

February Meeting on Fri 23rd at the Hometown Buffet!

Notice: Name Change, Same Old Place!

Near SR 725 and Yankee Rd. in Centerville

Club Memorial Call **W8KSE** 10 & 3.4 GHZ Beacon, presently in Repair.

MVUS Sunday Net at 14:30 GMT (currently at 9:30 AM local time, EDT). The net frequencies are primarily **144.280 Mc and 28.960 Mc.**

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Upcoming Events Hamvention 18/19/20 May, 2007

New 2007 MVUS Membership Roster

See page 3: “Dear OM” and Page 6 for Membership Form

DE N8ZM

Hard to believe another month has passed by already. Seems like just a couple of weeks ago that I missed that last MVUS meeting. This time I hope to make it.

A new project has appeared that you might find interesting. John Ackermann, N8UR, has proposed that MVUS sponsor its own version of the well-known ARRL frequency Measurement Test (FMT) sometime this fall. The format would be very similar to the way the League does it; with our goal being to provide better signals in the Midwest, and possibly even have a signal on 160 meters as well. I won't go into the details of the plan here (since I usually goof up the details anyway), but it will be on the agenda at this Friday's meeting.

Another matter coming up very quickly is the antenna for the 1296 beacon. We absolutely must have it ready to go by March 31st. I have taken on the responsibility for that, and will have a report this Friday. The antenna will consist of a single WA5VJB big-wheel style PC board antenna mounted in a heavy-duty enclosure with either a pigtail or a connector for a jumper to connect to the main coax that runs up the tower.

Mike Schulsinger has taken on the responsibility for the Hamvention VHF forum this year. He already has a couple of speakers lined up, but is looking for a couple more. If any of you have a presentation that would be interesting, or know of someone else who has something new and exciting to share, I am sure that Mike will be interested in hearing from you.

Question: Are we going to put any beacons at HARA this year? If so, I'd like to talk about the usual who, what, when, how, etc this Friday. If Gerd's transponder were running by then, would it make sense to try to have it operating out there as well?

Sorry for the short column this month (maybe you aren't, though!). **See you Friday! De Tom, N8ZM .**

Dear OM!

We have combined the e-mail and "no-e-mail" lists into a unified, updated MVUS roster, which is printed on 3 pages at the end of this bulletin in landscape format. That way it was possible to add email and a checkmark to the list. As some of the work had to be done manually (the old fashioned way) there is a possibility of errors, so PLEASE do not be offended and let us know what the correct information is. In particular check the dues column and see whether it agrees with your records or recollection.

This Newsletter (just this month) goes to everybody that we have an address for (on the roster). We do have a number of e-mail subscribers, where we have no mailing address. Those will not receive this month's print version. We suggest those recipients subscribe as "members at large". That way we add them to the membership roster and we can offer them, as obviously we save on printing and mailing, a \$5.00 rate for a year.

On page 6 there is a membership form that allows for the various choices. You could have the newsletter per e-mail only; you could have e-mail and newsletter or newsletter only. Send in to Gerd Schrick, WB8IFM, 4741 Harlou Dr. Dayton Oh 45432-1618 Make check out to Gerd Schrick, Treas. MVUS.

Vy73, Gerd, WB8IFM e-mail WB8IFM@AMSAT.org

This and That 2-07

Notebook and Pencil. It beats the laptop. If - the ink in my pen freezes, as has happened - I don't have to reboot the machine, I just grab another pen from my pocket. [Doug Page]

Healthy? A 1946 ad announced: "More Doctors smoke Camels than any other Cigarette" [Bill Bryson]

Keeping Track. Amazon.com keeps track of your reading interest! Here is what I got the other day: "We've noticed that customers who have expressed interest in [Astronomy Demystified](#) by Stan Gibilisco have also ordered *Astronomy for the Utterly Confused* by Dr. Terry Jones, now available. [WB8IFM]

The VCR Thing. "He had a TV in his living room, and a VCR with the control panel covered with black tape, so that he couldn't push any wrong buttons. "It was somehow comforting that the world greatest pianist (Horowitz) couldn't figure out his VDR." [Mia Farrow]

