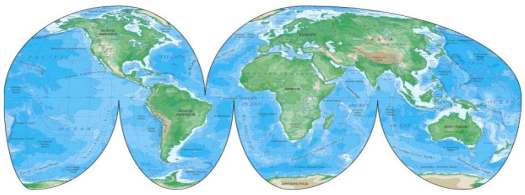
MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

C  Q

September 2007 Newsletter

MEETINGS SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RED CROSS ANNEX BUILDING,
300 N MULBERRY ST, MT. VERNON, OHIO
FREQUENCIES: 146.790 MHz (-) K8EEN /R , Simplex: 146.52 Mhz, 446.000 Mhz, and 446.125 MHz (WA8YRS-L Echolink Simplex)
*****SUNDAY NIGHT ARES NET AT 8:00 P.M ON THE K8EEN REPEATER OPEN TO ALL*****

ARES TEAMS ACTIVATED FOR NORTHWEST OHIO NEAR-RECORD FLOODING

(From the ARRL Letter August 24, 2007)

Heavy rains over the past week began taking their toll on Northwest Ohio communities as near record flood levels peaked on Wednesday. Ohio Amateur Radio Emergency Service District 1 was especially hard-hit in the Hancock and Seneca County areas, and a command post at the Seneca County Emergency Operations Center was activated.

The city of Findlay experienced catastrophic flooding; according to Karl Erbland, K8ARL, District Emergency Coordinator for ARRL Ohio Section - District 1, this is the worst flooding in the area since 1913. Hancock County ARES Emergency Coordinator Bill Davis, N8PTJ, activated Hancock Emergency Radio Services ARES to provide support to numerous agencies, including the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency, area fire departments, American Red Cross, the Sheriff and health district departments. Two shelters were set up, with the largest taking around 250 displaced persons.

The flooding affected every area of the city. The Blanchard River's almost-100-year-old record of 18.5 feet was nearly broken by a crest reading of 18.46 feet on Wednesday afternoon.

The Hancock County hams even had to be resourceful for their own services. A few days before the major flooding began, lightning struck the Findlay Radio Club repeater site during another severe storm. Radio communication during the flood was conducted on a simplex frequency, with additional support through their 440 MHz repeater.

Reports of cell phone failures and some problems with the state's 800 MHz digital system set the stage for Amateur Radio networks help to relieve some of these shortcomings. At an information meeting held on Thursday, EMA Director Garry Valentine, N8GIL, noted that agencies should learn to count on the Amateur Radio operators in emergencies to provide communication support, and that Amateur Radio has many capabilities for communicating. "Our amateurs are always there to assist," Davis said. "We can count on them in times like these."

Communications activities included the following: relayed from Emergency Operations Center to fire departments; facilitated delivery of food and water to Jenera, Ohio residents; assisted in the rescue of two elderly ladies and two people in wheelchairs; kept County Sheriff aware of road closures; tracked rescue operations for the Red Cross; tracked displaced persons being transported to Red Cross shelter; on standby for Water Command Center and City Command Operations; relayed Health and Welfare traffic; provided telephone service to some without home phone service; relayed between Seneca County and Hancock County EMA directors, and relayed between District Emergency Coordinator and Hancock County Emergency Coordinator.

Amateurs in Seneca County were put on standby Tuesday, August 21 when word came that the Ruffing Family Care Center (south of Tiffin, Ohio) might be in danger from the rising Sandusky River, which runs near the center's property. County Emergency Coordinator Mike Klaiss, KC8BUJ, and EMA Director Dan Stahl, KC8PBU, held an on-the-air meeting with ARES officers and the McCutchenville, Ohio fire chief to review the

reports and predictions from the National Weather Service in Cleveland. ARES officers remained ready through the evening and Wednesday morning. Seneca County activated the Emergency Operations Center around 7 AM on Wednesday as the Sandusky River continued to rise and affect additional areas in the county.

Seneca County EMA Director Dan Stahl said: "Hams play a big part in the emergency operations plan and in the communications center at the EOC. We intend to use all the amateurs in Seneca County during disasters like these. They provide a trained and reliable pool of communicators capable of assisting us."

Thursday brought a little relief from the rising waters but then came the rising temperatures and humidity levels. Disaster assessment was a hot job as temperatures rose to 91 degrees and similar levels of humidity. "There is a lot more to do across the entire affected area," said Erbland. "Our communities are extremely blessed to have such dedicated Amateur Radio operators. Our emphasis on ARRL communications training and the different FEMA courses such as Incident Command System and National Incident Management System is paying off. We're standing by for any needed communications as our communities recover."

ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW, said, "I am extremely proud of how well the Amateur Radio operators in Hancock, Seneca and all other counties affected by the weather this past week in he Ohio Section. This is why we plan and test our communication skills and equipment on a regular basis." -- Information provided by Karl Erbland, K8ARL, District Emergency Coordinator for ARRL Ohio Section - District 1; Bob Copas, K8OIL, Hancock County Liaison/Net Control Operator, and Bill Davis, N8PTJ, Hancock County ARES Emergency Coordinator

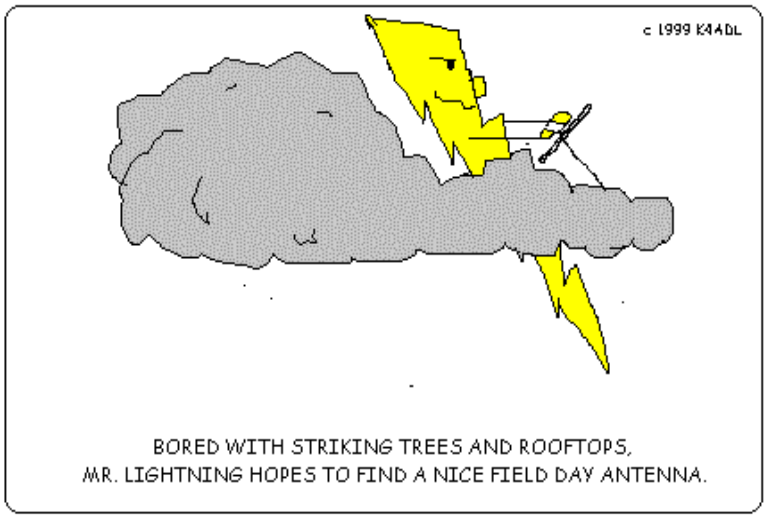
HAM HISTORY
By Barry Butz, N8PPF
Credit for this article goes to: International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
http://www.iec.ch/100years/techline/

One of the most famous Americans of all time, Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931) was born in Milan, Ohio.

Thomas Edison grew up in the bustling city of Port Huron, Michigan. Suffering from increasing deafness throughout his early life, the education he received from his mother left Thomas with a creatively unorthodox approach to science and technology. After brief adventures in running his own newspaper and a domestic chemical laboratory, he became a telegraph operator at 14, soon devising improvements to transmission equipment. In Boston just two years later he produced his first invention, an automatic repeater; but opposition to his first patent for an electric vote-recording machine convinced him to be more pragmatic about making only devices for which there would be real demand. After hearing lectures in 1861 on the cutting edge technology of "multiplexing" telegraph signaling, Edison improved duplex transmission technology and later patented the first quadruplex transmitter. By 1874 the income he received from his successful patents enabled him to set up a fully staffed research and development laboratory in Newark, moving two years later to Menlo Park, New Jersey. It was here that Edison's great period of creativity began.

Narrowly beaten by Alexander Graham Bell to develop a fully working telephone system in 1876, the 29-year-old Edison developed a carbon transmitter which soon became a standard feature in telephones. Then next year Edison patented the phonograph for recording and playing back human speech; later versions of this device grounded the enormous growth of the recorded music industry. Although he announced dramatically in 1878 that he was about to reveal the world's first viable electrical filament lamp, it was not until three years later that Edison dazzled America with his brightest but most labor-intensive invention. And by 1884 he had learned enough from the gas industry's supply system to offer the world complete direct current electrical supply systems. Eventually Edison lost the 'battle of the systems' to alternate current generation, but his innovations continued in the dictaphone and early forms of cinema – both silent motion pictures and eventually 'talkies' as well.

As the holder of more than a thousand patents and a reputation of hard work barely matched by any other in electrical history, Edison is for many the very model of the inventive genius.



Mentoring Activity Is Active Mentoring

(From the ARRL Club Newsletter, August 10, 2007)

Amateur Radio has always been an activity of exploration and discovery as well as personal growth and social interaction. The people who often receive the most satisfaction from Amateur Radio are those who have spent time developing skills. They have made a commitment to increase their knowledge of the subject and who have become a part of the fabric of the amateur community. Obtaining a license and purchasing a radio does not make you a radio amateur any more than purchasing a tennis racket makes you a tennis player. If I may carry this analogy a step further, mentoring in ham radio is like coaching in sports; it is ineffective unless there is an effort from the participant.

