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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 - May, 2001 Issue

Prez' sez - Here we go for another contest year!

- De John Youell, WA4QDM

Hope the summer has been kind to you. I have been "snowed under" most of the summer, with work stuff and canceled vacations. The good news is that I still have 5 weeks vacation (just don't know when I'll be able to take it).

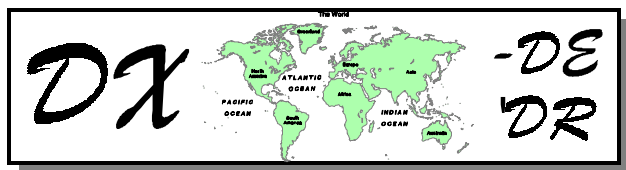
I did get an opportunity to go to K4JA's open house, which was really impressive. Paul not only has a world class station, but has world class as a host! His antenna farm impressed everyone and his "shack" was something to behold, with three stories and a "Widow's Walk". Paul's web site has quite a few photos posted, for those who missed the open house opportunity. The CVCC was well represented, with W4HJ, W4HZ, WK4Y, W4MYA, KS4RX, KC4AUF, (and the others that I forgot - well over 50 now, you know.) and myself. I also saw many of the PVRC "top dogs": K3ZO, KE3Q, W3LPL, N4ZR, N3OC, K4WMS, K3DI, NR4M and K7SV, to mention a few.

Still waiting on that last QSL from 3Y0C for DXCC Honor Roll. The latest word is that the QSL manager probably won't start sending out cards until this fall. I went ahead and sent in this past year's submittals to the DXCC desk in mid-August, including my 12 meter QSLs (finally! - I have been relying on Buro QSLs for my 12 meter endorsement to my 5-Band DXCC).

I noticed several CVCC'ers listed in the ARRL's Challenge Cup listings, including W4DR and N4CH in the top ten. Also noted was John Kanode, N4MM, near the top of the list. I understand that Roy (WK4Y) is putting forth a big effort this year, so everyone should be looking over their shoulder!

Vanity callsign fever may have finally bit "da prez". After struggling through a recent CW QSO with QSB and with a marginal contact (who had my call JA4, WA4??, then QDM, QBM, GBM??), I had to ask myself, "Why am I still carrying all this 'baggage' (2X3 call)?" I found a couple of 1X3's that I liked that would be easily recognized on CW. (My preferred vanity call was "JY1", but that one will probably never be re-issued)! With Pat Wilson's (W4PW) help, I think I will soon have a new call. Unless there is a complication somewhere, my new call should be W4TNX in a couple of weeks, as I was the only one who ap-

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After over 50 years of DXing I still get excited about some of the truly rare and remarkable things that happen over the airwaves. My story this month happened last February and was told to me by KG4NFW, Rick who is a "Tech" and who I met on 543 as he was passing through town. Rick was on the New Jersey National Guard frequency of 4517 Khz around 6 pm last year when he was called by one of his friends. The SSB signals were a little weak, but perfectly readable at Rick's station which consisted of a 40 watt transmitter and a dipole hung in the trees. Several minutes after the brief exchange Rick's telephone rang and it was the friend he had just worked. "Do you realize where I am located? I am in North Viet Nam hunting for MIA's. Since I am not supposed to be on the air here I couldn't say that during our contact. I am using a 12 watt backpack radio and a piece of wire in a tree here in the jungle."

Can you believe this, a long path QSO between 3W5 and W4 on essentially 75 meters with low power and simple antennas on both ends of the path! During this same round table QSO on 543 "H", who our old timers will remember as WA4DLY, called in. He is now K4TM and living in Lynchburg. Zone 26 will complete WAZ for "H" which shouldn't be too hard of a trick.

Speaking of Lynchburg our friends out there had a good May. W4PK got VP8SDX, CP4BT and 3B6RF on 160. He laments ZD7K who got away as did TX0 on 80. Mark, N2QT scored on topband with CP4BT, J5X and 3B6RF. W4HZ got the 3B6 on most of the bands, but is especially proud of his 160 and 75 meter QSO's. Jonathan also did me a huge favor by referring me to an excellent body shop and now our Honda CRV is as good as new...those of you who were at the CVCC picnic will remember what a mess a 10 foot tree limb made of our almost new "CRV".

