

September 2025

# Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club



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## **MVARC ARES Sunday Night Net**

Mount Vernon 146.790 repeater

**Check-in starts at 9:00 pm**

Unable to access the repeater from where you are?

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

## **Presidents View**

**Frank, KC8EVS**



September, I love September weather especially when it starts mid-August. Just praying that this doesn't lead to a cold winter. It's time to look at the antenna around your QTH and make any necessary repairs, additions, etc. now, because winter is not the time, trust me as I've been there and done that. It wasn't a fun project.

We are going to have a busy fall this year. Our September meeting will be outside at Foundation Park in the large pavilion on September 8 at 6 pm, Don, W8PEN is providing fish (walleye) and if you can bring a covered dish, please do so, but it's not required. We would rather have your presence than not. This will be one of our better meetings as there will be less of me talking and more discussion among the members. If by chance the large pavilion is taken, we will meet at the one next to the rest rooms as you first enter the park there by the lakes.

This Saturday, September 6 we will be gathering at Mohican State Park for Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA). It begins at 10 am and runs through 6 pm but we usually shut down and pack up around 2 or 3 pm. But if contacts are hopping, we could be there longer. We will be operating the club's go box station (Yaesu FT-857D). I'm sure there will be some other portable station equipment there also. It will be lunch on your own so be prepared. We will be meeting at the large pavilion straight up the hill from the covered bridge near the group camp and ranger station. Hopefully I will get a map in the newsletter or maybe on the web page. It's always a good time to have. Look forward to seeing you there. (Mohican State Park map on next page of newsletter.)

Later in the month September 20-21 we plan on having a booth set up at the Old Time Farming Festival in Centerburg. We plan to set up a station for demonstration, probably the club go box, but things are subject to change depending upon our location. We will discuss this more at the meeting on September 8.

There's more, for this fall we are planning a club POTA event in October at Mohican State Park, and we will be discussing this more as the date draws nearer so stay tuned to the newsletter and attend our meetings to stay abreast of what the club is up to.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

