

**Mount Vernon
Amateur Radio Club
K4US**

“PUBLIC SERVICE WITH
FUN AND FRIENDSHIP”



Volume 21

February 2008

Number 2

Ye Olde RF Output

MEETING NOTICE February 14, 2008 - 7:30 P.M.
LOCATION: INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL
2501 PARKERS LANE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22306
Second Floor Conference Room
PROGRAM: How the US Patent Process Works -
Speaker Tim Thorpe -
KE4WLK
DOOR PRIZES: There will be six ARRL publications given out as Door Prizes

MVARC MEETS ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT IN JULY & DECEMBER MVARC REPEATER:
K4US/R 146.055 MHZ INPUT/146.655 MHZ OUTPUT PL TONE: 141.3 Hz AUTOPATCH AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

MVARC REPEATER: K4US/R
146.055 MHz INPUT/146.655 MHz OUTPUT
PL TONE: 141.3 Hz
Autopatch available to members
MVARC HOME PAGE:
WWW.MVARC.ORG
WWW.MVARC.COM

Special Events Operations

George Washington's Birthday: MVARC's K4US will operate from the Mount Vernon Estate on the weekend of February 16th & 17th, 2008. Special Event T-Shirts will be given to our special events operators. Special thanks to Deanna, K9DID, for the artwork! [<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>]

Hamfests

Sunday, February 24th, 2008 - NVCC Annandale Campus
[<http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php>]

VE EXAM LOCATION

The March 8, 2008 VE Exam will be held at

The First Christian Church
2723 King Street
Alexandria, VA

at 9:30 A.M.
Call John, WZ4A at 703-971-3905
for more information.

Ye Olde RF Output is published monthly by the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. Voluntary articles and comments are solicited.

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MINUTES FOR JANUARY 10, 2008

By Bob, KT4KS

The Club's meeting was called to order with President Bob KI30 leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob then initiated club member introductions for the 23 individuals in attendance.

ARES: Steve K3IZ provided a list of upcoming events for 2008, and expressed that all events are on the Virginia ARES website.

TREASURER: There was no Treasurer's report, as Treasurer Mike KE4ER Larkin arrived after the business portion of the meeting.

VE TEST SESSION: All were reminded that the test session was on Saturday at the First Christian Church.

REPEATER COMMITTEE: Dick WA4USB provided information that antenna work was carried out on the repeater, and that coverage/signals have been immeasurably improved. Many members stated that the system is working better than ever, reaching into Loudon County.

SCOUTS: The scouts will be providing a class in the near future. Instructors will include Dick WA4USB, "Buc" K3BUC and Demi K4BSA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON SPECIAL EVENT: The club's Feb 16, 17 event is listed on the ARRL web site, and Vice President Howell KG4CKJ has secured permission for the club to transmit from the estate's grounds.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Bob KT4KS stated that the Special Event is now listed on the ARRL web site.

NEW BUSINESS: Bob KI30 suggested that the club obtain special t-shirts for the up coming special event. A number of possibilities were discussed, including colors (white shirt with blue ink, blue shirt with white ink), where to place the club logo (sleeve, front, back), and what exactly to print on the shirt (call sign, logo, name of event). Tom KA4CSG stated that printing of only one portion will result in the least cost. Bob KI30 speculated that shirts would only cost about \$7 if all the printing was on one side. Steve K3IZ agreed that 25 shirts at \$7 each would be a wise limit.

Carroll WA4GFW made a motion that the club purchase the shirts, and the motion was loudly passed. At this time, no particular individual was designated with the responsibility

of making decisions as to shirt specifics, so the end result may prove interesting. In addition, Bob KI30 reminded the membership that his term for president is coming up, and that it would be wise for the club to begin to consider alternatives.

DOOR PRIZES: This month's prizes were all donated by Bob KI30. Winners included Steve K3IZ (digital book), Debra KG4URO (Extra licensing book), Leila WN4PP (Tech licensing book), "Buc" K3BUC (2006 ARRL handbook), Tom KA4CSG (Licensing book) and Marshal DeBerry. All winners must have been excited about the prizes, as winning members responded to each and every ticket that was selected.

SHOW AND TELL: Bob KT4KS showed the club his MFJ CW tutor, which allows people to learn CW anywhere. Bob said that most members have only seen magazine ads for the unit over the last several years, and that this was an excellent opportunity for members to actually see how it worked. Not only is the unit good to initially learn, but the unit may be used played to increase CW skills, even while the trainee is raking leaves or driving a vehicle.

COOKIE MONSTER: Tom and Marilyn KA4JKW were cookie monsters for the meeting. Marilyn provided fancy cookies, doughnuts, diet coke, ginger ale, and coke for the meeting for the troops. Leila WN4PP volunteered to be the February Cookie Monster.

TERMINATION OF BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING

BREAK: Pat KG4URO stated that he may not be a VE at the Sat test session, as XYL Debra KG4URO anticipates taking her Extra test. Debra appeared to have the fire to pass the test. Both Jeannie N4ZGI and John WQ4L approached Bob with questions about the MFJ tutor. Both received demonstrations, and John made inquired as to the level of programming that was possible. Jim WD4PDP told Bob KT4KS that there is still a club antenna on his roof from the days when the club's repeater was at his home on the Beacon Hill. Paul WC9A was seen to be reading the contents of a box of cookies, looking for information on calories. Paul expressed that he lost 40 pounds by watching calories and losing just ½ pound a week.

PROGRAM: Tom N4ZPT OF THE Vienna Wireless Society provided the club with a lecture about D-Star (Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio). Tom stated that it is good for high speed data, simultaneous voice and data, and

efficiency. While there are local repeaters in Alexandria, Tyson's and Stafford, Tom stated that the Federal government has funded many D-Star repeater in the South after Katrina. Prince William County ARES volunteers Dave KG4GIY and Trisha KI4PCM were especially interested in the new technology. Tom stated that \$300 will get you a D-Star HT (\$150 for the HT, and \$150 for the chip). The program was both informative, and appreciated.