

**Mount Vernon
Amateur Radio Club
K4US**
*"PUBLIC SERVICE WITH
FUN AND FRIENDSHIP"*



Volume 19

MAY 2006

Number 05

Ye Olde RF Output

MEETING NOTICE

MAY 11, 2006

7:30 PM

**INOVA MOUNT VERNON
HOSPITAL**

2501 PARKERS LANE

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22306

Second Floor Conference Room

MVARC MEETS ON THE SECOND
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT
IN DECEMBER

HAPPENINGS

MAY 11 - MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB monthly meeting. Held at INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL (2nd Floor Conference Rm), 2501 Parker's Lane, 22306. 7:30 p.m. See you there!

MAY 2,9,16,23,30 - MVARC ARES NET- 146.055/146.655 **7:00 PM local time**. Come and join in!

MAY 27 - MVARC Breakfast will be held at The Old Country Buffet on Route 1 at 8:30 a.m. Everyone's invited to join MVARC members for breakfast. They meet the 4th Saturday of every month.

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

NOTICE--VE EXAM LOCATION
THE MAY 13, 2006 VE EXAM WILL BE
HELD AT

The FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2723 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA

9:30 A.M.

CALL JOHN, WZ4A AT 703-971-3905
FOR MORE INFO.

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

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QUORUM CALL!

Help! MVARC needs you!

For a variety of reasons, attendance at the April 13 meeting fell below the 30-member threshold that constitutes a quorum. That meant that no business could be transacted.

Ordinarily that might not be such a big deal, since MVARC generally doesn't have any must-pass deadlines. But the Sept. 13 meeting was an exception.

With only 13 members present, the club could not elect new officers. And with attendance 17 members less than enough to constitute a quorum, the club could not take up proposed revisions to its by-laws.

That makes it all the more important that club members make every effort to attend the meeting May 11 meeting Thursday night.

Carol Cutchall, WA4GFW, is recovering from back surgery and would dearly love to have his successor elected to president. That would be Bob Lepelletier, KI3O, who is unopposed for president.

Frank Lempicki, AA4ZS, has timed out as vice president and Howell Crim, KG4CKJ, has been nominated to fill that position.

John Tyburski, K2VPR, will surrender the books after able service as club treasurer. Two club members may be in a race --Mike Larkin, KE4ER, and Charlie Keller, AF4NT -- to take over John's green eye-shades.

But that can't happen unless at least 30 of us show up for the Thursday night meet.

The problem in April was simply bad timing. The meeting fell on Maundy Thursday, one of the most important nights of the liturgical year for Christians. It also fell smack in the middle of spring break for many area school districts.

The club has carefully arranged the time of the May 11 to be encumbered by neither of those events so please make every effort to come and cast your vote. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor, for any of you budding politicians.

George Coyne, N1BV, will continue another year as club secretary.

MINUTES APRIL 13 MEETING

By George, N1BV
MVARC secretary

The meeting was held at the IN-OVA Mount Vernon Hospital and was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by the Vice President, Frank, AA4ZS. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, attendees introduced themselves.

There were only thirteen members present. It was established that 30 members were required by the By-Laws to conduct any business. Therefore, no official business could be conducted, and new officers could not be elected.

The March minutes, as posted on the reflector, were approved with two corrections. Change "November" to "March", and change Steve's call sign from "K13O" to "K31Z".

John, K2VPR, gave the Treasurer's Report.
As of 31 March 2006
Checking: \$ 564.44

Savings:	3,356.90
Cash on hand:	199.75
Doc Hyde fund:	1,839.80
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$4,121.09

The ARES report was given by Steve, K3IO. There was no chairman or representative present from the MARS, Educational, FAR, USGC, or Repeater Committees.

Steve discussed the problems he had encountered with the Pohick Bay Regional Park manager, and he also mentioned several other possibilities e.g. the USCG Station, W4UF's site, etc. He will continue to work the problem.

Bob, KT4KS, gave the Community Outreach Report and said that once a Field Day site was selected, he would send out the appropriate publicity.

Bob, KI3O, presented the Program Committee report and said he was looking for follow-on programs. The next club breakfast will be held at the Old Country Buffet on 22 April.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business was conducted.

For information of those present, George, N1BV, provided copies of the comments he had received on the draft By-Laws. Because of the demonstrated lack of a quorum, there was a discussion concerning changing the quorum requirements and perhaps adding proxy voting to the new By-Laws.

A discussion also took place on how many votes a Family Membership should have, and whether Honorary Members should have voting privileges. Since no business could be conducted, all of these issues are still open.

George, N1BV, requested that By-Law comments be emailed to him, so that they can be compiled and provided to the membership. He

also noted that one member did not realize that the present By-Laws are contained in the MVARC Members Handbook.

Upon request, he can email you a copy of the existing By-Laws, if you are unable to locate a copy. John, WQ4L, provided copies of the MVARC membership list, sorted by name and call sign suffix.

New Business: No new business was conducted because of the lack of a quorum.

Bob, KT4KS, was the Cookie Monster, and Joan, KI4FYN, volunteered to be the monster in May. There was no guest speaker.

BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK!

By John, K2VPR
Outgoing Treasurer

Since there was no quorum at the last meeting to elect new officers, it is my task again to remind everyone that the club's fiscal year begins the first of May. My "favorite" line – DUES ARE DUE!

MVARC has four categories of membership:

1. Regular membership: \$20.00
2. Family membership: \$25.00
3. Associate membership (for those residing outside the area): \$10.00
4. Student membership: \$15.00

Please help by renewing your membership early by sending your check to either the club mailbox which is: MVARC P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307-0234

The check should be made out to "MVARC" and include your call sign(s) on the remarks line.

