

Vol. 22 No. 3

www.mvus.org

March, 2008

MVUS Sunday Net at 14:30 UT (currently 10:30 AM local time, EDT).

The net frequencies are primarily 144.280 Mc and 28.960 Mc.

March Meeting Fri 28th of March

At the Hometown Buffet near SR 725 and Yankee Rd. in Centerville

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Upcoming Events

Moorehead, KY, Space Center Trip.....5 April (See next page)

Tech Session* at N8UR, John's place.....April 19,*

HF Frequency Measuring Contest.....Apeil 19 at Night (See next page)

***IF RX measurements, + the usual tuning, frequency, power, etc stuff. (see next page)**

Dayton Hamvention.....16, 17, 18 May

2006 Microwave Update Proceedings still available

\$ 14 (includes postage). Send check to Gerd Schrick, 4741 Harlou Dr, Dayton, OH, 45432-1618

DE N8ZM

What is it they say in the commercial..."Life comes at you fast..."? Maybe that's why I am always writing this column at the last minute. Trying to figure out where the month went. But it doesn't really merit a lot of time in the contemplation since that would take more time than is in short supply. How's that for off-the-cuff, late-night wisdom? Sorry, but that's as good as it gets this month.

OK, so what's news this month? Well, to start, we are fast approaching our trip to the Space Center at Morehead State University, and to Jeff Kruth's famous warehouse. This will take place on Saturday, April 5th. The plan is to drive down to Morehead, KY, on the evening of the 4th and then visit the Space Center reasonably early on Saturday morning, followed by a tour of Jeff's warehouse afterwards. We can then be headed for home by mid-afternoon. The drive is about 3 hours, by my calculations.

So far, I have only six people who have told they want to go. Jeff has asked me to give him some idea of how many to expect, so if you are planning to go, please let me know. Even if you are planning to drive down on Saturday morning by yourself, please just let me know so I can tell Jeff.

I have looked into the hotel situation, and there are 4 places just off I-64, a few miles outside of Morehead. Prices range from \$56.00 + tax for the Quality Inn and Knights inn, to \$67 for the Days Inn, and \$75 for the Holiday Inn. I suspect that we could double up in a room to save a few bucks per head.

It would also be useful to organize some ride sharing to help save on gas and pollution. I can take two or three with me, and I think that at least one of the other guys who has signed up to go can haul the same number.

Also on the calendar is April 19th, another Saturday. This time it is a dual event. First, we will be having a tech session at the home of John, N8UR, in Oakwood. We should have very good frequency measurement capability, as well as equipment for measuring receiver performance, especially those used for microwave IF's. Of course, if you have other measurements you would like to make, let me know and I'll see what equipment I can come up with.

Also on the 19th, we are going to have our 2nd MVUS sponsored Frequency Measurement Test (FMT). This time the signals will be on 40 and 20 meters. The test signals will be transmitted late on Saturday afternoon, so you can hang around at John's and watch how he monitors the signals to check the frequency, or meander over to Mike, W8RKO's place to see how the transmit side works. Of course, you could head for home and make your own measurements. If you do well, you could become rich and famous. Well, famous anyway.

See you on the 28th!!! Tom, N8ZM.

The New Roster

There is the complete, mail recipients and Internet readers, roster at the end of this newsletter. We have the feeling there are some errors. Please, let us know (addresses on the cover page), so we can make corrections. We will then publish the corrections or print an entirely new roster. EDs

