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Devoted To Amateur Radio Contesting And DXing From 160 Meters To Microwaves

News And Views Published For Members And Friends Of The Central Virginia Contest Club - October, 2001 Issue

## Prez' sez "Life does indeed go on"

- De John Youell, WA4QDM

Hi All,

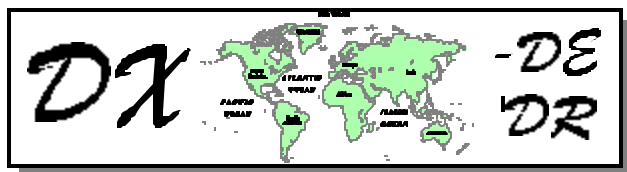
I hope everyone is starting to recover from the horrible terrorist acts of September 11. It was all so unbelievable, it seemed like a "B" movie. In retrospect, with all of the weapons of mass destruction in existence today and with our country's complacency and lack of "intelligence", I guess we were lucky to escape with as relatively few casualties as we had. Maybe there is a silver lining and we had a "wake-up call" that will prevent (or minimize) future terrorism. Everyone will remember "911" as an historical number. My heartfelt sympathies go out to all those who suffered or lost loved ones due to the terrorist acts of September 11 and may those who perished rest in peace. I debated (with myself – and I always win and lose) as to whether or not I should even mention the events of this painful day in the newsletter and felt that I would be remiss not to.

We have had really bad luck with our packet operations this summer, as Jon (W4HZ) has had back to back lightning hits on his station. Also, Donnie (AC4HB) has had a major hit recently on his station. I understand Donnie may not be coming back on-line, as his operation is self-funded. Hopefully, the worst of the lightning season is over for this year.

Still having fun with my new call. I really think that the CW recognition helps, with the "TNX". The only downside, is that the "X" is not iambic, and I can make some really exotic "prosigns" at high speed when sending manually (we're not just talking BT here!).

Thinking about all those extra "dits" reminds me of all those sunspots. If you haven't taken a listen on the radio lately, you are missing out, big time! The SFI hit 283 for a three hour window on 9/26 (sunspots were around 380). The SFI has been over 260 for several days and I am sure this month will be a new high for the current cycle. We have seen "double peaks" before, but not this dramatic. I called "CQ DX ASIA" last night (9/28) on 10 meters CW and had JAs coming back to my 100 watts. I have-

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*Editor's Note: Due to technical difficulties, W4DR's column was unavailable this month. Instead, we present a short article by Kyle Chavis, WA4PGM on DX of a different type.*

**B**y now a few of you have probably heard of the new mode (FSK441) for meteor scatter called "WSJT" Weak Signal by K1JT. Well this mode has put life back into VHF and MS for most ping jockeys. Although I missed the Perseids shower and a good chance to pick many several new grids, I finally got everything hooked up by the end of August. Within the first couple tries I had worked 2 new grids on random meteors using a small 2 meter setup, the excitement was intense. A VHF buzz if you will, I'm hooked! I have had really good success in the range of 500 to 1000 miles and have heard stations about 1300 miles. Other hams are using WSJT to make contacts on

6/2/222/432 almost everyday and it doesn't take a large setup to start today. The interface is easy to build or inexpensive to buy, the software is free and everyone is welcome to use the Ping Jockey web site to arrange skeds. Check out these web sites for more information about MS and WSJT:

<http://www.qsl.net/w8wn/> - Information about Meteor Scatter and WSJT/HSMS <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/> - Download the software

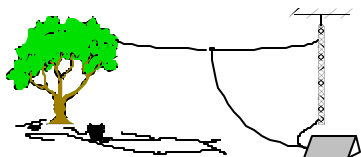
<http://www.qsl.net/k0sm/intface.htm> - WSJT/HSMS Interface

<http://www.westmountainradio.com/> - RigBlaster

<http://www.pingjockey.net/cgi-bin/pingtalk> - Ping Jockey

Here's my results using 150 watts to a 16 ele yagi missing 2 directors @55 feet: W7FG EM26bq 967 miles K0PW EN34cv 952 miles K0AZ EM37cd 849 miles K9KNW EL95dx 808 miles KA9CFD EN40ok 702 miles KE4YYD EL79rv 625 miles N8OC EN83ao 522 miles

Dust off that VHF/UHF rig and work some new grids!



