

November 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



It was great seeing everyone at last month's meeting. We meet again on Saturday, November 8 at 10 AM, hope to see you there. I missed the club POTA event at Mohican State Park due to some unexpected family obligations. I hear that it went well and look forward to hearing more about it at our November meeting.

This year is drawing to a close and we should have a list of new officers for next year, if not, it is never too late to let Michael KE8HGE know that you are interested in serving in some capacity. It is also a good time to look forward to next year and start to schedule activities.

Listed below are what we participated in last year plus 2026 dates that I have been able to confirm at this time:

Winter Field Day	January 24-25
NVIS Day	April 25 (yet to be finalize)
Black Fork Gravel Grinder	May 2 (??)
ARRL Field Day	June 26-28
Boy Scouts	TBD
Mount Vernon First Friday	August 7
OSPOTA	September 12
Centerburg Old Time Farm Festival	September 26-27
Club POTA	TBD

As in the past, we will need members to step up and take the lead organizing these events as we progress through the year. Field Day being the most labor-intensive event to organize but there is usually someone to help get it done. Note these dates on your calendars and try to attend as many as you can. Get out and be "radio active".

Let me know what you are interested in: Contesting, POTA, VEC testing, DX, Digital. There are many aspects of the hobby, and it would be helpful to know what everyone is interested in and shaping the direction of the club. Don, W8PEN is organizing a contest event that we as a club will participate in this March 2026. This will be at the club station, and it is a good time to for you to get started in contesting, try it, you might like it.

I've taken up enough of your time this month, I hope to see you on November 8th or at Friday breakfast at McDonalds.

Meeting Minutes

Terry, KI8N



Call To Order

The October 2025 meeting of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Frank, KC8EVS at 10:00 AM. There were 14 members in attendance.

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 reported on the finances and bank statements for the months of August and September 2025. There were no additions or corrections, and the report was accepted as presented. Motion by Roger, KE8ICI and Michael, KE8HGE.

Committee Reports

- **ARRL**

Scott, N8SY reported on the status of the grassroots effort regarding the HOA bill, ARRL auction, Club Grant Program, and the upcoming Scholarship program starting in December.

- **Repeaters**

Roger, KE8ICI reported the 2-Meter and 70 CM repeaters are working well. He has the cabling built for the battery backup and will be getting that installed soon. Roger is also working with the Hyterra software to check on eliminating cutouts. He will be listing the old Yaesu DR1X repeater on eBay soon.

- **EchoLink**

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

- **Directors**

Director's report by G Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE. Officer elections are coming in December. All positions are available, let Michael know if you are interested in holding an office.

There is an opening for the Sunday night ARES net, let Michael know if you would like to lead the net on the first Sunday of the month.

Old Business

The club gathering for OSPOTA went well and thanks to everyone who participated. Don has combined and submitted the log to both OSPOTA and POTA. Limited interaction with the attending public and no new member recruits.

Frank, KC8EVS, Tom, KD8HSA, Roger, KE8ICI and Nathan, KE0RYO participated in setting up and manning a booth at the Centerburg Old Time Farm Festival. Frank stated there were several people that stopped by with an interest in ham radio.

Next event:

- MVARC POTA at Mohican State Park on October 18th at 10:00 am using the same shelter as OSPOTA.

New Business

Don, W8PEN stated next year we will need a new chairperson to lead our Field Day event. He is looking for someone to take over from him.

Discussion about having an Open House event at the club radio room/station to introduce the public to amateur radio. Don is looking into contests/events that would be interesting.

Is anyone interested in setting up the annual Christmas party? Last year was at Bob Evans. If you would like to lead this event please contact Frank, KC8EVS.

The raffle for the ARRL Handbook was won by Roger, KE8ICI.

Meeting adjourned, motion by Don, W8PEN and Barry, N8PPF.

October Club Meeting Attendees

Frank, KC8EVS	G. Michael, KE8HGE	Tom, KD8HSA	Scott, N8SY	Barry, N8PPF
Roger, KE8ICI	Dan, ND8J	Bill, KE8ZIG	Don, W8PEN	Ralph, KC8REB
Darlene, WS8W	Kevin, KD8NGV	Terry, KI8N	Don, KB8QPO	



Ah, so much to do!

MVARC NOVEMBER MEETING

 **Saturday, November 8, 2025**

 **10:00 AM**

 **Academy Building, Fairgrounds Rd.**

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

Radio Activity

Don, W8PEN

EchoLink



It has been a while since I have had to do anything with the EchoLink equipment. It has been a pretty good run for the last month or two.

Previously, every time I checked, EchoLink was down. That was darn frustrating!