"Without involvement, there is no commitment. Mark it down, asterisk it, circle it, underline it. No involvement, no commitment." -- Stephen Covey

Too often time and energy is wasted by well-meaning amateurs who want to help people discover Amateur Radio. Fueled by their good intentions, these disciples of Amateur Radio try to spoon-feed information to apathetic newcomers who somehow meandered through the door to ham radio or have found themselves handcuffed to ham radio either through school, career or family involvement. License mills that systematically churn out call signs and don't offer any follow up training are not the least bit beneficial to the Amateur Radio Service. One new ham who gets involved in a local club and is active on the air will have far more impact on Amateur Radio than a hundred call signs who may never even purchase a radio let alone get on the air. Unfortunately the dormant call signs will clutter the census of Amateur Radio for up to ten years, misleading the actual number of active hams. New hams should already have that wide-eyed zeal of any person who has willingly embarked on a new hobby or venture. The enthusiasm of new hams is often contagious and this can have a positive effect on a club by invoking renewed excitement to the group.

A recent example of this wide-eyed enthusiasm happened at our club's Filed Day event when I met a newcomer to Amateur Radio who had only been licensed about six weeks at the time. I could instantly see in the eager but curious way that he immersed himself in the weekend's activities that this person had the potential to be an asset to our club and to Amateur Radio. Soon after Field Day, the novice operator had a General class license manual in his hand but, more importantly, he was in my shack experiencing DX, SSB, digital and CW operating. Soon after that, I had him in the chair

SEPTEMBER MEETING FOX HUNT

- **Bring your fox hunting equipment to the September meeting.**
- **The Fox Hunt will begin right after a short meeting.**
- **A fox hunt is a transmitter hunt. Find the hidden transmitter.**
- **Frequency will be the 2 meter band.**

participating in the IARU contest. Immediately after his inoculation of on-the-air operation, my new protégé was planning his first wire antenna and the layout of his shack. He even designed a QSL card to confirm future contacts with other radio amateurs. By the time this newsletter is released I am certain that he will probably have upgraded to General and started logging contacts from his own station.

Amateur Radio has a wide variety of things to offer but the fact remains that in this post 911 and post-Katrina world, many people have been attracted to Amateur Radio through the emergency communications feature of the service. It is wonderful that these new people are using the EmComm portal to come into the exciting world of Amateur Radio however, if the intention is to get an entry level license, buy a hand-held radio and keep it in a box only to be used for emergencies. All of the spoon feeding in the world is not going to enable these people to become good operators and effective communicators.

Active radio operators are effective communicators and are essential to "maintaining a reservoir of trained communicators," as stated in FCC Part 97 as the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service. Not only do active hams make good communicators, active hams "enhance international goodwill" which is also part of the FCC's basis and purpose of the service.

Effective mentoring in ham radio requires coaching, teaching and above all, encouragement. The mentor

who is a cheerleader and promotes activity on and off the air gives new hams a purpose and lets them learn by doing. Activity introduces new hams to other operators and offers opportunities for new friendships and resources that can help develop communication skills.

Contests and awards are not just for collecting certificates and other wallpaper. Operating events are fun and they can be used as mentoring tools to encourage new operators to set goals and get involved. More time spent on-the-air with other hams not only increases an operator's ability to be able to pass information, but it cultivates good listening skills, creates a familiarity and comfort level in using the equipment, and it helps to understand complex topics like propagation.

Proficiency comes by doing, and as one becomes more proficient at something, the more enjoyment there is to be derived from it. People who enjoy what they are doing are more likely to share their avocation with others who show an interest. Mentors who promote activity kick start the machine that generates momentum in a club. Active hams are enthusiastic hams, and enthusiastic hams create commotion that others want to be a part of. As the passion for ham radio activity grows, soon the students become the teachers who mentor a new group of excited wide-eyed novices.

Radio amateurs have many opportunities to be recognized for their operating achievements and mentors ought to be using these programs as training aids. ARRL sponsors or supports many events and awards programs that are designed to get hams on the air. In fact, the very first tab on the ARRL Web page < www.arrl.org > is "Operating Activities." Along with contests and awards, there are many special event operating activities. On any given weekend there are operating events that hams can participate in. Besides the structured events and activities mentioned we can always sit down with a new ham and call CQ. Effective mentoring comes not from spoon feeding, but by setting a buffet table full of activity and inviting new hams to join in the feast.

