

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



Volume 19

APRIL 2006

Number 04

Ye Olde RF Output

MEETING NOTICE

APRIL 13, 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

April 13 - 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!

April 4,11,18,25 - MVARC ARES NET- 146.055/146.655 **7:00 PM local time**. Come and join in!

April 22 - 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 APRIL 8, 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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MARCH 9, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

By George, N1BV
MVARC Secretary

The meeting was held at the IN-OVA Mount Vernon Hospital and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Vice President, Frank, AA4ZS. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, attendees introduced themselves. The November minutes, as posted on the reflector, were approved with one correction. Change the date of the QRP Field Day to 15 April. In the Treasurers absence, George, N1BV, gave the Treasurer's Report. As of 28 February 2006

Checking:	\$584.13
Savings:	\$3,355.61
Cash on hand:	\$199.75
Doc Hyde fund:	\$1,719.80
Expenses:	
Repeater antenna	
and installation:	\$864.78
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$4,138.50

The ARES report was given by Steve, K3IO. There were no MARS, Educational Committee, FAR, or USCG Committee reports. Dick, WA4USB, gave the Repeater report and said that the repeater squelch and been opened, and that PL was now turned on during the morning and afternoon commuting periods.

It was announced that there would be a VE test session this coming Saturday. Bob, KT4KS, gave the Community Outreach Report. Bob, KI3O, presented the Program Committee report by introducing

Doug Lindsey, KB3HER, who is the MDC Section EC. The next club breakfast will be held at the Old Country Buffet on 25 March.

Doug, WA4WEP, announced that he would be out of town for the next Field Day, therefore a new chef would be required. Hal, KG4CKJ, volunteered to do it. George, N1BV, noted that in the past, we have given an honorary membership to March, KG4FSQ, for her assistance in arranging our meeting place. It was moved and passed, that an honorary membership be again provided.

Unfinished Business: George, N1BV, said that comments on the draft By-Laws still have not been received. He recommended they be placed on the MVARC website for all to review, and that a vote to adopt the revised By-Laws be called for at the next meeting. George will coordinate with Glenn, W4OCC, to have them posted.

Nominating Committee. The Vice President asked for members for a nominating committee for the upcoming election of club officers. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer positions need to be filled. The Secretary volunteered to continue for next year. The committee members are: Frank, AA4ZS, John, WQ4L, and George, N1BV.

New Business: George, N1BV, said he has put together an Excel spreadsheet from the Treasurer's database of current club members. It has both an alphabetical listing and a call sign suffix listing. It also included a listing of telephone numbers for those members that provided them. George proposed having the list added to the MVARC webpage. A discussion ensued about whether to include phone numbers or not. It was agreed not to include phone numbers on the webpage. John, WQ4L volunteered to print up copies with the telephone numbers to have at the

next club meeting for those that desire copies.

Frank, AA4ZS, proposed, that at the next meeting, a discussion be held on whether to have a "social" gathering, rather than a formal presentation at every third meeting.

For Show & Tell, there was a fight to be first. Fred, W3DM, showed a nice small banner from the Treinta y Tres radio club in Uruguay (which is located at 33.23333°S). Fred thought it was a very nice idea, and perhaps the club should consider something similar. Steve, K3IZ, brought in the latest Mt. Vernon Special Event certificates which Amy, KI4IAL, designed. Everyone agreed that Amy did a beautiful job. Julie, KD4WSZ, brought in some giveaway items.

George, N1BV, was the Cookie Monster, and Bob, KT4KS, volunteered to be the monster in April. Our guest speaker, Doug, KB3HER, gave a presentation and demonstration on Winlink.

CHANGE IN COMMAND

By David, AI4FC
YORFO editor

Our old club is getting new leaders.

At the club's April 13 meeting, we send our hearty thanks to outgoing president Carol Cutchall, WA4GFW, vice president Frank Lempicki, AA4ZS, and treasurer John Tyburski, K2VPR.

All have done a great job but under changes to the by-laws that are likely to be voted on at the meeting, they would not be eligible to run for new terms.

Carol has served three consecutive terms as president, but unfortunately won't make Thursday's

meeting to bring this long legacy to a close. He enters Sibley Hospital this week for back surgery and we wish him well for a swift and successful recovery.

Carol applauded the idea of term limits for club officers, saying he thinks its vital for the long term health of the club for others to get involved in running it.

"I'd like to see more members doing program presentations," he said. "We have a tremendous amount of expertise right here in our own club, and yet we never hear from them."

Carol called the club's conflicts over operation of the repeater his biggest challenge during his tenure. "It's still not perfect but we've come a long ways." He said he is also proud that the club was able to maintain Field Day operations last year because the event is the essence of the hobby and is "a great, fun time." He said he hopes to be back on his feet in time for the annual spring event..

Carol also said he's been thinking a lot about how to draw younger members into the club, and in his post-presidency role will try to push the club toward events such as building projects or holding fox hunts.

Frank is completing his second term as vice president, and claims brevity as his legacy when presiding over meetings.

"I hold the record for the shortest meeting at the club - 12 minutes," said Frank, who many club members also know because of his service keeping the commute round tables straight on the K4US repeater.

"I've had a good time," Frank said. "I hope to continue to do this from the cheap seats."

The new president is expected to be Bob Lepelletier, KI3O. Bob is

running unopposed for the position, but nominations from the floor still will be in order at the meeting. Ironically, Bob, too, may miss the vote. Thursday is his wife's birthday.

