

January 2024  
2024 Edition 1



# Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

## Inside this issue

President's View .....	2
Meeting Minutes .....	3
Pictures from 2023.....	6
Radio Active.....	7
W8PEN Follow Up .....	11
13 Colonies (KE8HGE) .....	12
MVARC Calendar.....	14
Hamfest Schedule .....	15
FM Repeater Nets .....	16
August Meeting Notice.....	16
Misc. Amateur Info .....	17
FCC & License Updates .....	18
MVARC Officers .....	19
Items for Sale.....	20
Editor's Notes.....	21



## MVARC Repeaters

K8EEN VHF Repeater  
146.790 MHz  
- 600KHz

K8EEN-R Echolink Node:  
809800

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

## President's View

**Frank Counts**  
**KC8EVS**



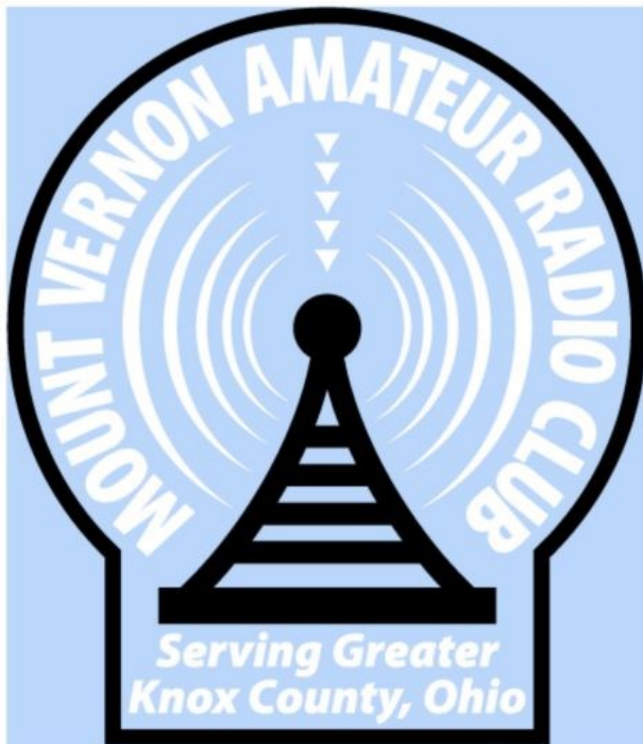
### President's View

This is a challenge for me to get something out. I'm not the one to sit in front of a computer and write something that I feel worth reading, plus time is always an issue. As I sit here, I think of all that I need to do plus all the things that I want to do, therefore I get nothing done. I hope you are not so inflected. Plus, there are the other distractions the cat wants fed, then wants out and as I sit down the dog wants out, never ends as they will soon want in. I can go on but will save your time by not whining any

more.

We had a great turn out for the Christmas dinner at Bob Evans, thanks to all in attendance. I spent the evening at a Christmas play that two of my grandchildren were in and had a great evening. Always fun to spend time with them.

Currently, we are getting ready to head out to Florida as our baby is about to have her second baby (a little girl). We are not sure when she will come into the world, but her due date is January 10<sup>th</sup>. So, I probably won't be present for the January meeting. Emery (new VP) will be in charge. Make sure you thank those who have stepped up to fill an office and those who keep our equipment working.



Listed elsewhere are events that we will be participating in as a club, please mark your calendars and if possible, participate. There will be other occasions such as a contest coming up that we will want to participate in if there is interest. So, if you see something and think that it might be something that others might be interested in, bring it up at one of our meetings. We have put together a good station and need to exercise it. Participating in our Sunday night net, contest, and events is a good way to develop your skills and become a better communicator. Please join us for our first ever meeting in 2024 on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7p in the Academy Admin Building 790 Fairgrounds Rd. It is surely to be a lively meeting with Emery in charge.

73

## Meeting Minutes

**Bill Stroud**

**KD8WHQ**



The December 2023 meeting of the Mt. Vernon ARC was called to order at 7:00 pm by Frank, KC8EVS. There were 16 members present.

### Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the last two months were presented and with one change were approved as read.

### Treasurers Report

Frank, KC8EVS presented the treasurers report for Terry. There were no changes or correction to the report and the report was approved as read.

### Committee Reports

#### **ARES**

If you would like to become ARES certified? It's easy! You will need to take four classes. They are all online and can be taken at your leisure. They take between 2 and 3 hours each. You can stop and start where you left off. There is a test at the end.

The 4 basic NIMS (ICS) courses are:  
ISC-100 - <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

[courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.d&lang=en](https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.d&lang=en)

ICS 200 - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.d&lang=en>

ISC 700 - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.d&lang=en>

ISC 800 - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.d&lang=en>

#### **ARRL**

Scott, N8SY, was not at the meeting, nothing to report.

#### **Repeaters**

Steven, N8RLW has the PL board for the .79 repeater ready to install and will have it completed by end to the month. The 440 repeater is at his house and it being worked on.

#### **Mesh/Echolink**

Don stated the all of the MESH node except the one a KCH is working. There is now a node at the Club House. He replaced the computer for Echolink and it is now working.

#### **Club Stations**

Don has installed WSJT on the club station and has made a few contacts with this radio. It is ready for use by the club.

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Ralph Hoffman presented the club with a toolbox and tools. Thank you Ralph.

### **Club Lease**

Brian Ball has not got back and we are dropping trying to get a response from him.

### **Tech Class/V.E. Testing**

Frank reported the next V.E. Testing session will be Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30pm here at the club station.

### **Public Information Officer**

Steven Harvey did not have any new news to report.

### **New Business**

Ralph Hoffman presented the club with a toolbox and tools. Thank you Ralph.

### **Website**

The club website has been paid for by Scott Yonally, the directors suggested that the club start paying for it next year. The cost is \$80 a year. There were no objections.

### **Old Business**

The November Sweep Stakes was held on November 19- 20. The club made 206 contacts.

### **Election of Officers**

The following were presented by Michael, KE8HGE for this year's election of officers. There were no additional nominations so everyone was elected.

**President:** Frank Counts, KC8EVS.

**Vice President:** Emery Bennet, W8TW.

**Treasurer:** Terry Windsor, KI8N

**Secretary:** Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ

**Directors:** Steve Harvey, N8RLW; Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI; Tom Evans, KD8HSA and Berry Butz, N8PPF.

### **Coming Events**

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

NVIS Day – April 27 – location TBD

Black Fork Gravel Grinder – May 4 for info [www.blackforkgravelgrinder.com/](http://www.blackforkgravelgrinder.com/)

Field Day – June 24-25 location TBD

Parks On the Air – Sept. 7 for more info <https://ospota.org/>

The 50/50 raffle was won by Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8 pm by Michael, KE8HGE and seconded by Roger, KE8ICI.

The motion passed.



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<b>December Meeting Members Present</b>
Frank Counts, KC8EVS
Emery Bennet, W8TW
Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI
Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE
Don Bunner, KB8QPO
Steve Harvey, N8RLW
Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ
Larry Howell, AC8YE
Tom Evans, KD8HSA
Bill Bullock, KE8ZIG
Scott Fields, W8HK
Wendell Combs, KE8NUX
Sean Lehman, KE8YUS
Ralph Hoffman, W8LFR
Barry Butz, N8PPF



The reason for burying cable at my QTH!





## Blackfork Gravel Grinder 2023

## Radio Active

**Don Russell**

**W8PEN**



Happy New Year everyone!

My radio activity was pretty decent the last two months of 2023. The club did the November Sweepstakes, SSB in November and I did the ARRL 160 meter contest in December.

These two activities alone made me more active than I have been for a while. However, add that to working on the Echolink system, redoing my station, and working on the clubs station and I can say that I have been really busy lately.

### **New Bandwidth Rules for HF**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published new rules adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024.

This change is very important for many digital users on HF. Not only will it allow for experimenting at higher baud rates on HF, it will allow existing message forwarding stations to increase their baud rates and thus deliver messages a bit faster.

