

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

August 2025

2025 Edition 8



Inside this issue:

President's View.....	2
Meeting Minutes.....	3
Member Notices.....	3
MVARC Calendar	5
Miscellaneous Rambling.....	6
Knox County Repeaters	7
Final Takeaway.....	8
Ohio Hamfests.....	10
Training Schedule	10
MVARC Officers	11



MVARC Repeaters

K8EEN

146.790 MHz
- 600 KHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

K8EEN-R EchoLink Node:
809800

K8EEN

444.600 MHz
+5 MHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

President's View

Frank, KC8EVS



Wow, August already. Here at the KC8EVS QTH we have been busy. Finally sold our Mansfield property. Or so we thought. It was on the market only 24 hours and we had a contract. That was good but...we needed to have an FHA inspection completed. That took several weeks to complete. After that, we had a closing date. The day before closing we were told the county needed to have the property surveyed at our cost and we needed to get it scheduled. I started calling and most were 3 weeks to 3 months out! After about 10 phone calls we found someone who was willing to schedule us in, but it would be 2 weeks. It was our best option, and we went for it. Last week (Friday) we got an email

saying that the survey was completed and submitted to the recorders office. To our surprise it is taking over a week for the recorders office to do what they do. We are still waiting as I write this for a closing date. All the time this is taking place I am making the 45 minutes to 1 hour drive every 3 to 4 days to mow the grass. I will be glad when this is over.

It's that time of year to start thinking about what you could do for the club next year. The directors will be starting to put together the list of candidates for officers in the next couple of months. So be thinking about how you might be able to help.

As I'm writing this, we are getting ready to participate in the First Friday, Aug 1st. Please stop by and chat or sit in the booth and talk with those who stop by. Saturday Aug 2nd is the Columbus Hamfest in Grove City. This is always a fun hamfest. If you have the time, you should check it out. Depending on how much you talk to everyone you can walk around the whole hamfest in an hour.

At our next meeting on August 11, we will be discussing our next two planned events, Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) Sept 6 and the Club POTA event Sept 27. Both will be at Mohican State Park so mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on Aug 11 at 7pm.

Meeting Notice

**MVARC Meeting: August 11 @ 7:00 pm—Academy Building
on Fairgrounds Road**

MVARC ARES Sunday Night Net

Mount Vernon 146.790 repeater

Check-in starts at 9 pm

Unable to access the repeater from where you are?

We are on IRLP (EchoLink) K8EEN-R Node 809800.

"It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen." Oliver Wendell Holmes

Meeting Minutes

Terry, KI8N



Call To Order

The June 2025 meeting of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Frank, KC8EVS at 7:00 pm. There were 11 members present.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented in the Club Newsletter without objection.

Treasurers Report

Terry KI8N provided an account of the current balance of all bank accounts for June 2025. There were no additions or corrections, and the report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Repeaters

Roger, KE8ICI reported there is still some noise on the 146.790 repeater that comes and goes. Most members stated they had not heard the noise. Roger has the backup battery on a charger and will reinstall it next week. He is also planning to place fuses inline with the battery output to the controller. While is at the repeater location Roger is planning to recheck the coupler as that could be the cause of the noisy repeater output.

Stephen, N8RLW adjusted the controller time so it identifies at the top of each hour.

Roger will also check on the status of the Henry amplifier.

The 444.600 MHz repeater system is work good.

EchoLink

The EchoLink system is located and working at Don's QTH, W8PEN . He has noticed that there is an intermittent disconnect with the internet at the Academy Building.

Directors

Director's report was made by G Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE.

- The amended By-Laws were discussed by club members.
- 1 person attending the ongoing General class.
- There is an opening for an ARES Sunday night operator. Please contact Michael, KE8HGE if you are interested in running the net on the fifth Sunday of the month.
- Sunday night ARES net is experiencing low participation.

Old Business

Field Day: Thanks to all who participated. A motion was made and passed to donate \$150.00 to Apple Valley POA for allowing MVARC to use their area for MVARC Field Day activities. Motion by Emery, W8TW and seconded by Bill, KD8WHQ.