This and That 3-08

- **Easter.** It's easy to figure it out: It is on the first Sunday after the full moon, after the spring equinox. Got that?
- **S9 Signal.** I have to disagree with the S9 signal comment. A digital TV signal only requires about 13 dB signal to noise ratio (that would be about S3, Ed), where as a conventional NTSC signal needs a minimum of 30-35 dB (that would be about S7, Ed), depending on how much snow you can tolerate. [Daun, N8ASB]
- **Now You Know it.** What's the Best HDTV Antenna ? The one that works! TV Antenna, HDTV Antenna or Digital TV Antenna. It doesn't matter what you call it, it's still a TV antenna and you better choose the right one. [Denny's TV Antenna Sales Based in Ithaca, Michigan]
- b "To see in front of one's nose requires a constant struggle." [George Orwell]
- **Barbarians.** "Every generation of Western Civilization is invaded by barbarians – we call them children."
- **Software.** Families are civilization factories. They take children and install the necessary software, from what to expect from life to how to treat others. [Jonah Goldberg]
- **Time's a Wasting.** The average American will spend 5 years waiting in line, one year searching for belongings in the home or office, three years attending meetings and 8 months opening junk mail. [Dan Sperling/USAToday]
- **Inkjet Cost.** The ink is often very expensive (for a typical OEM cartridge priced at \$ 15, containing 5ml of ink, the ink effectively costs \$ 3,000 per liter). [Wikipedia]
- **XER.** This broadcast station across the border in Mexico ran one megawatt in 1932. "A technician reported that the transmitter makes the hair on your arms stand up. Locals said the signal was so strong it turned on car headlights, made their bedsprings hum, and sent Brinkley's voice wandering in and out of other peoples telephone conversations." [Pope Brock in Charlatan]
- **TV Ads.** (Political) television ads have bounced off people around the country like so many raindrops off a duck. (Wished this were true with all ads. Ed) [Dayton Daily News]
- **A Lot of Meat.** Americans eat about 10 billion cows, chickens, pigs and other animals every year. [The New York Times]
- **Joy of Flying.** In their continuing effort to make flying as unpleasant an experience as possible for their passengers without actually water boarding them, airlines are packing planes, canceling flights, raising fares and withholding peanuts. [D.L.Stewart]
- **Thanksgiving.** Chinese food is so popular in the United States that Thanksgiving is the only slow day in the Chinese restaurant business, which is why so many waiters and cooks use that day to get married. [Jennifer Lee]
- **Authentic Chinese.** ...Dishes have been adapted for American palates... Authentic Chinese food often involves bones, shells and eyeballs... [Jennifer Lee]
- **Cheap Laptop.** It's possible to half the price of a laptop every 18 months, but the computing industry has instead doubled the computing power and kept the price about the same. [Mary Lou Jepsen]

Articles from Spain devoted to promote the amateur satellites
by Juan Antonio EA4CYQ@amsat.org

I have published several articles in relation to ham satellites in AMSAT and other magazines such as URE, CQ-DL, Megahertz Magazine and on several Websites. But most of them are in Spanish. I have translated them into English. You can find the following :

-**The CJU antenna.** Designed by EB4DKA and EA4CYQ it improves the UHF reception with your HT. Uplink(transmit) is with your VHF mobile station and you receive the UHF downlink with this antenna.

- **The IOio antenna.** It was designed by EA4CYQ to work V/U and U/V amateur satellites with an HT. It has an amazing performance, it is even better than the Arrow antenna in some features.

- **A dual band portable Yagi antenna.** This is a very well known antenna in amateur satellite circles. Here you can find how to build it with normal stuff. It has an impressive performance.

-**The EGGBEATER II and TPM II antennas.** These were designed by Jerry, K5OE. Here you will find all the details to build these fantastic antennas. Then I report my experience as I got introduced to the amateur satellites with all the problems of working amateur satellites from my shack with minimal equipment.

- **The 2.4GHz DISH ANTENNA.** AO-40 taught me to get more deeply into the microwaves world. Details to build two different 2.4GHz dish feed systems, also useful in terrestrial work.

- **The LINEAR TRANSPONDERS .** A lot of amateur satellites use this system. This article will help you to understand how they work.

- **HF or SATELLITES?** I try to demonstrate with this article that a satellite fix station is at least as good as an HF station. You will get the same performance with small antennas and low power out.

-**The DATA CONNECTOR.** This connector has much more possibilities than to be hooked to a TNC. In this article I study its features and I propose to use it with a PC soundcard, to receive meteorological satellites. You can even build a cross band repeater that way.

- **CIRCULAR POLARIZATION.** If you want to know more about this kind of polarization and you want to see a comparison of VHF and UHF circular polarized commercial antennas, you should read this article.

- **TRANSCIEVERS TO WORK SATELLITES.** Thinking about setting up a fix satellite station? Here you can find all the transceivers on the market and combinations between them to be successful.

-**THE EA4CYQ SHACK.** Here I describe my shack, perhaps it could be useful as a reference if you are thinking about setting up a satellite station.

