

**MVARA Members:** 

When last we celebrated a milestone anniversary, it was our 80<sup>th</sup>. The twenty years between then and now have, as time can and does, flown by, much has changed in that time. Members have come and gone, technology has advanced, and our hobby has benefited from those members and the "tech."

We have continued to be an ARRL affiliated club and have maintained our SSC status. Along the way, we built a new repeater (or two) and installed a new feedline and antenna on the .745 machine. We have witnessed new modes of operation, mainly digital in nature, that we never could have imagined in 1999.

But so much for the past, let us turn out sites to the future. What will the next century bring our hobby and service? Hopefully, the MVARA will be here for its 125th anniversary and beyond and we can look back upon what has been accomplished, then.

Thank you for joining us tonight and thank you for your contributions to the MVARA and the Amateur Service.

Thanks also, to the sponsors who made this commemorative program possible. Please patronize them whenever possible.

The MVARA Centennial committee:

Jim Stiffler WB8UJS – MVARA President

Rick Albrecht KD8ZUN Gene Boccia WQ8H Wes Boyd W8IZC Dave Brett KD8NZF Nancy Brett KD8QNY Andy Brincko WA8ZLK Mark Haverstock K8MSH Mike McCleery K8PRR Dave Salmen WB8IBA Rich Slutz KB8GAE Frank Sole WB8YHD



### Our Story

### A Brief History of the MVARA

It was over... over there! The Great War had ended with the signing of the Armistice between The Allies and Germany on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 and the doughboys were coming home. The Nation and the World desired a return to a peaceful sense of normalcy. Certain wartime restrictions, however, were at least initially retained. One of these was the wartime restriction on amateur radio, imposed by Congress upon America's entry into WW I.

The US Navy in fact, did not want to allow civilians ever to return to the airwaves; fearing interference with vital military communications by "amateurs". By October of 1919 all opposition was squelched and by an uncharacteristically wise act of Congress, the restrictions on HAM radio were lifted. (This would prove to be very important to the Allied victory in WWII.) By the time restrictions were lifted, an enthusiastic group of radio experimenters in the Mahoning Valley, were already meeting at each other's homes to discuss the "how's, why's and wherefores' of wireless communications. This group of enthusiasts was to become the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association we know today.

Written history has played "hide and seek" with the exact date of those first meetings, but oral tradition passed on from generation to generation of MVARA members, sets the starting year at 1919.

[From the <u>February 1922</u> addition of QST magazine "Eighty-five members attended the First Annual Banquet of the Youngstown (Ohio) Radio Club. After enjoying a" fine feed" the meeting was addressed by R.L. Patch, Rev. Father Manning, and Prof. H.W. Harmon of Grove City College. Messrs. Ropar and Drake put on a little skit "Message from Mars," which was the hit of the evening. Wayne Shaffer, toastmaster, was presented with a rubber contact key in appreciation of his efforts with a side-swiper at 8GW." - Ed]

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When this writer joined the MVARA, around 1971, many of the then members, knew and were in fact "Elmered" by charter members of the club. Some of those charter members, though advanced in years were still alive in 1971 and some made it to meetings. The names, Marty Cornell W8PS, Leland "Lee" Clegg K8AAK, Percy Pennock W8OE, and Carl Schuller W8EJP, come to mind. Marty and Carl were in fact Charter Members of the club.

MVARA became an ARRL affiliated club on February 6, 1925. MVARA is also a Special Service Club.

Our coming together as a club dedicated to the advancement of amateur radio, predates the advent of commercial broadcasting. Warren Williamson was yet to begin transmitting AM music and neighborhood news from his home on Youngstown's south side, something he initially began as pretty much just a fun thing to do. KDKA in Pittsburgh did not yet exist. The FCC hadn't even been thought about.

