# CQ





# Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

# **Club Meetings**

MVARC meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. The August meeting will be at the Escape Zone building located at 1 Mansfield Avenue (old Armory building).

# **MVARC Information**

The next club meeting is August 9, 2021.

Visit us on Facebook: Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

> Visit our Webpage: https://MVARC.net



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# MVARC Repeaters

K8EEN VHF Repeater 146.790 MHz - 600KHz / PL = 71.9 Hz K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800

K8EEN UHF Repeater 444.600 MHz

# **Contact Us**

MVARC PO Box 372 Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Email MVARC.K8EEN@gmail.com

# **MVARC**

President Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE Vice President Greg Short, W8DOH

Secretary / Treasurer Terry Windsor, KI8N

Club Call Trustee Don Russell, W8PEN

Equipment Trustee Barry Butz, N8PPF

Directors Emery Bennett, W8TW Barry Butz, N8PPF Frank Counts, KC8EVS Don Russell, W8PEN Greg Short, W8DOH Scott Yonally, N8SY

Newsletter Editors Frank Counts, KC8EVS Terry Windsor, KI8N

# MVARC President: And now for a Word!

#### G. Michael Jacobs KE8HGE

August will herald our first meeting at what promises to



be a good home for us: The Escape Zone. I would like to take this time to thank Terry Windsor (KI8N) for making the connections between the club and the Escape Zone, and for the work he did to make this happen. I think we have a good, long-term home for the club, and I am looking forward to seeing what the Zone looks like. I'm told we should be able to set up a station there, and if so, I would keep your eyes open for an antenna raising event sometime soon.

Hamfests and Hamventions are coming back online. The Columbus Hamfest is the weekend before our next meeting. While I cannot make it due to a prior commitment, I encourage anyone that can make it to go. Also, you can check the ARRL Ohio Section newsletter out for other 'fests and 'ventions that are out there. In the past, there were always a few good options later in the year.

Ohio State Parks on the Air is back this year on the Saturday after Labor Day and Emory Bennett (W8TW) was able to secure the North Shelter for our use again. Thank you, Emory. It is a great place with a lot of shelter space and a trailhead that will take you down to the covered bridge (if you are game for the walk down and back up). It also has a couple of grills that can be used.

Not much else to tout this month. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting, and as always,

73,

"The Escape Zone building has been accepted as MVARC's new meeting location."

# July Meeting Minutes

#### Terry Windsor KI8N



The MVARC meeting held at Foundation Park was called to order by G Michael Jacobs(KE8HGE) at 7:00pm. There were 13 members present.

#### **Reports / Minutes**

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

#### Treasurer

The Treasurer's report for May 2021, was accepted without objection. Copies of the monthly report are available from the Treasurer upon request.

#### Repeater and Mesh Report (Don Russell W8PEN)

Don (W8PEN) was not present at the meeting but it does appear the 146.79 MHz and 444.6 MHz repeaters are working without issues.

#### ARES (Bill Stroud KD8WHQ)

Bill (KD8WHQ) had nothing to report this month.

#### **Old Business**

#### Field Day (Don W8PEN)

Field day results were reported in the July newsletter.

#### New Meeting Location

The stipulations Terry Walter, President of the Escape Zone has requested were discussed and accepted.

- A financial donation similar to what we did yearly with the Red Cross.
- We do a couple of amateur radio demonstrations yearly for the children that attend the Escape Zone activities. The children that attend are between the ages of 10 and 18.
- On our demonstration nights/events we provide pizza to the children at the Escape Zone.
- Only three (3) MVARC members to have physical keys and knowledge of the combination locks to the doors and the fenced parking location.

The location of the Escape Zone building is: 1 Mansfield Road, Mount Vernon.

We also agreed to meet at the Escape Zone for the August MVARC meeting. Map and photo of building are given later in this newsletter.

#### <u>OSPOTA</u>

Emery, W8TW reserved the North Shelter in Mohican State Park for MVARC to use during Ohio State Parks On The Air event September 11. Scott, N8SY noted the Marion Amateur Radio Club will be setting up at MT Gilead State Park.

#### WIRES-X at KCH

The Wires-X SCU-200 was purchased. Michael, KE8HGE has this unit and the spare repeater to work on interfacing and getting operational. Michael stated he was waiting on Don to return to complete the Wires-X registration which is needed to get node and room ID's.