The 60 meter band is the only HF band that is not affected by this change. Current rules remain in effect for the 60 meter band. Also, the VHF bands and above remains unchanged for the moment, but are under review.. The FCC has requested comments on rule changes for these bands.

Frequencies below 160 meters are also unchanged.

Being a former meteor scatter enthusiast, this change should open up 10 Meters to meteor scatter communications using MSK144. Something we have not been allowed to do because the MSK144 baud rate was 2,000 bps. However, the bandwidth of an MSK144 signal is only 2.5 KHz. Well within the 2.8 KHz bandwidth in the revised FCC rules. Meteor Scatter on 10 meters should be relatively easy. 100 watts and a dipole should be sufficient. In the past I have done some meteor scatter work on 10 meters using the digital mode JT9 Fast. However JT9 Fast is not ideal for meteor scatter.

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

I am looking forward to trying 10 meter meteor scatter using MSK144 on January 8, 2024. I think the frequency would be 28.145 MHz.

**A precautionary note: I have not been able to confirm that MSK144 will be legal on 10 meters. I think it will be, but plan on waiting for additional information before attempting MSK144 on 10 meters. Hopefully I will get confirmation before January 8, 2024.**

### **Meteor Scatter**

Speaking of meteor scatter, The Geminid Meteor Shower was December 13th, 2023 plus or minus a day or two. Darlene saw three or four meteors in about two minutes one morning while feeding the animals (in the dark). I immediately thought about meteor scatter on 6 meters and went down and turn on the rig.

Sure enough, the 6 meter band sounded like 20 meters. Only full of MSK144 signals instead of SSB. So, I worked a few stations that morning after figuring out the procedure. It had been awhile since I had done this mode of operating and I had to refresh my memory on operating procedures.

The next several mornings were pretty decent too as I worked a few more stations.

If nothing else, it gave me something to do in the morning.

Unfortunately, I could not try 2 meters because my station for 2 meter SSB has been torn apart. Maybe I will put it back together someday.

### **Club Station**

I have really put some effort into expanding our club station.

First off, I replace the computers we were using with an updated Windows 10 computer, which I am donating to the club. The old Panasonic computers just were not cutting it for what I had in mind for the club station.

In fact, I had replaced the Panasonic computers with another HP laptop I had on hand. This HP computer had a cracked screen, but was relatively new and Windows 10 worked very well on it. The cracked screen was a minor irritation since we had a larger external monitor to use.



However, I wanted to try and replace the broken screen and needed to remove this computer from service in order to do so.

The new computer works very nicely as the shack computer. It runs the logging software without an issue. I have also set it up for digital modes by installing the popular WSJT-X software and the FLdigi software set.

All is working quite nicely. I have made several FT-8 contacts on 40, 20, and 10 meters. I have decoded signals with FLdigi, but have not tried to transmit yet.

I feel we have a very capable station now. The operator has a choice of SSB, CW, and a smorgasbord of digital modes.

### **Winter Field Day**

The reason I have been working hard on the club station is because I would like to run three modes during Winter Field Day. The club has decided to participate in this event. Roger KE8ICI has invited the club to use his heated shed (or building). We are planning on running two stations. I would like both stations to be capable of SSB, CW, and Digital. The operator can then decide what mode and band he wants to operate.

Winter Field Day is January 27, 2024 starting at 2:00PM EST and ending January 28 at 2:00PM EST. Just like summer Field Day. While not sponsored by the ARRL, Winter Field Day has much the same feel as the summer ARRL Field Day, with similar a similar contest exchange. All club members are welcome to join us.

If you are interested in participating in Winter Field Day with the club, drop me a line, email me, or text me. Or just show up.

We do have one more meeting before the event, so you can let us know your intentions then.

### **Echolink Computer**

Cross your fingers. Echolink has been running for a few weeks now without a hitch.

In the last “Radio Activity” I mentioned that the computer I was using worked well, but the wifi kept dropping out. I thought I had solved the problem by using a “powered” USB extension port. Well, the wifi would still on occasion disappear. I don’t mean the signal. The driver for the wifi board would just quit!