There was no power grid for most of the US. This was the case, even though the Thomas Edison vs. George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla, debate over DC vs. AC for electrical energy transmission had been resolved in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Natural gas or kerosene lanterns lit America's homes and coal, wood fireplaces or stoves heated them. Few homes yet had telephones although those numbers were increasing. The MVARA was there to witness these conditions and see the advancements that changed them.

When we started as a club, spark ruled the day! The new-fangled vacuum tubes were still around the corner in time. When vacuum tubes did arrive, they soon found their way into our founder's hands, and were likely put to good use in their home-brewed rigs. Tube technology advanced rapidly, yielding many variations, each with more complex internal structures. Rectifiers and triodes came first, soon thereafter tetrodes, pentodes and beam power tubes, each new type allowing better and more reliable communications. During all of this, the MVARA was there.

Along came amplitude modulation, and super-regenerative receivers, followed by super-heterodyne receivers. Frequency modulation and suppressed carrier double sideband developed and then suppressed carrier single sideband arrived conserving valuable spectrum space. The MVARA was there!

The MVARA and her members struggled through the Great Depression of the late 20's and through the 30's.

[From the Youngstown Vindicator, December 12, 1925: "Radio Clubhouse is Authorized! The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Club met at the home of Earl Bauman in Warren last night, decided to go ahead with previous plans for a clubhouse in a building already rented by the club near McKinley Heights. It has been suggested that the clubhouse plans be laid aside in favor of meeting places in Youngstown and Warren. These officers were elected for the coming year: David McFarlin, Youngstown, president; C.R. Downs, Warren, vice-president; Harry Hahn, Youngstown, secretary; Ray Wardle, Youngstown, Treasurer. Work on putting the clubhouse into condition will begin next week-end." – Ed] (YV 12-12-1925)

Late in the 1930's, war clouds once again gathered across the world. MVARA members surely answered the call to duty after December 7, 1941 as America was forced into World War II. This time amateur radio operations were not completely suspended by the government. However, the nature of amateur operations allowed were severely limited and radically changed for the duration of the war, all but shutting the hobby down.

After VJ-Day, August 15, 1945 there was no major debate as to allowing civilians back on the air; amateurs had proven their worth in the war effort. Just six days later, on August 21, 1945 the ban on regular ham operation was lifted, although initially only operations on the old 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> meter band were allowed. Restoration of privileges on the other bands followed shortly thereafter. The MVARA was there to witness these events. In 1947 scientists and engineers at Bell Labs invented the bipolar transistor giving birth to a revolution in modern electronics. Smaller, lighter, cooler operating radio gear soon became available; soon the integrated circuit allowed even smaller and more efficient radio gear. MVARA was there.

The 1950's through 1980's brought the "Cold War" and eventually the Space Race. During the IGY in 1957 the Soviet Union put man's first artificial satellite dubbed Sputnik, into earth orbit and the race was on.

[At a special meeting in September 1955, a motion was made to purchase property on Route 46 – 682 Broad Street, Canfield, Ohio on the former site of the Old North Church with the cost of Eighteen Hundred Dollars. An inspection of the property was made by the members present. A motion was made and seconded by members present to have the club treasurer make a check for One Hundred Dollars to be applied toward purchase of the property. The motion was unanimously passed by those fourteen members present. Eventually, it was not practical to maintain the building and keep the land and so in 1966, the MVARA real estate was sold. Paraphrased from September 1955 Minutes – Ed]

Soon amateur radio found its way into space via Project OSCAR, a mnemonic for Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio. OSCAR-1 did little more that transmit a canned CW message from earth orbit. Now Project OSCAR has been replaced by AMSAT, though the satellites we launch are still called OSCAR. Now reliable two-way and often full duplex communications via satellite are commonplace. Ham radio has been a fixture on many shuttle (STS) flights and is still an important presence on the international Space Station (ISS).

As the MVARA celebrates our 100<sup>th</sup> year, AMSAT is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year, and yes, the MVARA has been there to witness and participate in the space adventure too. In the late 1980's the MVARA was invited to set up a portable satellite station at Holy Family School, in Poland, Ohio. Our efforts there allowed several students to talk live to astronauts on the space shuttle.