#### Mansfield Trunkfest

Several members reported they had attended and thought the turnout was very good.

#### MVARC Saturday Morning Breakfast

We discussed reconvening monthly Saturday breakfasts starting August 14, 2021. Our first breakfast meeting will be at the .North Main Café. Check the Newsletter calendar for time.

#### **New Business**

#### Apple Valley Donation

Frank, KC8EVS stated we should consider giving Apple Valley a \$100.00 donation for their setting up and letting us use the large tent. It was noted that we did not provide a donation to Apple Valley last year. The majority agreed to a \$100.00 donation.

#### Field Day 2022

Discussion regarding MVARC providing dipole antennas for Field Day next year to avoid members having issues with non-specific antennas. We also discussed acquiring another HF radio to use for SSB / CW operators. Both ideas were accepted pending cost.

#### ARRL (Scott Yonally N8SY)

Great Lakes Division Convention is October 2, 2021 in Bowling Green, KY. Flyer for the event: <u>https://ky4bg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/</u> VETTECITYHAMFEST2021BROCHURE-NO-VENDORS1500.pdf

Columbus Hamfest in Grove City, OH at the Aladdin Shrine Center on August 7. The address is 1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City, OH. <u>http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/2021-</u>columbus-hamfest

In regards to the amateur license fee Scott noted the FCC is still not collecting the \$35 fee at this time.

The anticipated start of fee collection will either be late this year or start next year. He also stated the ARRL will not be collecting the fee at the VE session. The VES's and the FCC were to meet 7/15/21 to discuss this in detail.

#### **Social Activities**

Michael stated the following social activities occur every week;

Wednesday; Dinner at SouthSide Restaurant at 4:45 pm.

Friday; Informal morning breakfast at Foundation Park at 10 AM. Meet at Park National Bank Pavilion.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.



"... the North Shelter ... it is a great place with a lot of shelter space and a trailhead that will take you down to the covered bridge." Michael, KE8HGE

### **Radio Active**

#### Don Russell W8PEN



Hello fellow club members. July was a busy month for me. Unfortunately, not much in the ham radio setting.

#### **Hello New York!**

While on my annual fishing trip to New York, I did decide to take my Yaesu FT-847 and a few mobile whip antennas with me. The main goal was to talk to my friend Lynn KG8D in Monroeville, Ohio.

The rain played havoc with trying to set up a station. The main drawback was I forgot to take my 50 feet of RG-8X. This limited me to having the radio in the bed of the truck with a short run of coax. Finding



a good time to do this was difficult because it rained near constantly for much of the week. My secondary goal was to introduce the kids that were with us to ham radio. The missing coax prevented me from setting up shop in the cabin out of the rain.

There was a break in the weather, and I got the radio set up in the bed of the truck. There were several difficulties. While attaching the coax to the mobile antenna, I broke the connector at the antenna. It took me awhile to figure out that this happened as I was trying to figure out why I had high SWR on the antenna. I had pre-tuned all the mobile whips for the frequency I was expecting to use. After solving this problem with some very tight electrical tape, I was in business.

Lynn and I were able to make contact without much of a problem. At my end, Lynn was 10 over S9 and very clear. Unfortunately, Lynn was having problems hearing me. Although he reported that I was 10 over S9 at his end, his noise level due to QRN (static) was higher than my signal strength.

So, the experiment was a success. But as usual, Mother nature made sure thing were not as good as they could have been.

I delayed the introduction of ham radio to the kids due to the difficult installation. Next year I will be more prepared for it. I am hoping to buy a smaller transceiver to take to New York next year.

By the way, fishing was great except for the fact that it rained most of the time we were out there. But that is what rain suits are for, right?

#### **Linux or Windows**

I am so frustrated with Windows 10. Talk about spyware! The whole concept of Windows 10 is to retrieve information about you. Microsoft claims they do this to give you a better experience when using Windows. Beware of Windows 10S. This version of Windows limits your downloads to Microsoft approved software. Hey Microsoft, please allow me to select what software I wish to download. Of course, Microsoft claims this is for your own protection. Sound like Big Brother to me. By the way, Google is just as bad. But that's for later.



I have resorted to reloading Windows 7 on my computer in the shack to avoid the above issues. Since Windows 7 is no longer supported by Microsoft, I have turned off the Windows update service.