WA4QDM is awaiting his 3Y0C and BQ9P cards which

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will put him on the Honor Roll. He suggests we start a "CVCC Most Wanted List" and he nominates: P5, BS7, VU4, VU7, VP8SSI, YA, 7O, FR/G and FR/J. What are your 10 most needed?

Roy, WK4Y continues to leave only scorched-earth behind him. His May report contained another 42 new "band entities" and that only goes through May 25. His prime catch, and I wouldn't believe him if I hadn't heard it with my own ears, was 3B6RF on 80 CW! - one call with 150 watts and a dipole in the trees. A week earlier I worked hard to get a 80 cw contact with ten times the power and a 4 square. As usual W4MYA has an impressive score. Bob worked 6Y5 on 6 for his #89 and caught a good European opening which yielded 6 new grids. On 160 3B6, CP and J5 were new giving him 176 for the year and a all time total of 2894/2314. Bob has begun a major effort to get those 580 missing QSL's sending out nearly 500 SASE's this month! Could there be a second DeSoto Cup coming to Virginia in a few years?

To say that May was a good month for me would be a gross understatement. On May 10th 3B6RF gave me #301 on 160 as well as new BMC's on 10 CW and 75 SSB. Rosalie and Curtis accompanied me to Dayton where I received both the DeSoto Cup and was inducted into the DX Hall of Fame at the DX Banquet. After the banquet I got to shake hands with Chuck Brady, 3YØC and thank him for my last three new band countries. Meanwhile Jonathan and Nancy were carrying a dozen QSLs to Newington for me, which gave me the long sought after 300 sticker for 160. Although two other guys got to 300 just ahead of me they both worked from several call areas, a huge advantage especially for WØZV/W4ZV. All of mine were worked from Virginia and all except one country were from the Richmond area. My only regret was that none of the CVCCers could be at the DX banquet for the awards ceremony. You guys and gals in the CVCC had such a big role in my successes over the years that I wish you could have heard the credit I gave you! But I will repeat it now. Thanks for all the help with antennas, computers, technical advice, loaned gear (WB4BVY/N4ZJ) even loaned me his new TA33 so I could work a new one), telephone calls, "58" spots, packet spots, honoring me at the "50 year celebration" and last but not least John's 3 year project of pushing the Hall of Fame nomination through. How can I thank you all enough!!

June/July/August Summer Update

As usual the summer is a slow time unless you are a VHF fan. There have been a few good 6 meter E skip openings to Europe. W4MYA caught a great opening during the VHF contest and picked up many new grids and several HB9's to pass the 90 mark on 6. I was not lucky enough to be home that day, but did manage 15 new grids during the summer of which 6 were in Europe.

AD4MG caught rare 4U1ET on East Timor for a new one. HK5QXG/0M put Malpelo on CW for the first time in years and afforded the faithful a first ever shot at that one on 30 meters. At the same time HK5MQZ/0M was passing out SSB qsos on 75 and above. WA4QDM reports that the SFI has peaked back up a bit and he was able to work a lot of what was once "rare stuff" for him, with 100 watts. Looking thru the log of late, John found JA, HL, AP, SV9, 9E (=T5), H44, 4X4 and YN (the H44 and the 4X4 QSOs were for new band countries).He is still waiting for the 3YØC QSL for "Honor Roll".

Most of my news and report sources have gone dry for the summer (like my lawn!), but fall will renew the DX life cycle. With lower solar activity 160 and 80 should be improved. Jon Rudy has been stationed in DU for the next 6 years and he is equipped with a Alpha 76CA which I found on my attic plus a IC756. If you need DU on the low bands this may be your best ever chance. Personally I am hoping for a topband QSO.

Duce Island will be a new country and should be activated in November, ah la Chesterfield. Since last winter produced only a few weak F2 openings on 6 at our latitude and since that was apparently the peak of the cycle I suspect the little or nothing from 6 this winter. Ten meters should still be pretty good, but if you want to increase your band totals it would be wise to concentrate on 10/12 as the time left in this cycle is limited.

