

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

January, 2018



**Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm  
at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross Annex  
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)**

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**President's View**

Here we are with the start of a new year. I hope this finds you all warm and cozy as it is very cold outside (-12 on my thermometer). I'm writing this at 5:00 am as the house is full of kids, spouses and grandchildren and once they are awake there's not much time around here. I think I'm on my 53<sup>rd</sup> reading of "Thomas the Train Crack in the Track". I guess it is never too late to start planning for the upcoming year. So put these dates on your calendar:

**January 27-28: Winter Field Day**

**April ??: NVIS**

**April 22: Earth Day Challenge**

**June 24-25: Field Day**

**August ?? : Dan Emmett Special Event Station**

**September 8: Ohio State Parks on the Air**

**December 9: Christmas Dinner**



There are a couple that don't have dates posted yet, but I'll keep a close watch and will let everyone know once the dates are final. The Christmas Dinner is subject to change but this coincides with our usual monthly meeting. Somewhere in this newsletter, you will find a notice for the upcoming Tech class starting in mid-January. So if you have time on Thursday evening and would like to help please stop in we would be glad to have you. Also, if you know someone who is interested in obtaining their license let them know.

As usual, I will be taking names of persons wanting to coordinate any one or several of the upcoming events. You don't have to do everything, but I will put you on the spot during the meetings prior to the event, so all will be updated.

Thanks to all who participated last year, we had a great year.

Frank, KC8EVS

by **Barry Butz N8PPF**  
**January 2018**



**Radiohio** is the new name our contesting group has chosen to use. The members are W8PEN, KC8EVS, KC8BB, KE8ANS, and N8PPF. What we need is a few more testers. Many of the contests are sponsored by the ARRL, which specifies a team as having three or more members. With the loss of two of our members last year we sometimes aren't able to field a team, especially for CW. You don't need to be a highly skilled operator. With practice we all can improve our skills. Let me know if you have an interest.

Several interesting contests are coming up this month. First is the ARRL Kids Day, intended to help and encourage kids toward ham radio. Also coming are the NAQP CW and SSB contests. These have easy exchanges – just your call, name and state. There will be lots of stations on the air. Lastly, there is the ARRL VHF contest. 6 meters is the most used band but 2 meters might yield some contacts. Don't be discouraged if activity is low. I have submitted a log already with just one QSO! Technicians have full privileges on VHF and also on most-used portions of the 10 meter band. Even in this time of low sunspots 10 meters isn't always dead. I have made some contacts recently and I know that Frank also has. Go to QST's Contest Corral column to see all the contests of the month, including links to get the details of each.

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2018/January%202018%20Corral.pdf>

Most contesting is done on CW or SSB. There are exceptions, including Kids Day which allows repeaters.

Contesters should use logging software. I can't imagine how it used to be done! There are several programs available, some of them free. The one I use is by N3FJP, who has a whole family of software. You have seen it in use at Field Day. Another popular one is N1MM Logger. Check one out. 73.

### The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

**President:**

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**December Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2017**

Frank, KC8EVS called the meeting to order.

November Meeting Minutes accepted: Motion by Arlin, KD8EVR and seconded by Lori, KE8GFZ.

No treasurer's report this month.

Several MVARC members attended the Christmas dinner with families. MVARC Christmas Dinner was held at Fiesta Mexicana December 10, 2017.

**Repeaters:**

Don, W8PEN, reported the 146.79 repeater is working. This is the Fusion repeater that was originally the 444.6 repeater. The 444.6 repeater is still off the air. Arlin, KD8EVR stated he would look at the inoperative repeater to see if it could be fixed.

**Mesh:**

Don, W8PEN, reported Mesh network is working.

**Old Business:**

Barry, N8PPF taking pictures for the web site. Anyone he has not taken please contact Barry.

**New Business:**

Motion for election and to accept the slate of candidates without having individual ballots by Dick, N8RDH and seconded by Arlin, KD8EVR; Motion passed.

**Election results:**

**One Year Terms:**

President – Frank Counts, KC8EVS  
Vice President – Scott Fields, K8AEC  
Secretary Treasurer – Terry Windsor, KE8ANS

**Two Year Terms:**

Director – Emery Bennett, W8TW  
Director – Greg Short, W8DOH  
Director – Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ  
Director – Scott Magers, KE8ANQ  
Director – Don Russell, W8PEN  
Bill Bradley, KC8BB; one year remaining on his director's term.

Discussion of purchasing a new/used repeater to use as a backup. Motion made to purchase a repeater by Dick, N8RDH and seconded by unknown. Motion passed and Don, W8PEN to research.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Dick, N8RDH and seconded by Barry, N8PPF. Motion passed, and meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Terry Windsor, KE8ANS  
MVARC Acting Secretary/Treasurer

**By Don Russell, W8PEN**

Welcome to 2018 and Happy New Year. The past year has been a very good one for the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club. We have seen a strong growth in new hams in the Knox County area and consequently, an nice increase in club membership.