In the 1970's VHF and UHF FM Repeaters caught the interest of the amateur community at large and the MVARA membership as well. Soon the MVARA had a multisite repeater operating on 2m with the frequency pair of 146.31/146.91 MHz. Today we still operate a single site machine on frequency pair 146.145/146.745 MHz and located on a back-up commercial TV tower at WKBN on Youngstown's south side.

Considering our witness to all the above, we have themed our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; "From Spark to Space". Yet, space is not the "Final Frontier" for HAM radio.

Consider if you will APRS, DMR, SDR's, High-speed Mesh, the Arduino and other micro-controllers, and a plethora of digital modes and whatever is yet to come. Let the MVARA's history continue, so to witness the next hundred years of amateur radio adventure in the Mahoning Valley.

73 de Andy WA8ZLK



Congratulations on the first 100 years

and

Looking Forward to at least 100 more!!!

Fred Sole – WB8LVP

# **Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association**

The MVARA currently meets on the second Thursday of the month at the GOP Headquarters meeting room, 8381 Market Street, Boardman, Ohio 44512 at 7:00 pm. Over the last two decades, meetings were held at the Red Cross Offices, Park Vista, the Main Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Davidson's Restaurant, and the Mahoning County Republican HQ.

An annual **Corn Roast** is held at Masters' Pavilion in Boardman Park instead of our August Meeting. Cooks led by Dean W8YSU, Doug KB8TPG, Dave KC8NEH and Noah KE8EQA serve hamburgers, hot dogs and delicious corn-on-the-cob. Potluck side dishes complete the fun picnic!

**GAIN** –**Good News and Information Net** meets Monday evenings at 9:00 pm on the **W8QLY** Repeater on 146.745 MHz. The Net is open to any licensed amateur radio operator and encourages you to check in every week. In addition to check ins, information is given on club meeting programs, future events and Swap N Shop.





Newsletter Editor: Mark K8MSH <u>MVARAvoicecoil@gmail.com</u>

For decades, the Voice Coil has been the voice of the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association. Inside, you'll find news about club activities, regional hamfests and other events, projects, DX information, ham humor, and more.

About five years ago, the Voice Coil became an electronic publication in PDF format due to escalating printing and postage costs. This allowed the Voice Coil to grow to a 15-20-page publication with more content and color graphics, delivered quickly to the email addresses of our members. It also allowed us to expand our exchange list and send sample copies to prospective members. Thanks to the editor and regular contributors, the Voice Coil was recognized as an award winner among newsletters in the ARRL Ohio Section.

### **MVARA VE**

When someone is interested in joining the ranks of ham radio operators, the MVARA VE team is ready. We offer testing the first Wednesday in January, March, May, July, September and November every year. In addition, we've held special sessions for organizations, including YSU.

Our dedicated members have helped more than 20 individuals get their first amateur radio license or upgrade their current one in the last year. They also act as a resource for study tips, materials, and local resources for new hams.



### Field Day

The ARRL states that "Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio."

MVARA has celebrated Field Day in many locations – in Pennsylvania and Ohio. For many years Field Day was celebrated at Jack Chapman's Farm in New Middletown, Ohio. Since then, Field Day spent one year at the MCCTC School in Canfield and subsequent years at the Mill Creek MetroParks Farm in Canfield. The location has changed, but the spirit of FD has remained the same – on the spot set up for emergency preparedness, making contacts, introducing radio to new hams and the public and "playing radio."