Four MVARC members participated in the Coshocton Boy Scout activity. We set up two radios but were mostly unsuccessful in making contacts and demonstrating how ham radio worked. The scouts had a lot of questions and we answered them as best we could. Frank did succeed in making one contact with someone in Alabama. We need to work with Evan, KF8APC the MVARC PIO to ensure we have a consistent message. Those in attendance; Wendell, KE8NUX, Frank, KC8EVS, Roger, KE8ICI and Terry, KI8N. Thanks to Roger for driving to Coshocton.

"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith." Bill Graham

- First Friday: August 1st. We will be setting up a table and canopy at space #9 during this day's event starting about 5:00 pm.
- Ohio State Parks on the Air: September 6 at 10:00 AM. We will be set up at Mohican State Park at the shelter just up the street from the North Shelter House and close to the State Forest Office.
- MVARC POTA at Mohican State Park on September 27 using the same shelter as OSPOTA.

New Business

The updated By-Laws had no questions so Michael, KE8HGE moved for a vote and Roger, KE8ICI seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept the amended MVARC By-Laws. Michael will get the required signatures and have them posted on the web page.

A Motion to Adjourn from Emery, W8tW, seconded by Roger, KE8ICI, brought the meeting to an end at 7:35 pm 50/50 raffle proceeds were donated to the club.

Terry, KI8N did an after meeting demonstration measuring various HT antennas SWR using a Rig Expert Stick 500 with AntScope software.



July 2025 Meeting Attendees

Frank, KC8EVS	Roger, KE8ICI	Emery, W8TW	Michael, KE8HGE
Bill, KD8WHQ	Larry, AC8YE	Evan, KF8APC	Terry, KI8N
Don, KB8QPO	Wendell, KE8NUX	Tom, KD8HSA	

Notices

Scott Fields, W8HK son Colton passed away July 14.

Dave Phillips, W8DEP had a heart attack and was in the hospital convalescing.

Rick Gilson, K8KLW passed away July 20.



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

“The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.” Bill Graham

MVARC Calendar / Events

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: 9:00 PM ARES Sunday Night Net

Wednesday: 4:45 PM — Dinner at Southside Restaurant

Friday: 9:00 AM Breakfast—Foundation Park

CLUB MEETING

Monday August 11: Club Meeting 7:00 PM

UPCOMING MVARC EVENTS

AUGUST 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

OSPOTA	Sept 6, 2025 @ 10:00 AM—Mohican State Park
MVARC POTA Activation	Sept 27, 2025 @ 9:00 AM—Mohican State Park

MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MONTHLY MEETING



AUGUST 11, 2025
7:00 PM

Academy Building - 3rd Floor
Fairgrounds Road



Miscellaneous Rambling

Terry, KI8N



Hopefully everyone is enjoying the summer and being radio active. In July I attended the NOARSFEST in Elyria for the first time. I went to see what it was like and explore a different part of Ohio. On the way home I successfully activated two state wildlife areas;

Camp Belden and Spencer Lake. Had a good time at each POTA location even though it was extremely hot.

I had planned to attend the Columbus hamfest but best laid plans often go sideways. Cath, WA8KJJ had hand surgery the Wednesday before so I stayed home to assist her. I was also recovering from a nasty sinus infection.

I am planning to attend the Cincinnati hamfest on the 9th. Kind of a long drive for a hamfest but again just want to get out and talk to other hams and see what is offered. On the way home I am planning to activate a couple of POTA locations. Two rarely activated wildlife areas around Hillsboro and Fayette have caught my attention. Most likely taking the KX3 and Wolf River Coil antenna and working the minimum needed for a successful activation with 10 watts. Probably going to work these locations via SSB as that is typically the fastest method to complete an activation. Weather and a list of other excuses could change these plans!

The last three months I have not been very active on the radio. Just haven't been motivated to be down in the basement sitting in front of a glowing screen and listening to what seem like ill-mannered children screaming out their call signs. However, the [Ohio QSO Party](#) is the 23rd of this month and I usually like to participate in this event. My plan is work some of the scheduled time but I won't be sitting down here all day. Mostly just want to award Morrow County as a multiplier when I can.

Recently, I sat up a 17 foot stainless steel whip on a small 1.5 foot tripod in the back yard with 12 radials and determined the whip lengths required for 20-meters through 6-meters. Using a Rig Expert Stick antenna analyzer each band was adjusted as close to a 1.5 or lower swr and then marked on the

whip with a sharpie pen. Afterwards the whip was extended to the markings and the swr measurements were verified. I plan to use this antenna for future POTA activations. Since I had the antenna set up I connected an IC-706MKII and made about a dozen contacts sitting on the back patio with no tuner needed.

