

# September 2023

2023 Edition 9



# Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

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## MVARC Repeaters

K8EEN VHF Repeater  
146.790 MHz  
- 600KHz

K8EEN-R Echolink Node:  
809800

K8EEN UHF Repeater  
444.600 MHz  
+5 MHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

## President's View

Frank Counts

KC8EVS



I hope that all is well there at your QTH. It is the usual mayhem here but that has become the norm. At the last meeting we voted to endorse, as a club, Scott Yonally for Great Lakes Division Director for the ARRL. He has decided to run, and the election will be this fall. So, if you are an ARRL member please consider voting for Scott. There is someone running against him so I know that your vote will be greatly appreciated, and it would be fantastic to have an ARRL Director as a member of the club. Check out his web page [n8sy.com](http://n8sy.com) or look him up on QRZ for more information.

The second announcement concerns the PIO position that we voted on last month. I would like to appoint Steve, N8RLW to that position with the approval of the directors. I think Steve will do a great job. We will be developing this role in the next coming months, so stay tuned.

As I am writing this, I am getting ready for Ohio State Parks on the Air, hopefully we will meet there prior to the club meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7p.

73



## Meeting Minutes

**Bill Stroud**

**KD8WHQ**



The August 2023 meeting of the Mt. Vernon ARC was called to order at 7:00 pm by Frank, KC8EVS. He asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July

Minutes. Hearing none the meeting minutes were approved as published.

### **Treasurers Report**

Frank, KC8EVS presented the treasurers report for Terry. There were no changes or corrections to the report and the report was approved as read.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **ARES**

The S.E.T. is on Oct. 7 and 8. Terry is working on setting it up.

#### **ARRL**

Scott, N8SY, was not at the meeting. He is running for the Great Lakes Division Director. He has a web page set up at [N8SY.com](http://N8SY.com) if you wish to review his resume.

The club voted to endorse Scott for the position of Great Lakes Division Director.

#### **Repeaters**

Steven, N8RLW reported that the amp for the repeater has been repaired and returned. He will take it to have it checked. If there are no issues will reinstall it. The new PL board will be

available in September and will be installed then.

#### **MESH / EchoLink**

Don, W8PEN, found he had a bad connection with the internet. His internet company repaired it. Echolink is working correctly.

The MESH nodes at the hospital and the water tower are not currently working.

### **Old Business**

#### **Tech Class / V.E. Testing**

A new Tech class will start on Aug 29 with testing on Oct. 11.

#### **Events**

Frank talked about the First Friday event and how there was a lot of interest in the club. He suggested better signs, handouts, and more use of radios during the event.

Frank asked the Director's to start looking into nominations for Officers for next year.

North American QSO Party is Aug 26 from 2 pm to 2 am.

Ohio QSO Party is Aug 29 from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

On Oct 23 the club will be making a presentation on the club to Mt. Vernon City Council.

Ohio State Park on the Air is September 9.

Xmas Party – no date yet. Steven is looking at getting prices for food and other options. He will report back next month.

## New Business

Steven suggested that we investigate getting matching shirts, hats etc. for use on Field Day, First Friday and other dates. He will get pricing information by next month's meeting.

### Public Information Officer

Frank asked if everyone had a chance to review the changes in the By-Laws to a Public Information Officer. Everyone said yes and there were no issues brought up. A motion to except the changes was made by Don, W8PEN and seconded by Michael KE8HGE and the motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:35 pm by Steven and seconded by Roger, KE8ICI. The motion passed.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Emery Bennett, W8TW.

June Meeting Members Present	
Frank Counts, KC8EVS	Wayne Bower, WB8WB
Emery Bennet, W8TW	Ralph Bower, KC8REB
Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI	Wendell Combs, KE8NUX
Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE	Sean Lehmen, KE8YUS
Tom Evans, KD8HSA	Don Russell, W8PEN
Steve Harvey, N8RLW	Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ
Barry Butz, N8PPF	Bill Bullock



## Radio Active

**Don Russell**

**W8PEN**



A few members of the club took advantage of the club's station and operated during the Ohio QSO party. It was a nice and relaxing contest. No pressure for a high score. No need to set up antennas in the field. The bands were in really good shape and overflowing with activity from both the Ohio and Kansas QSO Parties. Made for a really good time.

I got to the club station about two hours before the start of the QSO Party. I had tried the night before to install the logging software we were going to use. Unsuccessfully. I wanted to try installing the program again. No such luck. Two computers and two failures.

Luckily, I had installed the software without issues onto my personal laptop, so I was not too worried about it. However, when I checked it out, my computer power supply was causing a slight noise in the Icom IC-7300's receiver. Probably not bad enough to worry about, but some noise indeed.

Roger, KE8ICI, came to the rescue with yet another computer. This computer worked flawlessly with no noise if you didn't unplug it. The laptop battery was completely shot.

