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MVARC Repeaters

K8EEN VHF Repeater 146.790 MHz - 600KHz / PL = 71.9 Hz

K8EEN-R Echolink Node: 809800

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

Meeting Notice

February Meeting— February 12th at 7:00 pm at the Academy Building.

President's View

Frank Counts KC8EVS



January is done, it went fast. We were busy here, spent the first week in Florida, which was-

n't bad. Wasn't warm, I think the temperatures here and in Florida were the same. Oh well I wasn't there to enjoy the warmer weather. When I got home, I found one leg of my antenna on the ground, the limb that it was attached to broke. So, I have it up temporarily in a lower branch which means that the end is only about 8 feet off the ground. Which has made a difference, I now can only tune easily on 40 and 20 meters. I will be working on getting it up higher but not until it is warmer outside.

Winter Field day (WFD) was last weekend, and I couldn't participate with the club at Roger's place but from what I hear it went well. There should be a write up here in the newsletter. I did get to participate in WFD some and made 133 contacts which is good for me. I'm working on improving my ability to make contacts. My preferred method is to hunt and pounce which is slow and does not demand much from the operator therefore why I like it, basically I'm lazy. A better method is to call CQ and let all the lazy hunt and pounce guys come to you. They will and it is nerve racking, at least for me, to call CQ and hear several replies at once. Then you must pick out a call and reply. You might only get one letter of a call but that will work and limit what you hear next, and you can make your contact. It keeps you on edge and after about an hour I needed to take a break. It was fun and it will help my next endeavor, which is POTA, Parks on the Air. More about that as I get out and activate some of the parks around here.

Terry is putting together the newsletter so it will be on time and more informational, so I will stop here. Hope to see you all at the next meeting on February 12th. Oh, also it looks like we will be amateur radio license testing on the 14th for those who would like to participate.

73!

Membership Dues

If you haven't renewed for 2024 your membership dues should be paid at the February meeting or as soon as possible.

Bill Stroud

Bill Stroud KD8WHQ



The January 2024 meeting of the Mt. Vernon ARC was called to order by Vice President Emery Bennett, W8TW at 7:00 pm. President Frank Counts, KC8EVS was

out of town.

The minutes for the December meeting were not presented and will be presented at the February meeting.

The Treasures report for the December meeting was not presented and will be presented at the February meeting. Terry, KI8N was absent.

Committee Reports

ARES

The Ohio ARES VHF Contest is on January 20, 2024, from 9am to 4 pm. You may operate this contest from anywhere. You can operate on all VHF frequencies, simplex. No repeater contacts allowed.

For more info go to *ohsimplex.org*.

ARRL

Scott, N8SY, reported that NBC this morning had a video on a school contacting the space station, it is on <u>YouTube</u>. He will be at the ARRL board meeting next week and will have a report at the February meeting.

Repeaters

Steven, N8RLW has the PL board for the 146.79 MHz repeater ready to install and will have it completed by the end of the month. He and Roger would like to swap the repeater Roger has been checking out and put the club's back in. They would also like to install the amplifier to see if that will clean up the repeaters signal. The 440 repeater is at Steve's house and is being worked on.

MESH / EchoLink

Don, W8PEN stated all the MESH nodes except the one at KCH is working. There is now a node in the radio room at the Academy Building.

EchoLink is working with the new computer but went down once. Not sure what happened.

PIO

No Report—Steven Harvey, N8RLW was absent.

Old Business

Tech Classes / VE Testing

Michael, KE8HGE reported the next V.E. Testing session will be Wednesday January 10 at 6:30pm at the Academy Building.

Michael, KE8HGE is looking to start a Tech class at the end of February.

New Business

Nothing to Report

(WFD) "I can't think of a better way to spend a weekend after the cold weather and snow we have had recently." Don, W8PEN

Coming Events

Winter Field Day – January 28 and 29. Will be held at Roger Gorrell's home.

NVIS Day – April 27, 10 am – 4 pm – Location TBD

Black Fork Gravel Grinder – May 4—Black Fork Gravel Grinder

Field Day – June 22—23—<u>ARRL Field Day</u>—location TBD

Ohio State Parks On the Air – Sept. 7 - 10 am – 6 pm – OSPOTA

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:25 pm by Michael, KE8HGE and seconded by Roger, KE8ICI. The motion passed.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Don Bunner, KB8QPO.



