## CQ





August 2022

# Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

## **Club Meeting**

MVARC meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. The next club meeting is August 8, 2022.

## **Meeting Location:**

**Academy Building** 

## 790 Fairgrounds Road

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 admin@mvarc.net

## **MVARC**

President Frank Counts, KC8EVS Vice President Barry Butz, N8PPF Secretary Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ Treasurer Terry Windsor, KI8N Club Call Trustee Don Russell, W8PEN Equipment Trustee Barry Butz, N8PPF Directors Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Arlin Bradford, KD8EVR Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI Steve Harvey, N8RLW Scott Yonally, N8SY

Newsletter Editors Frank Counts, KC8EVS Terry Windsor, KI8N

#### **President's View**

#### Frank Counts KC8EVS



Well as most of you know my life came to an abrupt halt June 16<sup>th</sup>. Since then, I've enjoyed recovering from a 5 hour surgery, loss of a lot of blood and 33 staples being removed (not too bad considering). The first week after surgery I don't

remember much, probably a good thing. The second and third week was a chore just getting use to my new mode of transportation, a walker and one leg, you don't get far fast. That brings up my new hobby, watching grass grow. Never thought I would or could be entertained by grass. I have a long way to go. At 10 weeks they will decide if my pelvis can bear any weight. Until then I have my eye on this particular dandelion. Once well enough I'm going to walk out and dig it up and chop it into little pieces; I'll feel better then.

I now have a lot of time to read, watch videos, work on puzzles, and watch the grass grow, things I don't normally do as usually I fall asleep if I sit in one spot for too long. I have come across some interesting things as I find these, I'll share them here. If you find them boring turn the page as Terry, Don or Barry will have something more interesting to read.

Somewhere in my reading I came across this web page: https:// haminfo.tetranz.com/ I think that it is a neat page. You type in your call sign, grid square, zip or address and it will bring up a map of all the hams near you. You will be surprised at the number of hams that are out there and not active in any of the clubs. Probably only 2% or less participate in club activities. What can we do to get them to join in? Maybe nothing as we all have our license for different reasons. One guy very near me likes to build kits and test them out but doesn't talk. Just tinkers. I noticed that the program could use some refinement. It is only as good as the database that it is drawing its information from, as there are some hams noted that are SK's.

"Everyone had good questions, experiences, and ideas for how we would react and deploy if requested.." Terry (KI8N) Now back to my daily routine for the time being. I hope you can enjoy some of the nice weather we have had recently in between the showers. If you have done something radio related in the slightest let us know, take a picture, or write up a short paragraph. I'm sure we can fit it in the newsletter somewhere.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

#### Bill Stroud KD8WHQ



The May 2022 meeting of the Mount Vernon ARC was called to order at 7:01 pm by Terry Windsor (KI8N). President Frank Counts is recuperating from surgery

and VP Barry Butz is on vacation. There were 11 members in attendance;

Roger Gorrell (KE8ICI) Michael Jacobs (KC8HGE) Emery Bennett (W8TW) Don Bunner (KB8QPO) Ralph Dunmire Bill Stroud (KD8WHQ) Steven Harvey (N8RLW) Terry Windsor (KI8N) Scott Yonally (N8SY) Larry Howell (AC8YE) Rick Gilson (K8KLW)

The minutes for the June meeting were presented and there were no changes or objections. A motion to approve was made by Don Bunner and seconded by Michael Jacobs.

The Treasurer's report was presented with no objections or changes. A motion to approve was made by Michael Jacobs and seconded by Roger Gorrell.

#### ARES

Terry would like to have a tabletop exercise on July 16.

An exercise to go into the field at all the fire stations and Red Cross Shelters and see if we can hit the repeater. It would also be nice to try simplex from each location this will be scheduled in August.

The SET is scheduled for Oct. 1 and 2.

#### Repeater

There is still an issue with the controller. Don is on vacation and will be looking in to a fix at a later date.

