

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



Volume 17

JANUARY 2004

Number 01

Ye Olde RF Output

MEETING NOTICE JANUARY 8, 2004

7:30 PM

NEW LOCATION!!!!
MOUNT VERNON
GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

2511 PARKERS LANE

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22306

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

HAPPENINGS

January 8 - 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!

January 6,13,20,27 - 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!

January 24 - 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

AUTOPATCH AVAILABLE TO
MEMBERS

MVARC HOME PAGE:
IN PROGRESS

NOTICE--VE EXAM LOCATION
THE JANUARY 10 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 OR TO CONFIRM THE
LOCATION OF THE TEST SESSION.

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

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MVARC/ CG TISCOM LIAISON



WZ4A IS THE DOC HYDE HAM OF THE YEAR FOR 2003

by Bob, KI3O

At Tonight's MVARC Holiday Party, John L. Forrest, Jr., WZ4A, was awarded the Mount Vernon ARC's Doc Hyde Award: The Ham of the Year for 2003. This was started to award those hams who have put forth effort to progress the Amateur Radio Hobby and to exemplify the Amateur's Code. John has done both of these over the years.

As many know John has headed up the MVARC VE and Education program for many years. He personally oversees the testing to ensure the validity of tests given, the administration of these tests and the quality and quantity of the VEs. The MVARC testing program has had many hams proclaim the professionalism and excellence of the testing sessions.

Though there are many other venues for classes these days, WZ4A also has setup and administered an entire education program that should not go unheralded. He made sure of the syllabus for each license class. These were in the days of the 5 different Ham License class levels. He, at that time, taught classes for the exams for both the written and code tests.

When asked about his reaction to the award John exclaimed "Thanks for honoring me last night. I really appreciate the recognition. I've really enjoyed working/playing with you guys over the last 20 or so years."

Congratulations to John Forrest, WZ4A!

HOW DO YOU GET TO THE MEETING?

by John, WQ4L

The meeting site will be changing in the New Year. Per decision taken by the membership at the October MVARC general membership meeting, as requested, I have reserved all three sections of the community meeting room at the Mount Vernon Government Center (2511 Parkers Lane facility) for each month in 2004 except December starting the second Thursday in January.

I am currently listed as the contact for this reservation, so if there is any change in this decision, or known changes in the meeting schedule (i.e. field trips, etc.), please let me know.

I did not investigate what setup and seating restoration we will need to make for the meetings or what other equipment may be available for our use, (i.e. projectors).

A HOME FOR WWW.MVARC.ORG

By Glenn, W4OCC

After some investigation, listening to discussions at several meetings, and email, I will propose the following at the January meeting:

MVARC purchase a five page Web Site package which costs \$11.50 per month (plus the cost of the domain registration) from Network Solutions which is the same company we have our domain (MVARC.ORG) registered with. The five page Web Site package includes:

Easy-to-use [design tools](#) – no html needed

Every Web site from Network Solutions comes with easy-to-use tools that can help make

your site your own. Simple menus help you select your overall site design and add unique content and images for your business. Plus, you don't need to know html or download any software, and you can see all of your changes on your screen before "publishing" them on the Web. Best of all, it's easy to make changes to your site anytime, free of charge.

Includes 2 [e-mailboxes](#)

E-mail Features Include:

- Send e-mail using your business name or Web address, such as jane@janesbagels.com
- Works with e-mail software like Microsoft® Outlook
- Superior Spam and virus protection
- 100% ad-free
- Free 24 /7 customer support
- Anywhere, anytime Web access

[Hosting](#) included with every Web site

When you purchase a Web site from Network Solutions, hosting is included in the price. Web site hosting is the process of housing, serving and maintaining files for your Web site. Since you don't have to deal with separate hosting providers, you can focus on your business.

Make unlimited Web site [updates](#)

Why pay by the hour every time your business changes? With Network Solutions, your Web site can change anytime at no

additional cost. Our easy, online editing tool let's you change text, add images, even change the entire site layout at any time. And you don't have to call anybody to "publish" your changes because they appear right on your screen. Once you like what you see, simply click the Publish button and your site will be live on the Internet. No extra cost, no waiting and no hassles.

Free [search engine](#) submission

Every Web site from Network Solutions comes with one free SubmitWizard search engine submission. SubmitWizard automatically submits your site to over 200 of the leading search engines on the Internet – saving you hours of work and increasing your chances of being found by prospects and customers in search engine results.

Free [site traffic](#) reports

Every Web site from Network Solutions comes with unlimited use of four free SuperStats reports, showing you details on when visitors are viewing the pages within your Web site. These reports help you monitor Web site traffic, visitor behavior, and online marketing efforts.

Free 24/7 [customer support](#)

Whenever you need help, our Web experts are available at no extra charge, by phone or e-mail.

[Unlimited](#) page storage

Each Web site from Network Solutions comes with unlimited storage per page. This allows you to choose the number of pages you need and then add as much content as you want without worrying about running out of storage space. You can upload as many files as you wish, however, there are limitations to the size of the files that can be uploaded.

