December 2020

K8EEN VHF Repeater:
146.790 MHz
-600KHz with PL = 71.9 Hz

K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800

K8EEN UHF Repeater:
444.600 MHz
+5 MHz with PL = 71.9 Hz

Contact Us

MVARC
PO Box 372
Mount Vernon, OH 43019

Web Page: mvarc.net

Email: info@mvarc.net

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm on the K8EEN VHF Repeater.

Inside this issue

MVARC Information

MVARC monthly meetings meet on the K8EEN 146.790 MHz repeater. **The next MVARC meeting is December 14, 2020.**

Visit us on Facebook:
Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Visit our Webpage:
https://mvarc.net
Email for inquires and information:
info@mvarc.net

MVARC

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 & Facebook Editors
Frank Counts, KC8EVS
Terry Windsor, KI8N

Join us every Sunday night on the Mt. Vernon 146.79 repeater for our weekly ARES Net. Check-in starts at 9pm.

Unable to access the repeater from where you are located? We are on IRLP (EchoLink) - Just look us up.
K8EEN-R Node 809800.

Ohio Traffic Nets

http://www.ossbn.org/

Ohio Single Side-Band Net; 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 is 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 events around Ohio.

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

Parks on the Air is a fun activity: https://parksontheair.com/

MVARC President's View

Louie Wilkinson, NT8I

No input this month.

November 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

G. Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Opening (Louie Wilkinson NT8I)

The repeater was placed into Net Mode by Louie, NT8I Net Control / MVARC President at 7:02 PM with 10 members (including Net Control) checked in. There were 4 additional check-ins during 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 report of October expenses and income was given and accepted as submitted. A copy of the report is available upon request.

Repeater and Mesh Report (Don Russell W8PEN)

The 2m repeater is operational now. Bill Stroud KD8WHQ has been having problems hitting the repeater, but Larry Howell AC8YE lives close to Bill and is getting into the repeater with near-full quieting, so he is not sure what the problem might be. Our coverage now extends out to Condit Station, which is to south of Centerburg. The signals may not be as good as in the past, but Don will continue to work on that.

The 440 repeater is running well. The internet has not been attached to that repeater, yet, and we may need to wait until COVID-19 has calmed down before getting that installed.

MESH net is running well. Shawn Blieler KD0DMJ and Steven N8RLW installed a Mesh node at the Event Center in Ariel Foundation Park, at about 50' height. This replaces the node that we had to take down from the former Red Cross facility.

ARES (Bill Stroud KD8WHQ)
Bill KD8WHQ reported that he thinks it is either his antenna or feed line causing problems with him getting onto the 2-meter.

November 14 ARES is having their American Red Cross Get-Together. It involves WinLink on HF, VHF, and UHF. It will run Saturday from 9am to 6pm and WinLink is required.

Old Business

Frank Counts KC8EVS has the following nominations for 2021 Club Officers:

President:	Michael Jacobs KE8HGE
Vice-President:	Greg Short W8DOH
Secretary/Treasurer:	Terry Windsor KI8N

Frank still needs to talk to the directors to find out who is at the end of their terms. Directors serve for 2 years and then 1 year off. So far, there will be Frank KC8EVS, Louie NT8I, and Scott Yonally N8SY. Frank will get with the other directors to find out who will be filling the balance of the director seats. According to the By-Laws, we need at least 3 and can have as many as 9. This will be sorted out by the December meeting. Unopposed nominees will not require a membership vote.

New Business / Coming Events

Don W8PEN indicated that the Friday Breakfasts at Foundation Park have been cancelled due to the weather turning colder and will be reconvened on the 2-meter repeater at the usual 10am time on Friday mornings.

The December meeting will be held on the second Monday of December instead the Sunday night we normally would have held our Christmas Party. Notification of this change will be in the December newsletter.

Announcements

Don W8PEN has been talking on 6-meter (50.130 MHz, USB) with a friend KD8G who lives near Monroeville, Ohio. They make contact every 2 or 3 evenings and the signals have been pretty good. They do not have a set schedule, but generally start between 7:30pm and 8:30pm and chat for hour or so. Anyone is welcome to join in their conversation.

Social Updates (G. Michael Jacobs KE8HGE)

Dinner at R&M Southside Diner, Wednesday; table in the Immediate Seating area, ordering at 4:45pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Without objection, Louie (NT8I) adjourned the meeting, and the repeater net was closed at 7:22 PM.