Resources:

Checklist for a quality mentor program:
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/mentor/check-list.html

Special Event listings:
http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html

ARRL Contest Calendar:
http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html

Contest Corral (Non ARRL Contests):
http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/jul.html

ComPIOnents September 2007

By Mike McCardel, KC8YLD

Now that the heat wave is over it is beginning to feel a little like fall, at least at night. I've been listening a lot and it seems the bands have been all over the place but they open up at a moment's notice. Running my FT 857D mobile on 20 meters, I have made a good many contacts, including Italy, Luxemburg and the Bahamas. I also heard Cuba quite clear but could break through the pile-up.

Lots of Stuff coming up!

September

***1 National Preparedness Month Begins**
8-9 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
9 North American CW Sprint
10 MVARC Meeting 7pm @ Red Cross (FOX HUNT FOLLOWS!)
*15 Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day
15 Ohio Section Conference, Ohio State Fire Academy, Reynoldsburg, OH. See

http://www.iarc.ws/ohio/2007_section_conf.htm

for agenda. (Can our Newsletter win another award?)
15-16 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Cumulative Contest
16 North American Phone Sprint
21-23 Great lakes Division Convention, Independence, OH (see August Newsletter for details)
22-23 CQ WW RTTY Contest
29-30 ARRL VEC Amateur Exam Day

October

*6-7 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test
8 MVARC Meeting 7pm @ Red Cross – Radio and Antenna Tune UP!
14 North American RTTY Sprint
15 to 19 School Club Roundup
19 First Quarter
***20-21 Scouts Jamboree On the Air 50th Anniversary**
27-28 CQ WW DX SSB Contest

In the Future

November 12 Meeting 7pm @ Red Cross Oscillator Demonstration

December TBA MVARC Christmas Party, Election of Officers

February TBA MVARC Meeting, Kenyon College,

Wave Theory Hands-on Lesson

When All Else Fails…

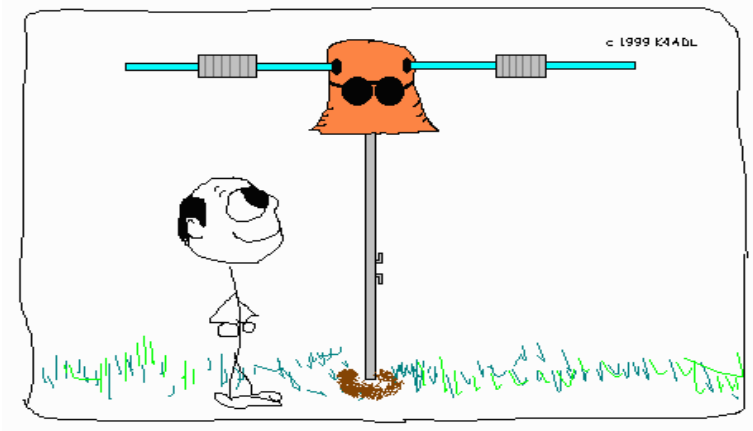
National Preparedness Weekend Oct. 6th and 7th
Once again nothing seems to be happening in our County or District this year. From Jay Bookwater, KC8GNL, the District 6 Newsletter, "I had planned on doing something with all of our district counties that would want to do some sort of exercise. Unfortunately it is a bit late to really get something set up this year other than perhaps a traffic passing exercise of some sort." Will we be ready? One really wonders.

eSpotter

eSpotter is a function of the National Weather Service. eSpotter is a system to facilitate the submission of spotter reports online. The system is being developed to enhance and increase timely & accurate online spotter reporting and communications between spotters and their local weather forecast offices. The use of the system is currently available for trained spotters and emergency managers. Cleveland District of the NWS is eSpotter enabled. To sign up go to
http://espotter.weather.gov/

WxSpotter

Scott Davis, N3FJP, his developing a Weather Spotter Log, to assist Hams and non Ham in reporting weather during events. We know Scott as the person who wrote the Field Day logging software we use every Field Day. Still in beta, the software is run on an internet server, a problem when the power goes out, but none-the-less it is a useful and easy to use tool. One big advantage is the ability of trained spotters who are not hams to participate with local radio nets by adding weather related comments during an event, which can be documented and passed on by net control. I judge that it is something to look into. To download the most recent version and to learn more visit http://www.wxspots.com/



WARREN REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A "DISGUISED FLAGPOLE ANTENNA."

MVARC

Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club
Minutes for the August 13, 2007 Meeting.

