

November 2021

2021 Edition 11



Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Club Meetings

MVARC meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

The November meeting is at 790 Fairgrounds Road.

MVARC Information

The next club meeting is November 8, 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

+5 MHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

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, K18N](#)

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, K18N](#)

MVARC President: And now for a Word!

G. Michael Jacobs KE8HGE



The year is starting to wind down. We have one last big event to look forward to this year, and that is our annual Christmas Party. I hope that everyone that wants to attend it can this year. We will have the details sorted out during the November meeting, so please catch the next newsletter for those details.

The single biggest order of business (and, really, the only one) during that last meeting of the year will be the election of Officers and Directors. I strongly encourage anyone that is interested in an Office or open Director's seat to reach out to Frank Counts (KC8EVS) or myself so your name can

be put on the appropriate ballot. With a new home, or two, now in place we can begin looking to get past our COVID-enforced slowdowns and get back into the business of being radioactive. Serving as an Officer or a Director is a great way to help get things moving again.

73,



2022

OFFICER NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The following positions are to be filled:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

“Volunteers are still needed— MVARC officers and directors for 2022 and net controllers for the Sunday night ARES net.”

October Meeting Minutes

G. Michael Jacobs KE8HGE



The MVARC meeting was called to order by G Michael Jacobs

(KE8HGE) at 7:00pm.

Reports / Minutes

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

Treasurer

The Treasurer was not present at the meeting, but his reports for the 2 previous months were sent to Michael, who read the reports off. The reports were accepted as presented, with copies are available upon member request.

Repeater and Mesh Report (Don Russell W8PEN)

Don noticed some repeater noise when communicating with Frank Counts (KC8EVS), but it has not recurred. Would like to put the back-up repeater in place and run a realignment on the main unit, as well as giving it a once-over. The 440-repeater is working fine. The MESH net is at a standstill but otherwise is working well. He has to go out to Foundation Park and reset that node if it loses power. A UPS installed there would solve this issue. He needs to get with Shawn Bleiler (KD0DMJ) to get the Centerburg node up and running.

Michael (KE8HGE) reported that no additional plants have died; the damage he asked after was likely due to more sunlight reflecting off his windows and onto the plants rather than his MESH node.

Update on Wires-X: computer is loaded with the software and a firewall, port information is available, just waiting on some additional wiring to be put into place.

ARES (Bill Stroud KD8WHQ)

The SET ran over the previous weekend. 28 of Ohio's 88 counties participated.

Old Business

Nominations Committee

Frank, KC8EVS has not been able to get a hold of Greg Short (W8DOH) to touch base with him. Otherwise, he is looking for Directors, it would be a good time to get involved .

OSPOTA

Frank, KC8EVS had no comments beyond the article he submitted in his section of this Newsletter.

New Business

New Meeting Place

A motion was made by Arlin Bradford (KD8EVR) that we use the Academy Administration Building as our regular meeting place, seconded by Barry Butz (N8PPF).

The benefits of the Admin Building were highlighted, compared to the Escape Zone. Consensus was that the Admin Building offered a place for a permanent station with a large radio room.

The Escape Zone would have programs for the kids at the Escape Zone, but limited access to the Escape Zone was cited as being an issue if we tried to use it for the Friday Breakfast. Either way, the desire to keep an active relationship with both the Escape Zone and the Admin Building was reinforced., as was our commitment to working with the kids of the Escape Zone.

Our space in the Admin Building will be shared with the Knox County Police Chaplains, but there are no anticipated overlaps in our planned uses for the space. We can work with them to make improvements to the space (projector, screens, etc.). Arlin (KD8EVR) discussed the Police Chaplain's' history with ham radio operators during emergencies and they see a real benefit in having a working relationship with us.

The motion as called and passed by voice vote.

Christmas Party

Emery Bennett (W8TW) called Bob Evans' and Mazza's. Bob Evans don't have the help to support a group of our size. Mazza's has a Chicken Parmesan buffet (mid-range, price-wise) that shakes out to about \$30 per person after gratuity. If there are more than 30 people, they will not charge for the room.

