

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

April 2025

2025 Edition 4



Inside this issue:

President's View.....	2
Meeting Minutes.....	3
MVARC Calendar	5
ARES.....	6
New Ham Info	7
Meeting Notice.....	7
MVARC Calendar	5
Miscellaneous Rambling.....	8
Knox County Repeaters	9
FM Repeater Nets	9
Final Takeaway.....	10
Ohio Hamfests.....	10
Training Schedule	11
MVARC Officers.....	12



MVARC Repeaters

K8EEN

146.790 MHz

- 600KHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

K8EEN-R EchoLink Node:
809800

K8EEN

444.600 MHz

+5 MHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

Meeting Notice

April Meeting: April 14 @ 7:00 pm—Academy Building on Fairgrounds Road. **NOTE: Meetings have been moved back to Monday evening.**



President's View

Frank, KC8EVS

Home from Florida, had a great trip. The weather was great, making the drive more enjoyable. The only thing that would make it a better drive is if I could bypass Nashville. We got there in plenty of time to see our newest grandchild born which was the reason for making the trip. Mom and baby are doing fine.

The weather this week has been great. I hope that this is the case at the end of the month as we have a couple of events. First is NVIS Day on April 26 from 10a-4p. I'm going to setup at Thayer Ridge Park. Others will be set up at different county parks which will be determined at the April meeting. If you have an idea for an NVIS antenna, bring it out we will set it up and see how it works.

The second event is the Black Fork Gravel Grinder on May 3rd. This is a fun event, with more details to be discussed at the April meeting. If possible, put this on your calendar, help is always needed.

We don't have any other events until the end of June and that is Field Day. Again, everyone is welcome to come out and operate. We always need more operators. We will be setting up at Apple Valley again up behind the Floral Valley Center behind the pickle ball courts.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting April 14 at 7p. Note we are switching back to the second Monday instead of Saturday, at the same location.

73

NVIS	April 26 : 10 am—4 pm
Blackfork Gravel Grinder	May 3, 2025
Field Day	June 27-29 , 2025
OSPOTA	Sep 6, 2025
POTA Activation	TBD
First Friday	August 1: Space #9
Family Palooza (Apple Valley, Floral Valley)	TBD

**Every Sunday night on the Mount 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? We are on IRLP (EchoLink) K8EEN-R Node 809800.

Meeting Minutes

Terry, KI8N



Call To Order

The February 2025 meeting of the Mt. Vernon ARC was called to order by Frank, KC8EVS at 10:00 am. With 18 attendees.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes for last month were presented. There were no changes. The minutes were passed as read. Motion by Scott, N8SY and Emery, W8TW.

Treasurers Report

Terry KI8N provided an account of the current balance of all bank accounts and expenditures for February 2025. There were no additions or corrections, and the report was approved as presented. Motion by Emery, W8TW and Roger, KE8ICI.

Committee Reports

ARES

Tony, KE8OOE asked that all MVARC ARES members attend the National Weather Service online Skywarn training. He also noted Advanced Skywarn online training is scheduled April 21st. [Spotter Training Schedule](#)

Tony is also looking for a picture of a wall cloud—if you have one please forward it to Tony.

Winlink training will be scheduled in April (See schedule under ARES in this newsletter) via Zoom. It is expected to take one hour. This training is meant for ARES members that have limited Winlink knowledge. Tony intends to go over how to access Winlink included reporting forms.

Tony has also met with the 911 center personnel to locate the 2M radio. They had no luck locating the radio or the coax installation to the antenna.

ARRL

Scott, N8SY has been working on ARRL committee activity for the upcoming July board meeting. Specifics to be released after the board meeting.

Repeaters

Roger, KE8ICI reported the Hytera 2M (Model 179) repeater is working fine but there is some scratchiness with the duplexer. The issue is believed to be caused by a leaky capacitor within the duplexer can—reported as a 60 Hz crackle. Stephen, N8RLW has purchased a set and will be donating them to MVARC once they have been returned from Vasu. Expected time frame is 6 weeks. Stephen is also planning a controller software upgrade when the duplexer is replaced.