By Jeff Butz, N8SMT

Attendees:

1	**Dick Huggins**	**N8RDH**
2	**Mike McCardel**	**KC8YLD**
3	**Arlin Bradford**	**KD8EVR**
4	**Ruben Clark**	**KB2SAI**
5	**Don Russell**	**WA8YRS**
6	**Don Bunner**	**KB8QPO**
7	**Ed Gawrych**	**KC8PBP**
8	**Larry Helzer, DVM**	**AA8WP**
9	**Barry Butz**	**N8PPF**
10	**Emily Bain**	**KC8YAE**
11	**Jeff Butz**	**N8SMT**

President Mike McCardel, KC8YLD, called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

Dick Huggins, N8RDH, introduced a guest, Ed Gawrych, KC8PBP.

Treasurer's Report: Barry Butz, N8PPF.
Recent Income: $13.00
Recent expenses: None
Total Balance $1948.73

Field Day Report: Doc Helzer, AA8WP.
No final comments.

Repeater Report: Don Russell, WA8YRS.
The 2 Meter Repeater has been running good.

The 440 Repeater is still down. Don said he has talked to Steve Dick, KC8YED, and Steve would like to keep the frequency so if we want to setup another repeater we will have to pick a different frequency.

The 6 Meter Repeater will be shut down next weekend. Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR, wants to set it up at SR 13 and I-71 340' up. Don and Barry will talk about it. Maybe a link can be set up in Mt. Vernon.

Website Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.
Ruben said he has done some work on it in the recent past but needs to do some more.

Citizen corps Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.
Citizen corps recently had their appreciation day for first responders. They have a meeting coming up next week where he will find out about upcoming events.

EC Report: Ruben Clark, KB2SAI.
EC very slow right now. We had a weather net last Thursday. The State meeting will be in Cleveland Sept. 22nd.

Pizza Hut Report: Dick Huggins, N8RDH.
Dick reported it has been doing pretty good. Last Wednesday they had just 3 people. They have had anywhere from 5 to 10 people attend each week. Everyone is welcome. They get together Wednesdays at 5:00 P.M. at the Pizza Hut on Coshocton Avenue

Library Book Donation Report: Mike McCardel, KC8YLD.
The library has the books and is processing them. When they are done they will get together with Mike and issue a joint public announcement. Mike said he also included an extra children's' book.

New Business:
Joe Montgomery has donated a laptop to the club.

Mike McCardel asked if anyone has ideas for future club meeting programs. After much discussion, both on and off the subject, it was decided to have:

September:	A foxhunt.
October:	A tune up meeting.
November:	An oscilloscope program.
December:	Christmas dinner and officer elections.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

WA8YRS-L
ECHOLINK REMOTE BASE
CONTROL CODES

C01: Connect to random LINK
C02: Connect to random NODE
C03: Connect to random USER
C09: Reconnect to last station
#: Disconnect

Repeaters and Stuff

By Don Russell, WA8YRS

Local Repeaters

The 2 meter Repeater continues to give good service to the ham community. Coverage has returned to its normal good self after Barry, N8PPF, found the loose antenna connector.

Ruben, KB2SAI, now has the Echolink back on line and running smoothly. Thanks Ruben. Have not heard much activity via echolink on the repeater, but perhaps once everyone realizes that it is working, we will get more customers. If you hear someone on echolink, please give them a call and chat a while.

The 6 meter repeater is history for now. This repeater was shut down Sunday, August 19th due to inactivity. This was actually expected to happen sooner or later. There are just not enough local hams capable of 6 meter FM. The repeater was up for over 2 years with very few problems. Barry, N8PPF and I were very happy that something we created with "off the shelf" ham radio equipment worked so well.

The repeater may eventually be put back on the air. I have heard rumors and have had requests to transfer trusteeship of the repeater. It has been decided that if I were to do this, the repeater would stay located in Mt. Vernon or Knox County.

The 440 MHz. repeater is still down. I really have no expectation that this repeater will be back on the air anytime soon. That is a shame, because I think a 440 MHz repeater is more suited to our ham community than the 6 meter repeater is. The dual band hand held, mobiles, and bases are very common in this modern era of ham radio. I believe a 440 MHz repeater would be a welcome addition to the area. Arlin, KD8EVR, has expressed interest in setting up a local 440 MHz repeater. Barry and I will have to get with him and get the ball rolling, so to speak.

If one looks at the Newsletter Header, it will be noticed that I have changed the local frequencies around. I have removed the frequencies for the 440 MHz. repeater and the 6 meter repeater. Of course, our Repeater on 146.790 MHz is our flagship repeater that all should monitor as much as possible. Along with that, I would like to suggest that local hams monitor 146.520 MHz, which is the national 2 meter simplex calling frequency. I have had numerous enjoyable QSO's with mobiles on "52" passing through Mt. Vernon. Not everyone likes to work through repeaters. I would also like to suggest for

those having UHF capabilities to monitor 446.000 MHz, which is the national simplex calling frequency for the 440 MHz band, and 446.125 Simplex on which I have set up an Echolink simplex station.