#### **Old Business**

Field Day June 25 – 26. The location was Apple Valley. There was a suggestion to move the location to Mt. Vernon for next year. Emery Bennett is going to check with Ariel Foundation Park to see if we could set up there.

Banners – we need to investigate getting one or more new ones. Roger Gorrell will check into this.

The Icom 7300 has been ordered and will be in later this week.

#### **New Business**

Sept 10 is the OSPOA at Mohican Park. Emery Bennett will call and reserve a shelter house for us on that date.

We need to have a work party day to fix up the Radio Room. Dry wall needs spackled, painting etc.

The Fan Dipole antenna at the EOC needs put back up, one end is down.

A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Yonally and  $2^{nd}$  by Roger Gorrell. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm .



#### ARES

Terry Windsor KI8N



We finally had our ARES table top exercise on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Six MVARC members attended to participate in a simulated Knox County tornado that touched down in Fredericktown. Every-

one had good questions, experiences, and ideas for how we would react and deploy if requested.

The takeaways I noted were;

- Access to EMA radio room
- Access to Academy Building NCS
- What to do/use if the repeaters are unavailable
- How are we going to be called up/notified
- Need for ICS Form 213 submittal training
- Forms and call up procedures needed at Academy Building NCS



I will be working on providing answers to the items listed above and will notify everyone when answered.

I also want to thank Michael (KE8HGE) for bringing copies of the ICS forms that were provided during the exercise.

In August I would like to schedule an exercise where we verify our ability to contact the NCS using both repeaters and via simplex. We should verify our radio communications from Knox County Red Cross shelters, fire stations, and the hospital.

I will discuss this with the members during the August club meeting.

Another item is the upcoming Ohio SET October 1 and 2. Does Knox County want to participate? This is something I will bring up at the meeting to get member feedback.

I want to thank Larry (AC8YE) for working with me on FLDIGI. Two weeks ago I monitored the OHDEN—Ohio ARES HF Digital Net. I was able to receive and copy each station as they checked in using Olivia 8-500 via FLDIGI. I intend to become more active with this net going forward. I just listened the first time but I built my check in macro and practiced transmitting into a dummy load after the net.

The ICS-400 that was proposed by Knox County EMA has been cancelled. The ICS-400 allotments for Ohio EMA had already been filled.

Finally, I would like to remind the Sunday night ARES net managers that I would appreciate getting your information to assist me with filing the monthly ARES County report. I only need the number of people that you have check in and length of time the net was active. You can either email this to me or text me. Thanks All!

#### **Miscellaneous Rambling**

#### **Terry Windsor** KI8N



If you haven't tried the mapping web page Frank has in his article you should give it a shot. I just learned I moved? The

pointer on the map has me living on a different road and grid square than what I call home! However, it is interesting to note how many people have their licenses but must not be active. Sorry Frank, I just had to add that background image!

climbed the lighthouse at Tawas Point and

the view of Lake Huron's shore was fantas-

tic. Only downside to the trip was I caught a

nasty cold/flu. Must have been from sitting

We went camping in Oscoda, MI on the shores of Lake Huron last month for five days. The weather was fantastic and I activated two POTA entities finishing with 217 contacts. (K-4488 Huron National Forest and K-1545 Tawas Point State Park.) We

outside playing radio at night not noticing how the temperature had dropped.

Once again, I activated Kokosing Lake Wildlife Area (K-9472). I made 61 contacts via FT8 in about 2 hours. This was my 6th time activating this park.

This month is one of my favorite QSO Parties; the Ohio QSO Party. I like that the intent is to get as many Ohio counties as possible, the contest is only 12 hours, and I do not take it too serious. It is also fun being a sought after multiplier—MORR. This year the OhQP is Saturday August 27. It runs from Noon to Midnight local time. My scores are never that high but I find this contest enjoyable.

Finally, I followed the directions to register

for CORES2 and found it to be somewhat confusing. I added my FRN for both licenses (Amateur Radio and General Radiotelephone Operator) but the system seems hard to utilize. Maybe it is just me but I remember being able to access either license with the old system but as the description states

this just seems to be a file cabinet that shows your FRN. I intend to play around in it some more and hope it tends to make more sense to me.

