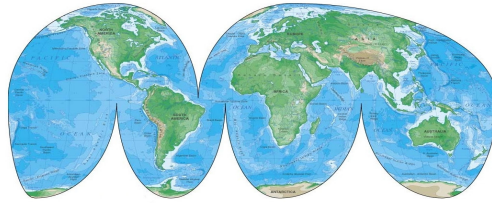


MOUNT VERNON

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB September 2004

MEETINGS: SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE BIG BROTHERS OUTER LIMITS 7:00 PM
REPEATER FREQUENCIES: 146.790 (-) K8EEN 444.750(+) KC8YED

SPEED DIAL #S 7770=AAA (Howard St. Garage) 7771=Sheriff 7773=Police 7776=Highway Patrol

7778= MV Fire 7779=Report Repeater Problem # to shut off Auto Patch

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow hams,

I hope you are all doing well this month as summer begins to wind down and fall gets ready to move in. There are a few things from this past month that I would like to discuss with you.

The first thing for me to talk about is the fact that Big Brothers/Big Sisters has decided to sell their building. We will most likely see a sale sign at our next meeting. What this means for us is this – we need to either make arrangements with the new owners to continue use of the building or find another location to hold our meetings. A few ideas have come up, but I would like to hear if anyone has any ideas of their own. Do you know somewhere we can hold our meetings? Can we store any equipment there or even set up a station? If you have any thoughts on this, please let me know, so we can discuss it at our next meeting.

The next thing I would like to share with you is the Citizen Corps for Knox County. As you know, Marwood Hallett, the director for Knox County Citizen Corps came by several months ago to discuss with us our involvement with Skywarn. As a club, we told him we would be willing to support him and help out if we can. I have been attending the Citizen Corps Council meetings for Knox County and would like to tell you about a few things happening there. On September 11th, the memorial for the 9/11 tragedy, Citizen Corps is making a drive to gain volunteers. People will be able to sign up as volunteers at any Mount Vernon McDonald's between 10AM and 2 PM. I would like to see many of you sign up. Here is the good news – the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club is listed as an organization with Citizen Corps. Because of this, you can sign up as a volunteer for the club. This will make our club look stronger and will give them higher numbers for the amount of volunteers in the area. You may also sign up to help in any other areas as well. The local citizen corps also received grant money for several things including holding CERT training. As most of you know, Steve Dick (KC8YED) is a certified CERT trainer. This may be a good program for many of us to get involved in – at least those of us interested in emergency assistance.

Lastly, just some general news. Our next meeting is coming up on September 13th, 2004. I hope to see many of you there. I am planning on having the ARES/RACES county ID cards available for those that had their picture taken at the last meeting. Bob McBride has obtained the proper Amateur Radio ID cards from the ARRL and I hope we can get those made up by October for distribution. There is plenty more going on, but it can wait for our next meeting – once again, be sure to come out and enjoy the fellowship!

Until next time.....73's,

Ruben Clark
KB2SAI
MVARC President

Letter from the Editor:

Hello everyone, not much to report this month. Steve, KC8YED, wasn't quite ready with his crossword puzzle so I borrowed another from the ARRL website. A lot of material to pack into the newsletter this month so about half of it is in 10 point font, the overflow I'm saving for next month. Don't worry I won't go to any smaller font. If this is already too small for the membership please let me know and I'll use 12 point minimum from now on. Thanks

Phil

N1GTZ

Attendance	August 9, 2004	Monthly Meeting
Name	Call	e-mail (if not already on record)
1. Phillip Buble	N1GTZ	
2. Bob McBride, Sr.	N8QPM	bobmcbridesr@earthlink.net, bobmcbridesr@yahoo.com
3. Emily Bain	KC8YAE	ecbain@yahoo.com
4. Ruben Clark	KB2SAI	
5. Jerry Walker	KB8JAA	
6. Steve Dick	KC8YED	
7. Bob Ready	KC8RTC	kc8rtc@arrl.net
8. Kevin Ready	KC8PJS	kc8pjs@hotmail.com
9. Wes Coldwell	KB8WLU	
10. Bob Bruff	N8PCE	
11. Don Bunner	KB8QPO	bobbunner@msn.com
12. Mike McCardel	KC8YLD	emike@mccardel.net
13. Don Russell	WA8YRS	
14. Barry Butz	N8PPF	
15. Jeff Butz	N8SMT	
16. Brenda Pruner	KC8JYJ	
17. Tim Pruner		KC8JFA
18. Jeff Hall	KC8WXL	
19. Larry Helzer DVM	AA8WP	

Minutes **August 9, 2004** **Monthly Meeting**

Meeting called to order 7:03 pm local time

Treasury Report: \$356.24 savings, \$70.00 in checking. Repeater fund is \$1031.74

Old News:

Issue 1: Jeff, KC8WXL, and Ruben, KB2SAI, attended the last Citizen Corp meeting and ham radio was seen as fitting into the general emergency preparedness plan. Next meeting will be Aug 31st 7:00 pm at the EMA office

Issue 2: The \$6,000 earmarked for Knox County Cert training will go through.

