

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



Volume 18

MAY 2005

Number 05

# Ye Olde RF Output

## MEETING NOTICE

**MAY 12, 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

## HAPPENINGS

**May 12** - MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
monthly meeting. Held at MOUNT VERNON GOV-  
ERNMENTAL CENTER 2511 Parker's Lane,  
22306. 7:30 p.m. See you there!

**May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** - 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!

**May 28** - 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](http://WWW.MVARC.ORG)  
[WWW.MVARC.COM](http://WWW.MVARC.COM)

**NOTICE--VE EXAM LOCATION**  
**THE MAY 14, 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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### CREW SPONSORSHIP

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### MVARC WEBSITE

Paul Miller-AA8O  
Glenn Bilger-W4OCC  
Leila Cutchall-WN4PP

Carol Cutchall-WA4GFW  
Frank Mackey-K4EC



### MINUTES APRIL 14, 2005 MEETING

By George, N1BV  
Club Secretary

The meeting was held at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center and was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the President, Carol, WA4GFW. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone then introduced themselves. The March minutes, as posted on the reflector, were approved. Steve, K3IZ, provided the ARES report and mentioned the mock disaster drill in New Jersey. He also said we need to start getting organized for Field Day. He has applied for a location in Pohick Bay Park. John, WZ4A, provided the Education/ Volunteer Examiner Report and noted that there was a test session last Saturday in which Diane, AA3OF, the Laurel VEC, took part. He can now upload VE results to the FCC. He also mentioned three would be a test session at the Manassas Hamfest.

John, K2VPR, gave the Treasurer's Report. As of 31 March 2005

Checking:	\$1,14.10
Savings:	3,342.98
Cash on hand:	121.50
Doc Hyde fund:	<u>906.50</u>
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$5,515.10

Mary, N4TCI, reported on the FAR and that the FAR Fest would be 11/12 September. Dick, WA4USB, gave the Repeater Committee report and said the repeater was operating. Frank, AA4ZS, gave the Coast Guard Station report. The Kenwood 850 is fixed, but the power supply is not

there. The log periodic antenna will not be removed, however there may be fuses blown at the rotor. Bob, KT4KS reported on the QRP Field Day to be held on 24/25/26 June.

George, N1BV, reported that he had drafted an update to the MVARC By-Laws, but was awaiting receipt of the Articles of Incorporation to ensure no conflicts. The nomination for officers for next year was closed. Mary, N4TCI moved that the officers be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed. All present officers were so elected.

Under new business, George, N1BV, noting the repeater was operating, moved that the original announcement containing the words that it was an Amateur Radio Emergency Services Repeater, be reinstated. The motion was seconded and passed. Bruce, K7BC, said the Potomac River Run will be held on 1 May, and that he needed radio operators. The point of contact would be passed later. Frank, AA4ZS, said that a QRP gathering would take place at Lee District Park on Saturday. He also said Mt. Vernon Days may be cancelled.

John, K2VPR, said he was going to send the First Christian Church \$200 for hosting our test sessions and our Venture Crew. John, WQ4L, reported on problems with line noise at his QTH and how it was finally resolved after three months of effort. George, N1BV, opened a discussion of where to hold the meetings next year. He recommended the Mt. Vernon Inova Hospital, where we have a communications setup in place. John, WQ4L, will investigate the move. Bob, KT4KS, was the Cookie Monster, and Joan Bilger volunteered for the duty next month.

An excellent presentation of Automatic Positioning Reporting System was presented by Ian Keith, N8IK, from the Alexander Radio Club.

## HAMS R US - Dave Jordan, WA3GIN

By DAVE, AI4FC  
YORFO Editor

Hams who think the hobby is diminished, if not rendered obsolete, by the pervasive expansion of computer technology and the internet clearly haven't been talking to MVARC member Dave Jordan, WA3GIN.

Dave has managed to fuse the two.

From his truck tooling around the Washington area and to as far south as Richmond, Dave can operate 40 meters SSB using a laptop to link him via the internet with his remote station at his 14-acre King George County farm.

"People think the internet is going to kill amateur radio," Dave said. "I don't think so. I think the internet has synergies that are going to enhance radio."

Dave, whose day job is information security office for Arlington County, is all about synergies, and it is difficult to fully appreciate when his work day ends and his hobby time begins.

Recently Dave and a small group of local hams, including MVARC's Brad, K4RT, and Terry, K7MPP, put together a small group called the Amateur Radio Public Service Club that started up a 10-watt repeater atop the 16-story Arlington County office building on Clarendon Boulevard.

