



**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

This summer is flying by it is August already and my to do list has only gotten longer! I hope you are faring better at your QTH. I was able to carve out some time to attend the Columbus Ham fest this last weekend and had a great time with Don W8PEN and Barry N8PPF. We had a table and were able to sell some stuff and chat with all the persons who walked by. As soon as I get this written, I will be off to Chillicothe via Mansfield. I know does not make sense but that is what I'm told is the route that must be taken this week. I'm glad to be able to help and it keeps me busy.



I missed getting in my two cents worth in July issue and did not get to thank all those who attended Field Day 2019. Turnout was great, and thanks to all that showed up to help set up, operate and tear down. There were several who stayed the night and enjoyed conversation into the wee hours of the morning. I stayed both Friday and Saturday night but the only conversation in the wee hours that I enjoyed was snoring in my tent. Field day is tough on some and they needed to escape from the reality of the CW r's running off with the score. Here is Barry, N8PPF escaping reality, as he stumbled around whatever world he is seeing through those goggles!



We have a couple more events to round off the summer activities first being Ohio Courthouses on the Air Special Event, Saturday August 24 from 9am to 4pm. Second event to end the summer, is Ohio State Parks on the Air and this will take place on Saturday September 7 from 10am - 6pm. We will be finalizing our plans to activate the Knox County courthouse at our August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. So be sure to attend to get all the info.

Speaking of the next meeting that would be August 12th at 7pm, and as usual we will meet there at the Red Cross on Mulberry Street

The ARRL Ohio Section calendar lists many interesting events around Ohio. The webpage is shown below:

<https://arrrl-ohio.org/g-calendar/default.html>

Ohio Courthouses Special Event: August 24, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.  
Located in Knox County Parking lot on East Chestnut Street, Mount Vernon.

Ohio State Parks on the Air: September 7 at the Mohican State Park.  
Exact point to be determined.

### Traffic Nets:

<http://www.ossbn.org/>

Ohio Single Side-band Net.org, our Ohio connection for what is going on in the Ohio Traffic System. The Net meets on 3.972.5 KHz at 10:30 a.m., 4:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. daily. Alternate Frequency for all sessions 3.968 KHZ

<http://www.cotn.us/> The Central Ohio Traffic Net is a part of the Ohio Section of the National Traffic System. We meet daily to handle traffic; all licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to check in and to learn how to handle traffic. The Net meets daily at 7:15 p.m. local time.

### Area Radio Clubs:

Delaware Amateur Radio Association: <http://k8es.org/>

Newark Amateur Radio Assoc: <https://www.n8ara.org/>

(Mansfield) InterCity Amateur Radio Club: <https://iarc.club/>

### SDR:

<http://websdr.org/>

A WebSDR is a Software-Defined Radio receiver connected to the internet, allowing many listeners to listen and tune it simultaneously. Go to the chart in the middle of the page and select the **Band** you want, then **Region** (North America). This will bring up 18 listening stations in the United States and Canada. Pennsylvania, Alabama and Utah are favorites for this area. There is also a mobile application available for free.

### The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

#### President:

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**July 2019 Meeting Minutes  
By Terry Windsor**



Frank, KC8EVS called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with 13 members present.

June Meeting Minutes accepted as noted.

Treasurers Report presented by Terry, KI8N; accepted as noted.

### **Repeaters:**

Noted the 146.79 and the 444.6 repeaters are working.

### **Mesh:**

Mesh network is working.

WiresX – Hospital is planning to install an Ethernet cable to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.

### **ARES:**

Scott, N8SY mentioned Aug operation unsure of ARES role.

### **Old Business:**

Frank, KC8EVS discussed upcoming 2019 events.

Participation in Ohio Courthouses Special Event August 24, 9am – 4pm. Received Knox County permission to use their parking lot.

Ohio State Parks on the Air September 7. Operate from Mohican State in park location TBD.

The ARRL Ohio Section calendar lists these events: <https://arrl-ohio.org/g-calendar/default.html>

### **MVARC Webpage**

Web site is live at the following addresses: MVARC.net and K8EEN.net.

Secure area still being worked on. Direct questions to Scott, N8SY or Louie, NT8I.

### **New Business:**

Print out of changes to Constitution and By Laws passed out for member review. Information will be emailed or mailed to each member.

Emery, W8TW discussed raffling another Yaesu FT70 to raise funds for the club. Louie, NT8I made the motion to proceed and Michael, KE8HGE seconded. Motion approved and Emery to purchase HT and proceed with raffle.

Club liability insurance purchased via ARRL insurance provider. Needed for Knox County courthouse facility use.

Discussion of having a lawn sale in September.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm and Larry, AC8YE did a MESH demonstration with live video. Larry also discussed several MESH antenna options.

50/50 Drawing won by Frank, KC8EVS.

Terry Windsor, KI8N  
MVARC Secretary/Treasurer

## By Don Russell W8PEN



By gosh, July was a really slow month for me, radio activity wise. Field Day was such a blast that I think it wore me out for a while. My batteries have been recharged and I have upcoming items that I have to take care of.

Of course, my annual New York fishing trip took top priority for the month. Had a great time. Caught some huge fish and lots of them. I was very tempted to bring my Kenwood TS-590 with me to New York, I believe my nephews son would have found ham radio pretty interesting. Heck, I had three nephews and a great nephew there with me. It would have been interesting.

Unfortunately, I decided to leave the radio behind. I had a packed truck and boat as it was. Probably had room though and I will have to make an effort next year to get radio active in New York.

### Columbus Hamfest

Barry N8PPF, Frank KC8EVS, and I set up two tables at the Columbus Hamfest. It was an interesting and fun time. Most of the stuff we brought sold. I think Barry brought home one radio and I brought home my Honda Generator I was trying to sell and a few computer components. Frank sold out!