Use of the Academy Admin Building was brought up with Lannings suggested as a caterer. The Admin Building floor we have access to has a kitchen area with no cooking equipment, but plenty of space for a buffet bar to be set up. If we need more tables and chairs than what are available, we can see about getting those; Jim Bostic (KD8IZT) suggested the Fredericktown Fire Department as a possible source of additional tables and chairs.

A Potluck dinner was discussed, with meat being provided by the club (as was done at Field Day) with members bringing in sides or desserts.

With this food for thought (yes, the pun was intended), we can discuss a final plan at the November meeting.

New Club HF Radio

The IC-7300 has collected more than enough donations to cover this purchase. The radio has been ordered.

Social Activities

SouthSide Restaurant dinner on Wednesdays at 4:45 pm.

Friday; Informal morning breakfast at 10 AM. Meet at Academy Administration building.

Second Saturday Breakfast at the North Main Cafe at 9:00am.

Meeting Adjourned

Chair entertained a motion to adjourn, which was offered by Bill, KD8WHQ and seconded by Larry, AC8YE and without objection, the meeting was adjourned.



Radio Active

Don Russell

W8PEN



October was a big month for our club. The major news is the club was offered (and accepted) use of a large building located in Academia, Ohio.

This location is just outside of Mt. Vernon at the corner of Fairgrounds Road and Wooster Road.

We will share occupation of the top floor with other groups. However, we will have our own lockable radio room and at least one lockable storage room. An HF antenna will be allowed between the two chimneys, which has 100 feet plus of separation.

Looks very nice. I am sure there will be more information about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

Ubuntu Linux

I had several positive responses to my articles on Ubuntu Linux. I am glad some of our club members gave it a try.

We will move on to other things. May revisit the topic if enough requests are made. Currently, I am still using Ubuntu on my main “home” computer and have no intentions of returning to Windows.

Icom 7300

The Icom 7300 project is in its final stage. The radio has been purchased and we are awaiting shipment. Terry KI8N reported to me that he ordered and received a Heil Boom Mic/Headset and a footswitch for the radio.

Hopefully we can have a demonstration of the radio once it arrives. I would like to get everyone familiar with the IC-7300 so when Field Day 2022 arrives, members will be comfortable operating the radio.

Field Day Antennas

Another project I have been working on is building up some antennas for Field Day. My plan for Field Day 2022 is to have all the pieces needed for the two SSB stations. This includes the Icom IC-7300 and the Kenwood TS-570. Both owned by the club.

In addition to the radios, I am planning on three Off Center Fed 80 – 10-meter antennas. I decided to try to build one and see if they were worth the effort. They are!

I built one of these antennas and installed it on my tower at the 32-foot level. The ends were somewhere around eight to ten feet off the ground.

With this antenna and 5 watts QRP I worked lots of stations. If I remember right, 55 contacts in the New York QSO Party with three hours operating time, 44 contacts in the Pennsylvania QSO Party in 2 hours. QRP contacts as far away as Japan in some casual operation.

This antenna is a keeper.

So, not being too old to learn a lesson, I built a duplicate antenna for my own use and did a permanent install on the tower. The duplicate antenna works as well as the original. The original antenna has been put in my Field Day antenna box. I am planning on making two more of these Off-Center Fed (OCF) antennas so the club can have one on each SSB station and have one as either a backup or maybe on the GOTA or Digital station.

These antennas are being made “on the cheap” in part thanks to Ralph Hoffman’s donation of about 500 feet of #12 stranded wire and enough insulators for three antennas. I am personally donating the rest of the parts, which consists of three balun kits and weatherproof boxes plus hardware and 100 feet of RG-8X coax.

The club should be set for the foreseeable as far as Field Day or any other operating event without having tear down any members stations.

Repeaters and Mesh Networks

Unfortunately, there is bad news for our 2 meter repeater. The receiver on our repeater has been slowly deteriorating over the last month or so. It was a slow process that I was not sure if it was the receiver or just propagation. However, the Sunday Night Net of October 31 was the nail in the coffin. Well, it was Halloween!

Stations that normally got into the repeater could not. Stations that usually were full quieting were not.

This led to the installation of the backup repeater, a Yaesu DR-1X, the following day. The backup repeater has returned repeater service to its normal good coverage.

