2018 Election of Officers. The committee members are: Bill, KC8BB; Barry, N8PPF; and Terry, KE8ANS. If anyone is interested in becoming a MVARC officer contact one of these members.

There was a discussion and remembrance regarding the passing of Jim, N8IBR (SK).

Frank brought up the club Christmas Dinner and stated it needs to be scheduled earlier this year to acquire a suitable place. Several local restaurants were mentioned and more will be discussed next month.

Emery, W8TW told of a television story on Ham radio he watched while on vacation in North Carolina. It was about how radio operators provide storm communications and about active ARES groups.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Bill, KC8BB and seconded by Scott, K8AEC

Motion passed and meeting adjourned.



Great view and wonderful weather, hope to see you there next year.

73,

Frank, KC8EVS

By Don Russell, W8PEN

I am sitting here on my front porch watching my dogs run around and writing this article for the Newsletter. Not many more days like this, so better enjoy it whilst we can. A great fall day. I suppose in the next two weeks or so I will be up to my knees in leaves. Only downside to Fall.



More on Meteor Scatter

Before I came out here, I had a short meteor scatter contact with Jay, NY2NY in New York (obviously from the callsign). As with all meteor scatter contacts on 6 meters, this took about 15 minutes of watching the computer. The computer does all the work. However, chatting with Jay online with PJ Client was fun. I learn something new every time I get on this web site. PJ Client is a place where meteor scatter ops go to schedule contacts, announce CQ's, etc. A great bunch of guys who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with us younger folks. In my case, the "younger" part can be taken lightly. But learning this new stuff does keep one young.

During my meteor scatter adventures, I ran into Paul, N2EME. One can guess from his call that Paul is a very experienced EME operator. Another adventure I am striving for. Paul has a very nice EME station in his own right. He helps those wishing to set up DX expeditions using EME and EME contests alike. He is well known in the MS and EME world.

Paul and I tried a 2 meter MS (Meteor Scatter) QSO about a week ago. Our attempt was unsuccessful. He copied me just fine. No surprise there. Not with his antennas and station. I did not copy him at all. This was strange seeing how I was running 150 watts and he has a KW!

Paul asked me what I was using for a receiver. My proud Down East Microwave DEMI transverter, is apparently not very good on receive! Paul said I need a serious upgrade in order to do MS.

Surprisingly, Paul suggested that I buy an RTL-dongle to use for receive on 2 meters. These sell for around \$25 on Amazon and E-Bay. He says they work far better than most any ham 2 meter receiver on the market today. Okay, I can spend the \$25 to improve my station. No problem. Well, then he told me to feed my antenna to my dogs. It was pretty much worthless for 2 meter MS. My antenna was meant mostly for 2 meter FM. Of course, I knew from the start that my antenna was not the best. But I thought it was better than nothing. According to Paul, this antenna is not better than nothing.

Paul recommended using a 12 element LFA 2 meter antenna. He claims if I buy one of these, even my moon bounce dreams may become a reality. An LFA antenna is a relatively new concept in antenna design. It uses a horizontal loop as the driven element and yagi elements for the reflector and directors. The loop driven element makes it easy to match to 50 ohms and makes it a much quieter antenna for receiving.

Looking at the cost, the 12 element LFA runs about \$350. A 16 element LFA runs about \$400. For the \$50 difference, I am inclined to buy the 16 element. I can build one much much cheaper, but not sure that I have the ability to do so. The best Web Site for those wishing to build an LFA is located here: <http://www.g0ksc.co.uk/>.

In addition to the RTL-dongle and new antenna, I will need an LNA. An LNA is simply a receiving preamplifier. The LNA will run about \$79. So, it looks like if I want to really get into 2 meter MS or EME, it could cost me another \$500.

[Radio Activity, continues on page 7](#)

Gee, I just spent \$500 on a used Kenwood TS-579D. I bought this transceiver as a backup to my TS-590S and a Field Day radio so I wouldn't have to tear my station down every Field Day. Turns out, the TS-570D has turned into my main HF radio while I play with 6 meter MS and work on the 2 meter side of it. The TS-570 is a very nice radio. Equal to my TS-590S in most things that matter.

Time will tell if I fork over enough money to finish them 2 meter endeavor.

Other things

The club has obtained two laptop computers from Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR. These are older laptops and have Win XP on them. It was briefly considered to install Win7 on these computers, but I really think the computers will not handle Win7. We can put Linux on them and have logging and digital programs, but Windows has so many more programs available. For now, we will keep Win XP on them. This generally means we don't want to connect these computers to the internet. The risk is too great. However, running logging software, digital software, and adding a printer to them should be okay to do.

I have one of them at home that I hope to have ready for our SET drill. I am looking for a small Anti-Virus program and the print drivers we will need. Will know more in a day or so.

The batteries on these computers may need to be replaced. This should not be a problem. Prices should be reasonable on E-Bay or Amazon.

It is my hope that we will use one of these laptops with our club station. It should give us computer logging, access to digital modes, and access to a wireless printer and our local Mesh Network. We should be able to use the computer to download emails over the Mesh Network.

Speaking of the Mesh Network, things are slowly chugging along. Everything we have done is stable and working fine. Right now we are trying to get a link going between Fredericktown and KCH. This is a nine mile path, but should be doable as the sites are line of site.