MVARCers TRANSMIT CW FROM LEE DISTRICT PARK

By Bob, KT4KS

Many a ham radio operator has driven down a road on a warm day, and thought about setting up a station at a local site, only to let that thought dwindle away like a waking dream because it appeared to involve too much time and effort on his part.

Many of these same hams read about and view expensive QRP radios and antennas in colorful QST Magazine and the local HRO, and think that they will never use such gear as it's so very expensive.

The thought never even occurs to them that someone else would actually set up those same expensive radios and antennas at a local park for their use, so that all these dreamy-eyed hams needed to do was drive over to the local park to play with those toys. Yet, that is exactly what happened, as Frank AA4ZS invited (See "MVARC QRP FIELD DAY" in April 2006 YORFO) all MVARCers to Lee District Park for such an event.

On early Saturday morning, April 15, Frank AA4ZS arrived at Lee District Park to set up a first rate QRP station for the benefit of all MVARCers. While early AM visible cloud cover suggested that rain may interfere with operation, it was already quite warm with a forecast of sunshine.

Frank's station included a 10-watt IC-703 with internal antenna tuner, filters, MFJ manual antenna tuner, speaker, batteries, bug and straight key, all coupled to a 9-foot tall vertical antenna.

The station was set up on a table in the parking lot adjacent to the picnic area, while a second table supported coffee, propane stove, hot

dogs, chili, potato chips, chopped onions and cheese, condiments, cups, plates and container of water. The antenna was set up on the grass, just 30 feet from the station.

Frank was the first to arrive, and was almost completely set up, when Bob KT4KS arrived and helped to complete the antenna set up. Oddly, Bob found a ribbon-marked stake in the ground that was left from last year's affair.

Dave AI4FC arrived with two dozen (glazed and chocolate topped) Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and immediately began to set up his own station on a picnic table across the parking lot from Frank's station.

Dave's station was quite extravagant, his station including the Elecraft KX1 transceiver, Elecraft tuner, Small Wonders Lab DSW2 for 20M, portable battery that had built-in/multi-colored indicators, mini-straight key and the fancy looking W3FF Buddy Pole antenna which stood about 8 feet high.

During the early set up, two people who were walking runty dogs stopped by to take a bit of a look at the stations. One of the two displayed his high level of intelligence by expressing that he knew that the stations were actually for ham radio. The other individual seemed to be more interested in showing off his tiny dog that appeared to weigh less than a medium size cat.

By 9AM, both stations were up and running. Using Frank's station, Bob's first contact of the day was with an operator (W1GUE) located in Fremont, NH. Bob also had two contacts with Special Event stations, including W1CA who was commemorating light houses, and WQMGY who was commemorating the 94th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

Bob's last contact was with Dave, who was just 60 feet away across the parking lot. During that last

contact, Dave sent that the contact was "good DX". Dave too had some success from his station, making specific reference to a QSO with W4MQC located in Goshen, NH.

During the morning, MVARCer Paul K4FBF arrived to check out the event. While Paul K4FBF did not operate, Paul's vehicle provided evidence that he is a real ham, as the back of the vehicle supported neatly mounted VHF and HF antennas, in addition to an amateur radio license plate.

Paul mentioned that his XYL Pam KR4XM is still operating RTTY, and that he takes the responsibility of reminding her where the band edges are. In addition, Mike AA4MC and his wife Linda W4LYN arrived for a visit.

Mike and Linda mentioned that they have an interest in relocating to the Appomattox/Lynchburg/Farmville region of the state, the special draw apparently being an abundance of biting bass in local streams. Linda made reference to having an interest in upgrading from her Technician ticket.

Paul WC9A arrived with his son Neal. Paul WC9A expressed an interest in obtaining (another) HF rig, and discussed his experience with a radio club in California. Frank's wife, Beverley, arrived just in time for lunch, which of course is consistent with her routine lunch time arrivals after monthly MVARC ham radio test sessions.

Late in the morning, Frank fired up his propane stove, and cooked hot dogs and chili for everyone.

During lunch, Frank mentioned that local ham Chris Worsley KD4IBI and XYL Diane moved to Arizona. When asked how she liked the event, Beverly expressed, "It's great, I'm not a radio person, but I enjoy talking with everybody and it's a beautiful day in the park". When told that Joan KI4FYN

obtained a ticket, and asked if she too had any interest in obtaining a ticket, Beverly said, "Good for Joan, but radio is not my thing...radio is Frank's thing."

Bob and Dave discussed Dave's contact with W4MQC, Bob mentioning that he has had at over 20 CW contacts with W4MQC over the years, and Dave expressing that he too has had many contacts with that same operator who routinely transmits QRP from his 1811 family farm cottage in NH. Frank and Dave discussed the possibility of setting up a station at an overnight site.

About 1:00PM, Dave, Frank and Bob began to break down the two stations. With 6 hands, it only took about 30 minutes to do so. Dave's station was so compact that his 5 pound antenna fit into a tiny carry bag, and his rig fit into a tiny carry case. The battery had it's own handle.

Frank's breakdown was a bit more extensive, given that he brought his own tables, chairs and food items. Everyone had a fun time, especially as the weather cooperated by providing both a sunny and warm day for outdoor radio operation.



BUDDIPOLE PORTABLE ANTENNA



HIGH SIERRA TAHOE
SCREWDRIVER
PORTABLE ANTENNA

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
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Alexandria, VA 22307