I would like to use the Yaesu DR-1X as our permanent repeater and hopefully fix the old one as the backup repeater. The old repeater is 20 years old, being installed in 2002.

The problem is that the DR-1X is not compatible with the clubs Cat-1000 repeater controller. In fact, it is very hard to hook up to any external controller. The basic built-in controller of the DR-1X is hardly acceptable.

I am searching for a new controller. The only one currently on the market and compatible with the DR-1X is an Arcom RC210 controller with an ADR interface for the DR-1X. The good news is it is virtually plug and play with the DR-1X, requiring a simple modification to the DR-1X itself. The bad news is that the price is going to be in the \$500 range.

There is a possibility that we could buy the ADR interface for \$100 and connect to our Cat-1000 repeater controller. This might be something to try and if it does not work, then proceed to buy the RC210 controller.

Food for thought and I will bring this up at the November meeting.

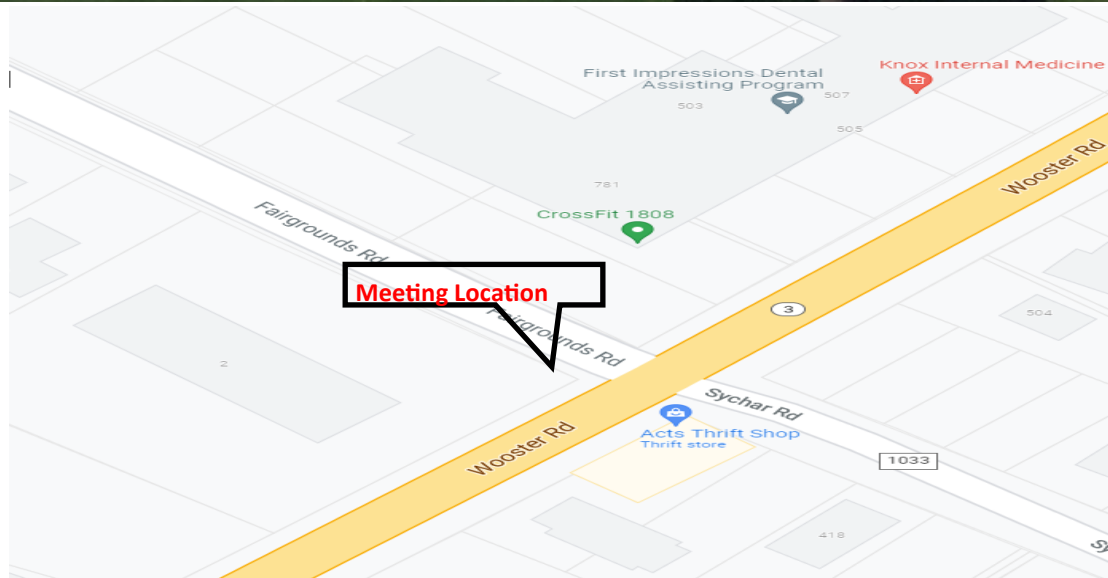
So, hope to see everyone at the November meeting.

MVARC Meeting Location

Academy Administration Building is at **790 Fairgrounds Road** at the corner of Wooster Road.

This building will serve our needs by providing a spacious meeting room, radio operating room, storeroom, and kitchen.

The entrance is at the rear of the building and the meeting room is on the top floor which is up stairs from the rear entrance.



"I would like to get everyone familiar with the IC-7300 so when Field Day 2022 arrives, members will be comfortable operating the radio."

Miscellaneous Rambling

Terry Windsor
KI8N



Membership Dues for 2022 are due at the end of the year.

Attached on the next to last page is MVARC's membership form which should be included with your payment.

Next topic, something that has me bothered and I

have decided to blow some steam is MVARC's lack of participation in any ARES scheduled or simulated practice events. Does anyone remember our club being involved in any of the SET events? I sure do not. How about any local practice activations? Never! Any time we have ever practiced sending the correct forms or any radio communications? How about knowledge in using FLDIGI? **No!!** to any of the above.

So if the time comes when we actually might be called on to participate in any emergency event or exercise it will probably look worse than a Chinese fire drill with no coordination, no idea where to go or meet, and no idea who is doing what. Is our talk of ARES really just blowing hot air? When will our local coordinators decide it is either time to schedule an exercise or just give up this ARES farce that we keep fooling ourselves about?