Tony Spiegel KC8UR, asked that we remove the node from his tower in Brandon. This has been done. This node was intended as a link from KC8EVS to Mt. Vernon and was not working out anyway. We will have to work on finding another route so Frank can get to Mt. Vernon.

Projects that need to get done before Winter sets in mainly deal with our HF and VHF club station. I would like to get the R5 antenna donated by Jim Williams (N8IBR SK) back up on the tower. We also need to work on the Mesh Link between the Red Cross and Bill Bradley's node at KC8BB-1.

These are projects that we can do on our own, without assistance from commercial climbers.

That is it for now. See you all at the meeting.

By Barry Butz, N8PPF

Early in September the Route 66 On The Air event was held. It's not a contest but seems a little like one, because it involves being heard by the Route 66 station while lots of others are also calling. There were 21 stations along the route of old US-66 from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA. I was able to work 15 of the 21 including both ends and two rovers. A few I worked on two bands. I sent my log to the sponsoring club and requested a certificate. When it arrives, I'll bring it to the meeting for show and tell.

There are several contests coming up in October. One is the ARRL School Club Roundup. Unlike most contests this one is on weekdays only – October 16 - 20. This is a chance to encourage young people in elementary school through college to have fun getting on the air.

Another contest I will mention is the ssb CQ Worldwide DX (CQWWDX). This is a good chance to build your country tally. The exchange is Call, RS (always 59), and CQ zone (4 for Ohio).

I hope you can enter a contest this month, one of those I mentioned or maybe a state QSO Party, or one of the many listed on the QST Contest Corral page.

HAM? HAM radio? ham radio? Amateur Radio? amateur radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ARRL PR mailing list, we've been discussing the proper way to refer to amateur radio. What brought this up was an email from one list subscriber, Richard, WB6NAH, who was (rightfully) proud of the work that his club –the Skagit Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Club– was doing. He noted that they were even featured in the police department's emergency preparedness brochure.

As you can see, the brochure refers to "HAM radio" and "HAM radio operators."

Referring to amateur radio in this way just drives me crazy. "Ham radio" is just a nickname for amateur radio, and "HAM" is certainly not an acronym for anything. I congratulated Richard on getting his club included in the brochure, but noted, "...it's not HAM radio! It's either 'amateur radio' or 'ham radio' (ham is not an acronym). I hate to be nitpicky about this, but as a professional writer, this usage just drives me crazy." He replied, "I agree on Amateur Radio, that was the city's call."

That kicked off the discussion.

One ham replied to me privately, "Thank you...I am continually trying to explain that it is not an acronym or abbreviation."

Another replied to the list:

"The most correct term is "amateur radio" or alternatively "ham radio", both written in normal case. If using "ham radio", it is a best practice to first write "amateur (ham) radio" in the first non-header/non-title occurrence.

HAM? HAM radio? ham radio? Amateur Radio? amateur radio,
continues on page 9

"Some will write "Amateur Radio" in proper noun format (first letters in caps) and while this may be acceptable to many and in certain venues, anyone using a style handbook will say it is incorrect. Less correct is to write "Ham Radio" in proper noun format as this is a slang term, albeit a popular one. Of course either term may be written as proper nouns when part of a title or name of an organization.

"Least correct is to write "HAM" in all caps; as stated by others, ham is not an abbreviation or acronym. Writing it as "HAM" is completely wrong, will drive many people bonkers, and should be avoided at all costs.

Ward, N0AX, offered this explanation:

"To clarify where the capitalization originated, there is a long-standing ARRL Board Directive, decades old, stipulating that the words "Amateur Radio" be capitalized in ARRL publications and documents. Most non-amateur publications return it to the lower-case style that is used for non-proper nouns."

One guy got a little miffed that we were wasting our time discussing this at all:

"You know, I've been reading this thread and I think people are getting too hung up on very minor details. The bottom line they got PR. So something wasn't spelled right or capitalized, so what. The message got out and IMHO that's the bottom line. Let's not waste any more bandwidth on this."

I agreed that it was great that they were included in the brochure, and that we were probably beating this topic to death, but I don't think these are minor details. I said that PR professionals pride themselves on getting the details right. So should amateur radio PR people.

I'll give the final word to Dan, AI4GK. He wrote:

"I don't think that standardizing what we call ourselves qualifies as getting hung up on minor details. If we don't have a standardized way of referring to us, how can we expect a public, who already is confused, to understand who we are?"

I don't think that you can argue with this. Let's avoid confusion by using "amateur radio" when writing about our hobby/service. I'd even urge the ARRL to rethink their use of "Amateur Radio." Sometimes, it may be OK to use "ham radio," but it's just not correct to use "HAM radio" or just "HAM."

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not picking nits about the name of our hobby, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

October, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 October 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB – Bill	2	3	4 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	5	6 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	7
8 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	9 7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting	10	11 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	12	13 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	14 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Finer Diner
15 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8ANS – Terry	16 <u>Arrl School Club</u> <u>Roundup Contest</u> Oct 16 - 20	17	18 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	19	20 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	21
22 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KD8HSA —Tom	23	24	25 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	26	27 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	28 "cqwwd" Worldwide DX Contest Oct. 28 - 29
29 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	30	31				