My other gripe is the constant updating of Windows 10. Just about every time Windows updates, it changes the drivers of my USB to Serial Port adapters which controls my radios. Result is that the adapters no longer work until I reload the old drivers.

The above is simply my opinion. For what it is worth.

The Linux operation system keeps getting better. I use Linux Mint on about half of my computers. I have

two computers with Linux Mint that run on the clubs Mesh Network. My computer in the shack has dual boot for Windows 7 and Linux so that I can use either one. I am thinking seriously about putting Linux on Darlene's computer as well as my own and doing away with Windows 10 altogether.

Not that I have not tried this before.

When I first tried Linux, there were lots of problems with getting the operating system to work correctly. Mostly it involved drivers for my devices. Since the drivers are not public domain, Linux could not include them in their installation. Meaning you had to use another computer to find the drivers, download them on a USB memory card, and finally install them on the Linux system.

Currently, there is no need to do any of this. Linux Mint works pretty much right out of the box. Still, there are a few problems. Software is usually easy to install, but not always. Some software you need to install from the command line. Remember DOS? Much of the software lacks documentation. Although you can usually go to the software's website and figure out the basics. If you are lucky, they have documentation online. If not, there are usually user groups willing to help.

There are lots of ham radio software out there for Linux. Logging programs are the most popular. I have had problems getting logging programs working enough to control the radio, but it is possible. It is just not plug and play like Windows is.

Lastly, the popular set of logging programs by N3FJP do not operate on Linux. This includes to Field Day logging software that we use. There is a program called Linux Wine that is supposed to allow Windows programs to run on Linux. But using it is hit and miss. It works with some programs and not others. Some have gotten the N3FJP logging programs to partially work, but I am not aware of any that are full functioning. I personally have not had any success in doing so.

This is where Microsoft has us. Either use their Windows Program or be limited in what you can run. Personally, with Windows 11 coming out, being limited sounds like a pretty good deal to me.

So, what are the choices here?

It is possible to run Linux and Windows on a dual boot system. In other words, when you turn on the computer, you choose which operating system to load up and use. This way you have the best of both worlds. You don't lose any software options. You simply run whichever operation system you need for the software you want to run.

If all you do is surf the web, check your email, or do some word processing, then Linux may be for you. The built-in word processor is like Microsoft Word (called LibriOffice). In fact, there is a Windows version that I have used for years to write this column. I also used it when I was Newsletter Editor to put together and print out the newsletter. It worked perfectly. The Firefox web browser also works well. Thunderbird is an email client that works as well as any.

Most version of Linux can be taken for a test drive just by downloading the operating system and putting it on a USB drive or a DVD. You can try it out and if you like it, you have the option of a complete install on your computer. If you don't like it, no harm done. Just remove the USB drive or DVD and your computer is back to normal. No changes are made unless you select a full install.

Most Linux installs have the option to install Linux alongside Windows. If you have enough disk space, this is the option that I would use.

If the Linux guys could find a way to run all Windows 10 programs, I think I would be willing to buy a version of Linux. But as it now stands, most versions of Linux are free to download and use. There is an option to donate to the cause if you desire to do so.

Hope to see you at the meeting.





# New MVARC Meeting Location

#### Terry Windsor KI8N



Information as to meeting at the Escape Zone building for our August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The building address is 1 Mansfield Avenue. This address is where North Main Street and Mansfield Avenue intersect. Also referred to as the "Y" intersection of N. Main St., Mansfield Ave., Wooster Rd., and W. Curtis St.

The Escape Zone is located on the left as you head north on Main St and just after the traffic light. This building is only 5 blocks further up Main St. than what the Red Cross building was.

Parking can be found on the street but there is also a fenced parking lot behind the building. The entrance is off the alley just past the north end of the building and then behind through the gate.