The day before the hamfest started, I bought an antenna tuner from Barry. I ended up selling my old one and enough other items to break even for the day.

My old antenna tuner was nice, and worked very well. The problem was that there was no repeatability in the settings. I would record settings for an antenna and frequency, but when going back to those settings, it still to a bit of playing around to get the SWR down.

Barry's antenna tuner is designed differently. It uses "switched in" components for two of the three adjustment settings. This makes it easy to return to a former setting. Just set the two switches to the recorded settings and then re-dip the one variable adjustment. Perhaps the only problem is the "dip" is rather sharp. It would be nice to put a vernier nob on the one variable adjustment to slow down the tuning rate. But that would destroy the good looks of the tuner so probably will not do that.

I thought attendance was down a little bit from the previous years. But seemed like those that were there were in a buying mood. I ended up not buying anything. Just a couple of things sparked my interest, but after some thought, decided I just really did not need anything.

### EME Operations

My EME operations has slowed down considerably. I now have slightly over 100 EME contacts and about 60 or so unique calls in my log. My low power of 300 watts makes it difficult to make contacts at time. Clarifying, 300 watts is almost QRP when we talk about a signal going from the earth to the moon and back again.

I am still hearing stations that I have not worked. But they are not hearing me too often.

To resolve this issue, I have been trying to increase the efficiency of my antenna system by rearranging my feed line to the shortest possible positions. I am also going to mount the amplifier on top of the tower where I can feed the output to the antennas power divider with a one foot of coax. Not sure that this will give me the extra push I need, but it is worth a shot.



I am also thinking of trying the antennas in the vertical position. Normally, the standard is to have your antennas horizontal for EME. I have noticed though that more than a few have been switching to vertical. I may rig up something where I can switch between the two mechanically. More and more hams are using antennas that they can switch electronically from horizontal to vertical, or anywhere in between. For me, this would require purchasing a whole new set of antennas. Not going to happen.

So, while I working on improving the efficiency of my antenna system and guess what happens? My elevation rotator is starting to fail. Sounds like a problem with the gears. So, I need to take the whole antenna system down and tear apart the rotator. Not going to be fun. Especially in the dog days of August.

### Repeaters

Not much to report here. The repeaters have been working fine from what I can tell.

I need to go out and check the output on the 2 meter repeater some time. Since we fixed the antenna feed line and noise issue, it is possible that the amplifier needs to be touched up a bit. That is something we never checked.

Also, I would like to try a receiver preamp on the 70cm repeater. I can hear it a lot farther than I can talk through it. I have read that the receive sensitivity leaves a bit to be desired on the Yaesu Fusion repeaters. Of course, adding a receive preamp may cause other problems, such as the transmitter getting into the receiver and desensitizing the receiver.

I will see if I can find a 70cm preamp to try out before committing to buy one.

### Local Mesh Network

Once again things have slowed down here. Everything is operational and working well though.

Looks like we are going to put a 2.4 GHz dish on the water tower pointing towards Louie's (NT8I) node. Not sure how that will affect other things, but this is a work in process and we need to see what works for our system.

Frank KC8EVS is loaning his huge parabolic antenna to try this with. Frank also has two 5 GHz units that we can try. One way or another, we want to get Louie's node solid into our mesh network.

Installing the parabolic dish may cause some issues though. For one, unless we put a second node on the tower, we will lose our omni directional antenna. That would be bad because as we speak, I think anyone in the Mt. Vernon area can access the node at the water tower by simply putting a node antenna on the roof of their house.

I think we will try for two nodes at the water tower.

That is all for this month. See you all at the August meeting.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was sent to the CWOps mailing list:

**From:** Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [<mailto:w3iz@arrl.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM

**Subject:** W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate  
Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award. The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at:  
<http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ  
Director of Operations

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, “How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?” When I replied, “Typing,” he countered, “On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...’”

To this, I replied, “Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can’t copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it’s really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I’m guessing that I’m not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think.”

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, “By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine.” I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, “Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible).”

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and is one of the presenters the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

NOTE: You can find an image of the new certificate at:

<https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

About Us

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Club Pictures



Part of our New Web Page at [www.MVARC.net](http://www.MVARC.net). If you haven't visited our site, please take time and look it over. Michael, KE8HGE, Louie, NT8I and Scott, N8SY have done a great job of renewing our website. Thanks for all your hard work!

## MVARC 2019 Field Day Pictures



Education table set up by Quinton Boroi, a new member of our club. A well thought out and beautiful display for visitors and members this year.



Craig, W8DOH in foreground and Terry, K18N in the back

Field Day pictures continues on page 9





A nice night picture of our tent and the night owls



In front Barry, N8PPF; Back from left, Scott, W8HK; Louie, NT8I; Michael, KE8HGE; KE8DOH Greg, Louie's dog Svedka, our Club's self appointed mascot.



Loren, W5HIO, with 508 CW contacts



Terry Windsor, KI8N with 169 contacts



Nick, W8NIX and Barry, N8PPF with 82 contacts



Left to right, Louie, N8TI; Michael, W8MJL, Svedka, the Wonder Dog and Mascot and Mel Lahmon, K8MKL.

# August, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EE <b>W8DOH, Greg</b>	<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 Club Meeting room	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road
<b>11</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>W8PEN, Don</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 p.m. MVARC Meeting -Red Cross Annex	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>NT8I, Louie</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room	<b>24</b> Ohio Courthouses Special Event in Knox County Court House parking lot 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
<b>5</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>KE8HGE, Michael</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room	<b>31</b>
<b>1 Sept</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>W8DOH, Greg</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN <b>W8PEN, Don</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>MVARC Monthly            Meeting -Red            Cross Annex</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road