Dave said the repeater site is an ideal location because of its broad reach. Even at its low power, he said the repeater can be accessed from as far as 50 miles away.

But it hasn't been an easy task. The repeater uses refurbished equipment, and it turned out that the controller had a bad RS 232 chip that made it impossible to program with a terminal. "We had to program it with a handy talky," Dave said. "But we eventually tracked down the problem in the controller and replaced the chip. I

think this will be one of the area's premier stations."

The repeater eventually will be boosted to 100 watts, and will serve as an emergency back up for the county's emergency radio communications. The repeater, W4AVA/R, is at 146.625 MHz and it open to anyone. It requires CTSCC tone 107.2.

But the repeater is only half of what Dave has in mind for the top of the county building.

He and ARPSC are at work on a 160-6 meter remote station that also will be housed atop the county building, and it should be up and running within the next few weeks. After an initial test period, the club members will have access and use of the station operating remote via an internet link.

Dave has a lot of experience in this field. He has been a leading internet remote advocate, and during a recent interview, he said he had even done some consulting with Eagles band soundman and microphone guru Bob Heil, K9EID, on internet remote stations that Bob and guitarist Joe Walsh, WB6ACU will be using while on tour this year.

On the top floor of Dave's Cameron Station townhouse are the guts of the internet remote station that soon will be readied for service, using a Dell server and a Kenwood TS 480 SAT transceiver.

The remote station will be similar to what Dave has at his farm, except he has a wide array of antennas at the King George County property, ranging from dipoles and zepps to a Near-Vertical Incident Skywave for 40 meters and a tribander at 50 feet. Not only can Dave select which antenna he wants to use from a remote computer, but he can rotate the beam from his Cameron Station home or truck or lap top at any location.

The only major frustration is that there is no high-speed broadband connection to rural King George County, and so he is forced to rely on a dial-up connection that can be painfully slow.

"I've gotten so used to slowness I can't wait to see what it's like when we have something faster," he said.

Dave's fascinating fusion of radio and internet is just prelude to his real job as Arlington County's chief information officer, where a couple of years ago he set up Arlington County's groundbreaking roam alert text messaging system after the Washington area sniper case revealed serious intra-government communications shortcomings.

Dave's enviable meld of hobby and work went full circle on March 18 when Arlington County appointed him as the county's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services officer.

Before going to work for the county, Dave worked 18 years for MCI and spent the last decade there chasing fraudulent use of the telephone service. With his strong background in telco networks/software development, Dave holds seven patents for systems designed to prevent illegal phone use.

"Anytime you make a long distance operator assisted call, you are using some of my intellectual property," Dave said.

But it's the project under way on top of the county building on Clarendon Boulevard that Dave now sees as holding such great promise, both public and private.

For the county, Dave said that eventually the internet remote station will be tool in emergencies that will give the county a communications link with other ham stations across the country. And for individual hams, Dave said internet remote is an opportunity to stay on the air even when they can no longer maintain or have stations at their own homes.

"It's all an experiment," he said. "But it continues to be great fun. We've gotten to do things through the winter that we didn't think we'd get to do."

Jordan, a Washington area native who developed an interest in radio when he found an old short wave set and was prodded by his

father into fixing it, is well know to hams up and down the East Coast because of his association with the East Coast Amateur Radio Service at 7.255 MHz.

Dave's family is also radio active. His wife Rachel, N1FSU, son Tim, KE4QQM and nephew Shea, KE4LMB all received their amateur radio education from the Alexandria Radio Club.

## **COOL TEMPERATURE AFFECTS MVARC'S QRP FIELD DAY**

By Bob KT4KS

On April 16 (Saturday), MVARC sponsored its QRP Field Day in the picnic area of Lee District Park. The morning was particularly cool and breezy, but it did not deter many of our members from rising early to attend the CW-centered event.

At 8:00 AM, event Coordinator Frank AA4ZS, who was first on the scene, set up his QRP station that included his IC-703, bug, and vertical antenna. Frank's station also provided the site for coffee and food items, most of which were generously donated by Frank. Minutes later, YORFO Editor Dave AI4FC arrived with two-dozen hot Krispy-Kreme doughnuts, which he picked up from Route 1's famous institution. (Yes, the doughnuts really were hot!) Dave set up his own QRP station that included a SWL rig, bench straight key, Elecraft's new QRP tuner (which Dave had recently constructed), and a Buddipole antenna (looking like two horizontally mounted hamsticks on a post). Steve K3IZ subsequently arrived, and set up a third station that included MFJ 9040, Norcal 40, Ten Tec 1330, Kent key, and dipole constructed from two hamsticks. Alan N5LF set up his Elecraft K1 and bug alongside of Frank's station. Finally, Paul AA8O set up his HW-8 alongside of Steve's station to use Steve's antenna.