- **THE EA4CYQ LOG.** If you contacted me between June 1996 and March 2008, you can the QSO there. It is in call sign alphabetical order. We will post it on the web in the near future.

Find the above articles on the Webs due to the generosity of Pedro EB4DKA and Rodolfo EA4CAX:

<http://eb4dka.laserenadigital.com> (also www.eb4dka.tk). These sites are devoted to ham satellites and Pedro has an impressive collection of photos, videos and interesting articles. He is an authority working in portable conditions.

<http://personales.ya.com/ea4cax/> Rodolfo specializes in LEO and Geostationary weather satellites.

Techfest 2008 at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH, Feb 16/17, 2008

We had completed our 100^{th+} radio kit at 4:55 pm on Sunday afternoon with the help of Jim Simpson.

Ed Gardner gave the kids hands on look at how to use static electricity.

Gerd Schrick had a Morse code key and a program running to get kids interested in CW communications. He had parts for 6 keyers (including buzzers) which were assembled and completed in the first two hours by students to take home and learn.

Rob Taylor and Chris Jebens passed out handouts about the class we will be hosting starting on Feb 23, 2008 at the Bellefontaine Rd Clubhouse. This year we had double the number of radio kits from last year. We had a shortwave radio kit, as well as the FM Radio kit. Both were a success! Our booth was one of the busiest on the main concourse of Sinclair. We all wondered if these kits were so easy, that a 10 year old could make one, so the question came up could an adult also make one? Ask Ed Collins his experience while he built one.

Thanks also to Mike Buehler, Mike Crawford, Dave Crawford and the volunteers that helped in the Communication Van. They stayed busy most of the day on Sunday. Saturday was a bit colder outside, so not too many visitors attended. Weather does make a difference.

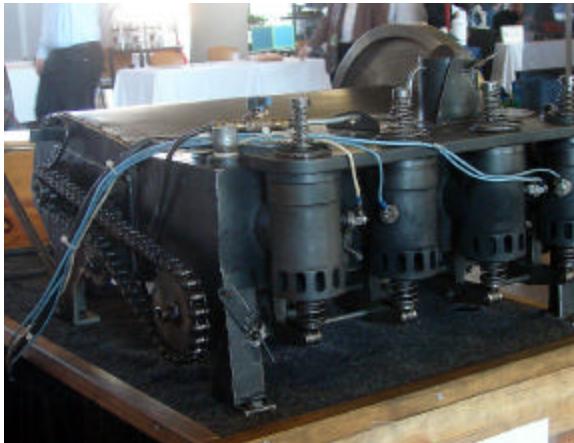
Henry Ruminski was in attendance both days promoting the (ARRL sponsored) Teachers Workshop, which will be held in July 2008. Several teachers showed interest and took applications with them. Thanks again to all who volunteered, including the ones mentioned above and

Many more Hams stopped by to help support the event and make it memorable to the kids, to all a heartfelt thanks! We hope to see you there next year.

Steve, K8UD



Ready to live in space?



Replica of the Wright brothers engine



Project complete

Techfest 2008

The pictures do not show up well in black and white.

Pictures by Gerd, WB8IFM

***If you have web access, look up the electronic
version of the bulletin, there yo get the color
version.***



I wished they leave me alone

Now, look!

< I've done it!



A hair raising experience
with the Van de Graaff Generator



DARA CommunicationVan
for a real QSO



Ed, WRE
with his
electro-
static
demo

What SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) does

Largely using radio telescopes and optical telescopes, SETI scientists seek to determine whether humankind is alone in the universe. Since Congress terminated NASA's SETI funding in 1993, The SETI League and other scientific groups have privatized the research. Amateur and professional scientists interested in participating in the search for intelligent alien life, and citizens wishing to help support it, should email join_at_setileague_dot_org, check the SETI League Web site at <http://www.setileague.org/>, send a fax to +1 (201) 641-1771, or contact The SETI League, Inc. membership hotline at +1 (800) TAU-SETI. Be sure to provide us with a postal address to which we will mail further information. The SETI League, Inc. is a membership-supported, non-profit [501(c)(3)], educational and scientific corporation dedicated to the scientific Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.