Club Officer Elections

Frank Counts, KC8EVS

Directors Note: **Call for MVARC Officer Nominations.**

We will accept the following unopposed new officers during the December meeting. The club members running for office are:

- President: Michael Jacobs
- Vice President: Greg Short
- Secretary/Treasurer: Terry Windsor

- **Returning directors from last year:**
- Frank KC8EVS (second year of first term)
- Emory W8TW (second year of second term)
- Greg W8DOH (second year of second term)
- Don W8PEN (second year of second term)
- Barry N8PPF (first year of second two-year term)

- **Retiring President to be Chair:**
- Louie NT8I

- **New Directors:**
- Scott N8SY (first two-year term)

Radio Activity

Don Russell, W8PEN

Look at the bright side. Only two more months and 2020 will be in the history books. From my perspective, I call it terrible 2020. On my short list of personal problems I can list Covid-19 (no, have not gotten it yet), Well pump going out, washing machine breaking down, a Labor day storm that took out many trees and damaged the roof of the house, and a partial canceling of the annual fishing trip to New York (affected by Covid-19).

Club issues during 2020 are very limited participation in operating events (We did pull off a successful, though limited Field Day), a canceled Field Day picnic, over the air club meetings instead of meeting at the Red Cross, cancellation of the monthly Saturday breakfast and partial cancellation of the Wednesday dinners and Friday breakfasts. And the two biggies: Continuing problems with the 2-meter repeater and Red Cross selling their building forcing the club to remove all the equipment and antennas and start a search for a new home.

2 Meter Repeater

It took a while, but the 2-meter repeater antenna has finally been repaired and appears to be working well.

Of course, true to the year 2020, installation of the antenna did not go as smoothly as hoped. Main problem was that after installing the antenna and hooking it to the feed line, our noise that we have battled for several years was back. Luckily, we have installed new feed line to a backup antenna a month or so ago. Switching to this new hard line, the noise completely went away. The only thing we can think of, is that the original feed line has a problem. Not a surprise. This hard line has been there since 2002. Plans are to run another length of

new hard line to connect to the backup repeater antenna. We are in a good place antenna wise. We have the main repeater antenna and a backup repeater antenna. We will need to run an additional feed line to the backup antenna.

So, you would think this would be the end of the problems with the 2-meter repeater. Yes and no. The repeater sounds good. Transmitter coverage is good. Receiver coverage is not as good as it should be (in my opinion). So, we still have work to do.

Over the next month or so, we will be taking several steps to improve receiver performance. First, Matt KC8UVN is going to give the repeater receiver a good tune-up. I personally think this will solve the problem, but I have been wrong before. Second thing we will do is check the repeater for desense. Desense is where a loss of receiver sensitivity is noticed when the repeater transmitter is turned on. I do not think this is the problem here, because Matt recently re-tuned the duplexer. But it is something to check. Third (if needed or may jump up to number one), we will set up a base unit at the receiver site, send a few mobiles out around the area and check antenna coverage without using the repeater. This would quickly tell us if there is an antenna issue or a repeater equipment issue.

Personally, I do not think it is an antenna issue because I can hear the repeater reasonably well out to about 30 miles in all directions when mobile. We will continue to work on these issues in the coming months.

70cm Repeater

The 70 cm Repeater is still working well. We now have an internet connection available, but true to terrible 2020, the hospital is in lock down due to Covid-19 and it may be awhile before we can install Yaesu-Wires on the repeater. The Yaesu-Wires feature will allow us to connect to other "Wires" repeaters thru out the world. This will be a nice feature and may increase activity on this repeater.

Another thing I would like to try is a 440-receiver preamp on this repeater. I think this would improve coverage. However, the repeater does cover all of Knox County, so a preamp is not to top priority thing. If I see a preamp at a hamfest, I may pick one up.

Local Mesh Network

The closing of the Red Cross building has set our local mesh system back a little bit. Even though the node at the Red Cross was low in height, it seemed to have particularly good coverage to the South.

Three other nodes have been affected by the Red Cross node being shut down. My node (W8PEN-MtVernon-South), Barry's node (N8PPF-MtVernon-South), and Bill's node (KC8BB-1).

The W8PEN-MtVernon-South nodes needs to have a good link signal into the mesh because it runs some applications available to users: A Bulletin Board, A PBX phone service, and an E-mail client.

We will be moving forward with the installation of a node at Foundation Park, which should return our good coverage to the South. I also have the option of a parabolic antenna on my tower to improve link quality.

73 all. Hope to "hear" you at the December meeting.

Quick Updates

There is no MVARC Christmas Dinner scheduled in December 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic not allowing gatherings. We will hold our normal second Monday monthly meeting December 14 on the K8EEN 2-meter repeater at 7:00pm.