Please plug these frequencies into your radios and scanners. I have been scanning these frequencies for over a year now and, yes, I have actually had a QSO or two on 446.000 MHz.

New Echolink Simplex Channel

Since taking the 6 meter repeater off the air, I find that I needed something to play with. Actually, I have had this in mind for some time now, but wanted to let the 6 meter repeater run its course. Now that is has, I have set up an Echolink Simplex station that is open to all local hams to use. I have monitored 446.125 MHz for several weeks without hearing any activity, so this is where I have placed this Echolink Simplex station. So, if you wish to try it, set your radio up on 446.125 MHz Simplex (transmit and receive on the same frequency.

Keep in mind that this is a simplex set up, not a repeater. The operation is basically the same, but with few noticeable differences. For one thing, when monitoring this frequency, you will often hear the station that is using the Echolink through the internet, but not the station he is talking to. The reason for this is that the Echolink simplex station is running on my base antenna with an output power of about 30 watts. You may hear this station and correspondingly the station over the internet using it, but you may not hear the “over the air“ station he is talking to. The station you can not hear may be mobile or on a hand held, or in some other way out of range of your radio. This is simplex and the fellow on Echolink is actually using my station as a remote base.

There is nothing wrong with giving a general call to all stations on this frequency (WA8YRS is monitoring, etc). In fact, I encourage it. You do not have to be using Echolink to use this channel. I would not mind a bit if it became a popular local simplex channel. I plan on giving calls out often when mobile or down in my shack.

Another difference is that this station will not be running 24 hrs a day. The rules governing remote bases and links are a bit different from repeater rules. Remote bases cannot be under automatic control. Therefore, this station will only be up when I am available to monitor and control it. Presently, I have it set to come on at 5:00 pm daily, and turn off a 10:00 pm daily. These are the times I will be around to monitor. If I am going to be too busy to monitor, it will not be on. Weekends, you should find the station running from late morning until 10:00 pm. Again, based on my schedule and ability to monitor.

Now for the fun stuff. You may use this link in one of two ways. First, if you have echolink installed on your own computer, you can access the link via the internet. Just look up my call. It will be listed as WA8YRS-L. Hit the connect button and you will be announced through my transceiver as being connected to the link. It is a good idea to announce yourself again using standard amateur practices. Use something like “WA8YRS listening via Echolink (use your call, of course). Anyone monitoring the 446.125 MHz simplex channel can give you a call. It does not have to be me. If someone answers your call, he or she will transmit on 446.125 MHz. and my receiver will run the audio over the internet and back to your computer. Simple enough. You have a QSO. When finished, the person that initiated the connect sequence (you in this case) needs to hit the disconnect button.

Listening for someone to connect through the link from the internet can get pretty boring. There is a better way to make use of the link.

Using your base, mobile, or hand held set up on 446.125 MHz simplex, there are several commands you can enter via the keypad to make the link do something. You will need the 16 button keypad, which most modern equipment come supplied with. If you have an older model, you may have a 12 button keypad and will not be able to use the link.

All connect commands begin with the keypad digit “C”. If you know the Node Number of the station you wish to connect to, simply enter “C” plus the Node Number. For example, KB2SAI-L, which is a link to our 2 meter repeater, has a node number of 83753. To connect to KB2SAI-L, simply key in “C83753”. You will here a response from WA8YRS-L of “Connecting to KB2SAI Link”. Then it will confirm a successful connection by saying “Connected!”. You will also here a Morse Code ID identifying my link.

You are now connected and can give a call through the K8EEN Repeater using the 446.125 MHz simplex link just as you would if your radio was set to the 2 meter repeater frequency. This may sound complicated, but it is actually very easy once you have done it a time or two. If someone answers your call, carry on the QSO just as you would a normal contact through the repeater with one exception. Since the link is a simplex link, you must let the link transmitter drop so that the receiver can hear you and send your audio over the internet. There is a short beep just before the transmitter drops. This makes it easy to know when to begin transmitting. When you are done with the QSO you must disconnect from the link, since you were the one that initiated the connect. Do this by keying the # key on the keypad. You will here the link say “KB2SAI Link Disconnected”.