# DXPEDITION INFO

INFORMATION GATHERED FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES

Dates	DXCC	Callsign	QSL Info	More Info
04/15 - 02/03	Saudi Arabia	7Z1AC	WA4JTK	By W5FJG mostly upper HF bands
09/15 - 10/12	Curacao	PJ2	PAØVDV Direct	By PAØVDV as PJ2/PA0VDV; HF; CW
09/19 - 10/23	Trinidad & Tobago	9Y	DL2YY	By DL2YY as 9Y4/DL2YY; 80-10 M; CW SSB RTTY PSK31; also QRV fm Chacachacare (SA-011) for 5 days and Tobago (SA-009)
09/21 - 10/17	Botswana	A25	Home Call	By JA1OEM as A25/JA1OEM; 160-10 M; SSB CW
09/25 - 10/09	Costa Rica	TI2	AKØA	By AKØA, likely as TI2/AK0A; all bands; RTTY PSK MFSK CWSSB; QSL OK via Buro or direct w/ SASE
09/27 - 11/03	Fiji	3D2MH	DL1MHM	By DL1MHM fm Viti Levu (OC-016), Vanua Levu (OC-016), Mamanuca (OC-121), Yasawa (OC-156); QSL via DARC Buro
09/28 - 10/13	Mozambique	C98DC	DL7AFS	By DL7AFS DJ7ZG DL2FAG DL8GCS fm Inhaca Island (AF-066); 160-6 M; SSB CW RTTY PSK31; 2 or 3 stations
09/30 - 10/14	Balearic Islands	EA6		By DJ8RS as EA6/DJ8RS/p; ICOM -706
09/30 - 10/13	Swaziland	3DAØ	DL7DF	By DL7UFR DL7KL DL4WK DL7DF as 3DAØDF and 3DAØFR; 160-6 M; CW SSB RTTY PSK31; 3 stns w/online log
10/01 - 10/15	Tromelin I.	FR5ZU/T	jJA8FCG	Small operation
10/01 - 10/01	W. Kiribati (Gilbert Is. )	T3ØES	See Info	By Eric, N1JSY. QSL via operator instructions
10/01 - 10/06	China	BI5Q	BA4EG	By BA4EG and others fm Da-Qu Island (AS-137); 80-10 M (noWARC); CW SSB
10/01 - 10/10	Eastern Kiribati	T32	Home Call	By JR7TEQ JA1PCY JP1TRJ as T32EQ T32CY T32RJ, respectively, fm Christmas Is (OC-024); 160-6 M; SSB CW RTTY
10/01 - 10/16	Mauritius	3B8	PAØHVA	By PA3BAG PAØVHA as 3B8/homecall; all bands; RTTY PSK31 CWSSB
10/01 - 04/01	Belize	V31JP	Homecall(s)	By Joe, K8JP
10/02 - 10/15	Vietnam	3W2DC	N4CD	By N4CD; 20 15 10, perhaps 40 M; QSL OK via CBA or US Buro
10/03 - 10/10	Conway Reef	3D2	See Info	By International Team; 160-6 M; CW SSB RTTY; QSL: CW via YT1AD, SSB/RTTY via Z32AU
10/04 - 11/30	Laos	XWØX	XWØA	By Hiroo, JA2EZD
10/05 - 10/15	Guatemala	TG	See Info	By DL1CW DL3GA DB2TR as TG/homecall; mainly high bands; CW, some SSB RTTY; QSL via homecall except TG/DB2TR via DL1SBF; DARC Buro OK
10/05 - 10/07	Luxembourg	LX	K4ZLE	By K4ZLE as LX/K4ZLE; mainly 80/40 M CW
10/06 - 10/06	Solomon Islands	H4		By IZ6DSQ fm Guadalcanal (OC-047)
10/06 - 10/16	Mauritania	5T5	Home Call	By 7 IARV members w/ individual callsigns; also as 5T5U; mainly CW