On November 23 ARRL members received an email stating the results of the Great Lakes Division election for Director and Vice Director.

In the Great Lakes Division, incumbent Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, retained his seat in a challenge from Michael Kalter, W8CI. The vote was 1,840 to 1,398. In a three-way contest for Great Lakes Division Vice Director, Ohio Section Manager Scott Yonally, N8SY, received 1,670 votes to outpoll Jim Hessler, K8JH, with 975 votes, and Frank Piper, KI8GW, who received 611 votes. Incumbent Vice Director Tom Delaney, W8WTD, did not run for another term.

Next time you hear or see MVARC member Scott, N8SY congratulate him on his successful election as the new Great Lakes Division Vice Director.

I found the following YouTube videos of amateur radio licensing classes posted by W4EEY. These videos cover the material for successfully testing for an amateur license and can be especially useful since MVARC may not be able to organize a spring Technician training class due to gathering restrictions and lack of a meeting location. W4EEY also has videos that teach morse code and intermediate morse code.

- **Technician**: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ_9BZQ8gpzjSuF-nExJHAXhzrf_NnYfH

There are 12 videos that cover the study material for taking the Technician license test.

- **General**: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ_9BZQ8gpziLtp4t55A9G6k2s4faOBcK

There are also 12 videos that cover the material for obtaining a General class amateur license.

- **Extra**: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ_9BZQ8gpzjFPHhqSCORMKYS0YEos16I

There are 20 videos that cover the Extra class licensing requirements.

- **Morse Code**: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ_9BZQ8gpzjDCun2p6HdDDRthbMik5Tj

This training video series is 10 lessons for learning morse code.

- **Morse Code Intermediate**: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ_9BZQ8gpzgMJVu3baYZgZWj3_55jKVp

There are 8 videos each about 1 hour and 15 minutes in duration.

Technician Exam Sample Test Questions:

T4B09 Which of the following is an appropriate receive filter bandwidth for minimizing noise and interference for SSB reception?

A. 500 Hz
B. 1000 Hz
C. 2400 Hz
D. 5000 Hz

T9B02 What is the impedance of most coaxial cables used in amateur radio installations?

A. 8 ohms
B. 50 ohms
C. 600 ohms
D. 12 ohms

General Exam Sample Test Questions:

G5B01 What db change represents a factor of two increase or decrease in power?

A. Approximately 2 db
B. Approximately 3 db
C. Approximately 6 db
D. Approximately 12 db

G8C02 What digital mode is used as a low power beacon for assessing HF propagation?

A. WSPR
B. Olivia
C. PSK31
D. SSB-SC

These test questions are from the current test pools for their respective license classes. How did you do? The answers are on Page 16. Practice tests for all license classes can be found here: https://www.qrz.com/hamtest/ VE testing sessions can be arranged by contacting Frank; KC8EVS.

We still have a need for a future MVARC meeting location so if you know of a suitable room please let any club officer know what may be available.

Your 2021 club dues are due. There is a membership form located on page 14 which contains information regarding amount and where to send your 2021 dues payment. There are no changes to the 2021 membership dues.

Speaking of club dues, are you an ARRL member? If you want to join or need to renew your membership you can do it online here: http://www.arrl.org/membership.

Everyone did note that **Universal Radio** located in Worthington will close their store November 30 due to the retirement of Fred and Barbara owners of the business. Incredibly sad to lose another amateur radio and accessory vendor.

Editors Notes

To All: The MVARC Newsletter is delivered to club members only by email link to the MVARC webpage. If you know a member who can not access or is not on this email chain please share this information with them and have them contact the editors.

Frank and I would really like to hear from you as to layout, articles, ideas for new content and anything else you would like to read or write about. Please have all written input to us by the fourth Friday of the month for inclusion into the next monthly newsletter.

We hope to add more photos and content as we learn more about what we are doing and especially after receiving your feedback. Please reply to us via the club's email: **info@mvarc.net**.

Member Profile

Name: Barry Butz

Call Sign: N8PPF

I must have been born with an interest in technical things. As a young kid walking home from school, I picked up broken but interesting things to stash under the porch thinking my mom might throw them away. At age nine my first bike (second-hand) appeared outside the door. I learned to take apart and rebuild every part, including the coaster brake that took eight days to properly reassemble. Later, as a young teenager, I got interested in rock 'n roll music and tinkered with wiring speakers. Gradually I became more interested in electronics, learning little by little. High school physics taught the basics of electron flow and electricity.