Linking to our own repeater is not much fun and you would do better to just use the repeater itself. Coverage will be better. There are several other commands that you may use to make life interesting and enjoy conversations World Wide using this link. Here are the

fun commands:

- C01: Connect to a random link. This command will connect you to a simplex link similar to the WA8YRS Link. It may be on a simplex channel, or may be directed to a repeater. Simply key in "C01" and Echolink will choose a link for you from anywhere in the world.

- C02: Connect to a random node. This command works as above, however, you will be randomly connect to a User (computer), Repeater, or Link. Use the same procedure as in the first example.

- C03: Connect to a random user. This connects you to an Echolink user that is logged on using a computer. He is not using a radio. Doesn't matter. Enjoy the QSO.

- C09: Reconnect. Use this command to reconnect to a station if the connection was lost for some reason.

- #: Disconnect from the link: Use this at the end of a QSO if you are the one that initiated the connect. You may also assist the other station in disconnecting if he or she is having problems.

Here are some operating hints and kinks:

- After connecting to a station, you will not always hear any activity. It may sound like a dead channel. If it is a simplex link, maybe no one is around or too busy to answer your call. Be sure you make one or two transmissions to alert other stations that you have connected. I usually say something like: "This is WA8YRS via Echolink listening (or monitoring). I may say this two or three times. If you get no answer, disconnect (# on the keypad) and try again with another station. Remember, the random functions will connect you to a different station each time. It is like calling CQ. Just keep connecting to different stations until someone comes back. If the Link announces that you are connected, then rest assured things are working properly and you are being heard somewhere in the world!

- To tell if you are in range of my link station, simply key in from the keypad: C349554. This is the WA8YRS-L node number. If the link hears and decodes your signal, it will come back and say "Connected to WA8YRS Link" and send my call in Morse Code. Since you cannot really do anything connecting to the link in this way, you should then use the # key to disconnect. If you can connect to the Link in this way, then you are in range and can use any of the command functions listed. If you hear nothing, the link is down or you are out of range.

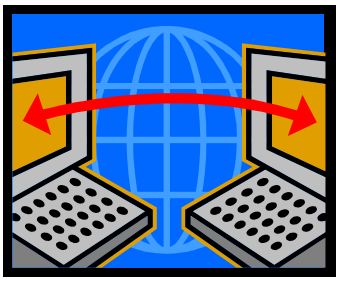
- I am not out to set records distance wise with this link. I expect the link to be good for mobiles or base stations out 5 to 15 miles. A hand held should get into it from most spots in Mt. Vernon. As I write this, the antenna is side mounted on the tower at the 30 foot level. As the weather cools down, I hope to put the antenna at the top of the tower which is at about 55 feet. East and Northeast will not be good in town. I have a big hill to go through. As you get out of town heading East and Northeast, you should be able get back to the link for five or ten miles. Since most of my mobile operations are in town, this distance suits me just fine and I see no reason to change it.

- If the link is up then I will be monitoring. If you run into trouble or have questions just give me a call. Keep in mind that I do have a life, so if I hear you call, but I am busy with other things I may not get back to you. But I will do my best

Hope this is enough information. Feel free to try the link out. I have had a lot of fun with it and plan on keeping it going for a while. Please monitor 446.125 MHz. simplex. I will not only be using the link, but will also give general calls out on the frequency looking for locals to talk to.

Use EchoLink and your PC to expand your ham radio horizons

By JIM BROOKS, KY4Z
Kentucky Section PIC



The entry of computers into the average ham's ham shack began in the infancy of personal computing, and today there are few hams who don't own at least one computer. Computers were first used as terminals for digital communications and to automate tasks like logging radio contacts. But in recent years, computers have become an integral part of most modern transceivers, and most new radios can be easily interfaced with a PC for control and programming.

What is EchoLink?

Echolink allows licensed amateur radio operators to connect to one another via the Internet using a variety of equipment and modes. Hams may use EchoLink to connect their computers to one another for a one-on-one direct QSO, or to operate a remote station via a computer control link. One of the most common uses for EchoLink is to connect to distant repeaters via existing computer-to-radio links around the world. By using the EchoLink software, a ham can talk around the world using the Internet as the "bridge" between his computer and the distant station. You can access EchoLink either

with a radio or a computer. If you are in range of an FM repeater or simplex station equipped with EchoLink, you can use DTMF commands from your radio to access the EchoLink network. If you are a licensed amateur with an Internet-connected PC, you can access EchoLink stations directly from your PC. The closest EchoLink-enabled repeater to my location is the 146.70 repeater sponsored by the Bullitt Amateur Radio Society. The amount of activity on the repeater has increased significantly since EchoLink was added, thanks in part to the fact that former Kentucky hams now have a way to connect with old friends via the repeater.

