

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



Volume 18

JUNE 2005

Number 06

# Ye Olde RF Output

## MEETING NOTICE

**JUNE 9, 2005**

7:30 PM

**MOUNT VERNON  
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**

2511 PARKERS LANE

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22306

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

**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](http://WWW.MVARC.ORG)  
[WWW.MVARC.COM](http://WWW.MVARC.COM)

## HAPPENINGS

**June 9 - MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB monthly meeting.** Held at MOUNT VERNON GOVERNMENTAL CENTER 2511 Parker's Lane, 22306. 7:30 p.m. See you there!

**June 7,14,21,28 - MVARC ARES NET-** 146.055/146.655-8:30 PM local time. The Ten Meter portion meets immediately following the Two Meter Net on 28.415 MHz. Come and join in!

**JUNE 25,26 - MVARC FIELD DAY 2005 -** Pohick Bay Regional Park - Setup starts at 8:00 a.m.---Operation starts at 2:00 p.m. Saturday until 2:00 p.m. Sunday - Potluck Picnic starts around 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Please bring a covered dish. Plan to visit us and get some operating time in. It's a fun day!

**June 25 - MVARC Breakfast** will be held at The Old Country Buffet on Route 1. Everyone's invited to join MVARC members for breakfast. They meet the 4th Saturday of every month.

**NOTICE--VE EXAM LOCATION  
THE JUNE 11, 2005 VE EXAM WILL  
BE HELD AT**

**The FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
2723 KING STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA  
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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### MINUTES MAY 12, 2005 MEETING

By GEORGE, N1BV  
Club Secretary:

(Ed. Note: George said that the Treasurer's Report reflects a reduction of about \$906. This is the result of an error last month when the balance in the Doc Hyde Fund was inadvertently added to the total. At the upcoming club meeting, a motion will be made to correct last month's report where the error occurred.)

The meeting was held at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President, Carol, WA4GFW. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone then introduced themselves. The April minutes, as posted on the reflector, were approved. John, K2VPR, gave the Treasurer's Report. As of 30 April 2005

Checking:	\$1,153.19
Savings:	3,343.55
Cash on hand:	121.50
Doc Hyde fund:	906.50

Income:	
Dues and interest	300.57

Expenses	
Corporate fee	25.00
Refreshments	10.38
Speaker's meal	23.90
VE supplies	300.00

TOTAL ASSETS:	\$4,618.24
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Steve, K3IZ, provided the ARES report and how he "won" the Potomac River Run, where he and

other hams supported the race communications.

Mary, N4TCI, provided the Education/ Volunteer Examiner Report and noted that there would be a test session next Saturday and one at the Manassas Ham Fest. She also stated that the FAR Fest would be 11/12 September.

Doug, WA4WEP, gave the Repeater Committee report and said the repeater was operating. There was no Coast Guard Station report. However, Charlie, AF4NT, reported that only the 2 meter rig was now operational at the station. Bob, KT4KS provided the Outreach report.

Bob, KI3O, presented Daniel Sullivan, KO1D, the guest speaker, and also put out a request for presentation recommendations.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

George, N1BV, reported that he had received the MVARC Articles of Incorporation. However, there is also a third MVARC governing document called the "Constitution". He is recommending that the Constitution be incorporated into the By-Laws.

Field Day, June 25 and 26, was discussed by Steve, K3IZ, the President, WA4GFW, and others.

Glen, W4OCC, reported that he had completed an initial survey of video projectors. The price range for a reasonable one was approximately \$1,000. A discussion ensued on the need for one of these. If the meetings are shifted to INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital, projectors are usually available. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to table the issue.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Steve, K3IZ, reported that our old copier was at the end of its useful life, and that parts were no longer available. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to authorize Steve to dispose of the old copier.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to authorize the Club's purchase of two tables at the Berryville Ham Fest.

A motion was made,

seconded, and passed to provide March, KG4FSQ, of INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital with an honorary MVARC membership through 9 January 2006 in recognition of her support of the MVARC.

The club breakfast will be held on 28 May.

Joan, KI4FYN, was the Cookie Monster. Doug, WA3WEP, volunteered to be the June Cookie Monster. Following adjournment, Daniel Sullivan, KO1D, made a presentation on training for disasters.

## FIELD DAY 2005: R U READY?

By Dave, AIFC  
YORFO Editor

If ham radio were a religion – and who's to say it's not, in a secular kind of way – Field Day would be the high holidays.

Fields Day is where it is at, the embodiment of what the hobby is all about. There are the rigs and the antennas, set up in a sort of mock emergency fashion to demonstrate what radio can do when most other forms of communication can't.

It's also a time we pay homage to the deeper forces behind the hobby – the engineers among us skilled at stringing up great antenna, the seasoned operators who, like John, WQ4L, can run CW through the night with barely a break, and finally the cooks like Glenn, W4OCC, and Doug, WA3WEP, who put on a spread that Mother would envy.

