

**Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm  
On the K8EEN Repeater shown below.  
This will continue until public meetings at the Red Cross resume.**

**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**

**Louie Wilkinson, NT8I**



As I sit here writing this, it is hard to imagine that we were living normal life just 4 months ago. Then the coronavirus turned that on its head and we had to adjust our view of normal. Then, just over a week ago, we were living in the 'new normal' of social distancing and wearing masks in public, and now as I sit here writing to you, it is while I watch as our country burn in demand of change. Normal seems so long ago, and so far away. I would like to ask that everyone take a moment, use the white space I have left below and observe a moment of silence for all of the lives lost this year.

Thank you for taking that time with me. I am hopeful that looking forward we will find a new normal, one that is safe for all.

73,  
Louie, NT8I  
MVARC President

MVARC Monthly Meeting

We will be holding our Monthly Meeting on Monday June 8, on our K8EEN Repeater: 146.790. MHz (600KHz with PL of 71.9 Hz) at 7:00 pm. Please tune in to stay informed, participate and share your views.

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](mailto: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

## May Meeting Minutes May 11, 2020



### Opening

The repeater was toned to Net Mode by Net Control N8TI (Louie Wilkinson) at 6:58 PM with 12 members checking in over the course of the meeting.

### Reports

#### Minutes

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

### Treasurer (Terry Windsor, KI8N)

The Treasurer's report for April, 2020, was accepted presented without objection. We were notified that the Equipment and Liability Insurances are due this month and will be paid. Copies of the monthly report are available from the Treasurer upon request.

### Repeaters (Don Russell, W8PEN)

A Directors' Meeting was held to discuss the 2m antenna at the water tower and it was decided to move forward with replacing the 2m antenna with a new one and installing a backup 2m antenna there as well. Also discussed was the possibility of making the backup antenna a dual-band antenna. The 440 repeater is working well.

A question was raised about adding a dual-band backup antenna to the station at KCH, but while space constraints would prevent adding another antenna, the existing antenna could be replaced a dual-band antenna.

### MESH (Don Russell, W8PEN)

The Mesh Network is still working well, no change there. Progress on expanding the network has stalled because of COVID-19 restrictions.

### ARES (Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ)

Stan Broadway, (N8BHL) Ohio ARES Section Emergency Coordinator has sent information out on a planned exercise on May 30. It is to be a joint exercise with the American Red Cross and is to simulate communications between local shelter locations and a station at the ARC. Information is currently a little thin on the exercise but more will be forthcoming. Bill Stroud, (KD8WHQ) also indicated he would be unavailable for the exercise.

Larry Howell, (AC8YE) offered that there was more information in the Ohio Section Newsletter (PostScript). Red Cross forms would be used during the exercise and W8SGT would be unavailable for the purposes of this exercise. He also stepped up to coordinate our efforts.

Don Russell, (W8PEN) provided that there were 2 parts to the exercise. Part 1 is local, and will simulate communications between shelter locations and a local control station. Part 2 will be forwarding the communications to a regional bulletin board using digital mode (WinLINK).

Larry Howell, (AC8YE) said that a recent update indicated that there were not enough WinLINK stations in Ohio and that Fldigi would be used, instead. It is also a digital mode, and includes Red Cross forms.

Larry Howell, (AC8YE) agreed to coordinate our participation in the exercise.

### Coming Events

Hamvention has been canceled.

Columbus Hamvention has been canceled.

Our weekly Friday Morning Breakfast has changed to the Friday Morning Breakfast Net. It is held every Friday morning at 10:00am on the K8EEN repeater.

### Field Day 2020

A couple of options were laid out by Don Russell (W8PEN) for a prospective Field Day event, if Apple Valley agrees to allow us access to the Floral Valley Community Center. He gave a brief overview of the options he covered in the May newsletter. It was noted that neither option was in keeping with the social and public theme of the annual event.

There was some discussion that followed, but it was decided to continue planning as best we can and to make a firmer decision on how to handle Field Day at the June meeting.

