

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

October, 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 October, probably should be thinking about checking out those antennas that need attention to make it through the winter. If you are like me, you wait until it's cold, windy possibly raining or worse snowing to figure out why my SWR shot through the roof. It's just a thought, some maintenance that might save a lot of pain later. Maybe if I lie down and take a nap the thought will go away until the weather gets nasty.



Last month at our meeting it was mentioned that there was a change to the scheduling of Skywarn classes. The (National Weather Service-Cleveland, Ohio) is dividing up the counties and half are going to have Fall training sessions and half are to be in the Spring.

Date: November 5th at 6:00 pm.

Location: Central Ohio Technical College Knox Campus, 236 S Main St. Mount Vernon, OH

So mark your calendars and plan to attend as they are always interesting.

As most of you know, there is a group of us that meets 10am at Hardees every Friday, Wednesday's 5pm at South Side and the second Saturday of the month 10am at Barb's Diner. If you have time come join us. Of course I would like to see all at the monthly meeting Oct 8th at 7pm at the American Red Cross Training building on Mulberry St.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Skywarn Training session Nov 5th at 6pm.

Hope to see you soon in person or on the air.

73,

Frank, KC8EVS

**Bill Stroud
KD8WHQ**



On Sept 29 the ARES group participated in a mock chemical spill with the Knox County LECP. The incident was at Kokosing in Fredericktown. Frank Counts, KC8EVS was at the site and Don Russell, W8PEN, and I were at the EOC. The drill lasted from 8am to 11am. Don ran the radio and I ran messages. Over all it was great to see how the FEMA courses training worked in real life.

If this was a real emergency everyone would have gone to the Red Cross and been deployed from there.

Interesting web sites:

W5KUB.com - Amateur Radio Roundtable Live ham show every Tuesday night 8:00 PMCT

Morse Code Course:

<http://www.hamwhisperer.com/p/morse-code-course.html>

Straight Key Century Club:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/>

FT8Call:

<http://ft8call.info/downloads/>

Antenna Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgMWtqzgFLE&feature=youtu.be>

This video is about a 3 element vertical antenna array built on vacation, how he modeled it, and how to make it reversible.

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September Meeting Minutes September 10, 2018



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

There were 16 MVARC members present.

July Meeting Minutes accepted: Motion by Scott, N8SY and seconded by Louie NT8I.

Treasurers Report presented by Frank, KC8EVS. Motion to accept by Scott, N8SY and Seconded by Louie, NT8I. Motion passed to accept Treasurers Report. For club finance specifics please contact Terry, KI8N.

Repeaters:

Don, W8PEN, reported the repeaters and mesh are working fine.

ARES:

Scott, N8SY to give a presentation concerning ARES Connect after the meeting.

Old Business:

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA)

Rain! Nice and dry in the shelter. Thanks to all who attended: KE8HGE, KI8N, NT8I, N8PPF, W8PEN, KB8QPO, KD8HSA, KC8EVS

42 Total Contacts

14 State Parks

588 Overall score

New Business:

Diesel generator

Donated to the club by Mark Regan

There was discussion as to how to proceed. It was decided to pick up the generator (Frank, KC8EVS) and determine if and how well it operates. Then at the October meeting decide how to proceed, maybe a raffle.

Christmas Dinner

Fiesta Mexicana

December 9 at 6:00 pm

Emery, W8TW to confirm reservations.

Nominating Committee

Don, W8PEN and Bill, KC8BB

Skywarn Classes

There will be Fall and Spring training sessions starting this Fall.

Knox County is in the Fall.

Dates, time, and location TBD.

Frank, KC8EVS found this information in the Labor Day Edition of PostScript

ICS 300 and 400

You can now obtain credit for ICS-300 and 400 by taking the following **Free** and **online** courses: IS- 120, 230, 240, 241, 242, 244, & 288.

Again Frank is pulling this information from the Labor Day Edition of Post Script.