How do I get started?

First, download the software from the EchoLink Web site (www.echolink.org). You will be asked to provide your call sign and e-mail address. Then, install the software on your PC, and be sure you have a good Internet connection (56k modem or better). The first time you use EchoLink, the system will automatically put in a request for your call sign and password to be validated. The request will be reviewed, and once you are validated (which usually takes less than a day), you're ready to go.

How does EchoLink handle security?

Each new user of EchoLink must be validated. Each new request for validation is reviewed individually, and many are followed up with a request for proof of valid license. After having been validated, each EchoLink user must provide a password, along with his or her call sign, to log in. Each time a connection is made for a QSO, the EchoLink servers verify both the sender and the receiver before communication can begin. In addition, if you wish, you can configure EchoLink to accept connections only from certain types of stations: repeaters, links, users, or all three. You can also set up a list of any number of "banned" call signs, which will not be allowed access. In addition, you can block or accept connections according to their international call sign prefix, in order to comply with your country's rules regarding reciprocal control operator privileges or third-party traffic restrictions.

Does EchoLink spread computer viruses or worms?

In short, no. Unlike software such as e-mail programs, file sharing programs, and Web browsers, EchoLink does not have any way to accept "attachments" that might harm your computer. There are no known cases of EchoLink accepting or spreading a computer virus.

What about remote control?

For enhanced remote control, EchoLink includes a built-in, password-protected Web server which can be set up to accept commands from any Internet-connected computer. Basic functions allow you to remotely enable or disable the link, disconnect stations, and see who is currently using it. The software also supports a basic and extended set of DTMF commands for control over a radio link. For example, you can key in either the node number or the call sign of the station you wish to connect to.

Can I run EchoLink on my Mac?

Yes. While the EchoLink software is designed specifically to run under Microsoft Windows, there is a Mac version that works with OS X. Currently there are no plans to offer versions of EchoLink for other platforms. The EchoMac program by N9YTY is compatible with EchoLink. If you wish to use it, you'll still need to register with EchoLink to get started. Be aware that EchoLink has no support for EchoMac users.

How does EchoLink handle non-hams?

For proper security, the servers with which EchoLink communicates require that only duly-licensed Amateur Radio operators have access to the system. This means that before you can use EchoLink, someone will soon be review your request for access. When access is granted, the list of logged in stations will automatically appear when you run the EchoLink software. Depending upon system conditions, the validation process could take less than an hour, or occasionally as long as 24 hours.

Editors Note: This article was a reprint from one that appeared in our Newsletter over a year ago. I thought a refresher course on Echolink would be a good match to the information I gave you about the WA8YRS link. (Don, WA8YRS)

Findlay Hamfest Sunday, September 9, 2007

The 2007 Findlay Hamfest is this coming Sunday, September 9, 2007. Many local hams usually attend, so hope to see you there.

- Main building opens at 8:00 AM
- Flea Market opens at 7:30 AM
- Flea Market access setup at 6:30 AM

Door Prizes: A handie Talkie will be given away every half hour. You must be present to win.

Main Prizes:

- Main Prize: HF Transceiver
- Second Prize: VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver
- Third Prize: VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver

Special Drawing: Last years ticket stubs will be entered in a special drawing for an HF Transceiver. You need to be present to win. All prizes subject to change.

- Admission: $6.00

Newsletter Credits
Editor: Don Russell, WA8YRS

Clip Art and Cartoons thanks to http://wm8c1.50megs.com/radio_clip_art.htm, http://www.qsl.net/k4adl/, http://pages.prodigy.net/kg0zz/clipart/ham_art3.htm, http://www.arrl.org/,

The ARRL letter is a weekly e-mail publication by the ARRL. You may read the entire ARRL letter by visiting the ARRL Web page at http://www.arrl.org/. **Other News** from: http://ky4ky.com/fyi.htm.

The ARES E-Letter is an e-mail digest of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Past issues of The ARES E-Letter are available at http://www.arrl.org/ares-el/. Issues are posted to this page after publication.

Project OSCAR is a monthly column written for Newsletter Editors. Columns will appear as space permits. You may download all the columns yourself at: http://www.projectoscar.net/beacon.php

Members are encouraged to send articles pertaining to ham radio, with an emphasis on local activities, equipment reviews, and personal experience to wa8yrs@arrl.net or Don Russell, WA8YRS, 815 Brookwood Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050

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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, for those over 65 yrs. of age, and 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: