



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

Well, I managed to survive my first meeting as President and looking forward I expect they should only get easier. The weather has been doing its best to keep me inside but even stuck inside I am keeping busy. Not busy with radio stuff of course, it seems life has other plans as I keep finding stuff around the house to fix or clean. I would say I am looking forward to retirement to have more time to work on this stuff, but I feel the consensus of everyone I have talked to in the club who is retired is that it only gets worse. Apparently the more time you have available, the more stuff you have to do.



Despite the weather keeping me in doors I am excited for our upcoming tech class which will start on February 15th. I always enjoy helping people learn a new subject and I am looking forward to assisting with this class and answering any questions our students may have. The class will consist of 4 Saturday sessions, and then an open testing session on March 14th. If you have been considering upgrading your license I would encourage you to plan to join us for the open testing session. And for anyone that is studying for an upgrade and has questions or is having trouble understanding something and would like assistance please feel free to ask others in the club, or even come to one of the technician class sessions and we can find some time during a break or after the session to go over anything you may have questions with. (this is of course within the confines of our understanding, as there is some math in the extra that I still don't have my head fully wrapped around)

As a reminder, we have upcoming club events beyond the tech class and testing session:

NVIS, April 25

Field Day, June 27-28

Ohio State Parks on the Air, September 12

Stay warm and 73,

-Louie

New Technician Class

We will start a NEW Technician Class in February at
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

February 15

February 22

February 29

March 7

Test session for all Licenses will be:

March 14 at 10:00 a.m.

For more info, please contact Michael Jacobs at info@mvarc.net

Visit us on Facebook:

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Visit our new website:

<https://mvarc.net>

Please email for inquires and information at:

info@mvarc.net

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/>

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

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

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Officers

President:

Louie Wilkinson, NT8I

Vice President:

Greg Short, W8DOH

Secretary

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Treasurer:

Terry Windsor, KI8N

Club Call Trustee:

Don Russell, W8PEN

Equipment Trustee:

Barry Butz, N8PPF

Directors:

Chairman: Frank Counts, KC8EVS

Greg Short, W8DOH

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Don Russell, W8PEN

Barry Butz, N8PPF

Emery Bennett, W8TW

Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ

Newsletter Editor & Facebook Editor:

Bill Bradley, KC8BB

January 6, 2020
Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

**Opening**

The meeting was called to order by Club President Louie Wilkinson NT8I at 7:02 PM with 17 members and 1 guest present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented in the MVARC Newsletter without objection.

Reports

Treasurer Terry Windsor KI8N, for November 2019

Checking

Beginning Balance: \$250.71

Deposits: \$143.00 from dues and 50/50 drawing

Withdrawals: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$393.71

Savings

Beginning Balance: \$1563.10

Deposits: \$0.00

Withdrawals: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$1563.10

Combined Balance: \$1956.81

Treasurer Terry Windsor KI8N, for December 2019

2020

Checking

Beginning Balance: \$393.71

Deposits: \$200.01 from dues and interest

Withdrawals: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$593.72

Savings

Beginning Balance: \$1563.10

Deposits: \$0.20 from interest

Withdrawals: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$1563.30

Combined Balance: \$2157.40

Repeaters

Don Russell W8PEN reports that both repeaters are working well. The controller on the 2m has a programming issue that will be corrected. It is giving an incorrect time for our Sunday Night ARES Net.

Wires-X

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE reported that Russel Maroni, KE8GGA was going to see if the amount required to run an internet connection to the club repeater at KCH can be added to the Hospital's Emergency Preparedness budget.

MESH

Don Russell, W8PEN reports that it is doing great. Once the weather improves, he is looking at new nodes in Fredericktown, Centerburg, Martinsburg. He is also exploring getting a node on a tower owned by Phil Humphries, N8LRG in the New Castle area.

ARES

Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ reported that April 25, 2020, is NVIS Day.

Business Events

The new annual dues schedule was reviewed: \$20.00 for regular members, \$15.00 for retirees, associate members, and additional family members.

A group including Shawn Bleiler, KD0DMJ is hosting an outdoor Winter Field Day on January 25 at the Fire Tower in Mohican State Park as well as a VEC test session. Frank Counts, KC8EVS will be helping them. Field Day participants and additional VEs are welcome.

We will be running our own Tech Class Study sessions this winter. They will be held at the Red Cross Education Center on Saturdays, 10am to 2pm, starting February 15 to March 7, with a Testing Session on March 14.

Discussion was opened on where we should hold NVIS this year. Centerburg, the north Mohican Shelter, and the ARC Training Center were all mentioned as possible locations. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting when we would need to appoint a planner to finalize preparations for the event.

Terry Windsor, KI8N said that there were requests for more information about ARES in Knox County on several of the membership forms he received. Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ said that he will get one put together.