All indications are that the problem is caused by me when I close the lid on the computer hosting EchoLink. I have the computer set up to “do nothing” when the lid is closed and continues to run whatever program(s) it was running when the lid was closed.

My interpretation of that is that when you close the lid, the laptop acts as if the lid is open. Apparently, Microsoft has a different interpretation. After closing the lid, this computer does nothing, including not running EchoLink!

Even so, I have started leaving the lid open. Things have been running smoothly with the lid open.

Down She Comes!

My EME days are over. For the uninitiated, EME stands for Earth-Moon-Earth, or simply Moon Bounce. It is the art of bouncing a signal off the moon so one can communicate with stations too distant to work by terrestrial means. This communication is usually done on 144 MHz and above. However, EME is possible on 50 MHz and below.

Last week I dropped my EME tower. It was easy to do. A cheap Saber saw cut one leg through, and two of the legs partially through. Then I just gave it a slight shove, and down it went!

Then I hammered the ends of the tower legs which were still in the ground just to keep my garden tractor tires safe. I pounded the legs until well rounded.

Last step was to cover what was left of the tower with dirt. I figure the tower legs are only three inches or so below ground level. I'll have to keep an eye on it to make sure the tower legs don't start sticking up out of the ground, sometime in the future.

Finally, I drug the tower away and hid it among some bushes out of sight. See pictures.



Computer Donation

Last year, I replaced the laptop I use for everyday life (like writing newsletter articles) with a newer computer. I didn't really have to. My old laptop upgraded to Win11 just fine and works plenty well. But the Black Friday deal at Walmart was just too good.

So, I started using the old computer in my ham shack, which worked well for me.

This Spring, Amazon had one of their sales in which they drop the price of a lot of stuff significantly. When Amazon has their sales, I always check the tech stuff just to see what I can pick up dirt cheap.

What I found this time was a nice laptop for \$160. This looked like a pretty good deal, even though it was an odd brand I had never heard of. So, I ordered this laptop planning for it will replace my new personal laptop. To sweeten the deal after I had bought this laptop, the seller sent me an email offering to send me an Amazon gift card for \$25 if I would write a review of the computer. They were true to their word, so I ended up paying \$135 for the computer.

I didn't give the computer a glowing review. I was critical in a couple of areas, and I thought no way would they send me a gift card. But they did.

The only area I thought was a bit iffy on this computer were the speakers. Sounds cheap. But the sound improves when using earphones, and it worked on FT-8 just fine.

But I digress.

Now why in heaven's name would I replace a perfectly good laptop when I didn't really have to? Well, I figured the club could use another laptop that could run Win11 and still have a good battery.

The plan was to donate my shack Leveno laptop to the club and replace it with the new computer I had bought last year.

So, I finally got around to resetting this Leveno laptop. I did a clean install, which wiped all my stuff off the hard drive. It is now ready to be used by the club. I will either bring it with me to the meeting or set it up sometime before the meeting.

I would like to set the Kenwood TS-570D up as the club's CW station and use this laptop for computer control and logging of this station.

I would use it to replace the computer at the Icom IC-7300 position, but that computer seems to be working just fine and really does not need replacement. Terry, KI8N, has installed software on that computer anyway, and I don't want to mess anything up that he has going on with that station.

Open House?

At the last meeting I suggested that the club have an "Open House" to see if we can attract the public and possibly spark an interest in ham radio.

Everyone seemed to think it was a good idea, although honestly, we have had Open Houses before without much success.

I countered that we needed to have the open house during a contest so that there was plenty of activity on the bands. Since domestic contests are boring to the regular Joe, I thought the open house could be done during a DX contest. Working other countries always seems to spark interest from the public.

Although it is far away, I thought the ARRL DX contest, March 7th through March 8th, 2026, would be ideal. This contest starts on Friday night local time and runs through Sunday. We would have all day Saturday to entertain the public. If the public does not show up, we will still have fun working DX.

Food for thought we can discuss at the next meeting.

73 until then.

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—McDonalds on Newark Rd.

CLUB MEETING

Saturday November 8th at 10:00 AM

Academy Building on Fairgrounds Road



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/>



Miscellaneous Rambling

Terry, KI8N



Hope everyone continues to be “radio active”. Now that the Ohio Shop Hop has finished, I have done a couple of POTA activations locally. Cath and I went to Missouri in October for a family baby shower and on the way, I activated six all time new locations for me. One location in Indiana, two in Illinois and three in Missouri. We also took some back roads and saw some of this great country. Really fun to get off the interstates and travel on old roads like Highway 40.