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## **Proclamations**

City of Youngstown – Jamael Tito Brown, Mayor The City of Girard – James J. Melfi, Mayor The City of Canfield – Richard A. Duffett, Mayor

### **Recognition**

The State of Ohio – Mike DeWine, Governor 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Ohio – Bill Johnson 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Ohio – Timothy J. Ryan

# **Congratulations**

United States Senate – Rob Portman United States Senate – Sherrod Brown Mahoning County Commissioners Carol Rimedio-Righetti, David C. Ditzler, Anthony T. Traficanti



# Mike McCleery K8PRR



### **Public Service and Emergency Operations**

MVARA has a long history providing service to the public. Some of the club's early service events we would still recognize today, and some have been lost to posterity. For instance, in December of 1953 the club decided to participate in the RACES program. To participate the club had to have a club callsign, and on December 10, 1953 a motion to obtain a club callsign was passed. In order to file for the callsign, the club had to have a trustee for the call. All the club Trustees names were put in a hat and Jack Alm's name was drawn to become the first callsign Trustee. Subsequently the club obtained the W8QLY call in March of 1954.

The club worked with Civil Defense during the late 1950's and into the 1960's. It was a mutual cooperation with Civil Defense, as the Civil Defense organization rented the use of MVARA's Canfield Clubhouse starting shortly after it's purchase in 1955. (As a point of interest, the 20/9 club also rented use of the clubhouse in the 1950's and 1960's) The relationship with Civil Defense must have been good at that time, as in March of 1964, officers of Civil Defense proposed seeking money from the state to invest in the clubhouse to meet government fallout specifications. Apparently, that relationship later became rocky and in 1965 Civil Defense moved out of the Clubhouse.

The club also had a relationship with the Red Cross starting in the 1960's. In 1964 the club Secretary was directed to write the Red Cross Disaster Chairman to advise him of the capabilities the club could provide to Red Cross. Some of the main points included the ability to provide both local and national communications and that we conducted a weekly 2M net. It was desired that a formal affiliation be formed between Red Cross and MVARA. One of the roadblocks to that affiliation was the club's lack of a generator to power equipment in the absence of commercial power. Consequently, several members were tasked with gathering prices and specs for a generator. It was agreed the generator should be in the range of 3-5 KVA/230 Volt and should run at 1800 RPM. Subsequently in 1967 an ONAN 4 KVA generator was purchased as well as a trailer produced by TeeNee Trailers to mount it. The Generator was priced at \$741.60 and the trailer at \$112.00. Shortly thereafter a schedule was created to exercise the generator on a regular basis and in the 1970's the club was participating in Simulated Emergency Exercises with Red Cross. During one debrief, the club noted it needed better Standard Operating Procedures and to improve the dissemination of publicity to the news media.

Traffic Handling was a club function and the club maintained a Traffic Committee to oversee Traffic operations. The club was also involved in the schools and in 1975 installed an Amateur Station in the Mahoning Joint Vocation School.

Shifting gears to current times, we continue to operate the preeminent 2M Repeater in Mahoning County. Dave, N8NB, is the current CallSign Trustee, and Dean, W8YSU, is the Chair of the Repeater Committee. RACES is not active in Mahoning County, but the ARRL's ARES organization has grown and many members of MVARA participate in ARES activities. The club is still affiliated with Red Cross and through ARES have a memo of understanding with Red Cross. Traffic Handling has changed dramatically over the years and members now have the ability to transmit documents such as the ICS series using the digital protocols. The club no longer maintains a station in the school system, but that has been balanced recently with in-roads with the Great Trail Council of the Scouts. Coincidentally the Scout's Camp Stambaugh also celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and MVARA was well represented at the celebration, introducing more than 110 Scouts to Amateur Radio.

MVARA also continues to be active in community events such as races and walks to support community organizations. During 2019 MVARA members helped with communications for the Youngstown Road Runners Mill Creek Classic, the West Branch, Milton, and Guilford Triathlons, Mahoning County DD Special Olympics, Youngstown CityScape Planting Day, the Poland Parade, and the Panerathon.



# Congratulations to the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association For 100 years of public service in amateur radio!