Stephen's set of duplexer cavities is at VASU Communications for check out and RX and TX tuning.

Roger reported the 444.600 MHz repeater is working with no issues.

There is also one duplexer cannister in the club room that Don, W8PEN thinks we should sell at the Columbus Hamfest since we no longer need it.

EchoLink

Don, W8PEN reported that the EchoLink system is working well. Don is planning to move the EchoLink equipment from his home shack to the Academy Building.

Mesh Network

Don, W8PEN reported no change in status. Still planning to disconnect and remove all Mesh equipment once the weather warms up.

Remote Radio Connection

Don, W8PEN has the remote connection to the IC-7300 working and plans to add operator access in March.

Don and Stephen, N8RLW have been successfully operating from their QTH's.

Don is planning to test with the Kenwood TS-570 this month.

Don noted that for club members to access the radio they must have a good internet connection so audio does not drop out.

Directors

Michael, KE8HGE stated no new business for MVARC Directors.

License and Exam Testing

Michael, KE8HGE has four students taking the Tech Class. Testing session scheduled in April.

New Business

Evan, KF8APC has volunteered to become the new MVARC Public Information Officer (PIO). He will be working to get word out about club activities.

NVIS Day is April 26 from 10 am through 4 pm. MVARC will set up at a couple of Knox County regional parks. The parks listed were Thayer Ridge, Wolf Run and Foundation Park. More discussion at the April club meeting.

August 1st was reported as the date for MVARC to have a booth at Mount Vernon's First Friday celebration.

A club POTA activation was discussed in either July or August or both. Closest parks are Mohican State Park, Mount Gilead State Park and Kokosing Lake State Wildlife Area.

Stephen, N8RLW is looking for volunteers for the Black Fork Gravel Grinder, May 3. MVARC sets up at three locations to assist race officials. Let Stephen know if you are interested in helping.

Club members present at the meeting voted to return to Monday evening meetings. The April meeting will be on Monday April 14th at 7 pm.

Raffle

Emery, W8TW won the 50/50 raffle and donated the amount to the club.

Meeting adjourned – motion by Jim, KD8IZT and Emery, W8TW.

Members in attendance:

Frank, KC8EVS

Roger, KE8ICI

Tyler, K8RTS

Nathan, KE0RYO

Emery, W8TW

Larry, AC8YE

Evan, KF8APC

Barry, N8PPF

Tony, KE8OOE

Don, KB8QPO

Jim, KD8IZT

Stephen, N8RLW

Michael, KE8HGE

Darlene, WS8W

Tom, KD8HSA



Terry, KI8N

Don, W8PEN

Scott, N8SY





<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4 9:00 am— Breakfast McDonalds	5
6 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	7	8	9 4:45 pm Dinner	10	11 9:00 am— Breakfast McDonalds	12 Passover Begins
13 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net Palm Sunday	14 CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM 	15 TAX DAY 	16 4:45 pm Dinner	17	18 9:00 am— Breakfast McDonalds Good Friday	19
20 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net Easter	21	22 Earth Day	23 4:45 pm Dinner	24	25 9:00 am— Breakfast McDonalds Arbor Day	26 NVIS Day 10 AM
27 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	28	29	30 4:45 pm Dinner			

Link to: [Ham Radio Contest Calendar](#)

ARES

Tony, KE8OOE

Winlink Training

Tony, KE8OOE Knox County ARES EC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Winlink**

Time: Apr 12, 2025 09:00 AM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86339199376?pwd=XNEROqoSUcYUXb9mAEZzc6Jbvcwg14.1>

Meeting ID: 863 3919 9376

Passcode: 617708

Knox County ARES Map

This link is the Knox County ARES (KCARES) group member map. This map should be a great indication of who you should be able to reach via Simplex if the repeater and back up repeater goes down. The simplex frequency we will be using is the National Simplex frequency 146.520 MHz. This is a frequency every ARES group should have on their list. Please program this into your radios.