I used Hustler resonators on the truck mounted bed stake mount and the Elecraft KX3 for these activations. It is exciting to work Europe with this compromise antenna and 15 watts sitting in a state

nature preserve.

I had a discussion with Don, W8PEN a couple of weeks ago about never-ending emails with electronic QSL cards. We both agreed that these are mostly annoyances and do not like receiving them, especially since some lack date information or they are for contacts up to 10 years ago. I have been deleting the emails without even reading them. Maybe this is rude, but I am tired of getting 10 or more per day. What do you do with these pesky emails?



After talking with Roger, KE8ICI about his fixing his X-740 (40-meter) antenna with a new balun from DX Engineering I decided it was time to repair mine since it has been inoperable most of this year and I bought the balun at Hamvention. I just kept putting it off as our calendar was filled and my desire just wasn't there to be 60 feet in the air (56' tower and about 6 foot up the mast). I rented a lift from Holmes Rental and have replaced the X-740 balun and will have the X7 balun replaced in a day. There was nothing wrong with the balun on the X7 but figured while I was hanging around at 60 feet I might as well do it at the same time. I opened the 40-meter antenna balun on the work bench, and it had a broken wire going to the center pin of the SO-239 connector. I could have repaired it, but the DXE baluns are much sturdier than the original units. Nothing like waiting (procrastinating) until the temperature really cools down and yes I am wearing my safety harness! Next job for the lift is the TV tower, taking down the old TV antenna and fixing the mount for the dual band antenna.

I have been working on reassembling the 64 Ford 352 cubic inch engine as it is past the time to get it back into the car and make some headway on this ever-expanding project.

The pistons are in; the oil pump is installed, and next is the new timing chain and

sprockets then bolting on the heads. I had stated much earlier this year that I wanted to have it running before Summer was over. Guess I missed that deadline!

I found a web page that does schedules and planning via AI, [Goblin.tools](https://goblin.tools/). I wondered how this would work for setting up Field Day. I put “How to Plan a Two-Day Amateur Radio Outdoor Event” into the “Magic ToDo” dialog box and it came up with a rather thorough six-page checklist of items for a successful event. The list can also be edited to add or remove items. I thought it was good for planning an event of this type.

I didn't take any pictures at the club POTA event in October. There were only four of us that showed up and made a total of 51 contacts that Don has uploaded to the POTA web page. The club members in attendance were me, Roger, KE8ICI, Dan, ND8J and Nathan, KE0RYO.

That is all I have so until next month — “Be safe and Ham it UP”!

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA)

The results of the September OSPOTA event have been released. MVARC finished 13th out of 21 in the Multi OP-Multi Radio Low Power category. We were also recognized for having a Golden Log, thanks Don, W8PEN.



18th Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest - 2025 - Final Scores

Overall High Score

Team K8BSR in Mary Jane Thurston State Park 33,251



MML : Multi Op - Multi Radio - Low Power - In an Ohio State Park			
#	Call	Park Name/Team	Final Score
1	K8BSR	Mary Jane Thurston: KE8UTX KE8UKX K8CAG N8ZGM AB8RC W8NI KF8CNK WB8RG KE8QJV KE8SZL	33,251
2	K8UU	Caesar Creek: WZ8K WE8N KA8IIM KA8STM KD8VWF	14,014
3	W8VTD	Mosquito Lake: K8CPG AB8MO W8CJA KE8ZDB KB8GAB KA8WMF N8HRZ	8,480
4	KE8RV	Madison Lake: N8CWU W8RAQ W8RAY KC8ZKS W8DPK WB8OSU KE8VSY KE8NHH WD8NVN KE8YVG N8HXW	6,981
5	N8CUB	Paint Creek: N8BAP, N8CUB, WD8LSN, KE8PAQ	4,321
6	K8B	Wingfoot Lake: WG8X, N8QE, W8NET, KD8OBA, WB9LBI, KD9ZDY, WD8DAU, K8IV	4,023
7	W8O	Cowan Lake: N8MIQ, N8VSI, W8LEW	3,864
8	K8GQB	Guilford Lake: KF8CYL, K8BXT, K8IKO, KC8JOO	3,240
9	W8HCG	Indian Lake: K2KAR, N4HAI, K8MP	3,021 **
10	W8VP	Blue Rock: N8IMW KE8NI WD8SDH KF8CGY W8FHF KE8ZKR KE8CIN	2,295
11	W8UCO	Delaware: KE8ANU, NX8Y, KD8RGW, KB8YVC, N8IG, N8SNA, KE8VIX, KE8PRP	1,554
12	K8BXQ	Harrison Lake: KD8KBU, KB8ELG, KE8OKA, KE8BHW, KD8ZKE, KC8HDG, AA8YY, W8AN	1,280
13	K8EEN	Mohican: KE8ICI, KC8EVS, K1BN, KE0RYO, W8PEN	1,036 **
14	WF8X	Caesar Creek: AD8FD, KE8YEI, KD8BNR, KF8EMX, KF8CEB, KF8BMC, AB8RG	957
15	KC8OH	Pymatuning: KE8PVL, KC8LAR, KE8GJL, AC8YJ, AD8OI, KC8RJO	594
16	K8GE	Adams Lake: KE8GAD, K8WEH, AB8GJ	575
17	N8QA	Shawnee: KB8SRN, N8WSS, WX8G, W8TBS, KD8WTG	520
18	NO8I	Sycamore: AB8YK, N8VAR, KE8DOC, KE8CVB	476
19	K8VON	Independence Dam: KD8JSP WD8JVV NU8G KB8UPA	90
20	KA8OFE	South Bass Island: W8SRD, W8BNO, WB3AK, KE8YUJ	66 **
21	W8NL	Mt. Gilead: KE8FHG, KF8CMD	CL