Issue 3: Bike Tour. N1GTZ made it.

New News:

Issue 1: Centerburg Farm Festival. Volunteers are needed to cover the walk-a-thon on Sat., September 18th. Please contact Steve, KC8YED.

Issue 2: Proposal to be voted on by Don Russell: To require the newsletter to be sent by regular mail to all members. In addition, the newsletter will be made available on the MVARC web page for downloading. An e-mail will be sent notifying members when the newsletter has been posted on the web page.

This will be the standard procedure until such time that the newsletter is being reliably received by e-mail in a timely manner. At such time, members may vote to determine whether sending the newsletter via regular mail remains mandatory.

This proposal was voted on by members and passed unanimously.

Issue 3: Emergency Preparedness - A complaint was registered due to the poor turnout at the bike-athon that we are not emergency ready and cannot be without practice.

Issue 4: Joint SET exercise - more news on this next month

Issue 5: We should start worrying about electing a Field Day chairperson for next year.

Issue 6: Photograph ID's taken for RACES id cards

50/50 drawing won by Don, WA8YRS

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm local time.

Post meeting information: Emergency Operation Center Course (EOCC)

Sponsored by Knox County EMA Scheduled Sept 16, 2004

A one-day course is designed to introduce new or untrained emergency program, managers, emergency response officials and elected officials with the necessary tools to properly select and operate an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)



2855 Apple Valley Drive

Howard, Ohio 43028-9382

Phone: (740) 393-0970

Cellular: (740) 398-1277

Email: bobmcbridesr@earthlink.net

Robert J. McBride, Sr.

bobmcbridesr@yahoo.com

Knox County Emergency Coordinator

Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Monthly Report: ARES August 2004

Another record set month in 2004 August has had a record amount of rain and record cool temperatures. Goes to show that weather is hard to predict.

Now that August is over the new month of September will have some important events. The ARRL ARES Meeting will be at 9:00AM on the September 18, 2004. On the same day is the annual race of the Centerburg Farm Festival at the same time. We will need people for the race. My assistant Emergence Coordinators and I should try to make it to Columbus at The Ohio Emergency Management Office on State Route 161 West - East of Sawmill Road.

Please, remember to check in to the Sunday night ARES Nets at 9:00P.M.

I apologize for not having the check-ins listed. I will try to have the update for next month.

The Sunday night ARES nets schedule is as follows:

First Sunday Net Control: N8QPM Bob McBride, Sr.

Second Sunday Net Control: KC8WXL Jeff Hall

Third Sunday Net Control: KB2SAI Ruben Clark

Fourth Sunday Net Control: N1GTZ Phil

Fifth Sunday Net Control: KB8TEX Dan Crowthers

1. Please remember the tornado sirens will be tested the first and third Fridays each month at

12 :00 PM. We need NET Controls who can do check-ins for these nets. If you are available and you do not hear anyone else on the repeater, please take check ins and send me a report on all that checked in.

73's from N8QPM and have a good month!

Repeaters and Stuff **By Don Russell, WA8YRS**

August was an interesting month working on the 2-meter repeater. Barry and I felt like the Maytag repair man for the last couple of years because the repeater has been so trouble free. Members may remember back in April we had a slight problem with the repeater transmitter hanging up once in a while. A new transmit relay solved the problem. The hanging transmitter problem returned in mid July. Since it was hard to figure why a second relay would last only four months when the previous one lasted two years, Barry and I tried a few other fixes. None of the other fixes worked, so the relay was again replaced and things are back to normal. Actually, a larger relay was used because Radio Shack did not have a direct replacement. The bigger relay was wired to a 16 pin IC socket that in turn plugged into the 16 pin IC/relay socket in the repeater. This worked very nicely and may in fact be to our advantage. The bigger relay may take more abuse or have different characteristics than the original one. Hopefully this is a permanent fix.