Here is the map:



New Ham Information

If you are a new ham (less than 6 months ago) you are eligible for the [QRZ New Ham Jumpstart Program](#).

Click on the link or go to QRZ.com and scroll down to the box for the Jumpstart Program.

This program is designed to promote amateur radio to the masses, helping to eliminate a possible barrier to entry by providing new hams with everything they'll need to get on the air at a very reasonable price. Note: this radio is made by TYT.



Includes:

- Explorer QRZ-1 Handheld Radio (made by TYT)
- 1400mAh Battery (ZXP-BAT-10)
- Charging Cradle with AC Adapter
- Antenna (SMA)
- Owner's Manual

Contact Us

Mail

MVARC

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“Who can tell truth from falsehood any more? I say it, and you feel it in your hearts: no man or woman on this big small earth. How should our sages miss the mark of life, and our most skillful players lose the game? your hearts will tell you, as my heart has told me: because all know, and no one understands.” E. E. Cummings

Miscellaneous Rambling

Terry, KI8N



March sure passed in a hurry or so it seemed. Another month with little to show. Cath and I did take a trip to Missouri for my mother's 85th birthday and that was fun.

As far as radio activities I participated in five POTA activations; two at Mohican State Park and three in MO.

I am working on a POTA Kilo award for Mohican State Park but still need 207 contacts. I hope to finish this in April or May.

In MO I made 60 SSB contacts at each of three parks close to Boonville using the KX3, a 9 ah LifePO4 battery, and a Silver Bullet 1000 Wolf River Coil. I am enjoying working with the KX3 at 10 watts and find it amazing how far it reaches usually with a 55 through 59 signal report. I am also happy with the performance of the WRC using a 17' whip, and 12 ground radials. The best part of this setup is everything is light, easy to pack, and I can carry it to where I want to set up in one trip.

Cath got a new call sign assigned this month. Her father had been WA8KJJ since the 1960's and he passed away on Veteran's Day last year. She provided the necessary information to the FCC and on March 11 his call sign was assigned to her. A lady at the FCC was very helpful with the process, needed information, and where to send it.

Has anyone been working the DX expeditions going on? I have been trying to get a few and so far have worked V26K; Antigua & Barbuda, TO1P; Saint Barthelemy, V6WG; Micronesia, and D68Z; Comoros Island. I have been using [Ham 365](#) to see who is online. There are quite a few going on but I just haven't been able to hear a lot of them. Guess I will just continue monitoring and listening to who is active and attempt to contact.

With Tony ramping up ARES I purchased a Yaesu FTM-150Rasp mobile dual band radio for the vehicle. Having an HT and trying to make contact from who knows where was probably not going to work well. The hardest part of this setup was finding an antenna mount that would work on a Jeep Wrangler. Eventually found one that fits from an off road retailer. I will get the radio installed when it gets here from Yaesu in CA.

Still looking for ideas for the newsletter Final Takeaway column. My idea bucket is getting low and I need some input as to what would be interesting or helpful. Looking for topic suggestions that would be of interest to more than one or two hams. Let me know if you think of anything.

Time to start planning and building your antenna for NVIS day. There are good resources/plans on the web and I think trying something new and even slightly odd is the most fun. Why have a boring antenna? If it doesn't work as good as you hoped you tried and it can always be recycled into a different antenna next time.

Cath and I bought e-bikes and plan to ride some of the bike trails in the area. I keep getting told I need to get exercise and be active to build my core strength. Looking forward to getting out and riding.

Lastly, I am starting to work on the old Galaxy 500 again. I have the front bumper, grill, battery tray, support brackets, and assorted weather stripping removed. Next is removal of the core support that braces the front fenders and holds the radiator. The removed rusty steel components have been cleaned and primed but still need a couple of coats of black paint. Just need dry and warm weather so the paint can dry properly. Took all this off to clean and paint but also to make it easier to reinstall the engine and transmission together.

Have a good month and now back to your regularly scheduled day, me working on my ongoing project list, and hoping everyone is radio active!

"Be safe and Ham it UP"!