But in truth, it's about all of this wrapped into a splendidly frenetic 24-hours of radio contacts, camaraderie around the coffee pot, and quiet moments when, in the dark of the evening, you slip the headphones off, take a long breath and enjoy the quiet drone of the generators and the distant sound of fellow hams at the microphone wracking up the points for the club the club.

You don't have to be a 40-year veteran in the hobby to participate. My first Field Day was less than a year after I got my tech ticket in 2001, and I was absolutely delighted to be able to put in a few hours operating 20 and 40 meter phone using rigs I had only read about. Last year, I spent a terrific evening logging for WQ4L, using his brand new FT 1000, and watching a pro in action, wondering if I would ever be able to develop the speed on CW to be able to copy as fast or send so skillfully. This year I hope to give it a try.

You, too, can be part of all this on June 25 and 26.

Field Day coordinator Steve, K3IZ, said the club plans to operate six stations. "So come out and give the club a hand," he said.

Paul, AA8O, will be operating 40 and 80 meter phone. WQ4L will be back at 20 meter CW. Demi, K4BSA, will be helping the Venture Crew at their station. George, N1BV, will be operating 10 and 15 meter phone. K3IZ will be operating 40 meter CW. And for a special treat this year, Pat, KB8PYM, will have a UHF/VHF satellite station set up – something many of us don't have much experience with.

In addition, said coordinator Steve, there will be a "get on the air" station set up for anyone who, whether licensed or not, can get some on-air experience and learn just how fun the hobby is.

Even if you don't plan to operate, drop by for some good eats and fellowship. You can be assured that the quality is top rate. That because John, WZ4a, took over the purchase of the hot dogs, hamburger and chicken because he didn't like the "cardboard quality" of the frozen stuff the club used to have on hand, Steve said. Now it's top rate. Bring a side dish big enough to serve 10, if you can.

Set up begins around 8 a.m. Saturday, June 25, and the clock starts ticking on the 24-hour event at noon, or 1600 UTC. Cleanup Sunday afternoon goes quickly, but as many hands as

possible will be much appreciated.

The location of this year's Field Day is the same as last – Pohick Bay Regional Park. Pohick is the Algonquin word for “water place.” And though the park occupies a magnificent spot on the bay on the fabulous Mason Neck, the area reserved for Field Day is away from the water and most of the recreational users. Look for the signs on the left immediately after passing the entrance gate. And bring some bug repellent!

The park is located at 6501 Pohick Bay Drive in Lorton, maybe five miles off Route 1.

## OUT TO DAYTON AND BACK

By Steve, K3IZ

Well, our adventure started err-lye in the mornin' alright. John, K2VPR started things off by arising at 0400 hrs. Cap't Bob, N4LBR arrived at his house at 0500 hrs. The van having been gassed, the cooler iced, and bags secured by flashlight, they were ready to go. The first of the band of gypsies were off to gather the rest of the hoard heading west. The next stop was for good ole 'I Zed. They picked me up at about 5:45am.

I installed my Yaesu FT-100D and Hamstick in the VPR mobile. We now have HF on the way. We mooshed more luggage in the van and picked up George, N1BV around the corner. After stuffing even more stuff in John's vehicle, we rumbled down the GW parkway to collect Bob, KI3O. Piling Bob's bags into the Van, off to O-HI-O we go. The merry punsters were "On The Road Again".

The first stop was at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Frederick, MD. We had a breakfast that just couldn't be beat as they have the best pancakes around. Bob, KI3O has French Toast to celebrate his heritage. "Ham" and eggs filled the rest. Zooming west from Rt 70

to RT 68 to RT 79 we stop at Washington, PA, for lunch.

Propagation was just awful so HF was a no show. John did quite well on 2 meters .52 simplex. So with talking to other Dayton hopefuls and listening to "Weird" Al Yankovic CDs, we were quite entertained. It rained a bit on the way out but soon we arrived in Fairport, Oh. Bob, KI3O stayed at the Comfort Inn in that fair town, but we pushed ahead to the University of Dayton.

The University offers their dorm rooms for those wayward travelers for a quite a reasonable rate. Be sure this is not the Ritz. There's no chocolate on the pillows. It's on the walls. However, the room is just what it is. It has clean sheets and towels and what more do you want? We went to Denny's for breakfast and that was great. Every morning, Bob, 'LBR had some sort of Slam breakfast. He would get the egg substitutes "over easy". The waitress said "What?" They came scrambled. Oh well.

Finally, we are at the Hamvention.

Here we are waiting at the front gate for it to open. This guard has a slow watch; it's 8:05. He is taking his job seriously. Is this Ft. Knox? Then the magic moment arrived. The guard relented and away we went. The flea market is a giant parking lot for the Hara Arena. It's filled. The weather was cool and overcast. No rain; the weather man said so.

Well??? It held off and it was nice day.

Wow! What a bunch of great stuff?

Actually, there were bargains to be had. Bob, N4LBR found a tuner for which he was searching at just the right price. There were connectors and speakers and all kind o'great ham radio things abounding. This is it!