### **MVARC Repeaters**

#### **K8EEN**

146.790 MHz

-600 kHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

#### **K8EEN**

444.600 MHz

+5 MHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

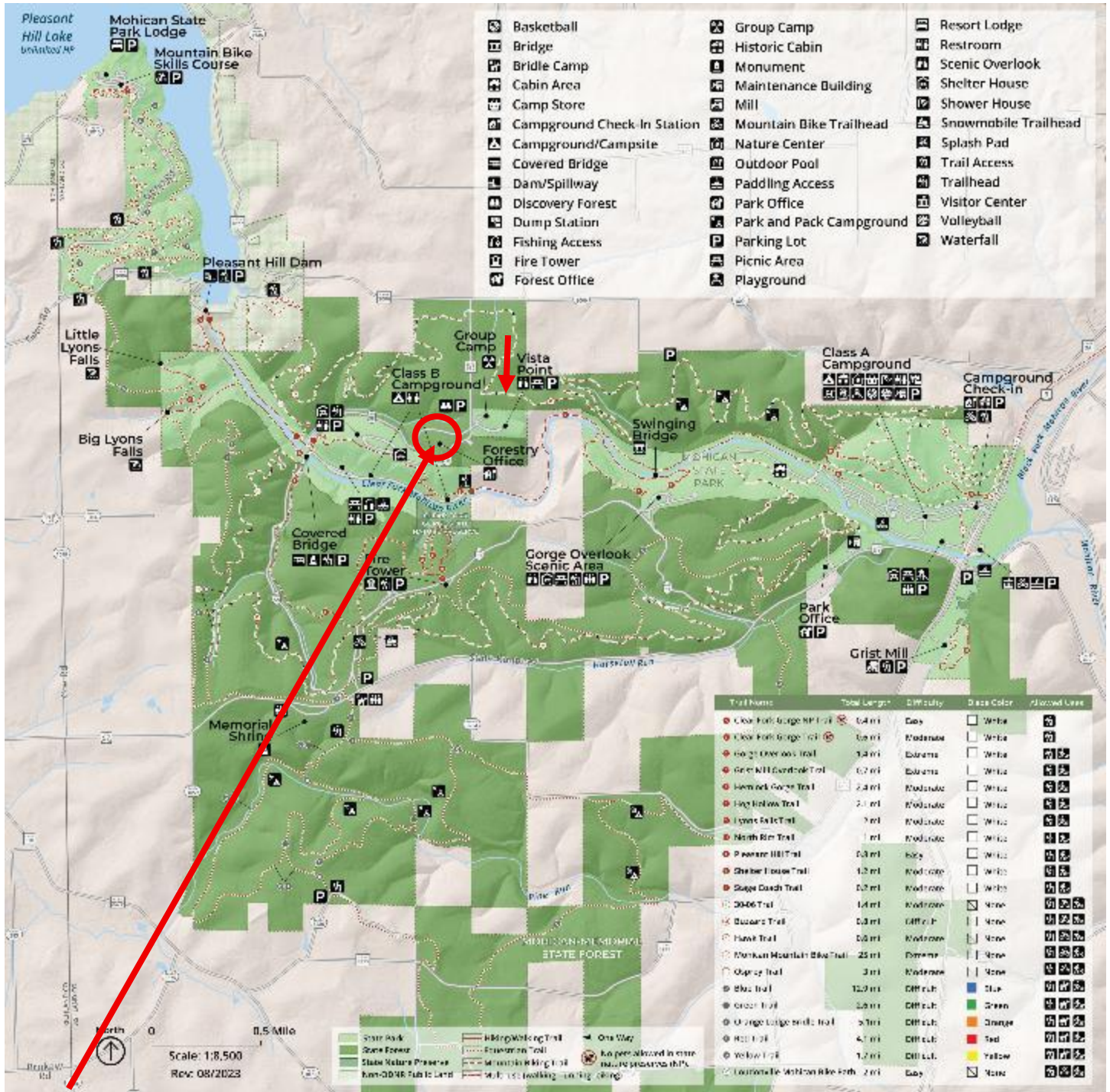
Dig ID: 00 For C4FM/Fusion

#### **EchoLink**

K8EEN-R - Node: 809800



## Mohican State Park



Shelter Location – 40.612896, -82.307496 (These coordinates are approximate but very close.)

“Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive.” — Elbert Hubbard

## 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 18 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 July 2025. There were no additions or corrections, and the report was accepted as presented.

### Committee Reports

- **Repeaters**

Roger, KE8ICI reported there is still some noise on the 146.790 repeater that comes and goes but the repeater is working well. Barry, N8PPF noticed noise on the August 10<sup>th</sup> ARES net. Roger is planning to install the backup battery by the end of the month.

It was noted someone is kerchunking the repeater without identifying, members should plan to keep an ear on this activity. If you hear three clicks on the repeater it is EchoLink rebooting, it is not a repeater issue.

The 444.600 MHz repeater system is working well.

- **EchoLink**

The EchoLink system is located and continues to operate well at Don's QTH, W8PEN.

- **Directors**

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

- ✓ The amended By-Laws have been signed by the directors, and a copy will be sent to Scott, N8SY to post on the web page.
- ✓ Officer elections are coming in December. All positions are available, let Michael know if you are interested in holding an office.

- **ARES**

Tony, KE8OOE is planning to have interested ARES members meet at the Knox County Sheriffs building to test the amateur radio equipment installed in the EMA office on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

### Old Business

The First Friday event on August 1<sup>st</sup> went well. Limited interaction with the attending public and no new member recruits.

Next events:

- Amateur radio test session August 20 at 6:30 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. See map on page 3 for location and coordinates.
- Centerburg Old Time Farm Festival: September 20 and 21 at Memorial Park
- MVARC POTA at Mohican State Park on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am using the same shelter as OSPOTA – **NEW DATE**

### New Business

Don wants to have a walleye fish fry at the September club meeting. It was agreed to do this at Ariel-Foundation Park using the large shelter if available otherwise we will set up at the shelter by the restroom. **NOTE:** The meeting and picnic will start at 6:00 pm. Members are requested to bring a covered dish but if you forget, please come and enjoy the food and picnic conversation.

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

A discussion about mounting the club's R5 antenna either next to the Academy Building by the garage or putting it on a flat roof mount and placing it on the flat garage roof below the club room. Don, W8PEN said he has two tower sections he would loan to the club to mount the antenna on by the building. Frank, KC8EVS to follow up with the building maintenance personnel to check on permission.

