

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

July, 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

It's July 4 and I had a great day with the family celebrating our country's founding. I hope yours went well too. Well, Field Day 2018 is in the books and we had great fun out at Apple Valley and the weather in general was great. It was touch and go on Friday when we set up, but after that it was a beautiful weekend. I want to thank all who participated in some fashion, even if it was just to come out and say "HI". Don, W8PEN on (CW) smoked the SSB stations as Jim N8IBR (SK) was sorely missed. If you never have participated in a Field Day event start planning now to attend Field Day 2019, even if it is just a few hours. The SSB operators could use the help!



Well, we are half way through the year and winding down on our planned activities. July should be a month to rest but August and September we have three more outings planned so to speak. First in August, is the Dan Emmett Special Event, August 9, 10, & 11. If you haven't signed up to operate please do. If you don't have a station to operate from, there is always the club station. Second, is the Ohio State QSO Party Aug 25th. I'm not sure of all the details concerning this, as it is something new for us to participate is as a club. It is short compared to field day only 12 hours, noon to midnight Saturday, August 25. Location, rules etc. to be discussed at the July meeting. Should be fun, please plan to attend, even if it is just for a couple of hours. The third and last event for the year is Ohio State Parks On The Air September 9th. This is planned for Mohican State Park at the Gorge. This is always fun and if we are lucky Terry, K18N might give us a demonstration to the use of a sling shot to install an antenna.



Hope to see you Monday, July 9 at 7pm.

73

Frank, KC8EVS

Looking for members of MVARC to activate K8EEN as a special events station during the Daniel Emmett Days Music and Arts Festival; August 9 - 11.

If you haven't operated a special event station, give it a try. Even during bad band conditions, you can have a lot of fun and improve your operating skills. We are looking for a 3-hour operating commitment per the attached schedule.

Members have the option of operating from any area location, as long as it is within a 20-mile radius of Mount Vernon. This will allow members to set up at a point of interest in Knox County, the club station in the Red Cross Training building, or operate from their home QTH.

Thursday – August 9

Band	Mode	Time	Operating Station
All	SSB – PSK - CW	Noon – 3 pm	KC8EVS
All		3 pm – 6 pm	
All		6 pm – 9 pm	KI8N
All		9 pm - Midnight	

Friday – August 10

Band	Mode	Time	Operating Station
All	SSB – PSK - CW	Midnight –	
All		9 am – Noon	
All		Noon – 3 pm	KC8EVS
All		3 pm – 6 pm	
All		6 pm – 9 pm	
All		9 pm -	

Saturday – August 11

Band	Mode	Time	Operating Station
All	SSB – PSK - CW	Midnight – 8 am	
All		9 am – Noon	KI8N
All		Noon – 3 pm	KC8EVS
All		3 pm – 6 pm	
All		6 pm – 9 pm	W8DOH
All		9 pm - Midnight	

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

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June Meeting Minutes June 11, 2018

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

There were 15 MVARC members present.

May Meeting Minutes accepted: Motion by Tony, KC8UR and seconded by Bill, KD8WHQ.

Treasurers Report presented by Terry, KI8N. Motion to accept by Michael, W8MJL and Seconded by Bill, KD8WHQ. Motion passed to accept Treasurers Report. For club finance specifics please contact Terry, KI8N.

Repeaters:

Don, W8PEN, reported the 146.79 repeater is working. Don, W8PEN is still monitoring and planning to troubleshoot noise issue.

The 444.6 repeater at Knox County Hospital is working. The ID timer was changed from 3 minutes to 10 minutes.

It was noted that the 2M repeater "kerchunks" at 2am daily. Don, W8PEN stated this is most likely caused by Echolink rebooting nightly.

Mesh:

Don, W8PEN, reported Mesh network is working but has a couple of issues he is working on. Don has nodes and equipment available to loan if installed and operational 24 hours a day. Contact Don for more information.

ARES:

Bill, KD8WHQ reported no ARES news at this time. He did state that there is a new website coming where individuals will have to input/log their ARES activities.

Old Business:

Frank, KC8EVS discussed upcoming 2018 club events and the need for coordinators to assist. These events are the normal activities the club participates in:

June 24 – 25: Field Day – Bill, KD8WHQ is the event coordinator. MVARC will be operating from Apple Valley. Don coordinating radio stations: SSB (Barry, N8PPF and Greg, W8DOH), CW (Don, W8PEN), and Digital (Terry, KI8N). Dinner will be at 5pm Saturday.

Event notices sent to all elected county officials and will be sent to newspaper one week prior to the event.

August 9 - 11: Dan Emmitt Special Event Station August – Terry, KI8N coordinating. Presented operating schedule, QST submitted and QRZ page updated. Still need to develop a certificate and method for distributing.