Those present at the 1/8/2024 Meeting

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE Scott Yonally, N8SY Don Russell, W8PEN Scott Fields, W8HK Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI Bill Bullock, KE8ZIG Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ Emery Bennet, W8TW

Tom Evans, KD8HSA Ralph Bower, KC8REB Wayne Bower, WB8WB Kevin Adams, KD8NGV Jim Bostic, KD8IZT Barry Butz, N8PPF John Nixon, Guest Don Bunner, KB8QPO

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 9:00 am— Breakfast Ground Hog Day	3
4 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net—Don (W8PEN)	5	6	7 4:45 pm Dinner	8	9 9:00 am— Breakfast McDonalds	10
11 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	12 7 pm MVARC Meeting	13	14 Valentines Day 4:45 pm Dinner	15	16 9:00 am— Breakfast McDonalds	17
18 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net— Michael (KE8HGE)	¹⁹ President's Day	20	21 4:45 pm Dinner	22	23 9:00 am— Breakfast McDonalds	24
25 <i>9</i> :00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	26	27	28 4:45 pm Dinner	29		

Ham Radio Contest Calendar

Radio Activity

Don Russell W8PEN



Winter Field Day 2024

As I write this, Winter Field Day is right around the corner. February 27th to be exact. By the time members read this, WFD will be over. There is a write up elsewhere

in this newsletter.

There will be at least four or five club members working together and making contacts during this event. Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI, has volunteered his Pole barn as a base of operation. Heated and with a bathroom. Nice!

Roger and I spent Friday afternoon the 26th setting up antennas and equipment. Everything is working properly. The only thing we don't know is if we will have station to station interference. That is always possible when dealing with stations close together. We will deal with it if it is a problem.

I can't think of a better way to spend a weekend after the cold weather and snow we have had recently. But it is going to rain! Welcome to Ohio.

Winter Field Day has been growing in popularity for the last few years to where there is a lot of participation. The club participated in this event last year and except for a dead period in the middle of the night, the bands were sizzling with activity.

Currently there are over 900 stations regis-

tered on the Winter Field Day map: <u>https://</u> <u>winterfieldday.org/</u>. Since operators can work each station once on each band and mode, that is a lot of possible contacts.

The club is going all out this year. We will be setting up two transmitters to operate simultaneously. We will be able to operate SSB, CW, or Digital from either station. This is something I wanted to try. We may do this during the summer ARRL Field Day if it works out.

Hope you were able join us for this event.

North American QSO Party, RTTY

If you missed Winter Field Day, there is another opportunity to participate in a club contest this coming February. Members may be interested in operating a radio during this contest. There will be no SSB or CW. This is an RTTY contest. RTTY is commonly called Radio Teletype.

RTTY is probably the oldest digital mode on record. When I first started amateur radio in 1965, RTTY operators were using old Model 15 teletype equipment and tube type decoders. You may have seen a Model 15 unit in one of the classic movies featuring newspaper reporters. Yes, it is that old.

I bought a Model 15 at the Dayton Hamfest one year. Had it for many years. While I did get it working receiving RTTY, I never got interested enough in the sending part. Unfortunately, one day I was tired of it taking up space and set it out on the sidewalk. I marked "free" on it. It was gone in a couple of hours. Probably to the scrap yard, but who knows.

"...we will be amateur radio license testing on the 14th for those who would like to participate.." Frank, KC8EVS

Of course, now days we mostly use computers This, of course, got me thinking about antenfor RTTY. Pretty quiet in the shack with computers. Doesn't feel right, but it is what it is. Prove your contact rate. Beam antennas are

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RTTY	45.45/170	s/n 1	

I was trying to test the computer software that the club will be using during this contest. I found out that all the other modes have basically taken over. Finding an RTTY station to practice on is a problem. Thankfully, the ARRL still broadcasts some of its bulletins using RTTY, and last weekend there was an RTTY contest going on. I was able to check things out and I really think this is going to be a fun contest for club members that show up.

The NAQP RTTY contest is from Saturday February 24, 2024, 1:00 PM to Sunday February 25, 1:00 AM.

I have only done one RTTY contest in my life. That was about 20 years ago. I will be interested in seeing how well we do.

ARRL Field Day 2024

Getting things ready for Winter Field Day got me thinking about past ARRL Field Days.

