



Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association

## MVARA Monthly Meeting April 9, at 7:00pm

Members and non members are welcome to join in on the fun at this months meeting at the GOP Headquarters 8381 Market St., Boardman, OH (in Adamas Plaza) and online via Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82224315161?pwd=aaD5oZdac6YTPbo6qhCEdskLm2sCA7.1>

Come early for dinner at Bruno Brothers (in the plaza) for pizza, drinks, and social time.

## **KJ7UM Vacuum Tubes**

Neil has been at it again and has lined up Grayson Evans, KJ7UM, to join us via Zoom for April. Grayson, in addition to being a Ham, is the author of Hollow State Design, now in its third edition. 344 pages of pure Thermotron bliss. I'll let Grayson tell you how the name Thermotron came about, but it is what he calls vacuum tubes. I was lucky enough to grow up during the time the country was transitioning from Vacuum Tubes to Transistors. So I spent a number of afternoons when I was young at Gray Drug with my dad using the store's tube tester to check the tubes from our TV because the TV was acting up. (Fred – you remember testing tubes at the store???) Consequently, I have a pretty good collection of tube manuals – all the classic RCA and GE manuals and a few less classic. But they don't hold a candle (filament?) to Grayson's book. Each year, Nancy and I cross Florida in March to visit the Hamfest in Stuart, FL. It is a good Hamfest, but even better, Dave & Danielle Perry are heavily involved with the Stuart club and the Hamfest, so we see them at Stuart each year. This year Grayson had a booth at the Hamfest and I had a chance to see his designs and ended up buying his book. I've been buried in it ever since – learned more about vacuum tubes in the first thirty pages than from 50 years of studying them. So get all your Vacuum Tube (oops – I meant Thermotron) questions together as we welcome Grayson to the MVARA.