I enjoyed doing the SWR measurement presentation at the last meeting but I may have been a little rough on HT antenna manufacturers. I just wish their products were as good as their advertisements. I recently ordered a new telescopic 2-meter HT antenna and will be measuring it to see if the swr is adjustable to under 1:1.5.

Work continues slowly on both cars; Galaxy and Mustang. I think I have completed taking apart the Galaxy and am now working on cleaning up the pieces and painting them. I have had to do a bit of body work on the fenders behind where the headlight buckets attach. This area is out of sight when the car is assembled so I did not know there was an issue here.

These fender areas had small rust holes which I have cleaned, cut out the rusty areas, welded in patch panels sealed, and painted. I am now going to have to paint the exterior of the car when I start putting it back together. This is way more than my original idea of just replacing a few gaskets in the engine! I am attributing some of this extra work based on a beautiful 1964 Galaxy 500 I observed in Norwalk at the end of the Hot Rod Power Tour this month.

Now, to make life even more fun, the 1969 Mustang is refusing to start. It cranks but it won't start. It has fuel, I even rebuilt the carburetor, it has spark, but no go. Next I am planning to pull the plugs and check engine compression on each cylinder. Oh the joys of owning old / classic cars.

After last month's meeting Frank, KC8EVS and I discussed getting the club's R4 antenna installed on the flat roof below the club room. We discussed getting a flat roof antenna mount, some concrete blocks and a mast to mount the antenna to. I have enough LMR-400 coax to run from the antenna to the club room. Started looking at purchasing a flat roof antenna mount and donating it to the club so we can get this project underway. Anyone got any other ideas for installing this antenna?

That's it, hope to see you at the meeting and until next month — "Be safe and Ham it UP"!

"I went to an antique auction yesterday ... Three people bid on me." Unknown

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

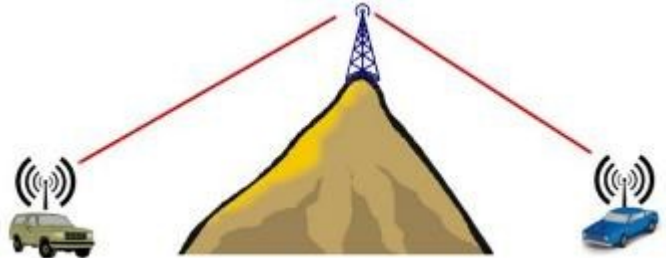
Timeslot2

Local 2 - Local Traffic Only

3139 - Ohio Statewide 10-minute limit

31391 - Northeast Ohio

31398 - EMCOMM



Repeaterbook.com has listings of repeaters across North America.



Contact Us

Mail

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PMB #145

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Email

admin@mvarc.net

"Ham radio operators are often mistaken for adults because of their age." Ben Davis, N6BJD.

Final Takeaway—Antenna Analyzer

Here's a quick and practical checklist with some recommended equipment to get a VHF ham radio station up and running effectively.

VHF Ham Radio Station Checklist

Transceiver (Radio)

Choose one based on whether you're setting up a permanent station or want portability.

Recommended VHF-Only or Dual-Band Radios:

- Yaesu FT-3185Rasp (VHF only, 85W rugged mobile)
- Icom IC-V3500 (VHF only, 65W, Robust and compact)
- Yaesu FT-65R or FT-60R (Handheld, dual-band, affordable starter HTs)



Tip: If you're doing mostly base station work, a mobile radio with 50–80W output is better than a handheld.

Power Supply

For mobile radios used as base stations.

Recommended 13.8V DC Power Supplies:

- Astron RS-20A (Reliable linear power supply)
- Samlex SEC-1235M (Switching-mode, 30A peak)



Make sure the amp rating is 20A or more for most mobile transceivers.

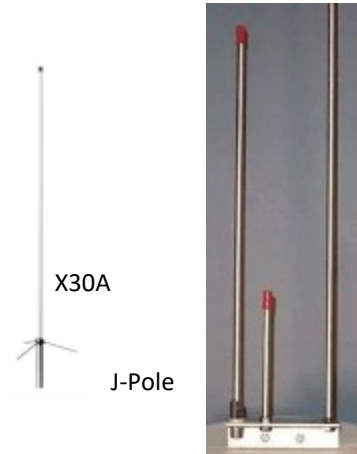
Antenna

Go for a vertical antenna with good gain for local comms (repeaters, simplex).