Roger and I had everything ready to go about five minutes before the start of the QSO Party. Cutting it close, but ready we were!

The group used both SSB and CW. I was the CW man. Since we don't have the CW keyer working with the computer yet, I had to manually send all the code with the paddle. Well, not everything, as the IC-7300 can be programmed to send some memorized CW messages (as well as voice, I might add). Contesting on CW without the usual keying assist from the computer was kind of fun. Wouldn't want to do it for 24 hours, but a few hours were good.

The group made exactly 200 contacts. I had quit working some CW at 9:00PM to allow some of the other operators to get some airtime. As it turned out, we decided to wrap it up and never got back on the air. Had I known that I might have kept working CW. In retrospect, I should have stayed until the end of the Party. There were at least 100 contacts left on the table.

The group consisted of Frank Counts (KC8EVS), Barry Butz (N8PPF), Roger Gorrell (KE8ICI), Steven Harvey (N8RLW), Wendell Combs (KE8NUX), and Don Russell (W8PEN).

Personally, I am confused as to why we do not have more members join us for these activities. Since the station is already set up, the hardest thing to do is to drive over to the Academy building and walk up the steps to our club room. By the way, elevator chairs were installed on the steps. Those club members that have trouble walking up steps can now enjoy a ride up to the club room.

I would like to start a monthly operating day or evening to allow club members that do not yet have their own radio shack to come in and get a little experience operating. But I have been holding off on doing so until I see an uptick in interest in what operating events the club does participate in.

Enough of that. On to other things.

Earlier this year I decided to exchange my 2 meter / 70cm mobile for an all mode, all band transceiver. This way, I could work HF when away from home. I am not necessarily interested in talking on HF while driving, but more so while at a standstill. Parking lot, campgrounds, etc. There were very few transceivers that fit my requirements. Which were 160 - 10 meters HF, 6 meters, 2 meters, and 70 cm. Plus, all modes: SSB, FM, and CW. It also had to fit in the limited space I had in my truck.

My choice was the Icom IC-7100. This transceiver met all my requirements. It fits in the limited space under the dash of the truck because it has a funny looking control head that just happens to do so.

I decided to put the transceiver itself under the back seat of the truck and run the remote head to under dash. The speaker used was an external one mounted to the driver's seat and positioned so the drivers' ear was close enough as to not raise the volume too loud.



**Remote head mounted under the dash**



**IC-7100 mounted under the back seat**

The antenna is an MFJ-1699S multi-band antenna. This antenna covers 80 through 6 meters, using taps to tune the antenna to the desired band. I also have a Hustler mobile antenna with coils for 40, 20, and 10 meters.

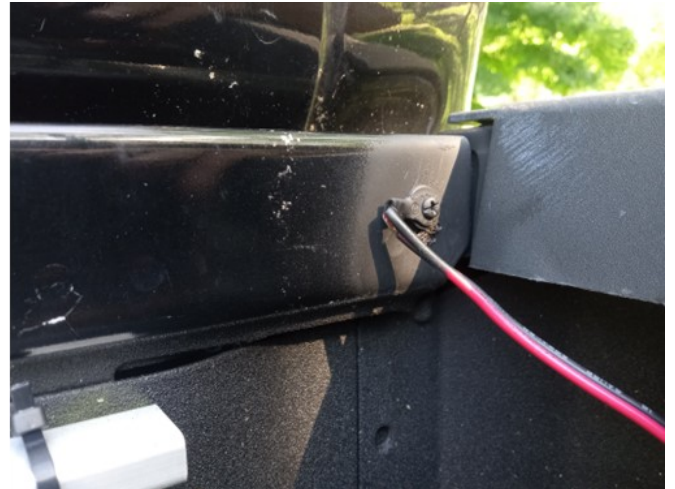
While the Hustler antenna is a much better one performance wise, it is eight feet long. It tends to hit low hanging stuff. Like trees and carports. Therefore, I usually use the MFJ antenna. It is only 45 inches long. About the size of a 2 meter mobile antenna. The MFJ does a decent job on 20 meters.

Probably works better on 15 and 10 meters, but I have not tried it on those bands. I have made a few contacts with the antenna on 40 meters. I have not tried the antenna on 80 meters.

The antenna mount for the HF band is bolted to the truck at a point that is not grounded to the chassis. Therefore, I had to run a ground wire over to the truck cab. Doing so required drilling a small hole and using a self-tapping screw, then applying some Rustoleum paint to keep this point from rusting out.