### Rick Albrecht KD8ZUN

Wes Boyd W8IZC

#### Dean DeMain **W8YSU**

Mark Haverstock **K8MSH** 

Richard Slutz KB8GAE



### SKYWARN®

SKYWARN® is a National Weather Service (NWS) program developed in the 1960s that consists of trained weather spotters who provide reports of severe and hazardous weather to help meteorologists make life-saving warning decisions. Spotters are concerned citizens, amateur radio operators, truck drivers, mariners, airplane pilots, emergency management personnel, and public safety officials who volunteer their time and energy to report on hazardous weather impacting their community.

Although, NWS has access to data from Doppler radar, satellite, and surface weather stations, technology cannot detect every instance of hazardous weather. Spotters help fill in the gaps by reporting hail, wind damage, flooding, heavy snow, tornadoes and waterspouts. Radar is an excellent tool, but it is just that: one tool among many that NWS uses. They need spotters to report how storms and other hydrometeorological phenomena are impacting their area.

SKYWARN® spotter reports provide vital "ground truth" to the NWS. They act as their eyes and ears in the field. Spotter reports help their meteorologist issue timely, accurate and detailed warnings by confirming hazardous weather detected by NWS radar. Spotters also provide critical verification information that helps improve future warning services. SKYWARN® Spotters serve their local communities by acting as a vital source of information when dangerous storms approach. Without spotters, NWS would be less able to fulfill its mission of protecting life and property.

In Mahoning County, the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association supports the NWS SKYWARN® Program by allowing the SKYWARN® spotters and their nets to use our Club repeater on 146.745 MHz. We salute the Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and wish them continued success in the future!

DEAN DeMAIN – W8YSU

DOUG SAGE – KB8TPG

Mahoning County SKYWARN® Coordinators.



# **Special Event Stations**

In 2000, MVARA held W8QLY/80 - a special event station organized by Gene Ruscello KB8QXE to celebrate 80 years of public service

September of 2003 found the MVARA Commemorating Ohio's Bicentennial & the Boardman Rotary Octoberfest. Andy Brincko WA8ZLK designed the QSL card and remembers the club making more than 137 contacts!

In 2015, MVARA held their first annual Special Event Station from the Mahoning Valley Olde Car Club's 37<sup>th</sup> annual show at Boardman Park. Dave WB8IBA was instrumental in making this a yearly event.

To celebrate 100 years of MVARA, four events were held in 2019:

February

May



August – A dual celebration – W8C (Car Show) and W8QLY (100 years) –

was held at the Olde Car Club show. Two radios worked 40 and 80. About 10 Volunteers attended the special event enjoying pizza and radio contacts.





W8QLY/80





### Camp Stambaugh 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Station

During MVARA's 2018 Field Day, Mike Kupec, of the Scout's Great Trail Council, stopped to see if MVARA would be interested in setting up a station at the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Camp Stambaugh. In the year following, there were a great many ups and downs and more than once we were ready to walk away. But when it came down to the day, the antennas were up, the radios were live, and MVARA introduced over 110 Scouts to Amateur Radio.

The day of the event we started before the sun rose and were ready by the time the Scouts got to our site. Dave KD8NZF, took the role of Barker, luring the Scouts and Parents in, teaching them about Zulu time and having them spell their names phonetically. Nancy KD8QNY, then helped them use a HT to talk with members on the 146.745 repeater. From there the torch was passed to Anthony K8ZT, to learn about Morse code. Anthony had each Scout send their own name in Morse. Anthony in turn directed the Scouts to sit with Frank WB8YHD, and Scott KE4UHC, to try their hand on the 40M and 80M bands.

One Scout, who took our merit badge class last year, dragged his dad back to our tent 4 times so he could listen and try to talk on the radio. We think we created a new ham and we told dad he might as well get his license too. We hope to see them at a meeting soon.

All in all, it came together, and we were able to put on a great show for the Scouts and may have even created a few hams and interest in the hobby. We want to thank MVARA for supporting the effort at Stambaugh, and especially all the members who kept their radios on and were the voice on the other end. Andy WB8HYO, Andy WA8ZLK, Dave KE8KT, David KE8JTS, Fred WB8LVP, Jim KD8SNM, John KE8LJH, Ken KC8NST, Ray K8NVY, Rich KB8GAE, and Shaun KE8MOX were with us on air throughout the day.