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10/09 - 10/15	Lord Howe Island	VK9LO	PA3GIO Buro	By PA3GIO fm OC-004; 80-10 M; SSB only; 100 W; doublet; IOTA + DX frequencies
10/10 - 10/14	Eastern Malaysia	9M6	Home Call	By JA1JQJ JA8VE as 9M6JQT? 9M6VET?; 80-6 M
10/11 - 10/17	Macao	XX9TEP	K8EP	By K8EP; CW SSB
10/14 - 10/14	Solomon Islands	H4		By IZ6DSQ fm Guadalcanal (OC-047)
10/15 - 10/22	Solomon Islands	H4		By IZ6DSQ New Georgia Is (OC-149)
10/15 - 10/29	Marquesas I.	FO	SP9FIH	By SP9FIH SQ9LR as FO/SP9FIH fm Nuku Hiva (OC-027); 80-6M; SSB RTTY
10/15 - 10/30	Guadeloupe	FG	N4CD	By N4CD as FG/N4CD; All bands; CW SSB; QSL OK via CBA or US Buro
10/15 - 11/30	Trindade & Martin Vaz	ZWØT	TBA	By PU2RYW PY2NW PY2QI PY2KQ fm Trindade Island as ZWØTB(SSB) and ZWØTW (CW); for 2-3 days some time during Oct/Nov 2001
10/16 - 12/06	Mauritius	3B8	ON4LAC Direct	By ON4LAC as 3B8/ON4LAC; SSB, possibly Pactor and RTTY
10/17 - 10/31	Jersey	GH4BJC/p	GØDBX	By GØWFH and others; SSB; QRP
10/17 - 11/03	Eritrea	E3ØNA		By DL5NAM DF4RD OE2VELDK7YY possibly fm Dahlak Archipelago (AF-038)
10/17 - 10/23	Solomon Islands	H4		By IZ6DSQ IZ8CCW and possibly others fm Pigeon Is(OC-065); calls to be announced on arrival
10/20 - 11/03	North Cook Islands	ZK	JR2KDN	By JR2KDN JI1NJC fm Penryhn Is (OC-082); 160-6 M; SSB CWRTTY SSTV; KW; Triband yagi, R-7000, Dipole/Vertical for 160/80 M
10/20 - 11/04	Norfolk Island	VK9		By SP9PT SP9EVP as VK9KNE and VK9KND fm OC-005; all bands; CW SSB RTTY
10/22 - 11/01	Cambodia	XU	Home Call	By F5TYY/TBA F6BFH/XU7ABW F6EGG/TBA F9IE/TBA; 80-6 M; CWSSB; dipole; will try to be QRV fm Koa Poah (AS-133) also; QSL OK direct or via REF Buro
10/23 - 10/30	Jamaica	6Y5	Home Call	By AC8G WA8LOW W8ILC N7YX N6HR K8QOE as 6Y5/homecall; 160-6 M; SSB CW, maybe digital; QRV as 6Y6L in CQWW SSB
10/23 - 11/01	Bhutan	A52		By KW4DA/A52DA N4BQW/A52CB NØADQ/A52PC WØGJ/A51B WØSHL/A52SL KØEN/A52ED WØHT/A52ST; focus on low + WARC bands and newer modes
10/25 - 10/31	Canada	VYØ		By 7K1WLE fm Resolute Bay (Nunavut); Zone 2; QRV on lowbands
10/25 - 10/31	North Cook Islands	ZK1	Home Call	By Western Washington DX Club fm Manihiki Island
10/27 - 11/05	Greenland	OX3IPA	OZ5IPA Direct	By OZ5IPA; all bands; SSB CW; 1000-2200 UTC; QSL: BenJakobsen, 9 Knoldager, DK-2670 Greve, Denmark
10/31 - 11/12	Maldives	8Q7QQ	HB9QQ	By HB9QQ fm Gan Is (AS-013); emphasis on 6 M (50.098 mHz beacon), but HF also; QSL OK via HB Buro or direct

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11/01 - 11/14	Madeira Islands	CT3	DL7DF	By DL7DF; 160-10 M; SSB CW RTTY; linear amp; holiday styleoperation
11/01 - 11/12	South Cook Islands	ZK1	Home Call	By Western Washington DX Club fm Rarotonga Island
11/07 - 11/11	Eastern Malaysia	9M6		By SP9PT SP9EVP fm Borneo; all bands; CW SSB RTTY
11/16 - 11/23	Pitcairn Island	VP6	VE3HO	By VP6TC VP6DB JA1BK/VP6BK JA1SLS/VP6BB JF1IST + 3 others fm Ducie Island; may be new DXCC entity; operation end date not known

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n't seen a lot of European 6 meter spots by US stations, but I did see some US spots of North Africa on 6.