I think we do pretty good for the most part. However, for some reason, we have always had problems making contacts on 20-meters. 20-meters should be a work horse for making contacts during ARRL Field Day. I'm not just talking about the SSB station either. We don't usually make a lot of CW contacts on 20 meters either. This, of course, got me thinking about antennas. Better antennas are the best way to improve your contact rate. Beam antennas are out of the question. I have no desire to set up a tower and a triband beam. We used to do this. It was a lot of work.

My answer was to build two 20-meter dipoles. Put them up in the air as high as possible. One would run East and West, the other would run North and South. If you can get the dipoles up high enough, the dipoles will radiate broadside in a figure eight pattern. Therefore, you will cover North, East, South, and West with dipoles placed above. The advantage over a beam? No need to turn the antenna. Simply switch antennas in and out with a standard antenna switch.

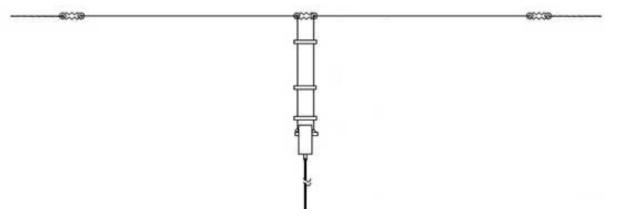
Getting the antennas up as high as possible is the key. A 1:1 balun would help keep the antenna radiation pattern clean, but not necessary.

To expand on this idea. Providing there is enough room. We could build 20-meter Extended Double Zepp antennas. The difference between the two antennas? A 20-meter dipole is about 35 feet long and fed in the center. The 20-meter Extended double Zepp antenna is about 88 feet long, fed in the center, and has about 3db gain over the dipole. That is like doubling your power!

Downside? Two more antennas to put up! Since we would like our stations to be able work all bands, that would mean three antennas dedicated to one station.

Personally, I think it would be worth it. I might try the Extended Double Zep antennas at the CW station.

Double Zepp



Even if we put up one Extended Double Zep antenna, it would be an advantage we didn't have before. If the antenna was run North and South, then stations from the East and West coast could be worked. Those are two highly populated areas!

EchoLink Report

EchoLink seems to have stabilized and has been running without any serious issues for a while now.

If we ever get internet access at the club, I would like to move the EchoLink equipment there. Something like that will eventually happen.

Local Mesh Network

I have decided to stop wasting my time trying to get the PBX phone system working correctly on the local mesh network. All the software works, but sometime signals between the mesh nodes are not sufficient to allow for reliable VOIP. With that in mind, I have shut off this part of the mesh. Using phones is still an option though. Since the phones allow IP to IP calling, we can bypass the PBX software altogether.

The BBS is still working fine. I have uploaded club

newsletters from around 2014 to 2023. This part of the network works well. There are also a few videos. Unfortunately, they have the same fate as the phones. Sometimes it works well, other times, not so well. It is best to download the videos rather than try to view them online.

It is very disappointing that no one besides me gets on and plays with the local mesh network.

In fact, I am wondering if we should not bring this project to an end. The local mesh network has been running for around ten years now without much of a breakthrough as far as usefulness.

Even though most of the money spent on this project has been my own, along with donations from Matt Mitchell KB8UVN and Frank Counts KC8EVS, I hate wasting club resources on this project if it is not moving forward.

Enough said for now. Something to discuss at one of our upcoming meetings.

That's a few pages for this month. See you all at the meeting. 73.

Winter Field Day

Don Russell W8PEN



What a blast! This year's version of Winter Field Day was a winner in all respects. Bands were packed with stations to work. Good company. Good food. If it wasn't so cold out, one would have thought it was ARRL Field Day in June.

Just look at our contest log. 603 total contacts and 14 multipliers for a total score of 12, 740. All the blue sections are the ARRL sections we contacted. The red sections are ARRL sections we missed. We did not miss