Barry Butz, N8PPF gave a good report on service he received from hambadgers.com.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Short, W8DOH, and seconded by Barry Butz, N8PPF. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Presentation

Kathleen Tate, KF6TKO spoke about working for the 2020 Census. She gave a brief overview of the process that will take place over the next year and encouraged anyone interested in a part-time job to consider working for the Census. This decennial event is an important function of the United States Constitution that generates data used to determine our level of representation in the US House of Representatives as well as other things at both the State and Federal levels.

Respectfully submitted,

By Don Russell, W8PEN



January was a pretty good month. There is not much to report about our repeaters, as everything is running well. Hopefully, that will continue. The Local Mesh Network remains effective and reliable. The mesh network could use more local members setting up nodes. But that will come as we expand the mesh network to county wide coverage. The main group working on the mesh network expect to have a busy Spring and Summer. By the time next Fall comes around, our network will be greatly expanded from what it is now.

My most recent project has been to get our club station set up so that it can be reasonably easy for a club member to operate. Presently, I have the clubs Kenwood TS-570D set up so that all one needs to do is get the microphone out of the closet and operate. I have also added a CW paddle so a member can operate the CW mode. The clubs Yaesu FT-100DM 2-meter and 70 cm transceiver is also hooked up and ready to operate. What is lacking is a few written instructions, which will be forthcoming.

One thing I am working on is leaving the microphone attached to both radios. Currently, the microphones are locked up in the closet to keep unauthorized people from operating the radios. I would like to find a lockable box that the microphones can be inserted and locked up, but still be attached to the radios. The lock should be a digital lock so that no key would be involved.

The other thing I was thinking was to have open hours for our club station where I or another member familiar with the radios would be present and members could just come in and operate. Maybe a better idea would be to allow members to schedule some operating time by contacting me. This would be great for club members with little or no equipment, or those just getting started in ham radio.

[A Tour of the W8PEN BBS](#)

I know not everyone is interested in our Local Mesh Network, so this part of my column may not be for you. On the other hand, if you are borderline on whether setting up a personal mesh node is worth it or not, this information may be useful.

A popular question when talking about the mesh network is "what are we able to do with it?". Just like any new facet of ham radio, this will take time to develop. Mainly, I am hoping that county wide coverage of the mesh network will be of great assistance to the Knox County ARES and its served agencies. Locally, that means the Knox County EMA and the Knox County Chapter of the American Red Cross. And of course, the public in general.

With this in mind, I have set up a Bulletin Board Service that runs on the mesh network. Perhaps some members remember the bulletin boards of the past before the internet was fully developed. Well, they still make BBS software. I think it is a good fit for a mesh network. A BBS provides web-based email, chat rooms, and more. It allows users to upload and download files, set up special interest rooms, etc.

So, let us look at the W8PEN BBS. Of course, first thing you need is a node set up so you can join the network. Once that is done (with help of course), you access the W8PEN BBS simply by clicking the link circled in picture one below. Doing so takes you to the W8PEN BBS sign in screen. If this is the first time accessing the BBS you will need to register by creating a user name and password as in picture two below. Please use your call as the user name and whatever password you like.

AREDN
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY BACKBONE NETWORK

W8PEN-MtVernon-GL-USB150 mesh status

Location Not Available
Mobile

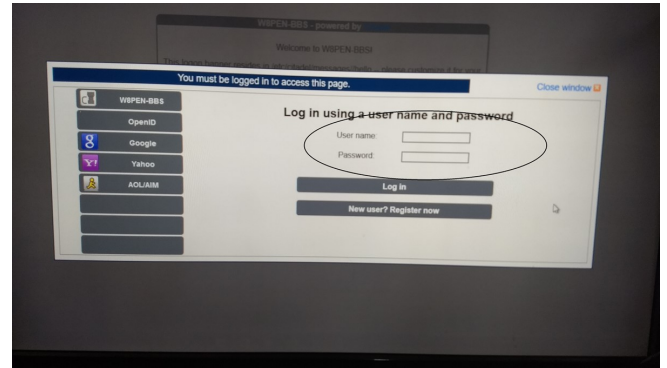
Stop Quit

| Local Hosts | Services | Current Neighbors | LQ | NLQ | TxMbps | Services |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|------|-----|--------|----------|
| W8PEN-MtVernon-GL-USB150.local.mesh | | W8PEN-MtVernon-South.local.mesh | 100% | 94% | 0.0 | |