August 25: Ohio QSO party may try to operate from a location such as the fairgrounds if there is enough interest.

September 8: Ohio State Parks on the Air – Plan to operate from Mohican State Park at the Gorge.

New Business:

Noted that Terry, KI8N is updating club equipment list regarding equipment insurance. Insurance bill paid for 2018 without changes at this time.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Michael, KE8HNF and seconded by Don, KB8QPO. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Terry Windsor, KI8N
MVARC Secretary/Treasurer

Once again Field Day has come and gone but leaving some members wishing for more.

Club members know that we lost two really good Field Day operators the past year in Don Blizzard, W8UMH and Jim Williams, N8IBR. Personally, it was a rather sad Field Day. This is the first time in many years that W8UMH was not sitting by my side running CW stations. I also missed N8IBR, whom always gave me great competition in the SSB guys verses the CW guys. I really missed that.



However, our new operators showed that what they lacked in experience they made up for in ambition and effort. A little more contesting experience and this group is going to set all kinds of club records during Field Day. I am looking forward to it. Just need to find a CW operator or two to help me out.

For the club, Field Day started out with rain..... Lightening..... and Thunder.... (!!!!)

Friday afternoon about an hour into antenna setup, a very large storm rolled through our Field Day site. The group sat under the shelter provided by the Apple Valley Owners Association and shared stories and watched the weather map. What did we do before the smart phone era?

Eventually the weather cleared and the group was able to put up all the antennas in short order. Things went quick. We have been doing this for years.

Two members stayed overnight Friday. I would like to say to protect the equipment, but mostly it was just because we could. Barry, N8PPF and I, Don Russell, W8PEN busied ourselves setting up equipment and getting the Wi-Fi network up and running. Then, with nothing else to do, we retired to our campers to get a good nights sleep in preparation for the big event.

Highlights of Field Day weekend:

1. We actually had pretty good weather after the initial storm Friday. Sure, it rained off and on, but band conditions were pretty good. Not as much static as you would expect with the weather outlook.
2. Station set up went great. No major problems getting things working together.
3. We were able to separate the CW station and the Digital station to where the two stations could operate on the same band without interfering with each other.
4. Speaking of digital, Terry, KI8N did an excellent job running digital and made 165 contacts. We have improved our digital score each year since our first digital station in 2016.
5. While the CW station beat out the SSB stations for total contacts. This might be the last year that happens for a while. Every indication is the SSB guys are going to be better next year.
6. And let's not forget the great food during the picnic. Club members that did not participate missed a really good meal. Thanks Bill, KC8BB.

Downers:

1. The SSB stations antenna came down once and had to be reinstalled. Second year in a row that has happened. It is a pain putting an antenna up in the dark.
2. The CW station had problems with its Honda Generator. Lost about 2 hours operating time trying to fix it and eventually went to battery power with solar panels thanks to Tom, KD8HSA.

That is it. Not too many problems encountered this Field Day.

[ARRL Field Day 2018 Results, continues on page 6](#)

Here is the Field Day summary submitted to the ARRL:

ARRL Field Day Entry Form

Date stamp: 2018-07-02 18:26:45 PDT

Confirmation: e61cae542633f0dd

Call Used: K8EEN GOTA Station Call: (none) ARRL/RAC Section: OH Class: 4A

Participants: 15 Club/Group Name: Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Power Source(s): Generator, Solar

Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	100 (X4)
Media Publicity	100
Public Location	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Social media	100
Safety officer	100
Total Bonus Points	1,050

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	558	165	445	1168

Total Points 1116 330 445 1891 Claimed Score = 3,782

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr (W)	QSOs	Pwr (W)	QSOs	Pwr (W)
160m						
80m	65	100	47	30	65	100
40m	302	100	25	30	202	100
20m	147	100	74	30	73	100
15m	42	100	19	30	31	100
10m					59	100
6m	2	100			15	100
TOTAL	558		165		445	