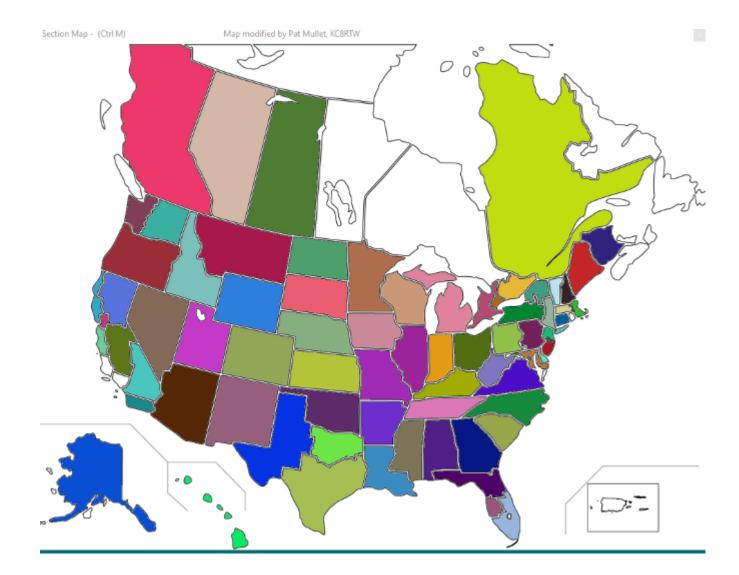
many.

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01 KF0A		MN	01/28 18:55		CW	USA	DR	W8PEN		Tot	al DIG Cont	tacts		
00 W3R	5O	EPA	01/28 18:54		CW	USA	DR	W8PEN						
99 K7SH		WY	01/28 18:53		CW	USA	DR	W8PEN		Tot	tal Multiplier	rs		
98 K3TV		NFL	01/28 18:53		CW	USA	DR	W8PEN		Tot	al Score			12,7
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Roger, KE8ICI, invited us to set up stations in his pole barn for Winter Field Day. What a nice setup.

Roger set up most of the antennas the day before the event began. We also had the advantage of using his beam. The cable run was probably 200 feet, but the antenna worked well.

Bands were well populated for most of the weekend. There was a lull in the action starting about 12 midnight and lasting until around 6:00 AM. This happened last year too. It did let everyone get a little shut eye.



Having the equipment inside was an advantage too. After the event, we were able to put off packing everything up until the next day after getting a good night's sleep.

Looking at the map, the colored in sections we worked and the white sections were not contacted.

Everyone that attended seemed to be having a great time.

Roger, KC8ICI—Don, W8PEN—Emery, W8TW—Barry, N8PPF—Scott, N8SY—Steven, N8RLW—Daniel, N8DJ—Scott, W8HK—Michael, W8OIO—Wendell, KE8NUX

"Don has put in a lot of work on this system and feels he is the only one keeping it alive. However, more of us should get involved, connect a node, and check in on the associated web page." Terry, KI8N For the first time in this contest, we attempted to do some digital mode contacts. Winter Field Day does not accept FT-8 or FT-4. So, most stations were on PSK-31 or RTTY. While we did not make a huge number of contacts, the digital station really increased our score two-fold. An unexpected bonus for using digital is the way this contest calculates your score. For multipliers, it is one multiplier per mode per band. For example: A group works 80-meters and uses SSB, CW, and Digital. That group can multiply their final score by a factor of three (One band, 3 modes). If the same group also worked 40-meters using all three modes, then the total multipliers would be six (2 bands X 3 modes) and so on.

So, regarding scoring, the digital mode is well work the effort. Even if you only work a few stations on each band.

Lastly, the group was fed well by Roger's XYL, Patricia. Particularly enjoyable was the shredded chicken for dinner and the Blue Berry Muffins for Breakfast. Yummy!

Band Break Down:

K8EEN's Contest Summary Report for WFD

Total Contacts = 603

Total Points = 12,740

Operating Period: 2024/01/27 19:11 - 2024/01/28 18:58

Total op time (breaks > 30 min deducted): 15:16:34

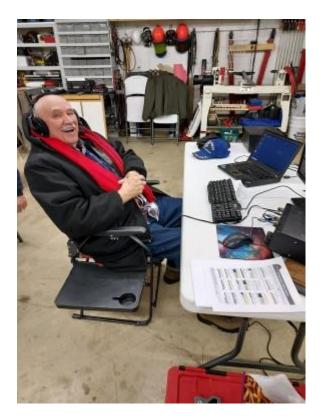
Total op time (breaks > 60 min deducted): 18:22:47

Avg Qs/Hr. (breaks > 30 min deducted): 39.5

Total Contacts by Band and Mode

Band	CW	Phone (SSB)	Digital	Total	%
80-Meters	27	28	0	55	9
40-Meters	154	164	4	322	53
20-Meters	107	77	4	188	31
15-Meters	8	19	1	28	5
10-Meters	1	8	1	10	2
Total	297	296	10	603	100

Winter Field Day 2024











Miscellaneous Rambling Terry Windsor

KI8N



I have been feeling very good for the last couple of weeks and am awaiting results of blood work that compares previous testing to blood taken recently. This test compares the DNA of both sam-

ples to determine if the cancer has been defeated. A PET scan I had in January showed no cancer in any of the lymph nodes but there was some uncertainty regarding the spleen, but according to the Dr. sometimes a PET scan has difficulty accessing the spleen.