We could not have done this without your help. Thanks also to our members on the grounds Dave KD8NZF, Frank WB8YHD, Joe N8SEJ, Nancy KD8QNY, and Scott KE4UHC. And a special thanks to Anthony Luscre K8ZT, the ARES Ohio Section Youth Coordinator, who was invaluable during the planning as well as the day of the event.

### OSPOTA

The Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) contest was first launched by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service in 2008 and at the time it was the first ever state parks on the air contest in the country. The purpose of OSPOTA is to:

- promote public awareness of Amateur Radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system
- contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology
- promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators.

The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association has participated regularly in OSPOTA since the beginning, operating from the Harry Meshel Picnic Area at Lake Milton State Park. Members have put W8QLY on the air each year from the pavilions and the gazebo on the beautiful east side of the lake. What started as a few members getting on the air and enjoying the natural surroundings of Lake Milton State Park has developed into a yearly MVARA multi-multi operation with many members participating. OSPOTA and the MVARA is a great combination of the fun of Amateur Radio and the beauty that our state parks have to offer.



Congratulations on 100 years! From Brenda & Frank Sole

KD8RSN & WB8YHD



### In Memoriam

Many local amateurs have contributed to making the MVARA what it is today. Here are some, that we the current membership recall and thank for their service. There are many more. May they Rest in Peace.

MEMBER	CALL* * Charter member	DATE OF PASSING ** ** Where known
Becky Albrecht	KD8SCF	4/26/2019
John Alm	W8DPK	0/07/0010
David "Dave" Beatty	KC8WY	8/27/2019
Robin Birkholtz	KC80EN	
Darwynd Blackstone	WB8EZU	4/16/2013
Lyman Blossom	W8PY	
Phillip Bonamase	N8PDT	
Arthur Bonnett	W8AUA	
Dr. J. H. Canady	W8HYV	, ,
John Chapman	WA8GLF	1/10/2017
Glen Clark	W3JL	
Leland Clegg	K8AAK	9/28/2014
Frank Cooper	W3NV	
Martin Cornell	W8PS*	
Joseph Falcony	KB8RGC	
William Finger	W8SZN	
Rick Foley	W8RKF	12/31/2017
Kevin Goodman	KF8OG	11/1/2013
Eugene Hall	SWL *	
Jack Hamley	WB8ZUQ	
George Harakal	WB8AUZ	
Carl Henry	K8DTA	
Norm Into	K8NI	2/1/2019
William Johnson	WA8GUP	
Edward Jones	WA8VPC	2/17/1973
Andy Kadvan	KA8R	
Richard Kaulback	W3QZH	
Dr. Irving Knight	WA8ZIO	
Lou Kovach	KE8AU	7/25/2015
John Lightner	KB8UCY	1/25/2019
Lou Malice	WA8PKN	
Albert Marconi	N8TLW	10/17/2011
Robert Marstellar	WA8WPP	
John Matesevac	KB8GDW	
Tom McIntee	WD8CDU	4/23/2018
Samuel Miller	WB8TXG	7/11/2013
Mike Pekar	W8WZP	1/30/2012
Percy "Herb" Pennock	W8OE	,
Carmen "Skip" Renda	KD8UU	
Carl Schuller	W8EJP*	
James "Jim" Sekinger	KC8HSD	
Ralph Sherman Sr.	W8IOO*	
Samuel Simon	WB8ZQX	
William Siverling	W8PWI*	
Raymond Smith	W8LOO	
William "Bill" Wallace	K <sub>3</sub> SVO	
John Walsh	W8GUO	
Charles "Chuck" Windsor	KA8DGY	5/26/1994
John Witkowski	W8EZW	0/ 40/ 1774

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