**Have you ever looked at
someone and thought SHUT
UP!**



**And they weren't even
Speaking.**

*"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."
Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Knox County Repeaters

K8EEN

146.790 PL 71.9

Type: Analog Only

Features: Weather Net, ARES Net at 9:00PM on Sunday EchoLink: 809800

444.600 PL 71.9

Digital ID 00 for C4FM/Fusion

Type: Automatic Mix mode, Analog and Yaesu C4FM/Fusion

Features: Backup to the 146.790 machine.

KD8EVR Repeater

442.100 PL 71.9

Type: Automatic Mixed mode, Analog and DMR

Color Code: CC7 (which is the digital PL of DMR)

TalkGroups with TimeSlots

TimeSlot1

Local 9 - Local Traffic Only

313964 - Knox, Morrow and Marion County Link

31395 - ARES USA only

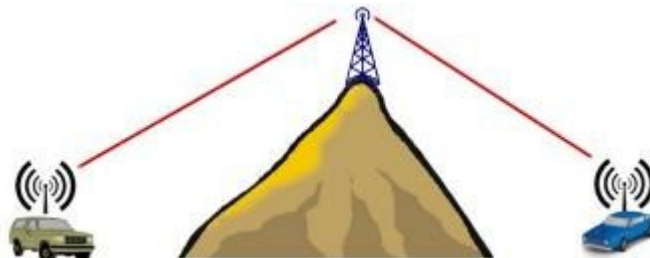
Timeslot2

Local 2 - Local Traffic Only

3139 - Ohio Statewide 10-minute limit

31391 - Northeast Ohio

31398 - EMCOMM



FM Repeater Nets In And Around Knox County

County	Net	Frequency	Day and Time
Delaware	Monday Night Net	145.170 PL 74.4	Every Monday 8:00 PM
Knox	ARES Sunday Night Net	146.790 PL 71.9	Every Sunday 9:00 PM EchoLink K8EEN– R Node: 809800
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

“The sage embraces things. Ordinary men discriminate amongst them and parade their discriminations before others. So I say; those who discriminate, fail to see.” Zhuangzi

Final Takeaway—Amateur Radio Equipment Warning

Be careful purchasing amateur radios where the deal seems too good to be true or the supposedly new item was discontinued by the manufacturer possibly over a year ago.

Walmart is advertising a new Yaesu FT-2980R 144 MHz transceiver at a new price. Beware, this radio has been discovered as being a pirated unit and is not a Walmart item but is actually delivered by a third party out of China. Yaesu discontinued this radio over a year ago and new units from authorized dealers are no longer available.



During programming tests with RT Software it was found the radio will not go into CLONE mode with the key presses from the front of the radio. The RT Systems software will not work with this specific pirated radio. Yaesu will also not provide warranty coverage.

Other specific examples are fantastic radio deals on eBay or other used equipment sites that are selling radios that are not made for the US market but instead for Europe or Asia. There are no mods that will make these work with frequencies in the US allocation and any repair work that needs to be done will require these radios to be returned to the proper country as US repair centers are not authorized to work on radios not FCC Part 97 certified. Beware, not all online retailers are authorized dealers or will tell you the country the radio was built for.

Buying a used ham radio can be a great way to save money, but there are some potential pitfalls. Here are some key warnings and considerations before making a purchase:

Check the Legality & Licensing

- Ensure you have the necessary license to operate the radio.
- Confirm that the radio complies with FCC regulations.

Inspect the Condition

- Physical Damage: Look for signs of wear, corrosion, or damage to knobs, buttons, and connectors.
- Screen & Display: If it has a digital display, check for missing pixels, faded text, or scratches.
- Power & Cables: Verify that all necessary power cables, antennas, and connectors are included and in good shape.

Test Before Buying

- If possible, power it on and test transmission and reception.
- Listen to audio quality and check for static, weak signals, or distortion.
- Try changing frequencies and settings to ensure full functionality.