Recommended Base VHF/UHF Antennas:

- Diamond X30A (VHF/UHF, 2.5/5.5 dB gain, compact)
- Diamond X50A (VHF/UHF, higher gain and taller)
- Comet GP-3 or GP-6 (Dual-band, rugged and widely used)
- Arrow Antenna Open Stub Dual Band J-Pole

Mount the antenna as high and clear as you can for best performance.



Coaxial Cable

Low-loss cable is essential to avoid signal attenuation.

Recommended Coax Types:

- LMR-400 (Best for long runs)
- RG-213/U (Durable and decent loss at VHF)
- Times Microwave LMR-240 (OK for shorter runs <30 ft)

Use quality connectors (PL-259/SO-239) and avoid adapters if possible.



Other Accessories

- Antenna analyzer (e.g., RigExpert Stick 500 or NanoVNA): For precise antenna performance testing.
- Mic options: Desk mic for comfort (Yaesu MD-100, Icom SM-50, etc.).



“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: It goes on.” Robert Frost

Safety Essentials

- Grounding rod and strap: Protects against lightning.
- Surge/lightning arrestor (e.g., PolyPhaser): Connect between antenna and radio.
- Battery backup (LiFePO4): Optional but good for emergencies.



Rough Estimate: ~\$800–\$1000 for a new solid, reliable VHF base station. Expect to spend a little more if setting up a dual band radio station.

FT-3185Rasp ~ \$275

Samlex 1235 ~ \$225

Diamond X50A ~ \$100

Coax, LMR-400 (100') ~ \$190

RT Systems Software ~ \$35

Lightning Arrestor ~ \$95



Always purchase your new ham radio equipment through a reputable dealer so that warranties are valid and you also buy equipment that is manufactured for the United States market and band plan. Otherwise look for used equipment from other hams but be sure of the condition because there are hams (scammers) that will take advantage of you.

If you are looking for repeaters for your new station and their associated information go to [Repeaterbook](#) and search for radio repeaters accessible from where you are. You can search via multiple methods; band, mode, feature, linked systems, emergency service, close to highways, or city/town.

One example sorted by 2-meter frequency.

Ohio Amateur Radio Repeaters

267 repeaters found in Ohio.

⊕ = On-Air ⊗ = Off-Air ⊙ = Testing/Reduced ○ = Unknown

Click on the frequency for additional details.

Click on a header to sort. **Note:** Sorting does not carry through to exports!

~	↓ Access	📍 Location	County	📶 Call	Use	Modes	🟢
145.1100 -	67.0	Columbus	Franklin	WC8OH	OPEN	FM EchoLink	🟢
145.1100 -	67.0 / 67.0	Dayton	Montgomery	WC8OH	OPEN	FM EchoLink	🟢
145.1100 -	110.9 / 110.9	Kent	Portage	N8ZPS	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1300 -		Bellefontaine	Logan	K8MRG	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1300 -		Mason	Warren	W8BRQ	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1300 -	110.9 / 110.9	Polk	Ashland	N8SIW	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1500 -		Athens	Athens	W8UKE	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1500 -	107.2 / 107.2	Bascom	Seneca	KB8EOC	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1700 -	123.0	Akron	Summit	W8UPD	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1700 -	74.4	Delaware	Delaware	W8SMK	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1700 -	77.0 / 77.0	Seaman	Adams	WD8LSN	OPEN	FM Fusion	🟢
145.1900 -	NAC 293 123.0 / 123.0	Cincinnati	Hamilton	W8ESS	OPEN	FM P-25	🟢
145.1900 -	123.0	Delaware	Delaware	N8DCA	OPEN	FM	🟢
145.1900 -	NAC 293 110.9 / 110.9	Medina	Medina	K8MD	OPEN	FM P-25	🟢

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 evenings, starting at 6:30 pm.

Study Session Schedule, 2025

- ◆ General Class license

July 1 to August 19, testing session August 20.

- ◆ Technician Class license

October 28 to December 16, testing session December 17.

I got a call from
the police station
saying they want
to interview me.
I don't remember
applying for a job
there

Google search
result for
"Ladder
Line".



Editors Notes



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

We **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

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