### Business

Barry Butz (N8PPF) said that even though Hamvention itself was canceled, that a regular Hamvention event, Contest University, would be held via Zoom from 8:30am until late afternoon during its regular Hamvention time slot. He also gave a brief overview on the use of Zoom.

In lieu of our normal 50/50 drawing, Louie Wilkinson, (N8TI) suggested making a donation to the Red Cross, local food bank, or other organization helping out those in need during the COVID-19 response.

### Meeting Adjourned

After a motion to adjourn from Don Russell (W8PEN), the repeater was returned to Normal Amateur Use without objection. The Net closed at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

## Don Russell, W8PEN



This months column will be devoted to Field Day 2020 plans.

Field Day will be 2:00PM June 27<sup>th</sup> through 2:00PM June 28<sup>th</sup>. Antenna set up will be Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> starting around 2:00PM.

Location of this years Field Day will once again be the Apple Valley Floral Community Center.

This year is going to be a strange and unusual Field Day. Due to the Coronavirus, normal Field Day projects like the club picnic, GOTA Station, and public invites will have to wait until next year.

As chairperson, my main goal will be to insure a successful Field Day for those that want to participate, while keeping everyone mindful of social distancing and keeping each other safe.

The clubs typical Field Day setup adapts well to social distancing. Stations are far apart. Usually an operator and perhaps a logger at each station. Everybody else watches or socializes in the main canopy.

Since I am Field Day Chairperson simply because nobody else wanted to do it, I have made some decisions that may not satisfy all club members. While not etched in stone, anyone having other ideas should check with me first.

We will still socialize at the main tent. The main tent may or may not be the one usually provided by Apple Valley. I am anticipating that we will have enough room in the main tent to provide the six foot social distancing standard. We will have a small, unattended publicity table set up at the main tent. Members can sign in as usual there. I am requesting that everyone please consider wearing a face mask while at the main tent. Everyone is protected if everyone wears a mask. There is debate about how effective these masks are. I like to think a little protection is better than non. So, please respect each others space and wear a face mask. Currently, groups are limited to ten. I don't think this is going to be a problem. There is plenty of room to divide into multiple groups if necessary.

I hate to say it, but anyone who is sick or not feeling well, please stay home. Of course that could be any one of us, including me.

### Station Setups

We will have five stations set up this year. Only four stations will be used at any one time so our classification will still be 4A (Club or Group with four transmitters operating simultaneously). All stations will supply their own power for the transmitter. This must be off commercial lines. Generator, solar power, battery, etc. No charging of batteries off commercial power. Running lights and computers off commercial power is okay.

The station manager will be responsible for his/her own station equipment. Unless otherwise assigned by the station manager, the station manager will be the operator of said station. There will be no other operators of the station managers equipment without the permission of the station manager.. The one exception to this will be the club station.

Only if the operator of a station gives permission will there be an extra person at the operating table. The operator is not required to wear a mask. If a second person is at the operating table, this person is strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

There will be some type of barrier (caution tape?) set up around the station as a social distancing reminder. There will also be disinfectant spray, paper towels, and hand cleaner available at each operating table. If more than one person is doing the operating, it is encouraged to clean the operating table, microphone, headset, etc. when changing operators.

For example. Barry, N8PPF is planning on setting up a station in his camper. He wants to stay isolated, so he will be the sole operator of that station. Greg, W8DOH will be the operator of a second station. He will be allowed to decide if others operate his station.

This is not Field Day friendly for sure. However, it is the way it needs to be at least for this year.

### Station List

**Station 1:** Barry, N8PPF will be station manager. He is planning on setting up in his camper. This station will be capable of working 80 – 10 Meter SSB. Barry will be the only operator of this station.

**Station 2:** Greg, W8DOH will be station manager. This station will be set up under a canopy. Station will be capable of operating 80 – 10 SSB. Yet to be determined is if other operators may operate this station.

**Station 3:** Don, W8PEN is station manager. This station will be set up outside a camper. Station will be capable of operating 80 – 10 CW. Others will be allowed to operate this station as long as social distancing, hand washing, and disinfectant procedures are adhered to.