Bob W4DR

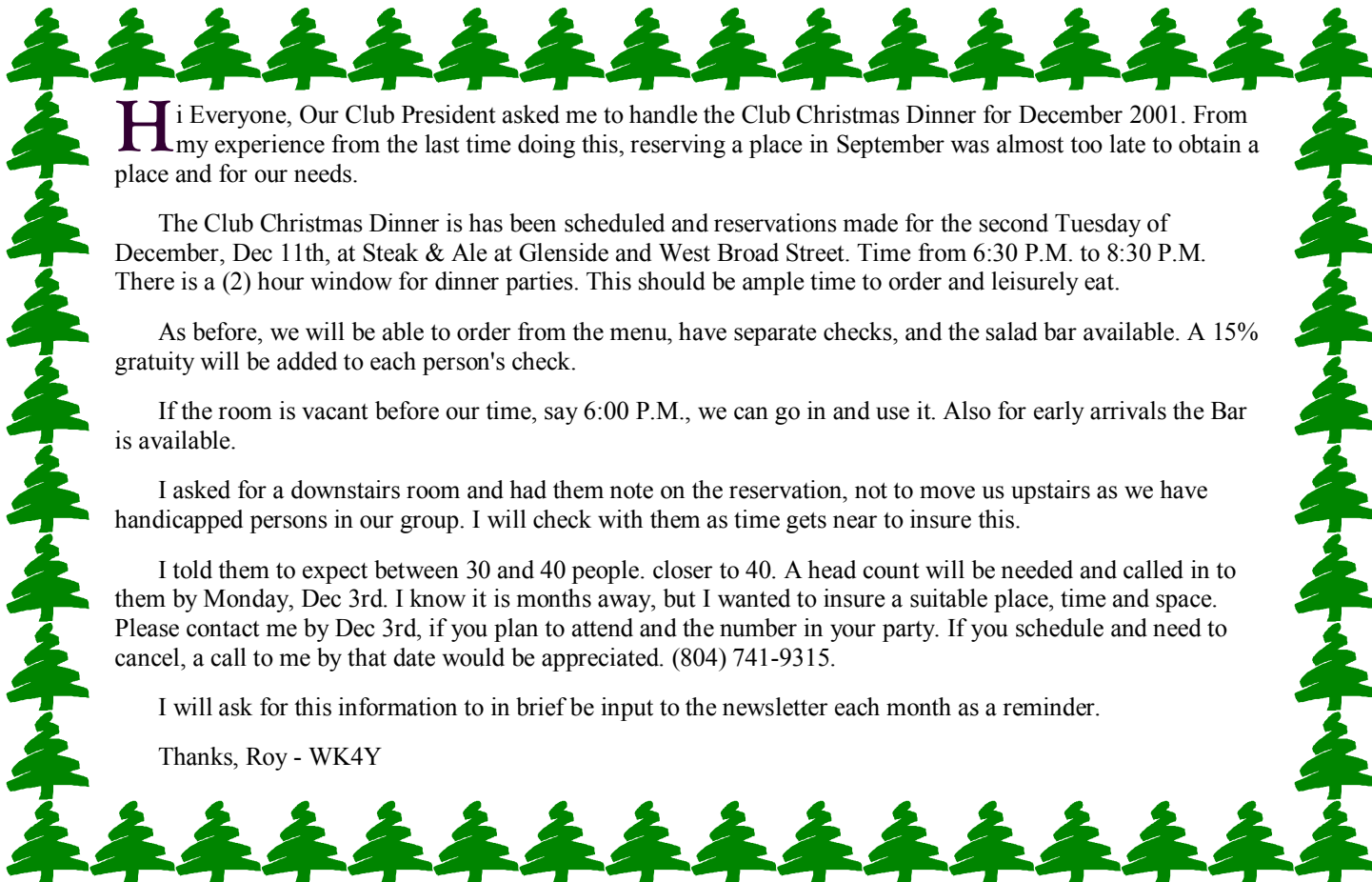
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plied for it on 8/16/2001, when it first became available. I think I can copy "TNX" at 150 WPM!