Horace Fletcher. He was "the" health guru one hundred years ago. He lectured on healthy lifestyles and in the course became a millionaire. One of his more quirky methods was advising to chew every byte of food 32 times before swallowing. The number he took from the number of teeth in the mouth. He was called often just Mr. Chew Chew. Unfortunately he died of a heart attack at age 68 and was soon forgotten! [from the Web]

John Patterson. The founder of the National Cash Register Co. advocated: Visualize, Analyze, Dramatize and loved to instruct his workers along those lines. He was very much in favor of using pictographs. "The optic nerve is 22 times stronger than the auditory nerve." He would say. [Gerald Carson]

Windows. I often wondered where Microsoft got the idea of selling one "Windows" system after another. Now I learned John Patterson instructed his sales people to take note of every sale they made and to note the future date when a newer version would be offered. A customer who was "knocked over" once could be upgraded later. [Gerald Carson]

A Good One. NCR Company got into a lot of patent fights. Here is a description from one opponent about their product: (improvements were) "ornamental jimcracks which cumber the machine and add little to its value but serve as an excuse for exorbitant prices." (Fits Microsoft like a glove, Ed) [Gerald Carson]

Digital TV. (DTV) ...HDTV (high definition) is simply the sexier subset of DTV, and it has a few special requirements, more bandwidth, extra storage capacity, high resolution, and a larger display...the most important thing to know about digital is, that unlike analog it compresses video extremely efficient... [Michael Autonoff, SA]

Can Machines Think? Asked if machines think, Claude Shannon answers: You bet, we're machines, and we think, don't we?

Self Destruct? According to the Scientific American, new Spectralab Solar Cells with 40.7% efficiency have an estimated cost of 8 to 10 cents per kilowatt-hour! Does this mean they are going to self-destruct after you get your kilowatt-hours out of them, or do you pay them like the Electric Company on a monthly basis! [WB8IFM.]

Starlight. The number of stars is finite. How do we know that? If there was an infinite number of stars the sky would be white like overcast daylight. But there are an awful lot of stars and "In the South Seas you can read by starlight." This last sentence from Mia Farrow's book: "What falls Away." [WB8IFM]

Doctors of the Future. They are going to be busier than ever, because their effort will be to keep people healthy rather than to treat just the sick. Keeping people well is a lot harder than just get them over a sickness. [Dr. D C Jarvis, 1958]

The Pale Blue Dot

In 1989 both *Voyager* spacecraft had passed Neptune and Pluto. Carl Sagan wanted one last picture of Earth from "**a hundred thousand times**" as far away than the famous shots of Earth taken by astronauts from the moon during the Apollo series.

The result is stunning. In Sagan's words, "Because of the reflection of sunlight off the spacecraft, the Earth seems to be sitting in a beam of light, as if there were some special significance to this small world. But it's just an accident of geometry and optics. The Sun emits its radiation equitably in all directions. Had the picture been taken a little earlier or a little later there would have been so sunbeam highlighting the Earth.

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization,

every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there - on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

"The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors, so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

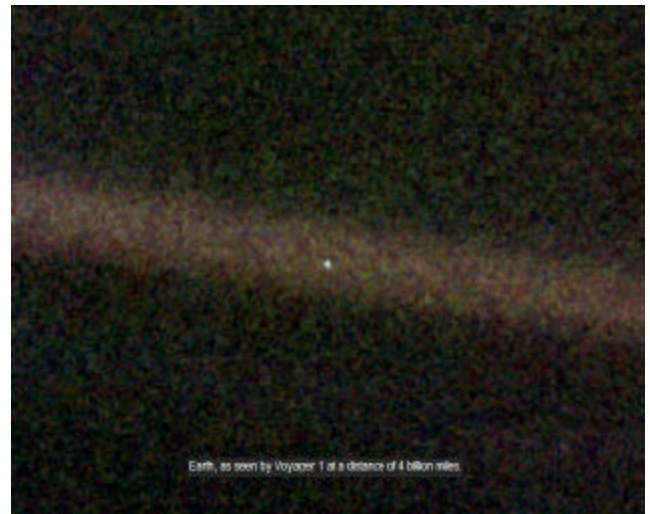
"Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

"The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand."