**Station 4:** Terry, K18N will be station manager. This station will be set up inside Terry's camper(?). This will be the digital station and capable of working 80 – 10 meters.

**Club Station:** Station manager is Frank, KC8EVS. This station can be used by any club member. It will be capable of 80 – 10 SSB. The idea is to have one station that anyone can operate. One requirement will be that when using this station, one of the other stations must be shut down. Example: Frank, KC8EVS wished to operate but due to the coronavirus, station managers are not allowing anyone else to operate their stations. Frank would use the club station after making sure one of the other stations stop operating. This is only so that the club remains in the 4A class. As station manager, Frank will insure proper operation of this station.

I stress that when changing operators, the stations should be disinfected as much as possible.

There will be no club picnic or Sunday breakfast this year. Everyone is responsible for their own food. However, we may consider all going together and ordering pizza.

### Main Takeaways for this years Field Day

- 1. No club picnic or breakfast this year**
- 2. Station manager determines if others are allowed to operate their station.**
- 3. Emergency power must be used by stations.**
- 4. Club station used with caution.**
- 5. Have fun but be safe. Respect others.**
- 6. Masks recommended but not mandatory.**
- 7. Visitors are welcome, but please observe social distancing and consider wearing a mask.**

I am looking forward to a small but successful club Field Day this year.

73 all. "Hear you" at the June meeting.

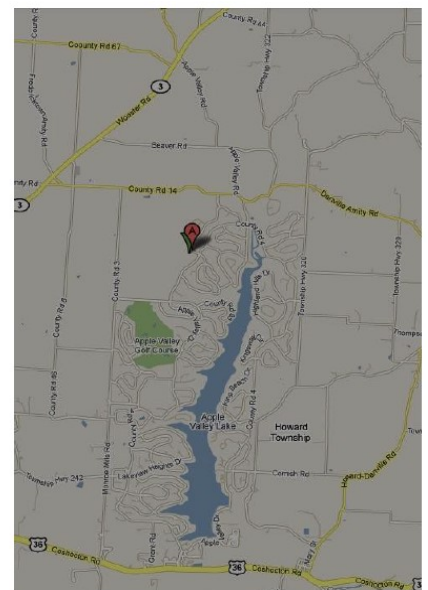
## TIPS AND SLIPS By Barry Butz N8PPF



Maybe you have wondered, like I have, if on-the-ground radials would stay low enough to the ground to be safe from the lawn mower. Here is something to look at. In January I placed an extension cord on the ground to my camper. I just laid it there without tamping it down. Now that the grass has been growing it has almost disappeared. I have been mowing over it without a problem. You can see the ends with only a little peeking out in the middle. 73.



I have put a map of the Apple Valley area here, in case anyone hasn't been to our site on Field day. I know the map is small, but you should be able to enlarge it online.



## By Terry Windsor, KI8N



Has anyone tried Parks On The Air (POTA) yet as either a hunter or activator? Last month I started hunting people activating various parks and forests around the United States when I had time and got hooked on contacting as many of these parks as I could. Seems that with the time zones across the US most of what I contact are in the Eastern and Central time zones but have contacted a few in the Mountain and Pacific zones. I am close to 100 hunted parks.

It is easy to get caught up in and see where activators are located by checking pota.us to view who has been spotted and what frequency/mode they are working. Or sometimes just spinning the dial mostly on 40 meters during the day to locate hams calling CQ Pota. On a good day I have located and contacted up to 10 people working various parks.

The screenshot shows the pota.us website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Park ID Search', 'HOME', 'SPOTS', 'ACTIVATIONS', 'MAP', and 'ADD SPOT'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Active Spots' section displays a card for K9ZIE @ K-4306, listing details like location (K-4306\_Mack\_State\_Wildlife\_Area), frequency (7047.5 kHz / MHz), and last heard time. The 'Today's Activations' section shows three cards: W7IMC @ K-0276 (Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge), KT4UE @ K-3973 (Amelia Wildlife Management Area), and W5KV @ K-2986 (Bastrop State Park).

To be able to view stats, send in an activation log, and view park locations you must register at parksontheair.com. Ohio has 113 registered locations that qualify for POTA activations.