Route 66 Special Event

Barry N8PPF

This is a fun weeklong event from September 8th through September 15th. They all have special QSL cards and one group go together to form a larger picture. For more information, Google, "Route 66 Special Event" to find more information.

Web page and Tech Classes

Michael (George), KE8HGE

He presented a mockup of what he has been working on for our new web page and showed it off to any who were interested.

He is also working on updating the slide presentation for the Tech Classes that will start in January.

50/50 drawing

Won by Frank, KC8EVS all money donated back to the club \$14.00.

Motion to adjourn by Scott, N8SY and seconded by Louie, NT8I. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 1927.

Scott, K8AEC/ Frank, KC8EVS

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**Ohio State Parks on the Air
by Terry, KI8N**

On Saturday September 8 your MVARC participated in the scheduled OSPOTA event. Eight of us braved the cool and rainy weather at Mohican State Park to configure two HF stations and make contacts with other Ohio State Parks. The station working 80 meters made several State Park contacts, however the station working 40 meters only made contact with operators outside Ohio.



The 80 meter station used an off center dipole strung between trees, while the 40 meter station operated with Tom's vertical antenna. George brought a mag loop antenna that he had just acquired, but we never attached it to a radio to see how it was heard and transmitted. Maybe some other time.

The eight of us had a good afternoon playing radio, where were YOU?

By Don Russell, W8PEN



Success, Success!

For about a year now, or a bit longer, readers have had to put up with me talking about my EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) failures. Okay, more like whining. Well, I decided to make one last attempt at working EME. This attempt was to be my most serious effort yet, correcting some mistakes I have made previously.

First was the purchase of some used tower and an elevation and azimuth antenna rotor from Mike McCardel, AA8EM. While the rotor is a bit light weight for a huge four bay EME antenna, it will work fine with my smaller two antenna system. Next was the purchase of a 300 watt 2 meter amplifier at the Columbus Hamfest.

Of course, once I had the amplifier, I needed a bigger power supply to run it, so I purchased a new 75 amp continuous duty power supply. Next, I ordered my 2nd EME antenna. This was a used antenna, the same model as the one I already have. The plan is to phase them together with a power divider. I will have twice the gain when compared to the single Yagi I am currently using.

With all the dollar signs dotted (we do dot the \$?), I proceeded to install the tower in the lower section of my yard. Two tower sections with the bottom one buried 3 to 4 feet into the ground. Six 80 lb. bags of ready mix concrete went into the tower hole. At seventeen feet high, the tower is solid..

An EME tower of fifteen or twenty feet was recommended by my EME friends. The reasoning is if you get the tower too high, then you start to pick up noise from the surrounding neighbors. In my case, I think the Industrial Park off of Newark Road generates a lot of noise. Besides, a short tower will make maintenance of the antennas much easier.

After completing the tower, there was no way that I could wait on the second antenna. It had not been shipped yet. So, I put the one antenna I did have on the tower. As of this writing, I have a small single Yagi EME station.

Originally, I had decided to put my EME station in the shed located close to my new tower. The idea was to keep feedline loss as low as possible with short runs of feedline. However, I really did not want to operate from the shed, so I took an alternative route.

The 300 watt amplifier has RF sensed switching, meaning that once the amplifier senses some RF at the input, it switches some relays to start amplifying the signal. When RF is removed from the input of the amplifier, the amplifier switches back to receive mode automatically. An additional benefit is that on the receive side of the amplifier is a small low noise preamp.

I took advantage of this RF switching and mounted the amplifier and power supply in a weather proof box at the base of the tower. The feedline from the antenna to the 300 watt amplifier is about 20 feet of hard line. Hardly any loss at all with this system.

[Radio Activity, continues on page 6](#)

By Don Russell W8PEN



I ran 135 feet of hardline from the amplifier at the base of the tower into my radio shack. That is a bit of a run, but the loss is only about 1db using ½ inch hardline. My receiver in the shack has enough sensitivity to make up that loss. On the transmit side, I am losing about 5 watts of drive to the amplifier at the end of the 135 foot run to the tower, but that is easily made up for by running the transmitter at 30 watts instead of 25 watts.