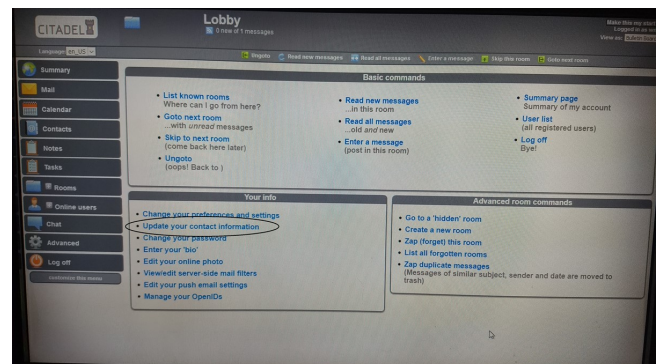
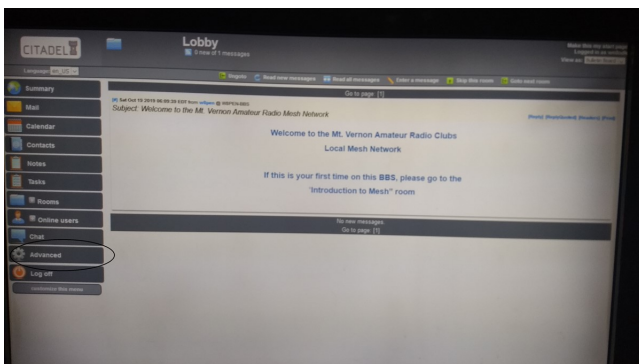
| Remote Nodes | ETX | Services | Previous Neighbors | When |
|--|------|---------------|--------------------|------|
| K8EEN-MtVernon-RedCross.local.mesh | 2.23 | | none | |
| • k8een-server.local.mesh | | | | |
| • W8PEN-PBX.local.mesh | | | | |
| • W8PEN-BBS.local.mesh | | | | |
| N8PPE-MtVernon-South.local.mesh | 2.38 | | | |
| K8EEN-MtVernon-ZG-Central.local.mesh | 2.40 | | | |
| K8EEN-MtVernon-ZG-Central-Johnstown.local.mesh | 2.50 | | | |
| K8EEN-MtVernon-ZG-Central.local.mesh | 2.50 | | | |
| K8EEN-MtVernon-ZG-North.local.mesh | 2.96 | MeshChat-9272 | | |

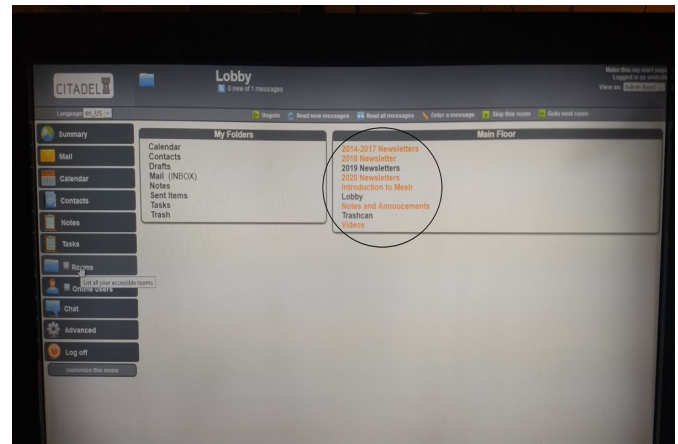
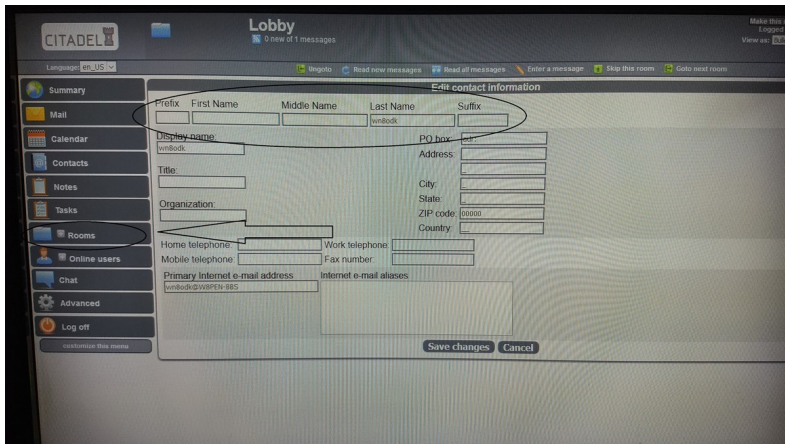
OLSR Entries

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Total Nodes | 119 |
| Nodes | 32 |