For the September meeting, I think we will have a "state of the union" update from folks, as opposed to a formal program. I heard that Jonathan (W4HZ) took a direct lightning hit to his tower, which caused major damage to our packet gear as well as Jon's personal equipment. My sympathies go out to you, Jon and I guess we need talk about packet status. As a related item, Tom (N4ZJ) has suggested we talk about ARRL insurance. Also, Roy (WK4Y) has volunteered to take care of Christmas Dinner arrangements and will have an update for us. Maybe Bob (W4DR) can bring the DeSoto Cup and we can have some "photo opportunities" with our recent CQ DX Hall of Fame member!

73,

John WA4QDM (for now..)



Hi Everyone, Our Club President asked me to handle the Club Christmas Dinner for December 2001. From my experience from the last time doing this, reserving a place in September was almost too late to obtain a place and for our needs.

The Club Christmas Dinner is has been scheduled and reservations made for the second Tuesday of December, Dec 11th, at Steak & Ale at Glenside and West Broad Street. Time from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. There is a (2) hour window for dinner parties. This should be ample time to order and leisurely eat.

As before, we will be able to order from the menu, have separate checks, and the salad bar available. A 15% gratuity will be added to each person's check.

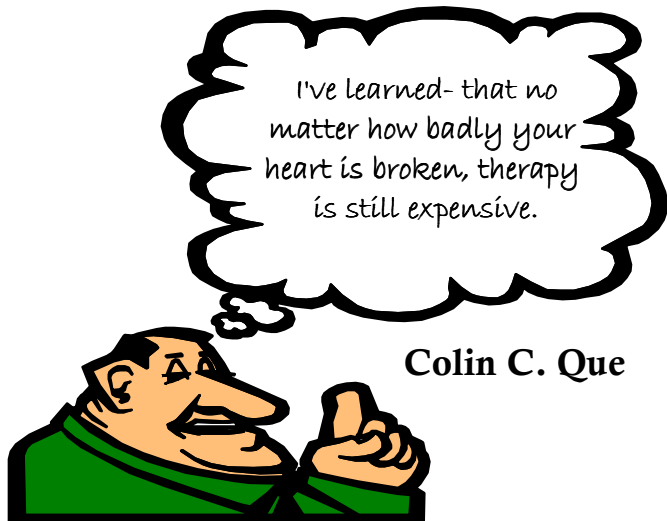
If the room is vacant before our time, say 6:00 P.M., we can go in and use it. Also for early arrivals the Bar is available.

I asked for a downstairs room and had them note on the reservation, not to move us upstairs as we have handicapped persons in our group. I will check with them as time gets near to insure this.

I told them to expect between 30 and 40 people. closer to 40. A head count will be needed and called in to them by Monday, Dec 3rd. I know it is months away, but I wanted to insure a suitable place, time and space. Please contact me by Dec 3rd, if you plan to attend and the number in your party. If you schedule and need to cancel, a call to me by that date would be appreciated. (804) 741-9315.

I will ask for this information to in brief be input to the newsletter each month as a reminder.

Thanks, Roy - WK4Y



Colin C. Que

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 October newsletter is September 29, 2001.

Special Events

September 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						

- 09/08 - 09/09 WAE Contest - SSB
 09/08 - 09/09 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
 09/09 North American Sprint - CW
 09/11 CVCC September Meeting at First Mennonite
 09/15 - 09/16 Tennessee QSO Party
 09/15 - 09/16 Washington Salmon Run
 09/15 - 09/16 Scandinavian Act. Contest - CW
 09/16 North American Sprint - Phone
 09/22 - 09/23 Virginia Beach, VA Hamfest - Roanoke Div. Convention <http://www.vahamfest.com/> Phone 1-757-Hamfest
 09/22 - 09/23 CQ Worldwide Contest - RTTY
 09/22 - 09/23 Scandinavian Act. Contest - SSB
 09/29 - 09/30 Alabama QSO Party
 09/29 - 09/30 Texas QSO Party
 09/29 - 09/30 Louisiana QSO Party



Central Virginia Contest Club

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THIS MONTH.....

599 VA

- CVCC Meeting 9/11 at First Mennonite
- DX Nuz
- Holiday Party Plans