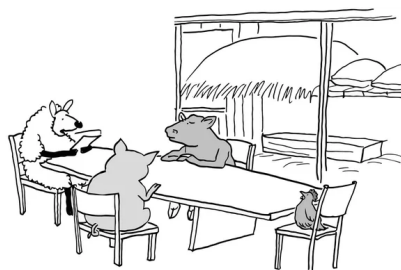
Scott, N8SY donated two ARRL end-fed antenna kits to the club. It was decided to keep one for the HF go-box and raffle the second one. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and the drawing will be at the September Meeting and Fish Fry. Roger, KE8ICI is planning to assemble the kit for the go-box.

Alan, KB6GOC was introduced by Roger, KE8ICI and Alan stated he still had a Novice class license and was looking to take the General test. (8/28 he now has a General Class license.)

The Centerburg Old Time Farm Festival is donating a booth space to MVARC to display our equipment and information. The festival is September 20 and 21 and we would like to have members actively participate.

A Motion to Adjourn from Bill, KD8WHQ, seconded by Emery, W8TW, brought the meeting to an end at 7:49 pm

50/50 raffle was either an ARRL Handbook or the funds. Roger, KE8ICI already had a Handbook, so the monetary proceeds were donated to the club.



"The cow mooed, the pig oinked, the chicken clucked, I baaed and then we adjourned."

## August 2025 Attendees

|                    |               |              |                 |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Frank, KC8EVS      | Bill, KD8WHQ  | Tom, KD8HSA  | Emery, W8tw     |
| G. Michael, KE8HGE | Don, W8PEN    | Larry, AC8YE | Roger, KE8ICI   |
| Wayne, WB8WB       | Barry, N8PPF  | Ralph, W8LFR | Bill, KE8ZIG    |
| Alan, KB6GOC       | Ralph, KC8REB | Terry, KI8N  | Wendell, KE8NUX |
| Bonnie, KF8ESP     | Howard, N8TBB |              |                 |

## 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 September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM – Ariel-Foundation Park large shelter

### SEPTEMBER 2025

| SUNDAY                                 | MONDAY                               | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY    | SATURDAY  |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | <b>1</b><br><small>Labor Day</small> | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b><br><small>Eid al-Fitr</small> | <b>8</b>                             | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b>                              | <b>15</b>                            | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b>                              | <b>22</b>                            | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b>                              | <b>29</b>                            | <b>30</b> |           |           |           |           |



## Radio Activity

### Don, W8PEN



Just got back from my family fishing vacation to New York. This started with my dad and I in 1977. For years it was just my dad and myself. Then my brother Chuck (WA8ONN) decided to join us sometime in the 1980's.

It has always been a fun trip. Early on you would catch a mixture of small mouth bass and walleye, with a rainbow trout on occasion. Then it was mostly small mouth bass, although you could catch walleye if you wanted to go three or four miles out. Not going to happen in our small boat.

Currently, there are walleye everywhere you go. Although you still catch a few, the small mouth bass fishing has been very poor for about five years now. Once you reach your limit for the day on walleye, you might want to go out to deeper water and catch a few lake trout. They are fun to bring in, and lake trout is darn good eating off the gas or charcoal grill.



Let's just say walleye fishing this year in New York is the best I have seen for a very long time. My crew of three nephews and one great nephew put a pretty good dent in the walleye population. Well, not really. Last I heard walleyes were stacked three deep just about anywhere you cared to fish.

Okay, what does this have to do with ham radio, and especially Radio Activity? Absolutely nothing!

I took my Yaesu FT-817 QRP radio with me. Plus, I had my mobile. But I could never motivate myself enough to set up a station. The routine was: fish in the morning. Back to camp and let my nephews clean fish. Take a long nap in the lawn chair during the afternoon, getting up from the lawn chair in time to help fix dinner. Go to bed. Get up at 6:00 AM and do it again.

So, unfortunately, no radio activity on this trip was done.

### EchoLink

I have not been able to figure out my issues with EchoLink. But at present, EchoLink is working very well from home. I have not had an issue with it for months. If I leave it at home. However, if I take it out to the club and set it up, the darn thing won't last a day!

Pretty sure it has something to do with the router or internet out at the club, but I am tired of fighting it. At least until I decide to try again, EchoLink will remain at my house.

### 160 Meter OCF

A year or so ago I downsized to where I had one HF antenna. This was an 80 – 10 meter Off Center Fed (OCF) antenna in an Inverted V format. I found that this was not very sufficient for my wants. It did not cover 160 meters. It did not cover the 60-meter band.