Another problem with the repeater was a lack of receive sensitivity. There were some stations that I felt should be getting into the repeater without a problem, yet were having difficulty or found it impossible to access the repeater. A check for desense proved that we indeed did have a problem. Desense is what happens if any energy from the repeater transmitter is picked up by the repeater receiver. When the transmitter is not on, the receiver is very sensitive. However, when the receiver picks up a signal and the repeater controller turns on the transmitter to repeat the incoming signal, interference from the repeater transmitter causes the receiver to lose that signal until the transmitter shuts down. As long as the signal is there, the repeater will keep ker-chunking as the receiver first obtains the signal, then loses it again when the transmitter comes on. A vicious cycle that can go on for several minutes if not longer.

The usual suspect in cases of desense is the repeater duplexer being out of adjustment. This can happen over time as the duplexer ages. That was my first thought. However, before committing to a retuning of the duplexer, which takes special equipment, Barry and I removed all the cables, cleaned them up and put them back on. This completely solved the desense problem, and the repeater returned to its normal excellent quality. As an added precaution, Barry and I installed an extra cavity that we had left over from the old repeater. If nothing else, this new cavity may help with a bit of interference from the Mt. Gilead repeater users, who are only 15 kHz. from our input frequency instead of the standard 30 kHz. split.

That is it for this month. I promised Phil that I would keep this to less than a page this month. Hey, can I help it if it is only a few lines short of a page?

(Editorial Note: Hey it works, I just make the text ever-so-slightly smaller! Got to love computers.)

Vacuum Tube Daze

A tongue-in cheek look at the days when tubes ruled.

By Phillip Buble, N1GTZ

Episode 2: My rockets' bigger than your rocket.

It's true we had rocket envy. In the 1950's we had it bad. The soviets had big ones and ours were tiny and tended to blow up at inopportune times. Like there's a opportune time for a rocket booster to blow up. With their big boosters the soviets could put standard tube type circuits into orbit with their payloads. All we could manage was the newfangled small and lightweight transistorized circuits especially engineered for the task at extreme cost. The running gag in the soviet union was we wouldn't and couldn't put a man into orbit until we could shrink him down to the size of a transistor - we didn't have a rocket booster big enough. Well the gag was eventually on them, once we developed the Saturn 5 booster in the late 60's. The soviets had nothing to match and that booster was big enough it could and would take us to the moon.



Indeed yes along with all those newfangled small and lightweight transistorized circuits especially engineered for the task at extreme cost. That engineering kicked off two entirely new industries in this country, the transistorized computer and transistorized consumer electronics, neither of which existed in any quantity in this country prior to the Saturn 5 program. This would eventually spell the end of tube type circuits so personally I'm not so sure I should be happy about this but at least the tube hung on in ham gear long after it was gone in most consumer electronics that didn't have to transmit more than flea power. So you see, to be a true lover of tube-type electronics one need be really pissed-off at our space program, the one spelled the end to the other rather quickly.

Keep in mind when I talk about computers these were simple compared to todays, a modern hand calculator would outmatch them, but they did contain those newfangled small and lightweight transistorized circuits especially engineered for the task at extreme cost. There were and are still called "Integrated Circuits" - true IC's - invented in the late 1950's and used in our space program. We never looked back.

Vacuum tube engineers saw the end coming in the mid 60's. To stave off the inevitable they did what any good engineer would do, they copied! They developed what was called at the time the "compactron," a vacuum tube with the equivalent of two or three separate tubes within a single glass envelope. It was a too little, too late attempt to match what a IC at the time was capable of doing. Which honestly wasn't much in either case compared to today!

Someday I'll ask a engineer what it would take in compactron vacuum tubes to match a modern TV or HT with digital readout, remote control, phase-locked loop tuning, frequency memory and the like. The count would probably be over 100 tubes. At least it would heat the house during the winter.

The End.

Exam Sites In Ohio

Anyone interested in updating there license, I have compiled a short list of exam sites with a contact person and phone number.. 73 W8PMJ

9/11/2004	Hamilton	Ted Wilson	K8TCR	513-868-7012
9/11/2004	Toledo	Ross Mergenthaler	NS8C	419-693-3023
9/14/2004	Stow	Bruce Ferry	AK8B	330-929-2766
9/17/2004	Jackson	Edgar Dempsey	KD8XL	740-286-3239
9/18/2004	Springfield	Keith Marshall	AB8BD	937-964-8383
9/19/2004	Elyria	Steve Hall	W8HF	440-327-3832

9/21/2004	Sandusky	Luther Gantz	N8HC	419-684-7864
9/25/2004	Fremont	Chuck Foster	KB8KIK	419-334-2728
9/26/2004	Tiffin	Michael Byrne	KG8UP	419-448-9958

This list covers the month of September, there is an exam scheduled in October at Mansfield, 10/16/2004 Contact Richard Fletcher N8CJS For more information Phone 419-886-2463.