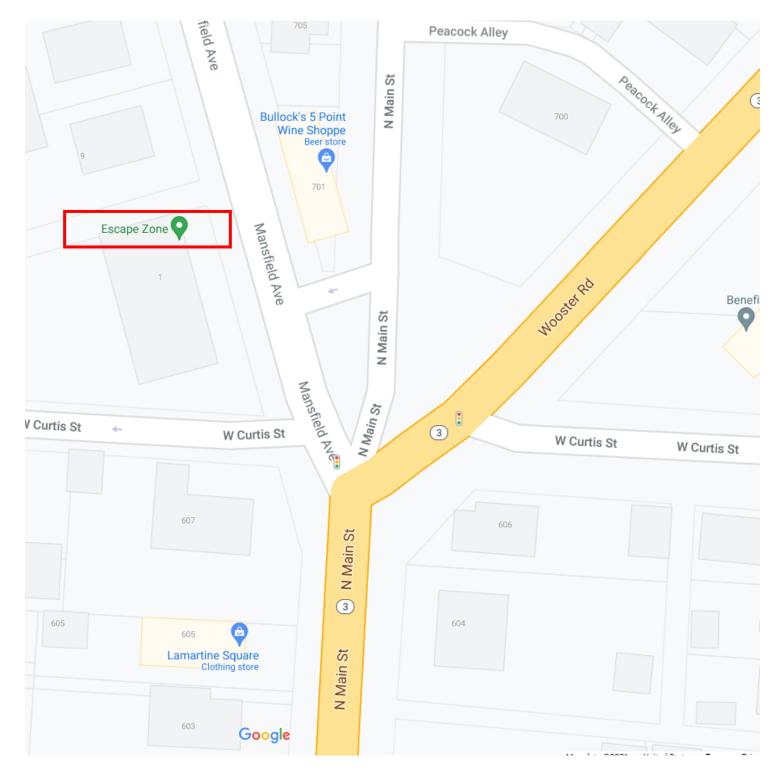
We will be meeting in the "cafeteria" room which has tables and plenty of chairs to hold our meetings. You can access this room via the rear door from the parking area or we will also open and man the front door for access.

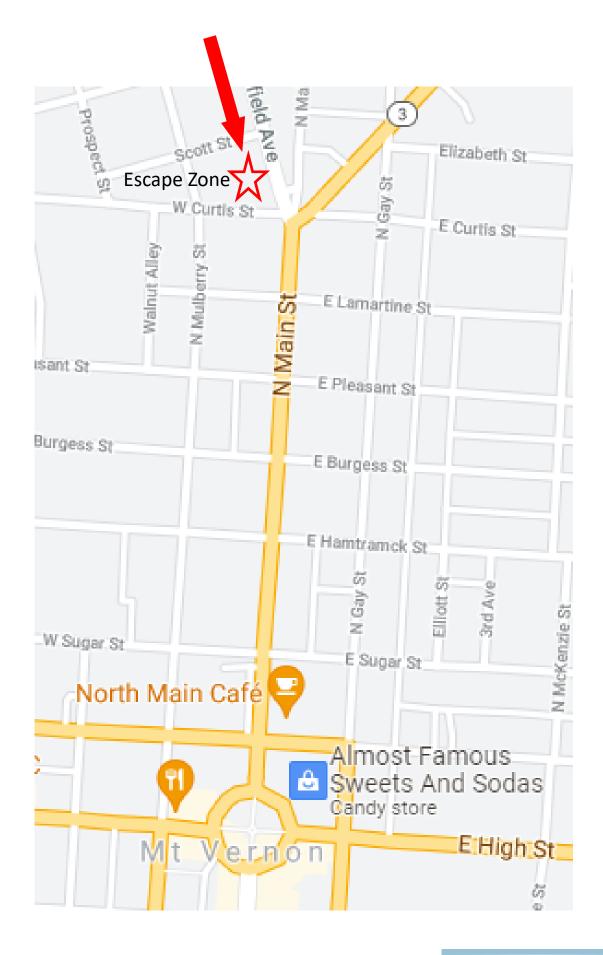
The front of the building is shown below and the alley is on the right side of the picture.

If you are having trouble finding the building/address we will be monitoring the 2-meter repeater on 146.79 MHz and will talk you in.



# Map to 1 Mansfield Avenue.





### Miscellaneous Rambling

#### Terry Windsor KI8N



At the end of this month I borrowed a new Yaesu FTDX10 transceiver to try out. This is Yaesu's SDR entry to compete against the Icom IC-7300.

It was very simple to set up for SSB, CW, and digital modes and in the last few days I have made over 100 total contacts via all three modes. Using this radio got me interested in hunting POTA stations to see how its signal was received by people in the field using less than optimal antennas. So far the reports have been very good and comparable to those from my IC-7300 and Yaesu FTdx 1200.