The inside opened and we saw all the new rigs. There was the lcom line from the big IC-7800 to the new IC-7000 DC to Daylight mobile. Yaesu had their line of FTdx9000 radios in its various

machinations. Kenwood had its newest products as did Ten Tec with the Orion. SGC showed off the latest "Mini Lini" tiny linear amp. The clip of the CW vs. text messaging tape from the Leno show was being shown. The CW guys won, of course. Chip, W7JA was dressed in the same outfit as he wore on TV as an old time telegrapher.

There were all kinds of booths and displays and forums for anyone interested in any aspect of the hobby. Bob, 'LBR saw the Bicycle Across Ohio group and a stealth antenna forum. The ARRL did a fantastic job of displaying all their services and programs they provide. We saw Bill, KD4CNS at the AMSAT booth doing excellent work telling the public the wonders of working the Sats.

On Friday, all of the MVARC members in attendance gathered at Dayton's finest Italian restaurant, Anticoli's. John, WZ4A and Mary, N4TCI and also Carol, WA4GFW and Leila, WN4PP and the aforementioned crowd were partaking of the fine fare offered at the bistro. We all had just a fabulous dinner ranging from piled high pizza to lasagna to Tuscan desert delights.

On Saturday we went to meet with the gang from the Rotten Apple Group and the Classroom net at a restaurant called Alex's. On the way there we encountered around 10 or 12 motorcyclists driving on the interstate. About 3 of them were popping wheelies and one fellow was standing on the seat of the cycle and only the rear wheel in contact with the pavement. Note as well that Ohio doesn't have a helmet law. Yikes!! The dinner was excellent and the evening's entertainments were quite humorous. A number of new friendships were started that evening.

It had to happen. Yes, Sunday came and another Dayton Hamvention came to end.

At the drawing for the big prizes the announcer man said from a preliminary report it looked like the attendance was up this year

from last. There were some empty tailgating spots but Mendleson's Surplus was not there do to higher prices from the Hara Arena. I didn't find it that big a deal but....

The trip home was uneventful but quite enjoyable. We stopped in St. Clairsville, OH for the night rather than pushing through to the DC area. The next morning Cap't Bob tried again to get his egg substitutes "over easy" but they caught on to him. He also brought along peanut butter and crackers and they hit the spot on the long stretches between breakfast and lunch.

We had just a wonderful time going to, being at and departing from the Dayton Hamvention. The flea market is unbelievable; the show is fantastic and the fellowship and friendships renewed and made are everlasting. If you can't find it at Dayton you can't find it. If you haven't been to Dayton you should make it at least once. If you haven't been in a long you should go again to catch up and if you go ever year then continue the streak. It is a real treat to spend three days talking, seeing and experiencing the many aspects of Ham Radio.

It's a wonderful hobby. See you next year on the main floor.

## **MORE WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH**

There are more ways to keep in touch with your fellow MVARCers than just attending club meetings, talking on the club's 2-meter repeater and attending the monthly breakfasts.

Most Saturdays and Sundays, those of us who enjoy CW get together for a half-hour roundtable at 7:30 a.m. at 3.675 MHz. That's at the bottom edge of the CW-qualified technicians band and we are especially looking for new or less skilled operators who want to develop and improve their CW operating skills.

The net operator is usually the Speedo-sporting Frank, AA4ZS, and for the first 10 minutes or so of the net, he will take breaks to call for late-comers. But even if he doesn't, and you want to join in, please break in between transmissions and let yourself be known. It's fun, doesn't take up a lot of your morning, and is a wonderful way to meet fellow club members.

The CW net breaks up about 8 a.m. so that participants can get ready for the next weekend club net, a SSB event called the Cherry Tree Net at 3.920 MHz. This net starts at 8:30 a.m. and usually draws five or more club members from Harrisburg, PA, to the North Carolina Outer Banks.

The half-hour Cherry Tree Net is a good way to meet members of the club you don't often see at monthly meetings, and it's a terrific opportunity to see how well your rig is working or test out a new antenna amongst a group of experienced operators who can give you some helpful advice.

## **WHY AM I GETTING THIS IN THE MAIL?**

Each month, the club mails out exactly 33 copies of the YORFO newsletter. It costs the club about \$30 a month to do this.

Some of you receive the newsletter by mail because you don't have e-mail service. Some of you receive it because you want a "hard copy" even though you have e-mail. And some of you receive it by mail because that's the way you've always received it. You can also download and print the newsletter (.pdf file) from MVARC's website, [WWW.MVARC.COM](http://WWW.MVARC.COM).

Many years ago when the club was trying to raise money for a new repeater, members were offered lifetime club memberships as incentives for larger

contributions that went to fund the new rig. Those members continue to receive mailed copies of the newsletter even though many have moved away from the area and may not be interested in our monthly comings and goings.

If you are one of those persons, or you receive the newsletter in the mail box instead of your e-mail box where you'd prefer it, let us know.

Send an e-mail to Dave, AI4FC, the newsletter editor, and he'll make the switch for you. Or send a note to the club at the address in this newsletter and help us reduce our monthly costs.

Tnx.  
de K4US

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