The club had a great 2017 Field Day, even though our score was not as good as in past years. We did, however take first place in the 4A Commercial category. While we ran Emergency power all of Field Day, we had one member recharge a battery by commercial means, which negates our claim to 100% emergency power. No matter, everyone had fun anyway.

2017 also saw increased cooperation between the Knox County Red Cross and Rod Cook, Red Cross Regional Director and our club. This resulted in a tower being installed at the Red Cross and a club station in the upstairs of the Red Cross Training Center. We now have capabilities on 80 – 10 meters and 2 meter FM.

The Local Ham Radio Mesh Network is in good shape and growing. We now have a node at the KCH (Hospital) and the Red Cross. Several members have their own individual nodes that help to expand our network. We have installed mesh phones and an email server that should prove beneficial to Knox County ARES and the Knox County EMA, if needed. Future plans still include a node at the Water Tower that hosts the K8EEN 2 meter repeater. We are also hoping for a mesh node at the Knox EMA so that we can have a mesh phone and email client in the radio room.

Our Technician class of 2017 was a huge success and we have increased our membership through these very active graduates. We had a very successful first time General Upgrade class that netted some increased privileges for our club members.

Plans are in the making for our 2018 Technician Class starting in January. We are also committed to another General Upgrade course by popular demand. There has also been a request for a Morse Code Class, so members can expect that to happen sometime in 2018. Perhaps after the Technician Class.

I know I missed some fun things the club did, but pages are limited. Let it be said that we are a very active club. Those not participating in club events are missing a lot of fun, so please join us in 2018.

### **Pat Valentino KD8PSM Resigns as Knox County ARES Coordinator**

In late December 2017, Pat Valentino KD8PSM announced that he was resigning as Knox County ARES Emergency Coordinator. Pat has held this job since late 2016.

Pat will continue to coordinate activities between the Knox County EMA and the Mt. Vernon ARC. We will continue as planned with training activities in 2018. No other information is available at this time.

Pat is a valuable resource and I personally look forward to working with him this year.

An announcement of a new Knox County EC is forthcoming.

## [Announcing the 2018 Technician Class Ham Radio Course](#)

This one got away from me and I am a bit late getting started. None the less, there will be a Tech Course starting this January. Currently, I am planning on a ham radio demo and sign up day on January 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be the day students can take a look at ham radio, maybe make a contact or two, and pick up their study guide to prepare for the first day of actual class starting Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held each Thursday for six weeks through February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will be from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm. Testing will be Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 am. This course will be held at the Training Center of the Knox County Red Cross.

Please let family and friends interested in ham radio know about this opportunity. There will be an official announcement of this class somewhere in this issue. Please feel free to copy it and post it if possible wherever you work.

## [Update on my Meteor Scatter and EME Activities](#)

I continue to have success with the 2 meter meteor scatter project. It has been fun. One thing I have learned: HF operating and VHF FM are easy. VHF weak signal operating is very hard. Here are a few pictures of my old vs new antennas:



**Old Antenna (Cushcraft 12 element 16 ft. long)**



**New Antenna (M2-5WL, 34 ft. long)**

The 2 meter antennas are the ones above the 6 meter beam. Notice that I knocked one of the 6 meter beam elements crooked when installing the new 2 meter beam. Something to fix in the Spring.

I am disappointed that I have not heard any moon bounce stations yet. I think eventually that will happen, as I keep improving things.

That is it for now. Everyone have a great month of January. See you at the meeting.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



About a month ago, I received an email from the ARRL. Attached were minutes of a Special Board Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors (<http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Minutes-of-Special-Board-Meeting-ARRL-Board-of-Directors-1.pdf>) held by teleconference on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. At first, I didn't think much of it, but after reading the minutes, I thought to myself, "What heck are these guys thinking?"

What the minutes document is the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, for "criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct [sic] and drawing the Board's collective decision making into disrepute." I won't quote the whole thing here, but you can find the text on my website at <http://www.kb6nu.com/heck-arrrl-board-thinking/>.

So, what is this ARRL Code of Conduct? It's official name is the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and the board adopted this code at the January 20-21, 2017 board meeting. You can find this code on the ARRL website at [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL Code of Conduct.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf).

To be fair, this document does include some good things, such as acting responsibly when it comes to ARRL financial matters and treating ARRL staff with respect. What seems to be questionable, and the reason for N6AA's censure, however, is Section 8 Support of Board Decisions. I won't quote the entire section here, but basically what it says an ARRL board member must accept and publicly support board decisions, even if they voted it against it. If they express any dissenting opinion about a board decision, they can be censured, as N6AA was in this case.

In effect, this is a gag order on a director if he disagrees with a Board decision. Not only that, this section seems to say that once someone gets elected to the Board, his allegiance to the Board is more important than the views of the amateur radio operators he represents.