Does anyone else feel it is time for the multi-year sabbatical to end? If so, this needs to be a November meeting topic with some definite action, and not just lip service as has been the norm.

Until next month "Ham It UP!"

Jumbled Thoughts from KC8EVS

Frank Counts



KC8EVS

Ohio State Parks on the Air—2021

The results are in for OSPOTA 2021, check

them out here: [The Radiogram \(ospota.org\)](http://ospota.org).

Thanks again to all who participated in the event. If you signed the log, your call sign is listed in the Radiogram article. I'm glad I submitted the log and got our score in the books. Next year I will have to get my act together and submit some pictures. Several clubs and individuals did, and it looks good. Check it out.

A good reason to make it to the meeting is to so see the slate of nominations for next year, also, maybe to make sure you are not signed up :). I won't be there as I am attending a wedding. The youngest daughter is getting married, and she thought it would be nice that I attend. So, see you sometime in December.

73

Amateur Radio Vinyl Decals

Nichole Adessa, N8OVE

I make vinyl decals. I made two designs for MVARC. 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.



"Membership Dues for 2022 are due at the end of the year."

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 [instructional video](#) 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.

General Exam Sample Test Questions:

G1C01 What is the maximum transmitting power an amateur station may use on 10.140 MHz?

- A. 1500 watts PEP output
- B. 2000 watts PEP output
- C. 1000 watts PEP output
- D. 200 watts PEP output

G1C02 What is the maximum transmitting power an amateur station may use on the 12-meter band?

- A. 1500 watts PEP output
- B. 50 watts PEP output
- C. 200 watts PEP output
- D. An effective radiated power equivalent to 100 watts from a half-wave dipole

Extra Class Exam Sample Test Questions:

E1C02 Which of the following types of communications may be transmitted to amateur stations in foreign countries?

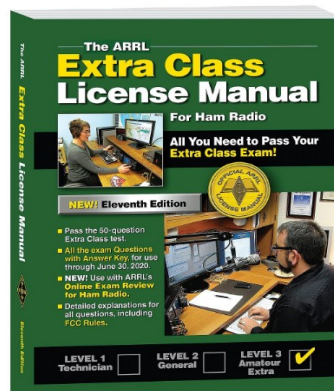
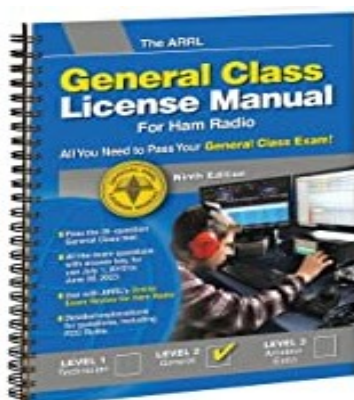
- A. Messages intended for users of the maritime satellite service
- B. Business related messages for non-profit organizations
- C. Communications incidental to the purpose of the amateur service and remarks of a personal nature
- D. All these choices are correct

E1C03 How do the control operator responsibilities of a station under automatic control differ from one under local control?

- A. Under automatic control the control operator is not required to be present at the control point
- B. Under local control there is no control operator
- C. Under automatic control there is no control operator
- D. Under local control a control operator is not required to be present at a control point

These test questions are from the current test pools for their respective license classes. How did you do? The answers are on the last page. Practice tests for all license classes can be found here:

<https://www.grz.com/hamtest/> The books shown are available from the ARRL for license upgrade studying.



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: <http://k8es.org/>

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

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

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

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

The ARRL Ohio Section calendar:

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



The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...He/[She] offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...He/[She] keeps his/[her] station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/[Her] operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY...He/[She] operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation, and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC...His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