So I added an end fed 160-meter antenna that just so happened also covered the 60-meter band. And just about any other band if you wanted to use an external antenna tuner.

Not Satisfied. I really want just one HF antenna for all bands.

I have decided to go back to the 160-meter OCF antenna. I used one of these for years and it seemed to cover all bands that I was interested in. It was also a very good performer.

It also helped that Darlene and I decided to have some very tall pine trees removed before they self-destructed. Removing these pine trees gave access to a couple of other support trees a little more situated for the short end of the 160 OCF. The long end always has been up in the air a good bit. I am hoping for a straight antenna up 40 – 45 feet.

We will see what happens.

Hope to see you at the September meeting and fish fry.

*"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*

## ARRL Sanctioned Hamfests

Ohio ARRL hamfest 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 on Tuesday evenings, starting at 6:30 pm

### Study Session Schedule, 2025

- **Technician Class License**

October 28 to December 16 – Testing session December 17

## Miscellaneous Rambling

Terry, KI8N



Hope everyone is “radio active”. In August I attended the Cincinnati Hamfest to represent the ARRL Ohio Section to see what this hamfest was like while exploring another part of Ohio. On the way home I successfully activated two state wildlife areas: Indian Creek and Oldaker. I had a successful activation at each location even in overly hot weather.

I also attended the 100-year ARRL affiliation celebration of the Mahoning Valley ARA and corn fest picnic in Boardman, OH. Scott, N8SY presented an ARRL proclamation and plaque to the president of the club. I left completely stuffed from food club members prepared.

Next up on September 7<sup>th</sup> is Findlay Hamfest as they also are being recognized for their 100-year ARRL affiliation. Cath, WA8KJJ is planning to attend with me.

Three weeks ago, we took the camper to Grand River, MI to spend a few days hanging out around Lake Michigan. We went to a couple of state parks, walked in the lake, the water was just the right temperature, visited a light house, and attended a nationally recognized quilt show. It was a great vacation (can you call it that if you are retired?) and I was able to get in three POTA activations while there.

Then after returning home and cleaning and restocking the camper we spent a few days at Punderson State Park in northeast Ohio. This was also a vacation and quilt-related trip to visit several of the sewing shops that are part of the [All Ohio Shop Hop](#). We visited 15 stores in the shop hop for that area.

At Punderson I activated the park three times, but I had issues with the Wolf River Coil and tuning it on 40-meters. It worked great on 20 meters, but the SWR would not cooperate on 40 at times. Sometimes the antenna would work great on 40 for a while and then start acting up. Hard to troubleshoot in the dark but the next morning I found the coil had gotten hot and a couple of the windings had melted the plastic separating them and they were touching. Removed the coil and used the 17-foot whip for the final activation on 20 meters. Really have to pay more attention to power level especially when running digital modes as the duty cycle is higher and the coil will heat up.

At the end of September, we are taking the motorhome to Maumee Bay State Park for a few days on vacation and hitting more sewing shops on the Shop Hop. Vacations after schools start are great for us retired people as the campgrounds are quiet, not packed, and more relaxing.

This week I worked on the WRC and straightened out the touching coil segments and set it up in the yard to verify it works on 80 and 40 meters. I was able to tune it without any issues. This is a relief as it was the antenna I plan to use for OSPOTA on the 6<sup>th</sup>. However, as a backup I also set up a trio of Hustler Resonators for 80, 40, and 20 meters and got them tuned for the SSB part of each band.

My failures continued this month as I also managed to break the front case on the Icom IC-706 MKII. Not sure how this happened, I was cleaning it in the shack and pieces of the front case started coming apart. I may be able to glue it back together, at least enough to make it functional, but it will never be as good as new. I checked eBay for a front case, and one was available, however the person wanted more for a used front case than the radio is worth!

Has anyone been checking the contest calendar? I know I missed a couple of contests that I planned to operate due to forgetfulness. I read this tends to happen with more of those pesky birthday events. However, I did spend two and a half hours operating in the Ohio QSO Party. Most of my contacts were on 40 meters using an OCF antenna across the back yard. I didn't do as well as last year but still managed 176 contacts with 72 multipliers making 12,672 points. I was late getting started, didn't get into the shack until about 7:45 pm and quit around 10 pm. Mostly I forgot what time it started, was enjoying being outdoors, and couldn't find the motivation. Anyone else experiencing these same effects?