However, I still have little energy or stamina and get worn out taking short walks or climbing stairs. My plan at this time is to attend the February meeting but those steps to the third floor will probably have me huffing and puffing.

One of the items Don mentioned in his Radio Activity column is possibly folding the Mesh network. I would dislike seeing this as I had a vision how we could use this for ARES with live video easily deployed. I know Don has put in a lot of work on this system and feels he is the only one keeping it alive. However, more of us should get involved, connect a node, and check in on the associated web page. I personally would like to be more involved but the distance from where I live to the next node, the Mount Vernon water tower, is too far for me to get a signal. I had hoped that eventually the Fredericktown water tower would get a node and then I would be able to connect to the system. Years ago, around 2015, I had a

tunnel IP connection into the system and remember we used the internet via a router, web page, and phones to keep in touch. This system worked good for checking in with each other during team radio contests to determine how each team member of Radiohio was doing.

I have been working of some on the club items this month. I updated the club's information on the ARRL web page, submitted our application for maintaining our Special Service Club designation, completed the financial statement for 2023 and anticipated budget for 2024.

At the February meeting I will be bringing copies of the 2023 financial statement and 2024 budget to go over with members present. This is to keep everyone cognizant of our finances and so everyone is aware of how the club's money is spent. I also have to do this to get a clear picture of our income for 2023 in filing our IRS 990 tax form and completing Ohio Attorney General's charitable registration system for 2023.

I would also like input on the K8EEN biography on QRZ.com. I have maintained this since Jim Williams, N8IBR (SK) passed away. Looking for new input, updates, or changes to the information. You can email me any ideas you might have about what is displayed on the biography page.

Monday, January 22, Cath and I drove to Lake Erie to see if there was much ice on the lake. We had never done this before and hoped it was worth seeing. There was an inlet at East Harbor State Park that had some ice fishing shacks and we saw a few people fishing. Then we went to Mile Long Pier in Lorain and the entire harbor was frozen solid. Sadly someone had left their sailboat in the water at one of the docks and it was frozen in place. Would be curious to know how much damage it suffers next spring when the ice is gone.

Overall there wasn't much ice on the lake except for maybe up to 50 feet from shore. After that the lake was not frozen. The worst part of this trip was the cold wind coming off the lake making it miserable to be out walking along the shore and piers. However, it was interesting and there was a rescue that day of fishermen that had to be plucked from an ice floe that broke off and floating away from shore.

Don't forget February 2 is Ground Hog Day. We finally get to find out if winter is over or do we have 6 more weeks to go! All to be decided by a furry rodent. "Rise and Shine It's Ground Hog Day!"



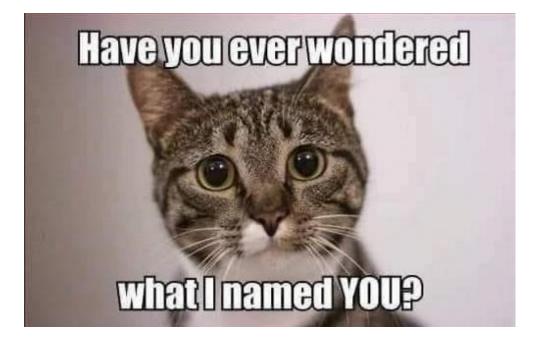
"Be safe and Ham it UP"!





FM Repeater Nets In And Around Knox County

County	Net	Frequency	Day and Time
Coshocton	CCRA	147.045 PL 71.9	Every Sunday 9:00 PM
Coshocton	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
Кпох	ARES Sunday Night Net	146.790 PL 71.9	Every Sunday 9:00 PM
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