November 2021

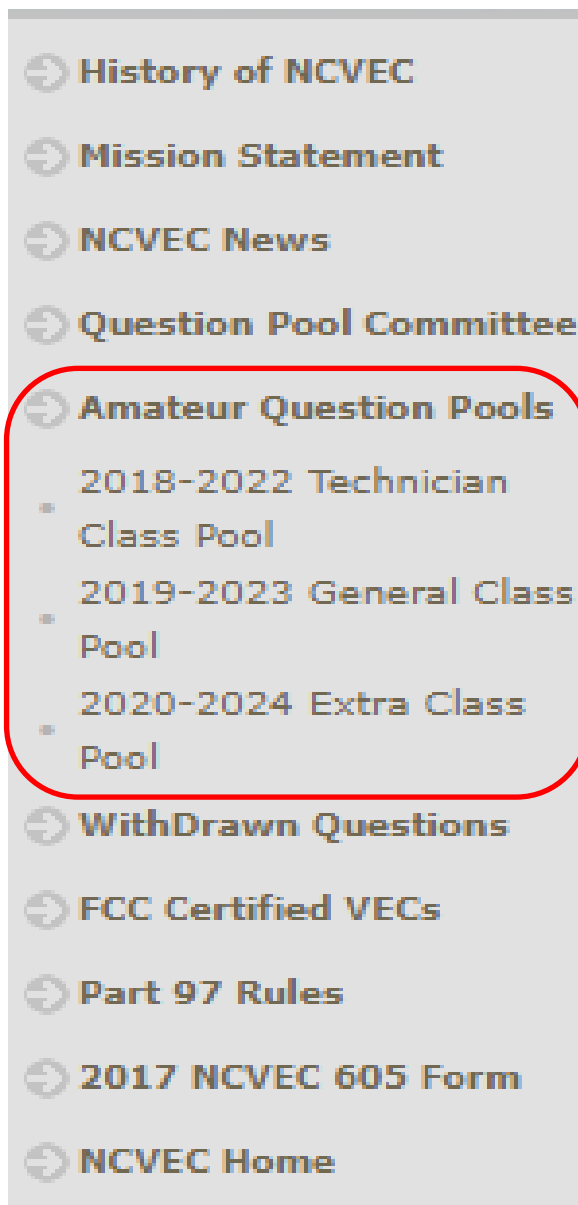
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	4	5 10:00 AM Breakfast - 790 Fairgrounds Rd.	6
7 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net	8 7 PM Monthly Meeting—790 Fairgrounds Rd.	9	10 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	11	12 10:00 AM Breakfast - 790 Fairgrounds Rd.	13 9:00 AM Breakfast @ North Main Cafe
14 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net	15	16	17 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	18	19 10:00 AM Breakfast - 790 Fairgrounds Rd.	20
21 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net	22	23	24 4:45 PM Dinner at Southside Diner	25 Thanksgiv- ing	26 10:00 AM Breakfast - 790 Fairgrounds Rd.	27
28 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net	29	30				

Final Takeaway

National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC)

Have you ever been curious about who makes the amateur radio test questions or where you can access the question pools? If so check out [NCVEC.org](https://www.ncvec.org).

There is a description of their mission and then the menu on the left side of the page lists the current valid question pools.



Question pool information lists the valid dates for each of the three elements.

Amateur Question Pools

The Question Pools are developed and maintained by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the NCVEC by FCC instruction and Part 97 Rules & Regulation : **Sec. 97.523 Question pools** All VECs must cooperate in maintaining one question pool for each written examination element. Each question pool must contain at least 10 times the number of questions required for a single examination. Each question pool must be published and made available to the public prior to its use for making a question set. Each question on each VEC question pool must be prepared by a VE holding the required FCC-issued operator license.

The question pools are normally valid for 4 years and the current Question Pools are as follows:

Element 2 - Technician - Effective July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2022

Element 3 - General - Effective July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2023

Element 4 - Extra - Effective July 1, 2020 until June 30, 2024

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 them to a 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. Dues are \$15.00 for those over 65 years of age and additional members in the same family.

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club PO Box 372 Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Street or PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ License Class: _____

Email Address: _____

ARRL Member (Y/N): _____ Donation (Optional) _____

Suggestions for possible meeting programs:

Answers to sample test questions on page 19.

G1C01: D – 200 watts PEP output

G1C02: A – 1500 watts PEP output

E1C02: C – Communications incidental to the purpose of the amateur service and remarks of a personal nature

E1C03: A – Under automatic control the control operator is not required to be present at the control point

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 really need 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.

Please note the contact email for the MVARC newsletter to MVARC.K8EEN@GMAIL.COM.