One of my Twitter followers put it this way, "Where else can those ostensibly in a position of representation of the organization's members be punished for publicly criticizing the organization's rules? US Congress? Parliament of the UK? No, and no. [@arrl](#) board is looking more like North Korea than a representative body." Seriously, can you imagine if the U.S. Congress had such a policy in place? What did Norton actually do?

I emailed Norton to find out what he said exactly to bring on this censure. Understandably, he was a little hesitant to speak to me directly. I then asked if I could see the supporting statements.

I then received two emails. The first was from Mark Weiss, K6FG. His email contained the text of an email he sent to the ARRL Board of Directors. A second contained an email sent to the board by Tim Duffy, K3LR, the owner of DX Engineering. Both emails supported N6AA, noting that he stated that he supported the board action and that any opposition came from the audience and not from Norton.

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**By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

So, I go back to my original question. What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking, first in passing this draconian ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and second in using it to censure a director, who, according to several accounts, didn't commit the infraction in the first place? Are they so insecure in their decision-making that they have to resort to gag orders like this? Don't they see that taking actions like this brings them more "disrepute" than an honest dissenting opinion?

If this situation angers you as much as it does me, I encourage you to contact your director and make your feelings known. One of my blog readers suggests that your message be "short, non-aggressive, and to the point." He suggested the following:

Dear [your director's name here]

I am unhappy with both the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Member of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors (aka the "Code of Conduct") and the N6AA censure.

I want to freely discuss issues with our directors. I want our directors to tell me where they stand, not where the board stands.

I want the directors to be free to express their opinions and to know how they voted.

I want directors to not fear censure.

Therefore, I urge the following immediate actions:

Modify the Code of Conduct to allow the above.

Revoke the N6AA censure.

73,

[Your name and callsign go here.]

I hate to say this, but this is only the beginning. Some ARRL directors are planning to propose changes to the League's Articles of Association and By-Laws at the board meeting in January 2018. These changes will make the ARRL even less democratic and more authoritarian.

As reported by CQ magazine (<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2017/12/changes-proposed-to-arrl-governing.html>), if these changes are enacted "the board of directors will be able to revoke League membership 'for cause' and to remove board members by revoking their League membership; lesser disciplinary actions against board members, such as censure, will be allowed without the member receiving advance notice or an opportunity to respond to allegations." Another change will grant voting privileges to the president and three vice-presidents, even though these are appointed positions.

Again, I ask, what the heck is the ARRL board thinking? Do they really think that this is going to make the ARRL a stronger organization and a better advocate for amateur radio? If so, I'd like to hear their reasoning. ARRL membership has been declining for many years (as a percentage of licensed radio amateurs), and these moves are only going to accelerate that decline. I have already heard from many hams that they plan to let their ARRL membership lapse.

Please consider contacting your director today. It may already be too late to save the ARRL.

# WANT TO TALK TO THE WORLD? HAM RADIO CLASSES NOW FORMING

A hobby the whole family can enjoy

Kids of all ages from 9 – 99 have become ham radio operators

Use your skills to assist during public service events such as bike races, marathons, and parades

Become an official “Weather Spotter”

Join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and become trained in emergency response.

Enjoy talking to hams all over the world by Amateur radio

Upon completion of this course you will be able to talk to local hams and Amateur Radio Operators around the world using voice, digital, and Morse Code. **Morse Code is not required to earn your license and requires extra study.**

**Date:** Class registration will be Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> in which prospective students will be introduced to Ham Radio, observe some of the equipment used in this fantastic hobby, and pick up their free study guide to be used during the course.

**First Class** will be Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm and continue each Thursday through February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Exams** will be held Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 am.

An optional class session will be offered Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm covering how to set up your ham radio station, program your radio, and conduct “on the air” contacts.

**Location:** Classes will be held at the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 300 North Mulberry Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. We will be using the Training Center which is in back of the main building.

**Cost:** This course is sponsored by the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club. **The course and course material are provided free of charge. There is a testing fee of \$15.00 at the time of the exam.** This fee goes to the testing organization and the club does not retain any of the testing fees. The club offers a one year free membership to those taking the course and passing the exam.

For more information about Amateur Radio and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, please visit these websites:

<http://www.arrl.org>

<http://www.mvarc.net>

<http://www.arrl-ohio.org>

For more information or to sign up for the course contact:

Don Russell, W8PEN, Phone: 740-397-0249, Email: [w8pen@arrl.net](mailto:w8pen@arrl.net)

Frank Counts, KC8EVS Phone: 740-358-9131, Email: [fcounts@gmail.com](mailto:fcounts@gmail.com)



# January, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>7</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB -Bill	<b>8</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red Cross Annex</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Finer Diner  North American QSO Party (CW)
<b>14</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	<b>20</b> North American QSO Party SSB (Ph) ARRL January VHF Contest - (CW, Ph, Dig)
<b>21</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8ANS – Terry	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KD8HSA —Tom	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>1</b> <i><u>February</u></i>	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB —Bill	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Breakfast at Allison's Finer Diner
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