Remember above, I said that I had replaced the club shack computer with a better one and that the screen was broken on the old one? Well, this is the computer I wanted to use on Echolink.

First though, I had to replace the screen. It was cracked and mostly unreadable. I had another computer that would not boot up and I was waiting for a time to work on it. The thought struck me that I could just swap the screen from this junk computer with the computer with the cracked screen. Different brands, so it might not work. But they were both 15 inch screens and I thought it was worth a shot.

So, I removed the cracked screen, and then the good screen from the non working computer. Laying them side by side, they looked exactly the same. Including mounting holes and connector locations. It appears some laptops use a generic monitor screen.

After installing the good screen, I started up the computer expecting to see smoke. Ah, non of that. The Windows introduction screen come up as it was supposed to. Yeah!

So now I had one computer with a good screen. The other computer was pitched after salvaging the hard drive, DVD drive, and wifi board.

Setting this computer up for Echolink was a piece of cake. Worked right off the bat and so far, no issues.

In the mean time, I think I found a solution to the wifi issue with the other two computers. I had bought an extra one for my shack and it had the same wifi issue. They were lacking a Windows update that apparently is not installed unless the user asks it to be installed.

Once this update was installed, the wifi seems to be working without issue. So, I have two computers in the shack now. One for logging and the other for playing. I am content.

Well that is more than enough for this month. Hope you enjoyed this months edition of "Radio Activity" Hope to see you at the meeting.

Don W8PEN

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### **Update on MSK144 on 10 meters**

I couldn't find the information needed by surfing the web, so I sent an email to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, the ARRL Radio Sports and Regulatory Information Manager.

The question I presented to him was: Will hams be allowed to use MSK144 for meteor scatter on 10 meters starting January 8, 2024?

His reply: As January 8th begin a bandwidth definition of data communications, and as communications bandwidth for data shall not exceed a standard 2.8 kHz phone emission, what you are discussing **IS permitted**.

I am planning on being one of the first ones to try MSK144 January 8, 2024.  
73, W8PEN

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73, W8PEN

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## My 13 Colonies Contest Experience

### What to do after reaching Infinity

As many of you know I do not have a permanent radio station. I live in an apartment complex that limits my ability to set up any kind of permanent antenna outside. That does not mean, however, that I don't have a radio to set up. I have an Alinco DR-SX8 (with power supply, tuner, magnetic loop antenna, etc.), and this year I decided to set it up for the 13 Colonies Contest.

I took my radio and other equipment out to my parents house on the 4th of July. They live on top of a hill to the west of Gambier. I got everything set up and tuned the transceiver to 7.200 MHz. I picked that frequency because of its reputation for always being busy. However, I didn't hear anything. I checked all of the connections, but they seemed to be in good order. Next, I took an antenna analyzer that Dave Phillips (W8DEP) had given me and hooked it up to my antenna. I set it check for the 20-meter band and the SWR meter immediately pegged to the far end of the meter. Looking at where the needle was firmly lodged, I saw the Infinity symbol.

I also checked the antenna on 10- and 40-meter bands, just to make sure. I hit Infinity every time. Bummer. After packing my other equipment back up, I took my time carefully disassembling the antenna. I discovered that a connector pin inside the "T" where the feed line connects with inner loop had broken.

I still wanted to try the contest so I decided to give the club station a shot. I was working with a study group at the time, so I had a key to the building. The station is set up to be turned on and used quickly. Once I had everything powered up, I decided to give the 20-meter band a shot and within just a few minutes of getting the station turned on and tuned up I'd gotten my first contest contact. This was possible because of the spectrum analyzer on the radio. The analyzer made it very easy to locate frequencies that were active; I moved from spike to spike in an effort to locate contest stations and make the contact.

I didn't spend a lot of time there that evening but I did get three or four contacts before I called it a night. I went back on the evenings of the 5th and the 6th and spent a couple of hours each evening trying to see what else I could get. After those 3 evenings, I ended up getting 11 of the 13 colonies as well as the special station set up at Philadelphia. I have included a scan copy of the contest certificate that I received couple months after I submitted my contest log.