-Carl Sagan from Pale Blue Dot



Earth seen rising from the surface of the Moon



The streak is a sun reflection from the spacecraft

How to Get Hooked on Ham Radio. Remembering the Past

By Gerd Schrick, WB8IFM

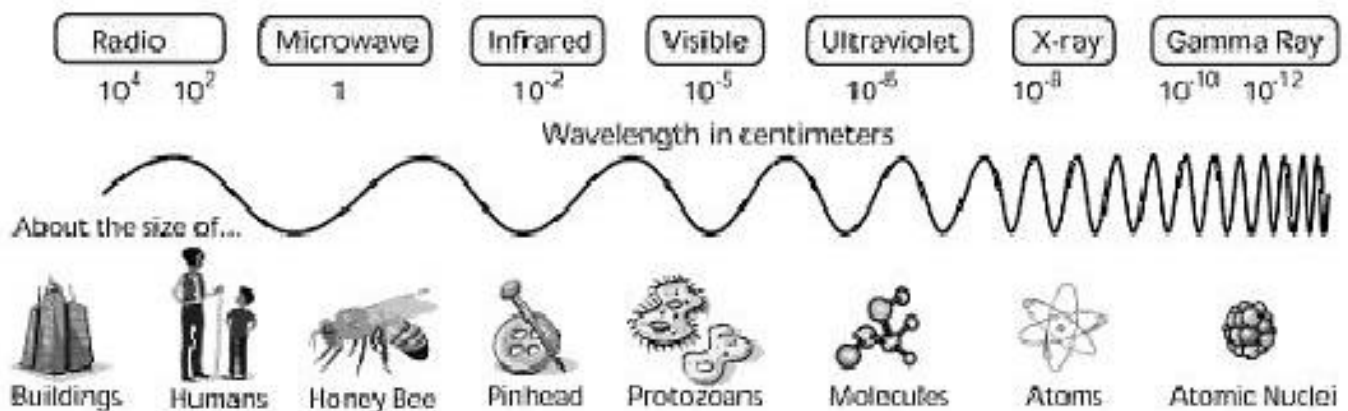
I was 14 when I really got hooked on science and technology, in particular my interest was in radio, chemistry, photography, and astronomy. Come to think of it, a lot had to do with what I was reading and what my friends were doing. I remember I got into photography when a friend from East Germany asked me to try and purchase some photographic paper for him. You see, economically we in the “West” were a lot better off and photo paper was available, although you had to find a shop and give the impression you really were “deeply” into photography. I succeeded and in the process got hooked. I got into radio and got hooked reading in a 1920s magazine of a shipwreck.

Years later we found out that there actually was ham radio. We did visit a real ham and he was going to give us a demonstration. He had his equipment in pieces, but assured us he was about ready to fire up his new Super VFO, just a few more connections to solder. We waited, observed and looked around patiently for several hours. Nothing came of it but we were not disappointed. It actually gave me an impetus to get really going and the argument was: we sure can do what he does and, hubris of the young, I think we can do better. Well, as they say the rest is history! Sure got into ham radio and all the other stuff deeper than one could imagine some 50+ years ago.

That background info makes me think we ought to get to the kids when they are between 10 and 14 years old, that’s the age they finally attain perfect balance, speak enough of the language and nature resets their memory to prepare them for a serious education. When they are real teenagers today they are inundated with information and surrounded with gadgets that it is exceedingly hard for them to concentrate in a specific area, and in general they are not going to excel!

“Techfest” is this weekend at Sinclair Community College. This is where children have a chance and are exposed to modern science and technology. All the local enterprises and institutions of learning have experts there to offer advice, give demonstrations and have kids play, experiment and build. Our local Dayton Radio Club will be there for the first time. The communications van will be parked right out side and there is a table on the inside. We hope to demonstrate Morse code, standing waves, and have an antenna demonstration on x-band. As “hands on” we have kids partially put together an FM radio.

If you have any ideas along those lines, please let us know. There is a need for materials, handouts, etc year round as some volunteers visit schools, teach and give demonstrations.



From the Web.