

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club's repeater is located on the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. The building is 333 feet tall sitting on Shooter's Hill which is 120 feet above sea level. The site provides a panoramic and unobstructed view in all directions.



The equipment and site were originally used by the Alexandria Fire Department, but were deactivated from use when the city's public safety communications moved to an 800 MHz. trunked system. At the request of the Fire Chief, the City Council voted to make the equipment and site available for ARES/RACES use.

The repeater is a Motorola MSF-5000 with TX-RX Duplexer. The antenna is a 4 bay folded dipole array in a 360 degree configuration feed by 100 feet of 1/2" Heliax through a cavity duplexer. Controller is provided by a CAT-300DX with a digital voice recorder option.

The MVARC repeater has the following features:

A telephone autopatch which is available to members. Access codes are available upon request.

911 Access is available for anyone to use.

A repeater information announcement is available by press 411.

DTMF Test - Key your transmitter and press 555 followed any sequence of tone keys. When you release the key the repeater will announce back the digits as they were detected. If the test does not work, it is probably because your signal is too weak to properly detect the tones.

Signal Test - Key your transmitter and press 725*. When you release the key the repeater will announce "Start Test Now." Now transmit a test signal with audio of up to 7 seconds. When you release the key you will hear a double beep and the digital voice recorder will replay your test message. This is an excellent way of testing the quality of your own signal.

The repeater has various voice announcements to provide information reminding hams of meetings, nets, public service events, etc.

Current general information is available by pressing 411