Until next month, "Ham It Up!"

"..I'm going to walk out and dig it up and chop it into little pieces, I'll feel better then." Frank (KC8EVS)



## August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 10:00 am Breakfast - Academy Bldg	6
7 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net —Don Russell (W8PEN	8 7 pm Monthly Meeting—In Person	9	10 4:45 pm Dinner - Southside Diner	11	12 10:00 am Breakfast - Academy Bldg.	13 9:00 AM Breakfast— North Main Cafe
14 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net—G. M. Jacobs (KE8HGE)	15	16	17 4:45 pm Dinner - Southside Diner	18	19 10:00 am Breakfast - Academy Bldg.	20
21 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net— Rog- er Gorrell (KE8ICI)	22	23	24 4:45 pm Dinner - Southside Diner	25	26 10:00 am Breakfast - Academy Bldg.	27
28 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net—Terry Windsor (KI8N)	29	30	31 4:45 pm Dinner - Southside Diner			

## Ham Radio Contest Calendar

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## **Final Takeaway**

## Amateur Radio Q Codes

Code	Question	Answer or Statement
QRA	What is the name of your station?	My name is
QRG	Will you tell me my exact frequency?	Your exact frequency is _ kHz.
QRH	Does my frequency vary?	Your frequency varies.
QRI	How is the tone of my transmission?	The tone of your transmission is _ (1-good, 2- variable, 3-bad)
QRJ	Are you receiving me badly?	I cannot receive you; your signal is too weak
QRK	What is the intelligibility of my signals?	The intelligibility of your signals is _ (1-bad, 2-poor, 3-fair, 4-good, 5-excellent)
QRL	Are you busy?	I am busy please do not interfere.
QRM	Is my transmission being interfered with?	Your transmission is being interfered with (1- Nil, 2-Slightly, 3-Moderately, 4-Severly, 5- Extremely.)
QRN	Are you troubled by static (noise of natural origin)?	I am troubled by static (1-5 as under QRM.)
QRO	Shall Lincrease power?	Increase power.
QRP	Shall I decrease power?	Decrease power.
QRQ	Shall I send faster?	Send faster ( WPM.)
QRS	Shall I send more slowly?	Send more slowly ( WPM.)
QRT	Shall I stop sending?	Close transmissions.
QRU	Have you anything for me?	I have nothing for you.
QRV	Are you ready?	I am ready.
QRW	Shall I inform that you are calling?	Please inform that I am calling.
QRX	When will you call me again?	I will call you again at hours.
QRZ	Who is calling me?	You are being called by
QSA	What is the strength of my signals?	The strength of your signals is (1-Scarcely per- ceptible, 2-Weak, 3-Fairly Good, 4-Good, 5-Very Good.)
QSB	Are my signals fading?	Your signals are fading.
QSD	Is my keying defective?	Your keying is defective.
QSG	Shall I send messages at a time?	Send messages at a time.
QSK	Can you hear me between you signals and if so can I break in on your transmission?	I can hear you between my signals, break in on my transmission.
QSL	Can you acknowledge receipt?	I am acknowledging receipt.
QSM	Shall I repeat the last message which I sent you?	Repeat the last message.

Code	Question	Answer or Statement
QSN	Did you hear me on kHz?	l did hear you on kHz.
QSO	Can you communicate with direct or by relay?	I can communicate with direct (or by relay through)
QSP	Will you relay to?	I will relay to
QSR	Do you want me to repeat my call?	Please repeat your call.
QSS	What working frequency will you use?	I will use the working frequency kHz (or MHz).
QST		Here is a broadcast message to all amateurs.
QSU	Shall I send or reply on this frequency?	Send a series of Vs on this frequency.
QSW	Will you send on this frequency?	I am going to send on this frequency.
QSX	Will you listen to (call sign(s)) on kHz (or MHz))?	I am listening to (call sign(s) on kHz (or MHz)).
QSZ	Shall I send each word or group more than once?	Send each word or group twice (or times.)
QTA	Shall I cancel message number?	Cancel message number
QTC	How many messages have you to send?	I have messages for you.
QTH	What is your location?	My location is
QTR	What is the correct time?	The time is

#### Amateur Radio Q Codes Continued

#### What are Q Codes?



Q-Codes (also called Q-Signals) are three letter combinations that begin with the letter Q that CW operators use in place of common phrases. Originally intended for use only by radiotelegraph operators, Qcodes have become a permanent part of the hobby's jargon, and many hams use them on phone as well as in face-to-face conversations.