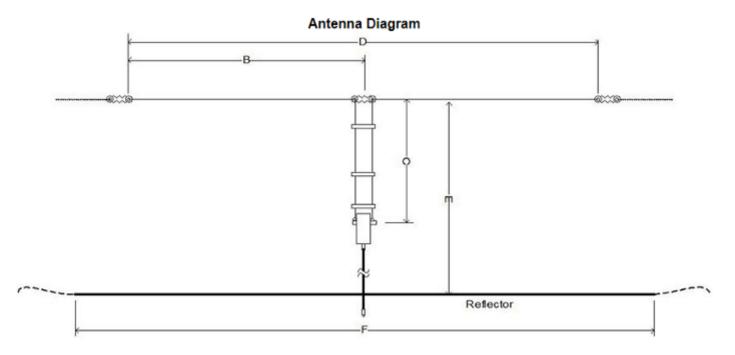
Final Takeaway

In Don's Radio Activity column he mention building an Extended Double Zepp antenna and here is a link to building this type of antenna and some information regarding a 20-meter variety. Note, this information comes from West Mountain Radio.

Link about this antenna: Extended Double Zepp Antenna

The Extended Double Zepp antenna is constructed much like an ordinary dipole antenna but with 5/8 wavelength elements matched with an added Impedance matching section of balanced feed line. The matching section is 450 ohm open wire feedline and is a compromise impedance between the 5/8 wave antenna elements and the feed point, with a 4:1 current balun between the feedline and the feed point.

The balun on the end matches the 450 ohm open wire line into a 50 ohm coax cable. The antenna as fed, matches reasonably well into a 50 ohm coax cable feedline.



The shown antenna calculations were made with 14.1 MHz, a frequency in the CW portion of the band that I picked at random.

If you have access to ARRL QST archive editions there is an article written by Jerry Haigwood, W5JH (SK) in the September 2006 QST Magazine that describes building and tuning this type of antenna. Check it out if you can or I can email it to you. (Editor, Terry)

Calculator
Frequency: MHz
Calculate
Frequency: 14.1 MHz
Extended Double Zepp Antenna
Element Length ("B"): 43 Feet, 11.6 Inches
Matching Stub Length ("C"): 7 Feet, 3.6 Inches
Total Antenna Length ("D"): 87 Feet, 11.3 Inches

NOTE: The calculations are approximate, so some exact antenna length and matching section length adjustment may be necessary. Dimensions will change slightly due to antenna height and ground conductivity variations.

I have been planning to build a 6 meter version of the antenna but have not been able to at this point. Hopefully in the month of February I will get it together. (Editor, Terry



Ohio ARRL Sanctioned Hamfests

The current listing of Ohio Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned hamfests March through April, 2024.

03/10/2024

WINTERHAMFEST Location: Elyria, OH Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Website: https://www.noars.net/?page_id=1062

03/17/2024

Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair Location: Perrysburg, OH Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association Website: https://w8hhf.org/hamfest/

04/13/2024

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 68th Hamfest Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: https://www.w8vpv.org/hamfest.php

04/13/2024

Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club Location: Bidwell, OH Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club

04/27/2024

Tusco Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Electronics, and Computer Show Location: Dover, OH Sponsor: Tusco Amateur Radio Club W8ZX Website: https://www.w8zx.net/hamfest

04/28/2024

Athens Hamfest Location: Athens, OH Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=25







Miscellaneous Amateur Radio Information

Join us every Sunday night on the Mt. 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.

Ohio Traffic Nets





The Ohio Single Side-Band Net (OSSBN)

Ohio Single Side-Band Net; Ohio connection for what is going on in the Ohio Traffic System. The Net meets on 3.972.5 MHz at 10:30 am, 4:15 pm, and 6:45 pm daily. Alternate Frequency for all sessions is 3.968 MHz.

Central Ohio Traffic Net

The Central Ohio Traffic Net is a part of the Ohio Section of the National Traffic System. They meet daily to handle traffic; all licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to check in and to learn to handle traffic. COTN meets daily at 7:15 pm on 146.970, -.600 MHz, PL 123.0. Signal Operating Instructions and frequencies given here: <u>https://www.cotn.us/sop</u>.

The Ohio ARES HF Digital Net-OHDEN

Tuesday at 7:45 pm 1804.5 MHZ, USB, Olivia 8-500 with water-fall frequency 1500.



"This year's version of Winter Field Day was a winner in all respects. Bands were packed with stations to work. Good company. Good food. If it wasn't so cold out, one would have thought it was ARRL Field Day in June." Don, W8PEN

MVARC

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Editors Notes

The MVARC Newsletter is delivered to club members via email containing a link to the MVARC webpage, 2024 Newsletters button.



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.

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



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND ANIMALS?

ANIMALS WOULD NEVER ALLOW THE DUMBEST ONES TO LEAD THE PACK