Gordon Garrett (K1GG) in Roanoke helped out the CVCC recently, following up on a lead I had about a "big pile of beams". It turned out to be somewhat of a false alarm, but may still turn out to benefit a Roanoke local. A friend of my son's had a SK ham grandfather, who left a bunch of aluminum beams, masts, etc. in the backyard of the family home. It turns out the "big pile of beams" is a small (and bent) tribander, a two meter beam, a Butternut vertical and a telescoping mast. I don't think it is worth a trip out there for the CVCC, but maybe Gordon can find a home for the stuff.

Tony (KC4AUF) has volunteered to be our "program" for October. He recently "Elmered" a Light House DXpedition, with the special event callsign K4L. The Richmond Times Dispatch newspaper did some coverage on this "Special Event" operation, but I am sure that Tony will provide us with the real "behind the scene" stuff.

For some neat information on "T" and "PI" pad resistive attenuators, check out this site:

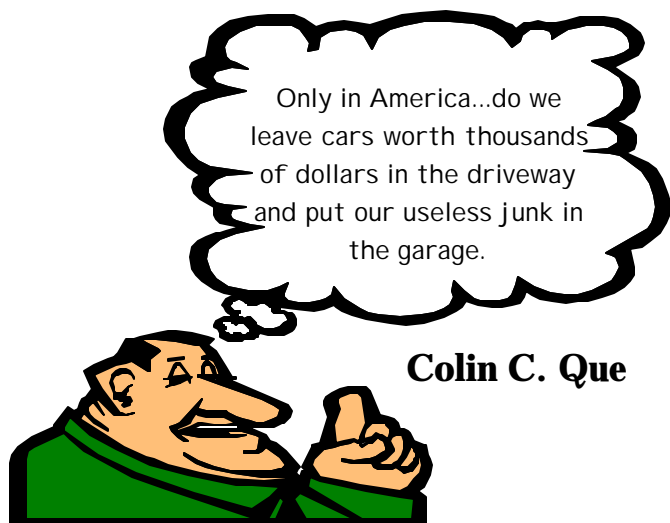
<http://www.wco.com/akennedy/minlos.htm#tee>

Attenuators can be useful for some transverter applications. Also, you could put a -3dB attenuator in line with your 10 watt HF rig and compete in QRP contests.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October at the CVCC meeting, at 7PM (or beforehand at the "Greek", if you want to "eat & meet").

73, John

W4TNX



599 VA is published monthly by the Central Virginia Contest Club, and is edited by Tom Ogburn, N4ZJ.

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The deadline for submission of news or articles for the November newsletter is November 2, 2001.

# Special Events

October 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 10/09 CVCC October Meeting at First Mennonite
- 10/13 - 10/14 VK/ZL Contest - CW
- 10/27 - 10/28 CQ Worldwide Contest - Phone
- 11/03 - 11/05 ARRL Sweepstakes - CW
- 11/10 - 11/11 OK/OM CW DX Contest
- 11/10 - 11/11 WAE Contest - RTTY
- 11/13 CVCC November Meeting at First Mennonite
- 11/17 - 11/19 ARRL Sweepstakes - Phone
- 11/17 - 11/18 LZ DX Contest
- 11/24 - 11/25 CQ Worldwide Contest - CW
- 12/07 - 12/09 ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 12/11 CVCC Holiday Family Dinner - Steak & Ale
- 12/15 - 12/16 ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 12/15 - 12/16 Croation CW Contest
- 12/15 OK DX RTTY Contest
- 12/16 RAC Canada Winter Contest



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