With this setup, I have 300 watts coming out of the amplifier and into the antenna that is only 20 feet away.

About one week out of a month you have good EME conditions. The rest of the month is fair to poor. It was hard waiting for “fair” conditions, but it finally arrived.

On Monday, September 24th at around 9PM I made my first EME contact with RK3FG from European Russia! This was using digital mode JT65-B on 2 meters, the most common mode and frequency for working EME.

The thrill of making my first EME contact was similar to the thrill of my first ham radio contact on CW back in 1965. Finally!

On Wednesday, September 26th I make my second EME contact. This one was with I3MEK in Italy.

I was so excited with my first EME contact that I forgot to document it well. Not the second. Here is a picture of my computer screen while working I3MEK:

The screenshot shows the WSJT-X software interface. The main window displays a waterfall plot and a list of decoded messages. A message from I3MEK is highlighted in red: "0420 -18 3.0 969 #* W8PEN I3MEK JN55 f". The status bar at the bottom shows "Tx: CQ W8PEN EN80" and "2 Mtr EME".

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
0420	-18	3.0	969	#* W8PEN I3MEK JN55 f
0422	-19	2.5	970	# RO
0424	-21	-1.8	972	# RO
0424	-21	-1.8	972	# RO
0426	-17	-2.2	973	# 73
0426	-17	-2.2	973	# 73
0429				CQ W8PEN EN80
0431				CQ W8PEN EN80

Looking at the main box on the lower left side of the screen, I was calling CQ and you can see highlighted in red that I3MEK is calling me back. When I received him, he was -18 dB in the noise. Something you can't hear on the receiver speaker. His audio frequency is 969 Hz. The audio frequency is important.

By Don Russell W8PEN



You can see EME signals on the blue waterfall. They are simply straight lines. The stronger the EME signal, the brighter and thicker the line.

Looking on the right, highlighted in yellow, the first line is the report I sent to I3MEK. This report was: ooo. This is not a signal report, but rather an exchange that is used in EME.

Next, on the left again, I3MEK sends his report to me: RO. RO simply means that he received my ooo report. Notice that even though he did not send his call, his audio frequency was within a few Hz of his first transmission, so I know that the transmission was from I3MEK.

My next transmission shown on the right is RRR. This tells I3MEK that I received his report of RO and I am confirming the contact.

73's are sent, but not really necessary, as once I3MEK received my RRR, the contact was complete and good to put in the log. Stations are allowed to confirm the receipt of the RRR via the internet or elsewhere, however, it is nice if both stations can also receive the 73 over the air. Sometimes band conditions do not allow that.

After this completed contact with I3MEK, I returned to sending CQ for awhile but had no takers.

Since my first two contacts, I have tried a couple of unsuccessful ones. But I am receiving quite a few stations now that I have the hang of it. I even copied both stations in a QSO.

The problem for me right now is that I need to be receiving the bigger stations. My small setup will not allow me to hear the smaller stations. I hope to remedy that when the second antenna arrives.

As you see, this EME stuff does not allow for normal conversations during a contact. The idea is simply to receive enough information to make the attempt a valid contact. Many hams frown on this, but it is no different from contesting. Many hams frown on contesting too. To each his own. It is a lot of fun attempting an EME contact while talking to the EME guys over the internet. To keep things on the up and up, announcing the progress of an attempted QSO before the QSO is completed is not allowed.

73,

See you meeting night.

By Dan Romanchik
KB6NU



This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707> on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson’s Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

“Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let’s see: We’re world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.”

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself <https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/> several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do....I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides www.kb6nu.com/study-guides, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

October, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KC8BB – Bill	8 7:00 p.m. MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red Cross Annex	9	10 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	11	12 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	13 9:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road
14 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN – Don	15	16	17 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	18	19 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	20
21 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HGE –Michael	22	23	24 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	25	26 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	27
28 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HNF – Louie	29	30	31 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	1 November	2 10:00 am Breakfast at Hardee's	3
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