Park ID	Park Name	Spots	Activations	Contacts
K-5443	Maumee State Forest	22	16	566
K-3518	Middle Bass Island State Park	0	0	0
K-1977	Mohican State Park	13	9	300
K-5444	Mohican-Memorial State Forest	14	11	342
K-1978	Mosquito Lake State Park	12	10	379
K-1979	Mt. Gilead State Park	14	13	978
K-3520	Muskingum River State Park	3	3	100
K-1980	Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park	7	7	204
K-3517	North Bass Island State Park	0	0	0
K-4239	North Country Trail National Scenic Trail	4	4	52
K-1981	Oak Point State Park	1	1	229
K-0483	Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge	4	4	202
K-1982	Paint Creek State Park	6	6	139
K-5445	Perry State Forest	2	2	82

However, this gets a little more serious when I decided that I would like to activate a state park and try to make a few contacts and have people hunting me. Prior to starting I had to gather equipment needed to work in the field. Having a new Winnebago made the set up easier and provided the AC



power I needed. I used my Icom 706 MKII as my rig with an LDG IT100 tuner hooked to a Chameleon EMCMM II end fed antenna with a 60-foot wire. I also use my shack computer to perform logging and cell phone to spot myself to let everyone know where I was.

My first activation was on 4/01 at Mount Gilead State Park (K-1979 – POTA Number) where I made 87 SSB contacts in about 2.5 hours. I used PVC pipe attached to the motorhome ladder to raise the transformer end of the antenna 15 feet and pulled the other end of the wire into a tree about 20 feet up. It was a fun day and inside the motorhome I was comfortable and warm.

My second activation was 4/06 at Mohican-Memorial Forest (K-5444) where I set up in the bike and snowmobile trail head parking lot. The band conditions were not as good as the week before and I only had 54 contacts although they were mixed with SSB and FT8. This time I used my IC-7300 as the 706 is not working – very low RF output. I also believe I experienced noise from some power lines that were not far away. I should have picked a different location and have already scouted out a parking lot at the end of the road past the Gorge that might have better conditions.

My third activation was again at Mount Gilead State Park on 4/14 since this is only about 10 minutes from where I live and easily accessible. This time I made 103 contacts with hams as far away as Oregon. I changed to my desk laptop with N3FJP so I don't have to worry about messing up my shack station log. Again, I worked both SSB and FT8. However, this time I used a 23-foot painter pole to raise the wire end of the antenna and ran it as a sloper down to about 5-feet. Seems to work good in this configuration.



I decided I wanted to work a park that had not had much activity and on 4/21 went to Perry State Forest (K-5445) close to New Lexington which had only been activated one time previously. I decided to work from my truck instead of the motorhome due to size of the unit and access to the forest. I also bought an IC-7100 to use as my new field radio. The weather conditions were bad as wind gusts blew strong all day and the 5-foot pole (garden shepherds hook) holding the wire end kept getting blown over. I did manage 68 contacts mixed with SSB and FT8 in about 2 hours with very noisy band conditions. I learned that working in the front seat of the truck is not nearly as comfortable as the Winnebago but it will suffice for future activations. Anyone familiar with the gas mileage of a motorhome?

# June, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>7</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN, Don	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting on K8EEN				<b>12</b> 10:00 am Friday Breakfast Net on K8EEN	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN NT8I, Louie					<b>19</b> 10:00am Friday Breakfast Net on K8EEN	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN KE8HGE, Michael					<b>26</b> 10:00am Friday Breakfast Net on K8EEN- Field Day- Setup@2:00p	<b>27</b> <b>Field            Day            2020</b>
<b>28</b> Field Day 2020 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8DOH, Greg			<b>1</b> <b>JULY</b>		<b>3</b> 10:00 am Friday Breakfast Net on K8EEN	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN W8PEN, Don					<b>10</b> 10:00 am Friday Breakfast Net on K8EEN	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN NT8I, Lou-	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm MVARC Monthly Meeting				<b>17</b> 10:00 am Friday Breakfast Net on K8EEN	<b>18</b>