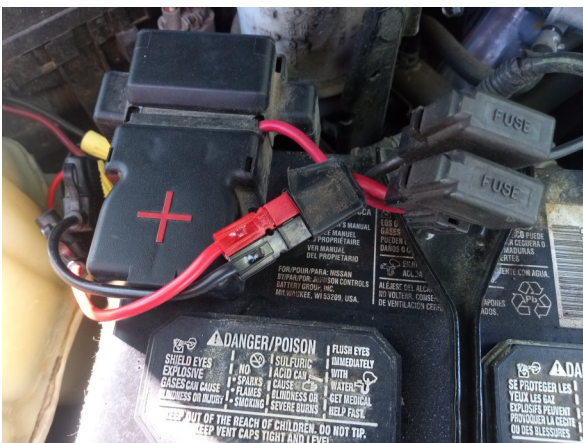


**Antenna mount**



**Ground to chassis**

One unique feature of my mobile set up is that I put an Anderson power connector on the battery. As I said, I prefer operating mobile when parked somewhere. The power cable to the battery is long enough to reach the ground on the opposite side of the car. A convenient place to put a deep cycle battery. When I operate for an extended time while parked (like doing Parks on the Air), I disconnect the car battery and use the deep cycle battery. Takes about thirty seconds to set up.



Overall, I am very happy with this setup. Despite the small size of the MFJ-1699S, it seems to work well on 20 meters. I find that I do a lot of listening on 20 meters when there is nobody to talk to on the repeater.

73.

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 am— Breakfast	2
3 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net—Don (W8PEN)	4	5	6 4:45 pm Dinner	7	8 9:00 am— Breakfast	9
10 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net— Roger (KE8ICI)	11 <b>7 pm MVARC Meeting</b>	12	13 4:45 pm Dinner	14	15 9:00 am— Breakfast	16
17 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net— Michael (KE8HGE)	18	19	20 4:45 pm Dinner	21	22 9:00 am— Breakfast	23 First Day of Autumn
24 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net—Terry (K18N)	25	26	27 4:45 pm Dinner	28	29	30

## Ham Radio Contest Calendar



## Miscellaneous Rambling

Terry Windsor

K18N



**Sorry this month's newsletter is late and very condensed.**

Last month I was telling of pain in my lower back and how hard it is to schedule a doctor. I had an MRI in August but my back is feeling better and a new more serious medical condition has occurred. So my spine specialist appointment has been rescheduled 6 months into the future.

Friday September 8th I was diagnosed with an aggressive diffuse large B-cell Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The last three weeks I have been in severe pain in my abdominal area. During the course of 2 CT scans, a PET scan, and a lymph node biopsy the oncologist has determined what is affecting me.

I start chemotherapy Monday 11 September for the first of six scheduled treatments.

Dr. Rasheed believes it is curable. However this is going to sideline me for most of what is remaining of this year.

I had been working on a scenario for the ARES SET next month but not sure I am going to be able to participate at this time. The SET is the same week as my second chemotherapy session.

Until next month "Be safe and Ham it UP"!

## FM Repeater Nets In And Around Knox County

County	Net	Frequency	Day and Time
Ashland	No net as of 03.30.2023		
Coshocton	CCRA	147.045 PL 71.9	Every Sunday 9:00 PM
	ARES	147.045 PL 71.9	Every Monday 8:00 PM
Delaware	Monday Night Net	145.170 PL 74.4	Every Monday 8:00 PM
Holmes	No net as of 03.30.2023		
<b>Knox</b>	<b>ARES Sunday Night Net</b>	<b>146.790 PL 71.9</b>	<b>Every Sunday 9:00 PM</b>
Licking	N8RA Tuesday Night Net	146.880 PL 141.3 444.500 PL 141.3	Every Tuesday 9:00 PM on the 146.880 except for the last Tuesday of the month they check in on the 444.500 repeater.
Morrow	Morrow County Information Net	146.775 PL 107.2	Every Sunday 9:00 PM
Richland	IRAC Net - Mansfield	146.940 PL 71.9	Every Wednesday 8:00 PM

Has anyone tried contacting any of the other nets? We have several operators from Licking County joining our Sunday Night Net and it would be great if we could reciprocate and join their net!

## September MVARC MEETING

**September 11 at 7 pm.**

Academy Building  
790 Fairgrounds Rd.  
Mount Vernon, OH

## MVARC

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\* President

Frank Counts, KC8EVS

\* Vice President

Barry Butz, N8PPF

\* Secretary

Scott Yonally, N8SY

\* 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

Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ

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## Editors Notes

The MVARC Newsletter is delivered to club members via email containing a link to the MVARC webpage, Member Pages heading.



*Thanks to all for your assistance with the MVARC Newsletter; in 2023 we were selected as the fourth best newsletter in the Ohio Section.*

Please note the contact email for the MVARC newsletter is: [admin@mvarc.net](mailto:admin@mvarc.net).

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

## Web Page

MVARC.net

## Facebook Page

[https://  
www.facebook.com/  
mvarc](https://www.facebook.com/mvarc)