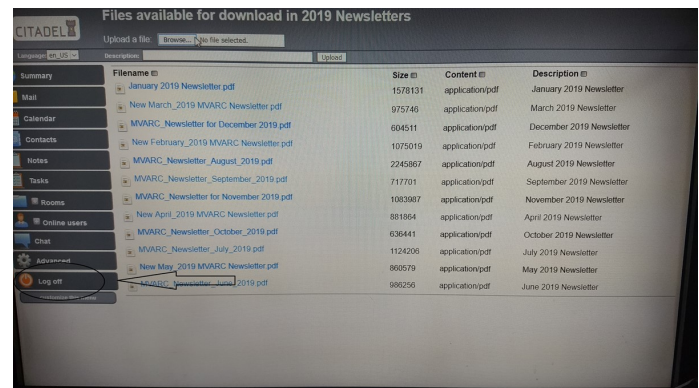
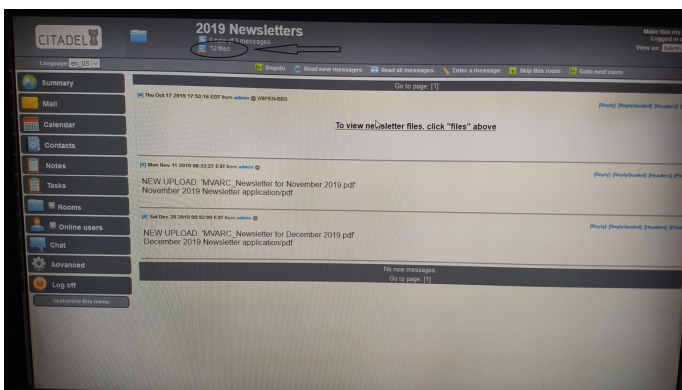


After registering, you will come to the screen in the first picture below. Click “Advanced” and then “Update your contact information” as in the second picture below. The only thing really required in the third picture is your name. The rest is optional. Please keep your display name as your call though. Once you finish here, you are ready to rock n roll! Click “Rooms” to take you to the meat of the BBS. See the third and fourth pictures below. Click any of the rooms that sounds interesting. For now there are only a few rooms, but that should grow.





The rest of it is pretty much like a web page. Just click to go to rooms and email. Right now you can download past newsletters and any other files that are uploaded. Go to rooms, and then any of the newsletter rooms. Then click files. See the two pictures below:



To send emails, simply click "Mail". Everyone should be able to figure this out, however, I may explain it a bit more in detail next month. The email is internal only. Meaning that it stays on our local network and does not go out over the internet.

As one can see, using the W8PEN BBS is easy and can provide a benefit to mesh users as well as our served agencies. During an event, we have the capability of sending emails between the "event site" and headquarters.

This is not limited to email texts. It also covers file attachments such as pictures and documents. Just about anything you can send with regular email. In fact, I am hoping to include an all-in-one printer in the mesh go box so that logs and messages can be scanned and emailed back and forth.

To log off of the W8PEN BBS, simply click "Log Off". A second screen will appear so you can cancel the log off or continue with logging off.

This concludes the W8PEN BBS tutorial. See you at the February meeting. 73, Don W8PEN

MVARC Membership Form

Club dues run from January 1 to December 31 and are collected the last quarter of the year. You can mail your dues to the address shown below, bring to an MVARC meeting, or give them to any club officer. Visit our web page at www.mvarc.net for further club information.

Regular membership dues are \$20.00. Membership dues are \$15.00 for personnel who are retired, over 65 years of age, additional members in the same family, or who do not hold an active FCC Amateur License.

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 372

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Street or PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ License Class: _____

Email Address: _____

ARRL Member (Y/N): _____

**Suggestions for possible meeting programs:

If you haven't paid your dues for this year, please submit at your earliest convenience.

Thank you!

February, 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|
| 2 <i>9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN, Don</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner</i> | 6 | 7 <i>10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room</i> | 8 <i>10:00 am Breakfast at Barb's Diner Columbus Road</i> |
| 9 <i>9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN NT8I, Louie</i> | 10 <i>7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red</i> | 11 | 12 <i>5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner</i> | 13 | 14 <i>10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room</i> | 15 <i>10:00 - 2:00 Technician Class at Club meeting Room</i> |
| 16 <i>9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HGE, Michael</i> | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner</i> | 20 | 21 | 22 <i>10:00 - 2:00 Technician Class at Club meeting Room</i> |
| 23 <i>9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8DOH, Greg</i> | 24 | 25 | 26 <i>5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner</i> | 27 | 28 <i>10:00 Breakfast at Club Meeting room</i> | 29 <i>10:00 - 2:00 Technician Class at Club meeting Room</i> |
| 1 MARCH <i>9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN, Don</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner</i> | 5 | 6 <i>10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room</i> | 7 <i>10:00 - 2:00 Technician Class at Club meeting Room</i> |
| 8 <i>9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN NT8I, Louie</i> | 9 <i>7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting -Red Cross Annex</i> | 10 | 11 <i>5:00 pm Dinner at Southside Diner</i> | 12 | 13 <i>10:00 am Breakfast at Club Meeting room</i> | 14 <i>10:00 am Test session for all class Licenses at Club Meeting room</i> |