In college I studied more electronics with class and lab work. At that time, it was almost exclusively about hollow-state devices (tubes). When home on vacation my friend Don introduced me to CB radio. He had just gotten one and I helped him put up a ground plane antenna. I was fascinated. After graduating and moving to Ohio I quickly bought a CB myself, with tubes of course. A couple years later, during the Viet Nam war, I entered the US Army where I studied more electronics taking a course in radar maintenance. After completing training, I was made a radar instructor.

I built several Heathkit - hi-fi and test equipment, which are still working. The Heath catalogs were exciting. They had all kinds of ham radios and other related equipment. By this time, I was still CBing. I bought and still have the 1980 Radio Amateur's Handbook**.** There is an 11-meter inverted V in my attic built using the design in that book. I might have become a ham but was put off by the morse code requirement.

In 1990 my friend Don who still lives in New York had a GMRS license and a personal repeater for family use. He called me and told me about the Dayton Hamvention. I hadn't heard of it, but it sounded interesting. He was going there and wanted me to meet him at his table. "Interesting" was not the word; it was overwhelming. Miraculously, amid 25,000 hams, I was spotted by Don's daughter who was tending their table while he

explored the flea market. The following year he informed me that the FCC now issued Technician licenses without a code test. I studied on my own and in a month took the Novice and Technician tests. After waiting two months my license arrived in the mail and I became N8PPF. Don also got his license and now is N2MHG. We continued to meet at Hamvention for the next 20 years or so.

In the early 90s the code requirement was relaxed. For several years there had been talk of dropping it altogether while other countries already had. I was still a Tech. In 2007 I finally decided to take the General and Extra class tests, thinking that I would make a more sincere attempt to learn the code within a year if the rule still existed. I passed both tests on a Saturday morning. One week later the FCC dropped the code requirement. I automatically became an Amateur Extra, maybe the first No-code Extra in the country.

I have been an MVARC member since 1991. I enjoy all the club activities-meetings, nets, breakfasts, dinners, and operating events. Field Day of course is the biggest, most intense, and best of all the events. I wish all members would attend at least part of the time.

My personal operating is mostly HF, including contests. I do not expect to be in the top ranks of contesters, but I try to improve my own performance. A couple times I have scored well in Ohio. Special events such as 13 Colonies, Route 66 and commemorative operations also are enjoyable. I like working DX. My total of countries worked is over 140 on sideband. With 120+ confirmed on LOTW. As sunspots rise, my country count should rise. Soon I want to start using today's digital modes.

The ham radio hobby has held my interest for decades and probably will from now on. It is a great hobby and certainly deserves our support. Participate in club activities, meet your friends on and off the air, offer your help when needed, volunteer for an office. It's worth it!

Miscellaneous Rambling

Terry Windsor, KI8N

Work is now completed on my 56' tower installation. The tower with completed antenna was erected on November 8. The remote antenna switch, so I can select one of four separate antennas, was installed on November 21. I completed routing of coax and antenna rotator cables on November 25.