All Image, Text and Document files have a 5MB limit (includes .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .txt, .doc, .xls, .wri, .ppt, .dxf, .pdf, and .pst files). All Media, Flash, and Compressed files have a 15MB limit (includes .mpg, .mp2, .mp3, .wav, .mid, .mov, .asf, .wma, .wmv, .avi, .mpeg, .rm, .ra, .swf, .zip, and .sit files)

I also propose we renew our domain name registration (MVARC.org) through Network Solutions for at least five years at a cost of \$19 per year. The cost for one year is \$35 per year.

In addition, I propose the President set up at least a four member Website Development and Maintenance Committee with a Chairperson so the workload can be evenly distributed.

I believe this is one way MVARC can get their web site up and running without using HTML, complicated web site development software, or getting members sufficient training to develop or maintain the site. Please go to WWW.networksolutions.com for further information. You can run through the demonstrations to see how to develop the web site.

ALEXANDRIA RADIO CLUB HALF A CENTURY OLD

by Deanna, K7DID

The Alexandria Radio Club celebrates 50 years of Amateur Radio Service! Founded in February 1954, the Alexandria Radio Club celebrates it's 50th year of serving the city of Alexandria and surrounding areas. Along with emergency communications, the Alexandria Radio Club has a long and active history of public service. Over the years, club members have provided communication support for the Cherry Blossom Parade, Special Olympics, the George Washington Birthday and

St. Patrick's Day Parades, Venture Quest, and the Marine Corps Marathon among other events.

Consider this your invitation to come share in the celebration of Alexandria Radio Club's milestone at our next meeting, January 9, 2004 beginning at 7:30 PM at the Fire Training Center in the rear of the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St, Alexandria, VA. (South end of City, just inside the beltway). We extend our invitation to your club and associates. If you happen to have old photos or an anecdote to share remembering the club's first 50 years, please bring them to our celebration or email them to K7DID@ARRL.net. If you would like more information on the Alexandria Radio Club contact Ian Keith, 703-751-0542, N8IK@ARRL.net.

If you cannot attend please mark your calendars for our Big Birthday Bash and Special Event Station to be held during the City of Alexandria's Birthday Celebration in July. Further details will be forwarded as the time nears.

KA4MFF SK

by Steve, K3IZ

Here is another sad article I have to write for the second month in a row. Again it is with a very heavy heart that I have to report that John Street, KA4MFF has passed away. It was on Thanksgiving day Nov. 27th, 2003. I heard from John's wife Faith, KA4HLC who called me in early December to let me know. John also is survived by his son Frasier, WD4BAG who is living in California.

John might not be remembered by the newer club members as he has had some health problems and has not been active recently. Don't let anyone lead you astray he was very instrumental in the formation of the MVARC. John and Faith offered the comfort of their home when there was no other site for a meeting. This was done quite a number of times as

well. John, always the gentleman, would have it no other way. He and Faith felt it was a honor to have the club at his abode. They served quite nice refreshment offerings to those club members who attended.

I remember John at field days of years past. Always with the latest equipment he videotaped the FD event that year and we showed it at one of the club meetings. John, though not able to get in the snow with ARES did a fantastic job of net control from his home during one of the snow storms back in the 80s. A very important aspect it was that evening.

John was born in London, England in 1921. He was 82 at the time of this death. He was a WWII veteran of the Royal Air Force as a radar technician. He moved to the US, over with the colonists, in 1950 to the Washington area. He worked as an electronic engineer with Reed Research. John had patents in electronics, imaging and photography. He was a member of the ARRL and Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.

John was never one to sit around. After he retired he did volunteer work at the Mt. Vernon Hospital. He worked the front desk directing visitors to patients rooms. John helped me find Chuck, W3HSW when He was in for treatment. With that fine English accent, people must have thought they were at a grand hotel in the West End.

Another of the founding members of our club has passed on. John Street was indeed in every sense of the word a fine English gentleman. They don't make them like him these days. He will be surely missed.

73 es CUL, John,
KA4MFF(SK)

HERE COMES THE WELCOME WAGON AGAIN

by John, K2VPR

Please welcome Ron Holtz, AI4CB to membership in the MVARC. I have received his e-application yesterday. Ron is an Extra class licensee and lives in Lorton, VA.

Please welcome James Brinkley to membership in MVARC. Jim passed his Technician test today, Saturday, December 13th. [This is] not an unlucky number for him. Obviously Jim does not have a call sign yet.

(Come to the new/old meeting site and find out the new call. HI HI-ed.)

WE NEED MORE STUDENTS To MAKE THE COURSE GO!!

by Dick, WA4USB

We have, as of January 2, 2004, only 5 people signed up for this course. If you know of someone that is interested, please ask them to get their reservations in quickly. We are going to slip the January 4th date a little bit, but the short story is to move quickly.

A class for FCC Technician License will be offered in January 2004, sponsored by BSA Venture Crew 80 and the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. Below you will find the announcement for the course with all the particulars of date, time, location, and how to register. If you are interested, please follow the instructions below to register. please pass the announcement along to others whom you think might be interested in the course. Thanks for your interest and we hope to hear from you!