So ended my first Thirteen Colonies Contest. Maybe next year, I can use my own rig.

Respectfully submitted,

G M Jacobs, KE8HGE



# 15th Annual 13 Colonies



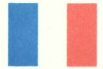
# Special Event

JULY 1ST - 7TH 2023



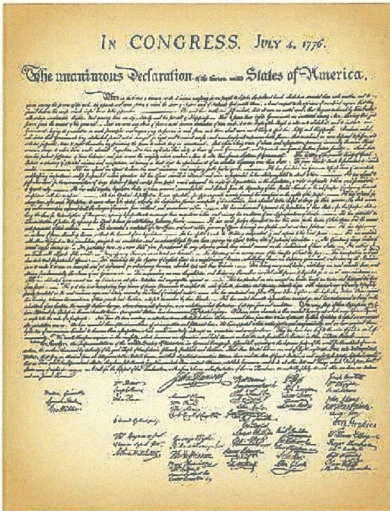
## 73'

### SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



K2A/NY

*\*Wm. Floyd*



*\*John Hancock*

K2H/MA



K2B/VA

*\*Thos. Jefferson*

*\*Abe Clark*

K2I/NJ



K2C/RI

*\*Stephen Hopkins*

*\*John Penn*

K2J/NC



K2D/CT

*\*Wm. Williams*

*\*Wm. Whipple*

K2K/NH



K2E/DE

*\*Caesar Rodney*

*\*Ed. Rutledge*

K2L/SC



K2F/MD

*\*Wm. Paca*

*\*Ben. Rush*

K2M/PA



K2G/GA

*\*Geo. Walton*



*Lord Frederick North*



*Marquis De Lafayette*



THIS CERTIFICATE CERTIFIES THAT ARS: **KE8HGE** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ON - AIR AMATEUR RADIO EVENT HONORING THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONY STATES, OUR INDEPENDENCE, & OUR ACTIVE MILITARY / VETERANS.

## 11

CONTACTS



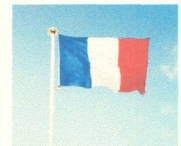
ALL  
SSB



WM3PEN



*Ben. Franklin*



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 9:00 am— Breakfast	6
7 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	8 <b>7 pm</b> <b>MVARC</b> <b>Meeting</b>	9	10 4:45 pm Dinner	11	12 9:00 am— Breakfast	13
14 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	15	16	17 4:45 pm Dinner	18	19 9:00 am— Breakfast	20
21 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	22	23	24 4:45 pm Dinner	25	26 9:00 am— Breakfast	27
28 9:00 pm ARES Sunday Night Net	29	30	31 4:45 pm Dinner			

## Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned Hamfests

Here is the current listing of Great Lakes Division ARRL Sanctioned hamfests and Special Events through March of 2024. (Ohio hamfests in **BOLD**)

**01/14/2024-Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation Hamfest, Shade Ohio**

02-10-2024 Cherryland ARC 50th Anniversary Swap-N-Shop, Traverse City, MI

02-17-2024 Livonia Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap & Shop, Livonia, MI

03-02-2024 Cave City Hamfest, Cave City, KY

**03-10-2024 Winterhamfest, Elyria, OH**

**03-17-2024 Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair, Perrysburg, OH**



## FM Repeater Nets In And Around Knox County

County	Net	Frequency	Day and Time
Ashland	No net as of 03.30.2023		
Coshocton	CCRA	147.045 PL 71.9	Every Sunday 9:00 PM
	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
Holmes	No net as of 03.30.2023		
<b>Knox</b>	<b>ARES Sunday Night Net</b>	<b>146.790 PL 71.9</b>	<b>Every Sunday 9:00 PM</b>
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

**Has anyone tried contacting any of the other nets? We have several operators from Licking County joining our Sunday Night Net and it would be great if we could reciprocate and join their net!**

## February MVARC MEETING

**February 12th at 7 pm.**

**Academy Building  
790 Fairgrounds Rd.  
Mount Vernon, OH**



## 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: <https://www.cotn.us/sop>.

### The Ohio ARES HF Digital Net—OHDEN

Tuesday at 7:45 pm 1804.5 MHz, USB, Olivia 8-500 with waterfall frequency 1500.