Until next month – “Be safe and Ham it UP”!

## Final Takeaway

### RF Exposure Calculations



What is the purpose of an RF exposure calculation? It is to ensure that radio transmitters and antennas emitting radiofrequency (RF) energy comply with regulatory limits to protect public health and safety from potential harmful effects of overexposure. By calculating the safe distances from RF sources, ham radio operators can prevent excessive RF radiation exposure to individuals, determine the potential impact of RF fields, and establish safe operating practices, to minimize risks for the public.

#### Key Purposes of RF Exposure Calculations

- Regulatory Compliance
- Public and Worker Safety
- Risk Assessment and Control
- Equipment Design and Operation
- Preventing Harmful Effects
- Installation and Maintenance

#### Amateur Radio:

In the USA, the FCC requires all amateur (ham) radio stations to be evaluated for RF exposure, regardless of power output, to ensure compliance. All ham radio stations are required to keep copies of the calculations for their equipment.

The ARRL web site has an RF Expose Calculator that hams can use to determine the safe distances required for controlled and uncontrolled environments. [RF Exposure Calculator](#) Instructions are provided to aid in use.



First you will fill in the site parameters. Then select the Calculate button. Example shown below.

Parameters

- Power at Antenna: (Need help with this?)  (watts)
- Mode duty cycle:
- Transmit duty cycle: (time transmitting)  
You transmit for  minutes then receive for  minutes (and repeat).
- Antenna Gain (dBi): (Need help with this?)
- Operating Frequency (MHz):

☒ Include Effects of Ground Reflections

**This calculator should not be used for antennas that are less than 20 cm (8 in) from a person.**

The online calculator provides results based on your input. You can then print the results to keep with your station.

**Results for a controlled environment:**

Maximum Allowed Power Density (mW/cm<sup>2</sup>):

Minimum Compliance Distance (feet):

Minimum Compliance Distance (meters):

**For an uncontrolled environment:**

Maximum Allowed Power Density (mW/cm<sup>2</sup>):

Minimum Compliance Distance (feet):

Minimum Compliance Distance (meters):

You will need to perform this calculation for each band, power level and mode of duty cycle for that antenna and for each antenna you use.

If you do a web-based search there are several RF Exposure calculators, you can use for meeting FCC compliance requirements. Check your station, it is probably time to redo your old exposure calculations.

### 5 ways to have a good day:

1. Drink coffee.
2. Avoid people.
3. Talk on Ham Radio.
4. Drink more coffee.
5. Keep avoiding people.



*"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand." - Chinese Proverb*

## MVARC 2025 Club Officers

**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

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

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



### Contact Us

#### Mailing Address

812 Coshocton Ave.  
PMB #145  
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

#### Web Page

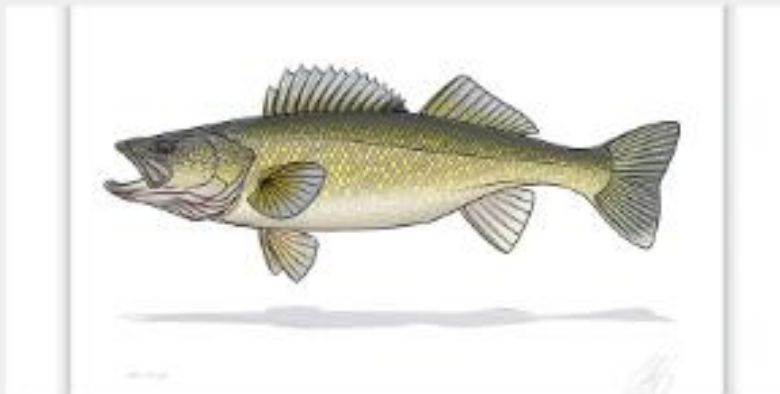
[mvarc.net](http://mvarc.net)

#### Facebook Page

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

#### MVARC Email

[admin@mvarc.net](mailto:admin@mvarc.net)



# MVARC MONTHLY MEETING & FISH FRY



WALLEYE PROVIDED BY  
DON, W8PEN

|                                |                                       |            |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| WHEN                           | 8 September 2025                      | TIME: 6 pm |
| WHERE                          | Ariel-Foundation Park - Large Shelter |            |
| Bring a covered dish to share! |                                       |            |