The cool (even cold) and

breezy conditions had a psychological effect upon the operators. However, it was Frank who finally removed his gloves to make the first contact of the day, reaching an operator located in far-off Potomac, MD. Alan made the longest reported contact of the day, reaching the state of Louisiana. Dave managed to make a contact with Alan across the parking lot. Steve seemed proud when he announced that he called W8GND, but got no response.

The affair included many other MVARCers who came out to both help set up and enjoy the social event. Paul K4FPF arrived with a vehicle that supported 5 antennas. Paul could have operated one of his fancy mobile rigs from the comfort of his vehicle, but elected to socialize with fellow MVARCers. Paul expressed that "Frank could have ordered some warm weather", which again, was generally the focus for the early hours of the event. When asked, Paul mentioned that his wife, Pam K4RXM, was a bit under the weather, and thus would not be present for the event. Glenn KR4AT arrived with his little 3-year old boy, Benjamin. Unfortunately, young Ben did not seem to be very interested in the radios.

Hal KG4CKJ arrived with his huge truck that supported 5 antennas. Someone noted that Hal could fit 10 large ham operators in the back of his vehicle for a trip to Dayton, but Hal did not respond to the suggested possibility. Hal generally socialized, and showed off his home-brew coffee that retained an excessive amount of "sludge" (Hal's word) on the bottom of the cup. Tom W9TZ and Popy KI4FNE also arrived for a visit. Popy stated that "It's cold...we should have events when the days are not cold". Popy had her pet bird with her, the appropriately dressed bird standing on her shoulder throughout most of the morning. Tom said that it was a "Great day", and spoke about his interest in getting his cycle out in upcoming warmer weather.

Bill KG4URW arrived on

his new Harley Davidson motorcycle, driving all the way in from Woodbridge. When asked why he did not have a radio on the bike, Bill expressed that he "won't put any radio on my bike, as I don't need distraction". Anna KG4DEX and Charlie AF4NT were also present. Anna arrived supporting a new hairstyle with a bit of coloring. Anna said that she "came to get involved, and I'm going to get on the radio". Charlie expressed that the "band is not cooperating", possibly explaining why he was eating and not operating. Bob KT4KS generally spoke with the many attendees, and fought against the wind to read Saturday's Washington Time's Civil War Page.

Others who attended included Matt, Russ N3VUA, Tim KT4MV, "Doc" KG4YIO and his son Tyler (no call), Don KI4FON, Beverly (Frank's XYL) and Bob WA4GCJ, many of whom learned of the upcoming event from Frank through the MVARC repeater.

Everyone seemed to have a fine time. While the advertised focus was radio operation, the actual focus seemed to be on both the social and culinary aspects of radio, as exhibited by 8 people eating hot dogs and chili around Frank's station. Of course, this should be no surprise to experienced MVARCers. Steve expressed that it was "Nice to see the folk who came out", which very much defined everyone's view.

## **MVARC BYLAWS UNDERGO REVISIONS - DRAFT TEXT**

### **Section 1. MEMBERSHIP**

All persons interested in amateur radio operations shall be eligible for membership in the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Secretary or Treasurer, in writing, and each application shall express a willingness by the applicant to abide by the

Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws, and such rules as shall from time to time be established by the Corporation.

### **Section 2. THE OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION**

The officers of the corporation shall be elected for a period of one year by ballot of the members present, provided there is a quorum as provided in Section 9, at the official corporate meeting in April of each year. Terms of office will be from May 1 through April 30. Officers shall be federally licensed amateur radio operators, and the President must hold a license of Technician Class or higher. Vacancies occurring between elections must be filled by special election at the first meeting subsequent to an elective office being vacated for any cause. Officers may be removed for any cause deemed appropriate by two-thirds of the active membership present at the next regular meeting following written notice mailed to the officer being considered for removal, and written notice to all members of the contemplated action. The officer shall have an opportunity to reply in writing or orally at the meeting during which the vote is to be taken, after which written votes will be submitted for count by the other officers of the corporation present.