W1AW Code Practice Schedule

Eastern Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 am	-	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
10 am-noon	Visiting Operator Time				
1-3:45 pm					
4 pm	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
5 pm	Code Bulletin				
6 pm	Teleprinter Bulletin				
7 pm	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
8 pm	Code Bulletin				
9 pm	Teleprinter Bulletin				
9:45 pm	Voice Bulletin				
10 pm	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
11 pm	Code Bulletin				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri

W1AW's schedule is at the same local time throughout the year. The schedule according to your local time will change if your local time does not have seasonal adjustments that are made at the same time as North American time changes between standard time and daylight time. From the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) = Eastern Time + 4 hours. For the rest of the year, UTC = Eastern Time + 5 hours.

Morse Code Transmissions

Frequencies are 1.8175, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.

Slow Code = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

Fast Code = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm.

Code practice text is from the pages of QST magazine, the League's membership journal. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. For example, "Text is from July 1992 QST, pages 9 and 81," indicates that the practice session's plain text is from the article on page 9 and its mixed number/letter groups are from page 81.

Code bulletins are sent at 18 wpm.

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

=====

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

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 _____

Pause for Thought

Little fly,

Thy summer's play

My thoughtless hand

Has brushed away.

Am not I

A fly like thee?

Or art not thou

A man like me?

For I dance

And drink and sing,

Till some blind hand

Shall brush my wing.

-- William Blake

Songs of Experience

"The Fly," Stanzas 1-3
(1795)

Classifieds

Only Need to Ask, Inc

3851 Columbus Road

Centerburg, Ohio 43011

740-625-6659

740-625-6649 fax

onlyneedtoask@core.com

Your total communication shop.

2way radio Sales & Service Nextel authorized representative

Special right now, Free Phone and Free car charger with every NEW activation of 2years.

The logo for Nextel, featuring the word "NEXTEL" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Ham Stuff for Sale

Jack Parker called the house the last month and wanted me to come and pickup all his ham gear. Here is a list of the stuff I have at the house to be sold and the money will be going to the club.

- 1) Commodore 64 computer with tape drive and monitor.
- 2) Heathkit Ultra Pro CW Keyboard
- 3) Heathkit Antenna Tuner with Antenna Switch mounted on the side
- 4) MFJ Signal Enhancer SSB/CW Filter Mod #. MFJ-752B
- 5) MFJ RTTY/CW Computer Interface Mod # MFJ-1224
- 6) Extension Speaker
- 7) Box Of Misc. Stuff. Cables, filters, antenna switch, soldering gum,

- soldering iron and multi outlet strip.
8) 2 meter Ringo Ranger base antenna
9) MFJ-1796 Vertical HF antenna

There are books for just about everything that needs one.

The last 2 items (antennas) are both still at Jacks house and need taken down. (easy job) all the rest of the stuff is at my house.

I also still have a complete Satellite Station that I would like to see someone else get enjoyment out of. There is close to \$7,000 worth of stuff but you can get it for a whole lot less (make offer)

I don't want to keep moving this stuff around so if you want something give me a call on my cell phone anytime and leave a message 358-1169

Bob Bruff N8PCE

Ham Stuff for Sale Cont'

Yaesu FT-901-DM All Mode, SSB, AM, FM Transceiver 160 through 10M, use as stand alone fixed, mobile operation or exciter for linear amplifier and

Yaesu SP-901-P Combination matching speaker with built in phone patch.

\$350.00

Dentron MLA-2500 Full 2KW Linear Amplifier all bands 160 through 10M. Factory installed 10M band came with original purchase just before FCC made it illegal to sell linear amplifiers in the US covering 10 meters.

\$450.00

Matching Dentron 3000A all band combination antenna matching network and SWR Bridge with Dual Large Face Meters, 160 through 10M. Rated for full 2KW SSB input.

\$140.00

This equipment is fully operational, cosmetically like new, no modifications and includes all manuals. I am the original owner and purchased this equipment new.

Rhon 50ft Tower with commercial tower climbing safety belt. Good condition.

\$50.00

Wilson 6 element triband beam (20, 15, 10M) in reasonably fair condition including a complete set of brand new element loading coils.

\$30.00

Cornell Dublier model H-IV-CD-45 Controller and Heavy Duty Rotor
with brake. Reasonably fair condition.

\$30.00

If all equipment is purchased together I will sell for a reduced price.

Bruce Anderson W1VOT

112 Academy Ct.

Gahanna, OH 43230

Phone: 614-471-3899, Cell 614-208-6487

Email: Anderson.309@osu.edu