Research the Model

- Check reviews and common issues reported by other users of the model.
- Verify that the manufacturer still supports the model (firmware updates, parts availability).
- Be cautious with very old radios, as they may have outdated technology or be difficult to repair.

Verify Modifications & Tampering

- Avoid radios that have been improperly modified, as they may not function correctly or could be illegal to operate.
- Check if any unauthorized modifications have been made, especially regarding power output or frequency ranges.

Ask About the Seller

- Buy from reputable sources such as ham radio clubs, online marketplaces with good reviews, or licensed ham operators.
- Be wary of sellers who refuse to provide details about the radio's history or usage.

Check Pricing

- Compare prices with similar models to ensure you're getting a fair deal.
- Be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true, they often are.

"The reason people find it so hard to be happy is that they always see the past better than it was, the present worse than it is, and the future less resolved than it will be." Marcel Pagnol

Ohio ARRL Sanctioned Hamfests

Ohio ARRL Hamfest gatherings and Conventions

[Ohio Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfests.](https://arrrl-ohio.org/hamfests/)

Or

<https://arrrl-ohio.org/hamfests/>



Training Class Schedule

G. Michael, KE8HGE



Sessions meet weekly, every Tuesday evening, starting at 6:30 pm.

Study Session Schedule, 2025

- ◆ Technician Class license:
February 25 to April 15, testing session April 16.
- ◆ General Class license
July 1 to August 19, testing session August 20.
- ◆ Technician Class license
October 28 to December 16, testing session December 17.



“Confucius said: “Demand much from yourself, little from others, and you will prevent discontent.”

Editors Notes



The MVARC Newsletter is delivered to club members via email containing a link to the MVARC webpage, 2025 Newsletters button.

We really **NEED** your input - help eliminate missing articles on club events or interests!

Submit an article as a Word, OpenOffice or text file attachment to an email. **"Do not"** submit a PDF file.

Contact email for the MVARC newsletter is: admin@mvarc.net.

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

President

Frank, KC8EVS



Vice President

Emery, W8TW



Secretary / Treasurer

Terry, KI8N



PIO

Evan, KF8APC

No Photo
Available

Director

Michael, KE8HGE



Director

Scott, N8SY



Director

Tyler, KF8AVA

No Photo
Available

Director

Evan, KF8APC

No Photo
Available



Web Page

MVARC.net

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/mvarc>

MVARC Email

admin@mvarc.net

Growing up in the 60's through the 80's

My clothes came from Kmart, and they stayed on layaway until school started. Eating out at a restaurant was a thing every now and then!! Fast food was leftovers at home. Eating popsicles was a treat on a hot day. We had fake cigs for candy, and you only needed \$1 or less. School was mandatory!! You took your school clothes off as soon as you got home and put on your play clothes. If no one was home after school, you jumped the gate or went to the neighbors.

Nobody paid for daycare because we had a key to the house when we got home. We ate dinner at the table. Our house phone was always being used. We played Cops and Robbers, 1-2-3 Not It, Red Light Green Light, Hide & Seek, Truth or Dare, Tag, Kick Ball, Dodge Ball and we rode bikes. Girls and Boys played in the street or in the house. We came home when the streetlights came on.

Children were seen and not heard. Staying in the house was a punishment and the only thing we knew about being "bored"--- "You better find something to do before I find it for you!" We ate what mom/dad made for dinner or we ate nothing at all. There was no bottled water; we drank from the tap or the water hose (because there was no coming in and out of the house).

Phone numbers and addresses were either memorized or written on a folded piece of paper which was kept with you at all times!

Cell phones we knew nothing about

We watched cartoons on Saturday mornings and rode our bikes for hours. We ran around in the streets until dark and came in before mom had to find us (the streetlights came on).

We were AFRAID OF NOTHING.

We watched our MOUTHS around our elders.

These were the good old days. Kids today will never know how it feels to be a real kid, they will never understand my childhood!! I loved being a kid

Credit: Yolany Parenteau



A man's got to stop and have a tall cold one after work once a spell.

**Before the internet, people thought villages only had one idiot.
Wow, were we wrong!**