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“... I wanted to promote the repeaters that are in Knox County and Arlin, KD8EVR has a very nice 440 MHz machine that does both Analog and DMR.” Steven, N8RLW

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## FCC and License Updates



### First-Time Exam Applicants Must Obtain an FCC Registration Number before Taking an Exam

All amateur examination applicants are required to provide an FCC Registration Number ([FRN](#)) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) BEFORE taking an amateur exam. **Social security numbers are no longer accepted at exam sessions.**

Amateur candidates who already have an FCC license, whether for amateur radio already have an FRN and can use the same number. All prospective new FCC licensees, however, will be required to obtain an FRN *before* the examination and provide that number to the volunteer examiners on the Form 605 license application

All applications will be required to contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email direct from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed.

### FCC Application Fee and VEC Filed Applications

EXAMINEES MUST PAY WITHIN 10 DAYS.

Examinees do **NOT** have to wait for the email from the FCC to pay the fee. As soon as an the application file number is issued by

the FCC, they can pay by logging into the CORES [Payer FRN System](#).

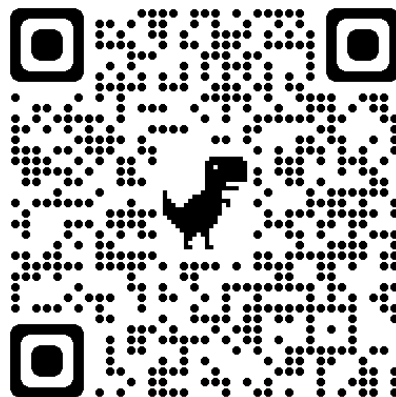
Application File Number search using an FRN: [FCC Application File Number Search](#)

### FCC Legacy CORES System—Retired

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) retired the [Legacy version](#) of its Commission REgistration System (CORES) on July 15, 2022.

CORES is designed to identify those who hold certain types of FCC licenses and FCC authorizations, including amateur licenses, and organize them in an easily accessible manner under a common FCC Registration Number (FRN) regardless of whether one holds a single such authority or more.

Starting on July 15, 2022, the Legacy CORES website will re-direct users to the [Commission's updated CORES](#) site. Although some functionalities in the old system will continue to work for a short time, the [FCC has urged all users](#) to transition to the updated CORES system to take advantage of its enhanced security and functionality.



## MVARC

---

\* President

Frank Counts, KC8EVS

\* Vice President

Emery Bennet, W8TW

\* Secretary

Bill Stroud, KD8WHQ

\* Treasurer

Terry Windsor, KI8N

\* Club Call Trustee

Don Russell, W8PEN

\* Equipment Trustee

Barry Butz, N8PPF

\* Directors

Michael Jacobs, KE8HGE

Roger Gorrell, KE8ICI

Steve Harvey, N8RLW

Tom Evans, KD8HSA

Barry Butts, N8PPF

\* Newsletter Editors

Frank Counts, KC8EVS

Terry Windsor, KI8N

## Contact Us

MVARC

812 Coshocton Ave.

PMB #145

Mount Vernon, OH

43050

## Email

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



## Items for Sale



Make an offer. I used this with my 706.

Frank KC8EVS

### Deal of the Day! (updated)

Bluetooth jumper cables. Good for about 30 feet when jumping cars. Makes life a lot easier instead of having all the wires attached.

~~\$40~~-20. I have about 6 pairs for sale.

Terry, KI8N





## Editors Notes

The MVARC Newsletter is delivered to club members via email containing a link to the MVARC webpage, Member Pages heading.



*Thanks to all for your assistance with the MVARC Newsletter; in 2022 we were selected as the second best newsletter in the Ohio Section.*

Please note the contact email for the MVARC newsletter is: [admin@mvarc.net](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/mvarc)