** = Golden Log CL = Check Log

Centerburg Old Time Farm Festival

MVARC was represented in the Centerburg Old Time Farm Festival with a booth staffed by Frank, KC8EVS, Roger, KE8ICI, Tom, KD8HSA, and Nathan, KE0RYO. Several members of the public stopped by to show interest in ham radio.



Final Takeaway

What Is Software-Defined Radio (SDR)? In a traditional radio, most signal processing (mixing, filtering, demodulating, etc.) is done with hardware circuits. In an SDR, much of that work is done in software — using a computer, microcontroller, or FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array – integrated circuit) to process signals digitally.

Meaning:

- You can reconfigure your “radio” instantly by loading new software or firmware.
- One SDR device can receive AM, FM, SSB, CW, digital modes.
- Easier to visualize signals with a spectrum scope, analyze the spectrum, and experiment.

I have had an SDRPlay unit connected to my IC-7300 for many years and use it to explore the spectrum for SSB and CW signals using SDRUno software. I am planning to connect it to the new Yaesu transceiver soon to continue exploring.

SDR hardware

Device	Frequency Range	Price Range	Notes
RTL-SDR	~24 MHz – 1.7 GHz	\$30–\$50	Great starter; limited dynamic range; receive-only
HackRF One	DC – 6 GHz	~\$300	TX/RX; very flexible for experiments
Airspy / SDRplay	Varies	\$100–\$300	Higher quality receive-only units
LimeSDR / USRP / Hermes-Lite	DC – 3.8 GHz+	\$300–\$1,000+	Full transceivers, often used for serious ham and research applications
FlexRadio / Apache Labs Anan	HF transceivers	\$\$\$	Professional-grade amateur SDR rigs
New Yaesu and Icom radios	HF transceivers	\$1000+	Amateur SDR base stations

Software

Category	Popular Software	Description
General SDR	SDR#, HDSDR, CubicSDR, GQRX	General-purpose receivers: visualize spectrum, demodulate AM/FM/SSB.
Digital Modes	WSJT-X, FLDIGI, HRD, WSPR	Use with virtual audio cable to decode FT8, PSK31, etc.
Analysis / Experimentation	GNU Radio, SDRangel, Quisk	For building custom DSP flowgraphs and modulation schemes.
Scanning & Decoding	DSDPlus, Unitrunker	Decode trunked systems, digital voice, and other signals.

SDR Projects

1. Wideband Spectrum Monitor – Watch multiple MHz of spectrum in real time and spot signals.
2. ADS-B Aircraft Tracking – Use an RTL-SDR + dump1090 to track aircraft beacons.
3. NOAA Weather Satellite Images – Receive real weather imagery from orbit (APT or LRPT).
4. Decode Digital Voice Modes – Listen to DMR, P25, or D-STAR signals with software decoders.
5. Panadapter for Your HF Rig – Tap your transceiver’s IF output into an SDR to see a live waterfall display.
6. Build Your Own SDR in GNU Radio – Learn DSP by creating filters, demodulators, and transmitters from scratch.
7. Remote HF Receiver Node – Host an SDR remotely (e.g., KiwiSDR) accessible via the web.

Ham Radio Applications

- Weak Signal Work: Use SDR’s precision and narrow filters for FT8, WSPR, and EME.
- Contest & DXing: Panadapter views let you see where the activity is instantly.
- Signal Analysis: Measure IMD, bandwidth, or spurious emissions.
- Experimental Modes: Develop new digital modes and modulations.

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

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Evan, KF8APC

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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. **



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