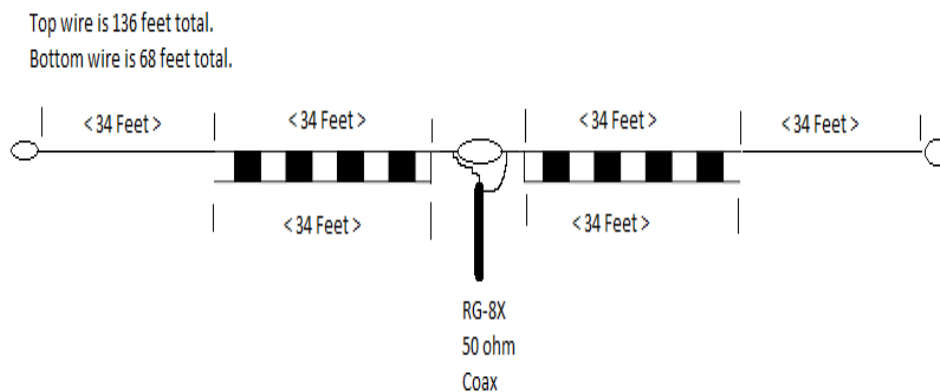
Want to be radio active? Build an antenna. Antennas are the most important ingredient of a ham radio station. One can have the best radio available, costing thousands of dollars. Without a good antenna, the radio would be worthless.

Many club members have asked me about the antennas that I used last Field Day. These antennas are fan dipoles made out of standard ladder line. The ladder line has two wires and each of these two wires are cut to a different frequency, making this a two band fan dipole. Remember, a dipole is a $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength of wire fed in the middle with 50 ohm coax. SWR should be in the order of 1.5 to 1, or less.



Since I wanted to cover 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters for Field Day, I built two antennas. One for 80 and 40 meters. The other for 20 and 15 meters. Here is a parts list for a single dual band antenna. Lets do the 80 – 40 meter version:

1. 68 feet of ladder line. This is a half wavelength at 40 meters and the lower wire will be left at 68 feet and be the 40 meter antenna. Actually, this is a bit long, so it can be trimmed to resonance during tuning.
2. 2 pieces of #14 stranded electrical wire, 34 feet long. This can be insulated or not. Home improvement stores are a good source. You may have this laying around the garage. These wires will be connected to the top wire on the ladder line on each side making the total length of the top wire 136 feet long.
3. You will need one center insulator and two end insulators. If you have non available, $\frac{1}{2}$ pvc pipe makes a good substitute. You will have to be careful with soldering though.



80/40 Mtr Fan Dipole

Construction of the fan dipole is straightforward:

1. Cut the 68 feet of ladder line exactly in the middle so that you have two 34 foot lengths of ladder line.
2. Looking at the drawing, connect the two sections of ladder line to the center insulator. Make sure all 4 wires (top and bottom) of the ladder line are connected to the center insulator, two wires on each side of the insulator.

3. Connect RG-8X or similar 50 ohm feedline to the center insulator. The center should be connected to one side and the braid to the other side, as shown in the drawing. Solder all connections made thus far being careful not to melt the insulator if using pvc. Seal with electrical tape. Use plenty of tape to seal the coax from moisture. Moisture is your enemy when using coax.
4. Connect the end insulators to each end of the 80 meter wires. Now add the two 34 foot lengths of #14 wire to the ends of the top wire on the ladder line. Solder and use shrink wrap or electrical tape to seal the connection from weather.
5. Connect the end insulators to each end of the 80 meter wires.
6. End of construction.

There you have it, an 80 /40 meter fan dipole ready to go. All you have to do is tune it for lowest SWR.

It is easiest to use an antenna analyzer to tune the antenna. First string the antenna up in a fashion that it can be easily lowered for pruning. Check the SWR on an antenna analyzer. At the beginning, the lowest SWR should be lower in frequency. Maybe out of band. That is because we made the wires a bit longer so that we could tune for lowest SWR. If for some reason, the SWR is lowest above the desired frequency, then you will have to add wire to the antenna.

Start with the 40 meter (bottom section) first and prune an inch or less at a time from both ends until you obtain the lowest SWR for the desired frequency (Such as 7.200 for the SSB portion of 40 meters).

Once this is accomplished, tune the top wire for the desired frequency on 80 meters using the same technique (Example: maybe tuning for 3.9 MHz for 80 meter SSB).

After tuning, the antenna is ready to go. The SWR should not vary too much once you raise the antenna higher.

A few last comments on this antenna. This antenna can be built for any two bands. It does not have to be 80/40. It could just as easily be 80/20 or 40/10, or any other combination. Lowest frequency wire goes on top because it will be the longer wire. If the wires twist, that is okay. It will not affect performance.

This antenna works so good that I am thinking about replacing my 160 meter windom with a couple of these.

See you at the meeting.

July, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 July 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 p.m. MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red Cross Annex	10	11 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	12	13 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	14 10:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road
15 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HGE –Michael	16	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 KE8HNF – Louie	23	24	25 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	26	27 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	28
29 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net On K8EEN W8DOH – Greg	30	31	1 August 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	2	3 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	4
5 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	6 7:00 p.m. MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red Cross Annex	7	8 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	9 Dan Emmett Days	10 Dan Emmett Days 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	11 Dan Emmett Days 10:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road