There are several in this listing that are rarely if ever used. The most commonly used are highlighted in **yellow**.

#### **Miscellaneous Amateur Radio Information**

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

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





#### The Ohio Single Side-Band Net (OSSBN)

Ohio Single Side-Band Net; Ohio connection for what is going on in the Ohio Traffic System. The Net meets on 3.972.5 MHz at 10:30 am, 4:15 pm, and 6:45 pm daily.

Alternate Frequency for all sessions is 3.968 MHz.

#### **Central Ohio Traffic Net**



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 to handle traffic. COTN meets daily at 7:15 pm on 146.970, -.600 MHz, PL 123.0. Signal Operating Instructions and frequencies given here: <u>https://www.cotn.us/sop</u>

#### **Area Radio Clubs**

Delaware Amateur Radio Association: <u>http://k8es.org/</u> Newark Amateur Radio Assoc: <u>https://www.n8ara.org/</u> (Mansfield) InterCity Amateur Radio Club: <u>https://iarc.club/</u> 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 Icom 7300 has been ordered and will be in later this week." Meeting Minutes)

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

G9C01 Which of the following would increase the bandwidth of a Yagi antenna?

- A. Larger-diameter elements
- B. Closer element spacing
- C. Loading coils in series with the element
- D. Tapered-diameter elements

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 the operation

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

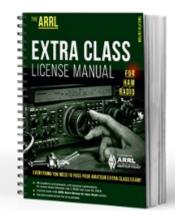
E9H02 Which is generally true for low band (160 meter and 80 meter) receiving antennas?

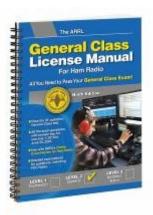
- A. Low loss coax transmission line is essential for good performance
- B. They must be erected at least 1/2 wavelength above the ground to attain good directivity
- C. Atmospheric noise is so high that gain over a dipole is not important
- D. All of these choices are correct

E9C05 Which of the following is a type of OCFD antenna?

- A. A multiband dipole antenna using one-way circular polarization for frequency diversity
- B. A remotely tunable dipole antenna using orthogonally controlled frequency diversity
- C. A dipole antenna fed approximately 1/3 the way from one end with a 4:1 balun to provide multiband operation
- D. A folded dipole center-fed with 300-ohm transmission line

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





#### **FCC and License Updates**



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

Effective Thursday **May 20, 2021**, all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number (<u>FRN</u>) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) BE-FORE 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>instructional 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.

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.

#### Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License (By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial "reference copy" - from the ULS License Manager. I 've created a set of instructions on how you can request an "official" printed copy of your license. Click here to download the instructions

#### **FCC Application Fee Filing Guide**

The FCC fee must be paid online directly to the FCC not to the VE team or organization processing the application form.

\$35 Fee: new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application. NO FEE: administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, modification applications to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign and license cancellation.

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE FCC APPLICATION FEE AND VEC FILED APPLICATIONS**

It's been three months since the FCC application fee was implemented on April 19, 2022. Here's what we know so far...

1 - MAKE SURE EXAMINEES UNDERSTAND THEY MUST PAY WITHIN 10 DAYS. Examinees do **NOT** have to wait for the email from the FCC to pay the fee. As soon as an the application file number is issued by the FCC, they can pay by logging into the CORES <u>Payer\_FRN</u> <u>System</u> or the CORES FRN Registration system (<u>CORES - Login</u>).