Sponsor: BSA VENTURE CREW 80 and the MOUNT VERNON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

When: Four Successive Saturdays

in January and February 2004:

January 17 - 10:00 AM - Noon (Orientation and Study Materials Distribution)

January 24 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Instruction)

January 31 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Instruction)

February 7 - 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (Instruction, Review and Exam)

Where: First Christian Church - 2723 King Street - Alexandria, VA (Near the intersection with Janey's Lane)

Cost: \$20 (Cost of Supplied Materials Only - 1 textbook plus CD-ROM - Yours to Keep!)

Age: No Limit (parental accompaniment recommended under age 14)

Instruction Method: Textbook-reading assignments combined with personal and videotape instruction and computer-based practice exam question review. You keep the textbook and CD-ROM. They are great references!

Course Description: Everything you need to know to get an Amateur Radio Operators Technician Class license without having to learn the Morse Code. Fundamentals of electricity, electronic circuit theory, electronic components, radio theory and electromagnetic wave propagation, antennas, feed lines, amateur radio operating procedures, practices and equipment, and FCC rules and regulations.

How to Sign Up: Pre-register anytime but no later than January 4, 2003: By email to venturecrew80@yahoo.com ", or by phone at 703-960-9301 between 7-9 PM. Provide Name, Address, Phone Number and Email address. The registration fee (cash preferred) will be collected at the first session on January 17.

Questions ?: Email to "venturecrew80@yahoo.com", or call any of the following:

Demi Pulas K4BSA 703-820-2534

Bill Stewart W2BSA 703-642-8942

Dick Harman WA4USB 703-971-5477

Bill Schmitt KD4CNS 703-960-9301

COME EXPLORE AMATEUR RADIO WITH US!

Our approach has been proven successful over the last several years. Those that read the assigned parts of the book, pay attention in class, and take the practice exams on the CD-ROM do very well on the exam. It's easy, and strictly up to you! Go for it!

E-MAIL RULES

by Frank, K4EC

The provider of our MVARC mail reflector, QTH.NET, has imposed some restrictions over which we have no control. These are not new, but have been in place since we began the service. The ones that seem to create the most problems for users are:

You can not send attachments on any mail sent to MVARC mail list. The software at the server automatically strips them from the message. If you need to have a file distributed to MVARC members, send it to me (or whom ever takes over the job) and I will post it on the MVARC web page at a place that all members can get it. I will send back the url to you and you can place that in the contents of your message.

When sending mail to MVARC and there are many other recipients also in the address, the mail is rejected as having too many recipients. If you are sending an email to MVARC and to many of your other friends, please send them as 2 separate emails with MVARC as the recipient in one and

a second email with all of your friends email addresses. The reason this is done is to reduce the ability for someone to send spam.

Occasionally, a member will change his email address or send email form another email address to the MVARC mail list. This gets rejected because the way the MVARC list is configured you must be a member of the list to send to the list. This is a parameter that I control and it is set this way to keep unwanted mail from bombarding our mail boxes. I think this has worked because we do not get any unwanted emails through the MVARC mail list. If you want the ability to send from additional email addresses, please let me know. I can add as many email addresses as you want. But remember that if you do this you will get an MVARC mail list message to each email address.

I hope this clears up a few items in everyone's mind. I hope everyone had a HAPPY AND SAFE Holiday!!!!!!

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?
by Frank, K4EC

This information has been posted before.

The MVARC repeater has an anti-kerchunk feature which allows us to increase the time delay before the repeater is turned on

after a quiescent period. This feature has long been used by the Repeater Committee to reduce interference from ducting and other occasional sources. It is not always turned on, but is activated remotely by control operators.

You can differentiate if the function is turned on or off by listening to the "courtesy tone" at the end of transmissions. If you hear a single beep tone the anti-kerchunk feature is turned off. If you hear a two tone beep anti-kerchunk feature is turned on.

Because of the interference we have been experienced lately, the feature has been turned on and the delay, which is a time variable we can set, has been increased to 1.5 seconds. This does reduce the incidence of the repeater inadvertently being keyed by noise. It also causes some operators to think that the repeater is not working because they transmit their callsign and release the PTT. This often is not long enough to overcome the time delay of 1.5 seconds. Press your PTT a little longer before you transmit your call.

The anti-kerchunk has no effect once the repeater is on, such as in a round table conversation. However, once the repeater transmitter stops, the delay function is immediately reset to the 1.5 seconds required to reactivate the repeater.

I hope this clears up the mystery. Please pass this to other

repeater users who may not be on this email distribution.

(It looks like the source of the interference might have been discovered. From a report on the Tuesday night net by Sterritt, K4MBE and Dick, WA4USB it reported that the intermittent kerc-huncking might be a thing of the past. Due to some hard work by the repeater committee a source was discovered. The possible owner of this device generating the errant RF was not in town and by the time this is read it could all be worked out come to the meeting and find out the latest.-ed.)

Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
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