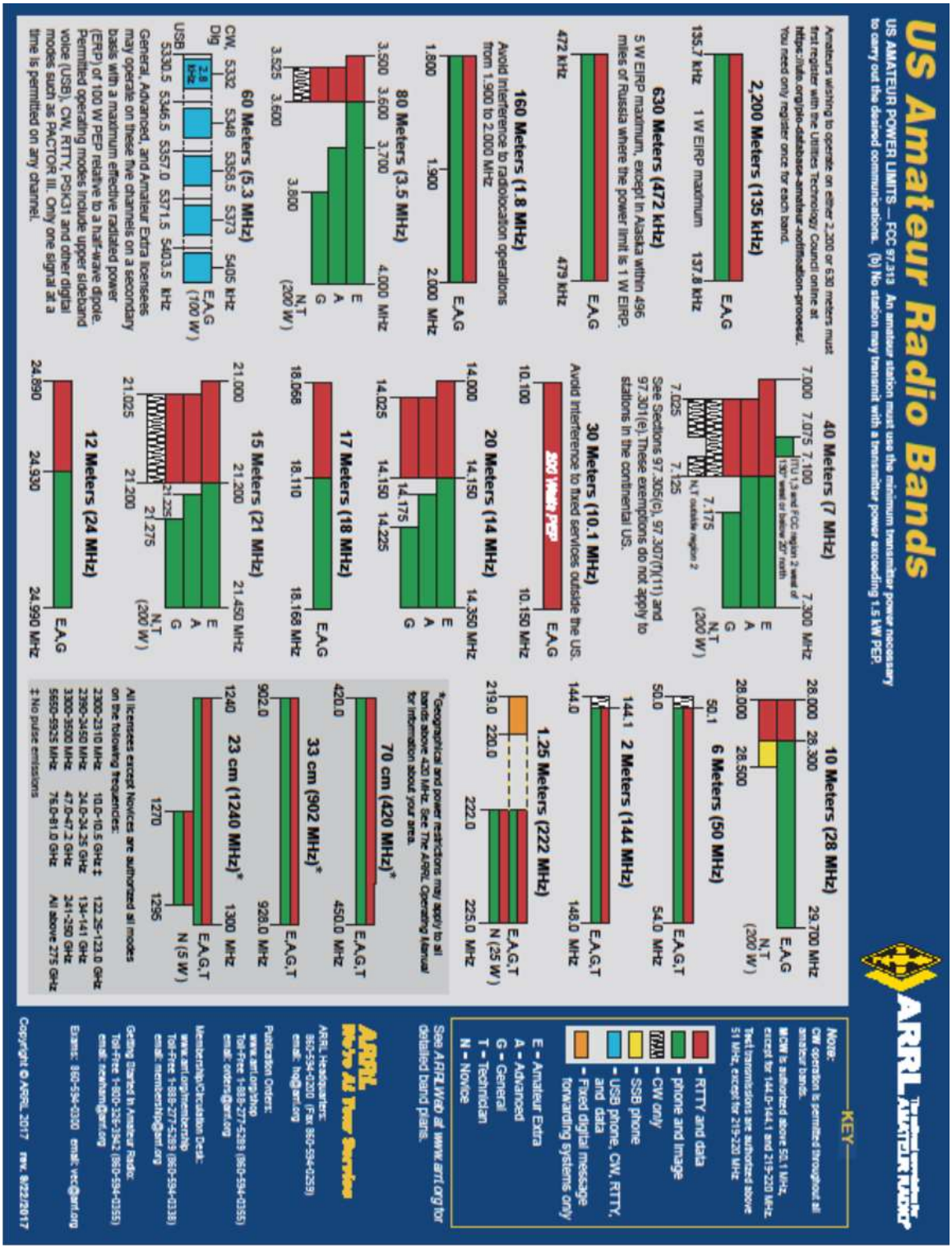
The antenna is about 6 feet above the tower and is working fantastic and I can hear so much better. I have made several SSB and CW DX and stateside calls along with digital FT8 and FT4 contacts.

I bought the Ameritron RCS-4 remote antenna switch, so I could eliminate the number of coax runs going through the backyard into the basement shack. With this switch I can select one of four antennas via the controller located at the operating location and it sends a signal to the switch relay to select the coax for the correct antenna. If not for this switch I would have had 4 LMR400 coax cables plus the rotator cable running through the yard. I now have one LMR400 and the rotator cable coming into the shack.

I recently took on a volunteer part time position with GigaParts as one of their online chat people. I have learned a lot about the hobby, equipment selections, and how people operate their radios. There are nine total chat personnel, and we stay busy answering questions, recommending equipment, and assisting new potential amateur radio licensees. One thing I would recommend is to do a little research about the equipment you want before buying. I have had numerous chats with Technician class personnel that want to buy an Icom IC-7300 to do VHF/UHF all because the radio description says it is “all band”. Some people are difficult to convince that on the IC-7300 all band refers to HF and does not include VHF/UHF frequencies. I may be a volunteer, but there are monthly rewards for working at least 20 hours a month; I received a Yaesu FT-70DR for my efforts in October.

US Amateur Radio Band Plan

A copy of the US band plan you can print and have available if needed.



MVARC Calendar

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	3	4 10:00 AM Breakfast Roundtable meeting on K8EEN 146.79	5
6 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	7	8	9 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	10	11 10:00 AM Breakfast Roundtable meeting on K8EEN 146.79	12
13 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	14 **7:00 PM** **MVARC** **Monthly** **Meeting**	15	16 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	17	18 10:00 AM Breakfast Roundtable meeting on K8EEN 146.79	19
20 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	21	22	23 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	24	25 **Christmas** **Day**	26
27 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net on K8EEN 146.79 MHz	28	29	30 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	31		

Membership Form

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:

Final Takeaway

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?

If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

Answers to sample test questions on page 8.
T4B09: C (2400 Hz)
T9B02: B (50 ohms)
G5B01: B (Approximately 3 db)
G8C02: A (WSPR)

Please be careful during the holidays and upcoming months. Wear your mask and observe distancing requirements. Ohio can get through this if we work together. The editors and contributors wish everyone a safe and jolly Christmas and Happy New Year!!