I only get to borrow it for 30 days or else I have to pony up the cash to keep it. So at the end of August it goes back to GigaParts. No real need for another HF rig. However, it has me thinking of selling the FTdx 1200 and maybe adding a FTDX10 as it s replacement.



I have the dreaded but expected dead clock battery in my IC-7300. The battery will not take a charge and the clock resets to all zeros every time I shut the radio off. I bought a replacement battery, now just have to work up the want to open the radio and unsolder the old battery and put the new one in. Doesn't sound difficult but since it is only to keep the clock happy it may be a while before I get to it.

Until next month "Ham It UP!"

# Jumbled Thoughts from KC8EVS

#### Frank Counts KC8EVS



I hope everyone's summer is going well. Here in EVS land we have been busy as usual, seems as that is the normal state of affairs here. We just ushered in number 14 grandchild. He and mom are doing fine.

I'm excited and really sad, we will be meeting in the Armory this month for the first time. It has the makings of a great location to center our activities around. One of the stipulations to meet there is that we share

our hobby with the kids from the Escape Zone, which I think is a great opportunity for us to get younger folks interested in the hobby. So, I look forward to seeing what kind of demonstrations we can put on, looking forward to your input. I stated that I was sad :( That's because I can't be there that first meeting! I will be out of town fulfilling my duties as a granddad, supposedly I'm to be the responsible one out of the group of grandchildren present (for some reason I'm always placed in the group that needs supervision).

I need to keep on track here. There are a couple of things that need to be discussed, first being nominations for club officers. I'm in the process of putting that list together. Not that we need to be in a big hurry, but November will be upon us quickly, so if you are interested let me know. Secondly, OSPOTA (Ohio State Parks On The Air) is Sept 11. We have already reserved the shelter at Mohican State Park. We now need to determine how and what we want to set up. I assume that we will be discussing this quite a bit on Fridays up until the date and I'm sure that there will be some discussion Monday night so stay tuned. It's important that you take a look at the web site and look over the rules as they have made some changes (there is a rover class this year, I suppose this is for those with short attention spans). Also check out the Aug issue of Post-Script as there they announced a zoom meeting on Aug 10 @ 7:30p.

All for now, 73.

#### Zoom Meeting Information;

Time: Aug 10, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88055320136?</u> pwd=bk81MXE3ellVTnAzZ3ptS0N3K2FOdz09

#### Meeting ID: 880 5532 0136 Passcode: 375951

This meeting will be an introduction and an overview on the contest, with a special section on both logging the contest and NVIS antennas for working the contest.

# Amateur Radio Vinyl Decals

#### Nichole Adessa, N8OVE

My dad, Emery, W8TW had asked me to come up with a decal design for MVARC: I make vinyl decals. I made up two separate designs. The links below are to the designs on my online shop.

The first link is a club design shown below.

https://www.etsy.com/listing/1009895981/mount-vernon-amateur-radio-club-vinyl? ref=shop\_home\_active\_1&variation0=1971593946&variation1=1991398087

The second decal is personalized with the individual's Call Sign added.

https://www.etsy.com/listing/995928986/personalized-decal-with-call-sign-for? ref=shop\_home\_active\_2

**NOTE**: You can see the both designs by going to the web address.





"The above is simply my opinion. For what it is worth."

# **Quick Updates**



#### First-Time Exam Applicants Must Obtain FCC Registration Number before Taking Exam

Effective Thursday **May 20, 2021**, all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) BEFORE taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.

#### Social security numbers are no longer accepted at exam sessions.

Amateur candidates who already have an FCC license, whether for amateur radio or in another service, already have an FRN and can use the same number. All prospective new FCC licensees, however, will be required to obtain an FRN *before* the examination and provide that number to the volunteer examiners on the Form 605 license application. An FCC <u>in-</u> <u>structional video</u> provides step-by-step instructions on how to obtain an FRN through the FCC's COmmission REgistration System (CORES).

The FRN is required for all new applicants to take an amateur exam and is used afterward by the applicant to download the license document from the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), upgrade the license, apply for a vanity call sign, and to submit administrative updates (such as address and email changes) and renewal applications.

In addition, **after June 29**, all applications will be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents.

#### **Morse Code Instruction**

In the last few months, we had shown resources to learn morse code. I found another new web site; *Learn CW Online*. "LCWO allows you to Morse Telegraphy (CW) online in your browser."

https://lcwo.net/



#### **General Exam Sample Test Questions:**

G6A06 Which of the following is a reason not to use wire-wound resistors in an RF circuit?