Application File Number search using an FRN: FCC Application File Number Search

CORES payment system background information and instructions: Information.

CORES step-by-step payment instructions: FCC Application Fee Instructions

**2** - The FCC help center stated there is a <u>known issue</u> with individuals paying the \$35 application fee via a smartphone or tablet. This is not a new issue, and they haven't been able to help troubleshoot the issue at the support center. **Encourage candidates to login and pay the FCC application fee from a computer**.

**3** – Examinees should not amend any applications that a VEC submits on their behalf, especially **NEW** license applications. Amending VEC filed applications will cause the application to be **dismissed without action** in the FCC system and potentially require the applicant to pay another \$35 fee. If there is a minor mistake on the application, either call us and we can correct and resubmit the application, or the individual can pay the fee, be issued the call sign, and then log back in and make corrections.

**4** - Individuals should review their application **BEFORE** paying the fee. If there is a <u>major</u> error on the application, such as the licensee's name or license class earned is incorrect, or the answer to the felony question is wrong, **DO NOT PAY** the fee. Call the VEC immediately.

**5** - When in doubt, **call the VEC!** Even if you think you shouldn't bother us with your question, call us anyway.

**6** - Distribute these instructions to candidates and refer them to our <u>FCC application fee</u> webpage for information and instructions.

#### FCC Legacy CORES System—Retired

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) retired the <u>Legacy version</u> of its COmmission REgistration System (CORES) on July 15, 2022. CORES is the FCC's public-facing database that enables and tracks certain types of FCC and FCC applicant actions, including amateur radio applications and licenses. Its implementation has enabled routine amateur applications and licenses to be issued overnight instead of over weeks, as was the case with earlier methods. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio<sup>®</sup> advises the amateur radio community to transition to the <u>updated version of CORES</u> as soon as possible.

In essence, CORES is designed to identify those who hold certain types of FCC licenses and FCC authorizations, including amateur licenses, and organize them in an easily accessible manner under a common FCC Registration Number (FRN) regardless of whether one holds a single such authority or thousands. The new CORES, in addition to assigning individual FRNs, allows holders of multiple FRNs to aggregate them under a single account where the licenses and authorization, fees and payments, and related actions can be administered from within the same account.

In effect, new CORES can be conceptualized as an electronic interactive file folder. The <u>updated version of CORES</u> has been available since 2016, and now its use will be mandatory for all amateur licensees when submitting amateur-related applications.

Starting on July 15, 2022, the Legacy CORES website will re-direct users to the <u>Commission's</u> <u>updated CORES</u> site. Although some functionalities in the old system will continue to work for a short time, the <u>FCC has urged all users</u> to transition to the updated CORES system to take advantage of its enhanced security and functionality.

#### Scan with your camera for CORES Registration System



#### **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.





"The OhQP is Saturday August 27. It runs from Noon to Midnight local time." Terry (KI8N)

## NOTICE:

## Parking at the Academy Build on Friday morning breakfast gatherings.

The second floor of the Academy Building has been rented and we were notified the parking lot at the back of the building is in the lease.

<u>Therefore, this parking lot is no longer available for</u> <u>MVARC to use on Friday mornings.</u>

Please ensure you park in the front of the building and walk around to the back entrance to gain access to the meeting location. Please respect the tenants and their lease agreement. This does not affect monthly club meetings as they are held after business hours for the second floor lessee.



### New Technician Class (Element 2) Question Pool took effect July 1, 2022.

Answers to sample test questions on page 11.

- G9C01: A Larger-diameter elements
- G9C03: B The reflector is longer, and the director is shorter
- E9H02: C Atmospheric noise is so high that gain over a dipole is not important
- E9C05: C A dipole antenna fed approximately 1/3 the way from one end with a 4:1 balun to provide multiband operation



#### **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 <u>fourth Friday</u> of the month for inclusion into the next monthly newsletter.

Please note the contact email for the MVARC newsletter is: admin@mvarc.net.

The **MVARC CQ** is the official newsletter of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club.

# Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club Serving Greater Knox County, Ohio