Bob has been serving as the club's volunteer program chair and figures it wouldn't be that much more work to continue that function in the capacity as president.

"What happened was that when nominations were being accepted, I tripped on a chair and my hand went flying up in the air," he quipped.

Bob said most club functions are delegated to committees anyway, so he doesn't think it will add much to his workload as program chair. He said he also has been volunteering time to do some membership outreach, and he has a few ideas about formalizing that function that he might suggest at future meetings.

Nominated to succeed Frank as vice president is Howell Crim, KG4CKJ.

For treasurer to replace John Tyburski, K2VPR, two club members may be in a race --Mike Larkin, KE4ER, and Charlie Keller, AF4NT.

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

MVARC QRP FIELD DAY

By Frank, AA4ZS

Tis' springtime, the flowers are popping up, the tree buds are blooming, and hay fever is back among us. That means that it is time for MVARC to start getting ready for The annual MVARC QRP Field Day.

This year it will be held at the usual place, one of the parking lots of the Lee District Recreation Center on

April 15th. We have secured the area in the parking lot that is used for the picnic area parking and have use of the area between the hours of 8am to 6pm (generally the event goes until 2pm or 3pm).

This event is simply a gathering of MVARC members who are interested in QRP and is not a contest. The MVARC QRP Field Day is really more of a social event and a way for the QRP enthusiasts in the club to set up their portable stations in the parking lot and show off their new gear, make some QSOs, and mingle with other members of the club who share the same interests. This also serves the purpose of testing our stations for emergency use and displaying amateur radio to the general public.

The MVARC QRP Field Day has been held for about the last ten years and has been a lot of fun. All MVARC members are invited to come down and set up their QRP stations. If you don't have any QRP gear or don't want to set up a station, come on down anyway.

Gabbing with the gang is always fun, there is always something interesting to see, and some one might set you down at a QRP station and say 'have at it'. Many of the operators bring refreshments to share with all. Don't be surprised to see a table spread with coffee, cookies, doughnuts, and hot dogs to munch on.

If you do decide to bring a station to set up and operate, there are some rules we must observe. The rules are: Battery power only, no generators, and the antennas used must be self-supporting, the park's trees are off limits and cannot be used to erect antennas in any way.

Again, this is not a contest and is a very laid back affair. Come on down and have some fun! Hope to see you there.

BYLAWS TO BE VOTED ON AT CLUB MEET

The club is likely to be voting on new by-laws - the rules under which the club operates - and our thanks goes to George, N1BV for organizing that.

"The draft update to the MVARC By-Laws has been compiled from several sources," George said in a recent e-mail posted to club members. "These sources are the MVARC Articles of Incorporation filed with the Commonwealth of Virginia when the club was established, the present MVARC By-Laws, the MVARC 'Constitution', and examination of the by-laws of several other clubs and organizations."

The draft was posted on the club's website and any comments that were received will be read at the meeting, if the writer is not in attendance.

"If all goes well, we will also take a vote to adopt them," George said.

There are 13 separate articles in the bylaws:

-- Article I established the club as a non-profit corporation.

-- Article II sets out the club's objectives to operate "for charitable, scientific and educational purposes" to "encourage and sponsor" radio and electronics projects and experiments, and to promote ethical operation.

-- Article III restricts club earnings to be used to benefit club members unless for compensation for work they've done. The club is barred from engaging in propaganda or lobbying or engaging in political activities on behalf of candidates for public office.

-- Article IV describes membership requirements, and allows honorary memberships upon a majority vote of members present at the meeting where such membership is proposed.

-- Article V permits members to be expelled by a majority vote for violating club rules or conduct "which would tend to cause discredit to fall upon the MVARC or the amateur radio community as a whole."

-- Article VI sets out the club's fiscal year as running from May 1 to April 30 and directs that dues are to be paid by the last day of May for the next fiscal year.

-- Article VII directs that the club will have four elected officers - president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. A five-member nominating committee is to be appointed by the president every January and its slate of candidates presented to the club in March, that nominations will be accepted from the floor, that the nominating committee slate can be approved by a majority vote when there are no other nominations from the floor, and that in the case of a contested race there shall be written ballot counted by a 3-member committee appointed by the president.

-- Article VIII outlines the duties of the officers.

-- Article IX directs the president to appoint the chairman of five standing committees - program, repeater, training and education, Amateur Radio Emergency Service and net control.

--Article X directs that there shall be monthly meetings and that no action can be taken unless there is a quorum of 20 percent of the club's active membership.

-- Article XI authorizes the club to own property, to buy and sell property, to accept loaned equipment,

and requires the treasurer to keep a property list.

-- Article XII states that the bylaws can be amended by a vote of two-thirds of those present at a meeting as long as 14 days notice has been given in advance.

-- Article XIII states that in the event of the dissolution of the club, loaned property must go back to its owner and that assets after all liabilities are paid will be distributed to non-profit organizations or to government agencies to be used for the public good.

GOT ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?

I am always looking for material for the YORFO newsletter. Being relatively new to the hobby, I don't have the technical background that most of you have, and so I am especially interested in finding club members or others who have new products to review or old problems to solve better. Don't be shy. If you doubt your writing skills, on that I can help. And if you have suggestions on people you'd like to see profiled or topics you'd like to see covered, please shoot me an e-mail. YORFO can only be as interesting as the material I have to work with.

TNX,
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