- A. The resistor could overheat
- B. The resistor's inductance could make circuit performance unpredictable
- C. The resistor's internal capacitance would detune the circuit
- D. The resistor's tolerance value would not be adequate for such a circuit

G9C03 How do the lengths of a three-element Yagi reflector and director compare to that of the driven element?

- A. They are all the same length
- B. The reflector is longer, and the director is shorter
- C. The reflector is shorter, and the director is longer
- D. Relative length depends on the frequency of operation

#### **Extra Class Exam Sample Test Questions:**

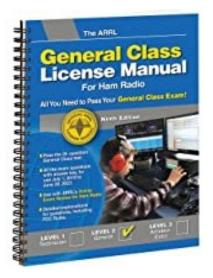
E3C02 What is indicated by a rising A or K index?

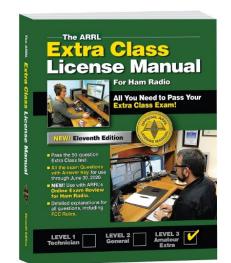
- A. Decreasing disruption of the geomagnetic field
- B. High levels of solar UV radiation
- C. Increasing disruption of the geomagnetic field
- D. An increase in the critical frequency

E3C06 By how much does the VHF/UHF radio horizon distance exceed the geometric horizon?

- A. By approximately 50 percent of the distance
- B. By approximately twice the distance
- C. By approximately 15 percent of the distance
- D. By approximately four times the distance

These test questions are from the current test pools for their respective license classes. How did you do? The answers are on Page 21. Practice tests for all license classes can be found here: <u>https://www.qrz.com/hamtest/</u> The books shown below are available from the ARRL for license studying.





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### Miscellaneous Amateur Radio Information

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 6:15 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. They 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: <a href="http://k8es.org/">http://k8es.org/</a>

Newark Amateur Radio Assoc: <a href="https://www.n8ara.org/">https://www.n8ara.org/</a>

(Mansfield) InterCity Amateur Radio Club: <a href="https://iarc.club/">https://iarc.club/</a>

Marion Amateur Radio Club: <u>http://www.marionhamradio.com/home.html</u>

The ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter: <u>https://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html</u>

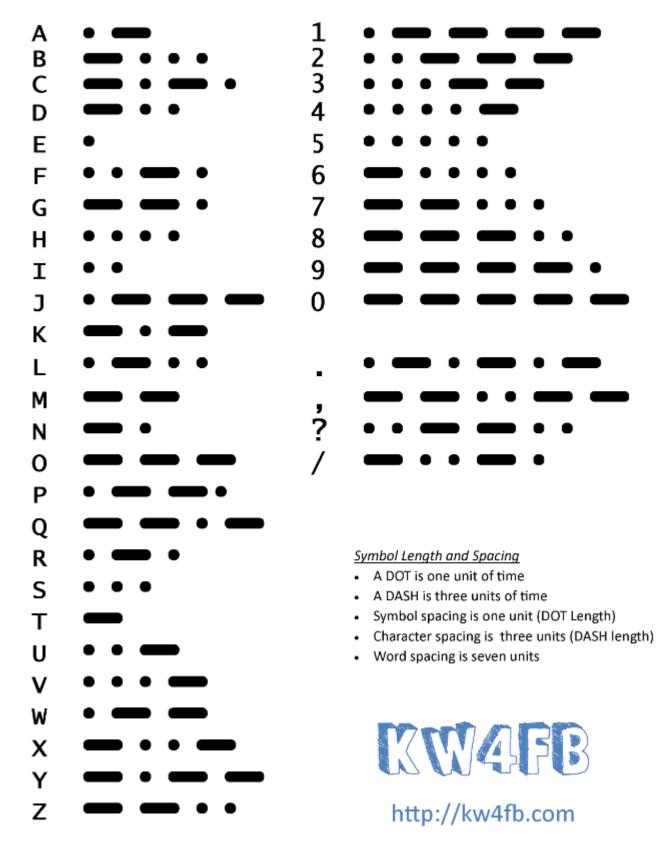
The ARRL Ohio Section calendar:

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

# Phoenetic Alphabet



## Morse Code



# August 2021

| Sun                                       | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|---|--|--|-----|---|--|
| 1   | 2   | 3  | 4<br>4:45 PM<br>Dinner at<br>Southside<br>Diner  | 5   | 6<br>10:00 AM<br>Breakfast at<br>Foundation Park<br>– Park National<br>Bank Pavilion  | 7<br>Columbus Ham-<br>Fest<br>Aladin Shrine<br>Center<br>Grove City, OH<br>8 am - 1 pm |
| 8<br>9:00 PM<br>ARES Sunday<br>Night Net  | 9<br>7 PM<br>MVARC<br>Monthly<br>@ Escape<br>Zone | 10<br>7:30 PM<br>OSPOTA<br>Zoom Meeting<br>(See page 13) | 11<br>4:45 PM<br>Dinner at<br>Southside<br>Diner | 12  | 13<br>10:00 AM<br>Breakfast at<br>Foundation Park<br>– Park National<br>Bank Pavilion | 14<br>MVARC<br>Breakfast @<br>North Main<br>Café                                       |
| 15<br>9:00 PM<br>ARES Sunday<br>Night Net | 16  | 17   | 18<br>4:45 PM<br>Dinner at<br>Southside<br>Diner | 19  | 20<br>10:00 AM<br>Breakfast at<br>Foundation Park<br>– Park National<br>Bank Pavilion | 21   |
| 22<br>9:00 PM<br>ARES Sunday<br>Night Net | 23  | 24   | 25<br>4:45 PM<br>Dinner at<br>Southside<br>Diner | 26  | 27<br>10:00 AM<br>Breakfast at<br>Foundation Park<br>– Park National<br>Bank Pavilion | 28   |
| 29<br>9:00 PM<br>ARES Sunday<br>Night Net | 30  | 31   |  |     |   |  |

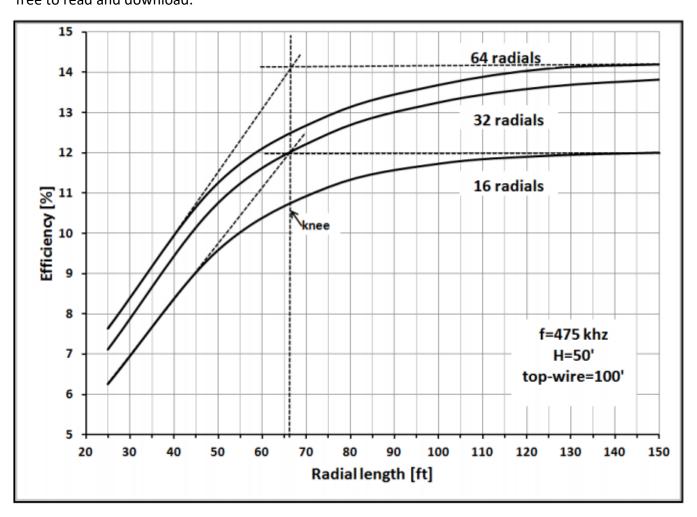
# Final Takeaway

#### **Vertical Antennas**

I have a 43' vertical antenna with an auto-tuner at the antenna and spend too much time wondering if it works as it should. Questions surrounding radials; how many, how long, above, on, or below ground placement? I currently have 36 radials, 65 feet long and buried just a couple of inches below the ground. Would more radials make a noticeable difference?

In July I ran a dedicated 12Vdc line to the bias tee injection point to operate the tuner when changing bands or frequencies. Prior I had the 12V power supply in the shack (basement) and ran 12Vdc via 200' of coax to the tuner. Did this change anything? Not that I noticed other than making things tidier.

In my free time I read documents other hams had written and posted online to learn and understand vertical antennas better. One of the sites is written and maintained by N6LF, Rudy Severns in Oregon. His web page is full of interesting articles on antenna theory and design. One item in particular is his 6 chapter *"LF-MF Antenna Notes"* book. <u>https://www.antennasbyn6lf.com/</u> <u>design\_of\_radial\_ground\_systems/</u> If you are curious or want to learn more check his book out, it is free to read and download.



#### Answers to sample test questions on page 15.

- G6A06: B The resistor's inductance could make circuit performance unpredictable
- G9C03: B The reflector is longer, and the director is shorter
- E3C02: C Increasing disruption of the geomagnetic field
- E3C06: C By approximately 15 percent of the distance

## **Editors Notes**



#### 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.