### **Section 3. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

The duties of the Officers of the corporation shall be:

A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. He shall enforce due observance of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. He shall decide all questions of order. He shall sign all official documents that are prepared for issuance by the corporation, except for such routine correspondence and reports as he may delegate to other officers for preparation and signature. He shall perform all customary duties per-

taining to the office of President and appoint personnel to properly supervise such activities as he deems necessary.

B. The Vice-president shall assist the President in the performance of his duties, and shall, in the temporary absence of the President, perform those duties of the President which are necessary to conduct the business of the corporation. Whenever possible, he shall consult with the President prior to assuming any such duties of the President.

C. The Secretary shall keep a written record of the proceedings of all Corporate meetings; originate and sign correspondence as directed by the President or as required for routine reports, and read pertinent correspondence at each meeting.

D. The Treasurer shall maintain the roll of members; accept applications for membership;. He shall establish and maintain the corporate banking accounts into which all receipts shall be deposited and upon which all expenditures shall be drawn. He shall be authorized to sign checks on the corporate accounts within such limits as the members shall from time to time prescribe. He may maintain a petty cash fund with a maximum limit as prescribed by the members. He shall report all receipts and expenditures, and the current balances of all accounts at each Corporate meeting. He shall maintain the records of any properties acquired by the Corporation, with their cost or current value. He shall be responsible for mailing annual reports to the State Corporation Commission, the Fairfax County Clerk, the Internal Revenue Service and such other reports as are necessary on behalf of the Corporation. He shall prepare and mail notices of unpaid dues and shall otherwise assist the Secretary in the discharge of his duties.

E. In the absence of the Treasurer, and when circumstances dictate the clear need to do

so, the President, Vice-president or the Secretary are authorized to sign checks within limits determined by the corporate members, for expenditures otherwise properly authorized by the members.

#### Section 4. MEETINGS

Corporate meetings will be held monthly at a time and place to be determined by majority vote of the members. Unless determined otherwise by the President, meetings are open to the public, and prospective members shall be encouraged to attend by means of news releases or other publicity.

#### Section 5. COMMITTEES

The President shall appoint chairmen to the following standing committees and groups, such as: Programs Chairman, Training and Education Chairman, Repeater Committee, ARES Net Control Chairman, Amateur Radio Emergency Service Representative, U.S. Coast Guard Station Chairman. Special committees consisting of one or more members may be appointed by the President as may be required by Corporate needs, The President may also appoint delegates to represent the Corporation at meetings of other amateur radio groups, associations, and conferences, such as the Amateur Radio Relay League, and the Foundation for Amateur Radio.

#### Section 6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the corporation plus the immediate past President of the Corporation shall also be the Directors and shall constitute an Executive Committee which shall meet as necessary and make recommendations concerning the business and activities of the Corporation.

#### Section 7. DUES

Dues shall be paid by all members on an annual basis, prorated on a monthly basis for those members joining after the start of the fiscal year of the corporation, and shall be in an amount determined by a majority vote of the members attending at a regular meeting. Reduced rates for family memberships may be voted by the membership. A member shall be considered as inactive if his dues remain unpaid for a period longer than ninety calendar days after the date established for payment, and shall thereupon forfeit his privileges of membership until all dues in arrears be paid. Special exemptions from dues may be approved by vote of the members present at any scheduled meeting.

#### Section 8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Each year, the President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of five members who shall nominate one or more members for each of the four offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary-treasurer, and Assistant Secretary-treasurer. This slate of officers shall be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in March of each year, and additional nominations shall be accepted from the general membership at that time, provided that each nominee shall indicate his willingness to serve in the office to which nominated. If the membership approves by majority vote of those present, the officers proposed by the nominating committee shall be deemed to have been elected. If any office be contested, the vote for that office shall be by written ballot, to be counted by a panel of three members appointed by the Presi-

dent, and the nominee receiving the majority of the votes for that office shall then so serve.

#### Section 9. QUORUM

No corporate actions may be voted upon at meetings at which a quorum is not present. Ten percent (10) of the active members shall constitute a quorum. An active member shall be one who has paid his current dues.

#### Section 10 MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

The Corporation will provide members with technical advice concerning equipment design and operation to assist in frequency observance, clear signals, uniform practice, and elimination of spurious radiation. The Corporation will maintain a program of public relations to enhance amateur radio participation by all members of the public.

#### Section 11. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active membership. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least ten days prior to a scheduled meeting. No proposals for amendment shall be voted upon until the next meeting after the initial proposal has been presented to the members by the Secretary...