

President Bob Eshleman, W4DR
Secretary Tom Ogburn, N4ZJ
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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 - April, 2003 Issue

Prez' Prunes Presidential Post

- De Bob Eshleman, W4DR

Our program for this month will be on the Echolink by Wilbur Evans, KR4AD. Wilbur is the assistant principal at Midlothian High School and he has a vision for interesting high school students in amateur radio with a link to their academic subjects, i.e. foreign languages, geography etc. We are hoping to have a live demonstration of Echolink if we can pipe a phone line into the cafeteria. There is an interesting article in the April issue of CQ entitled How the Internet Can Save Your Repeater: Social effects of installing Echolink.

We will meet for dinner at Nick's Roman Terrace which was well received last month.

As this is my last meeting as your president I would like to thank you for your support in the past year and ask you to support our new officers in the coming year. This club works best when many people pick up part of the load and this has certainly been our tradition. Let it continue!

God bless!

Bob W4DR



Over the ARRL SSB DX contest weekend, I put in a modest 13 hours (plus 4 hours travel time) at W4MYA's. Sorry I couldn't have put in more time, but work and home life demands are getting in the way of my hobby! Ten meters was really poor Saturday, with the best Euro path the "crooked path" towards Africa. It was a real struggle to pull weak signals "out of the mud" and QRP stations seemed prevalent.

Conditions picked up Sunday, and both 10 and 15 meters had some good runs going. I ran 15 meters for several hours, then Roy relieved me and I moved to 20 meters closer to Euro sunset. 20 meters was slow for awhile, but I had a treat when a 100 watt HS station and a 100 watt A9 station answer my CQ pretty much back to back around 1800 UTC, if memory serves me well. After Euro

sunset, 20 meters got a little run going when 10 and 15 meters started to fold. About 1900 UTC MYA woke up from his nap and relieved me on 20 meters. To pass on a contesting tidbit, when I was on a "slow band", I made a conscious effort to check if we needed stations that called me on other bands (keep the F-10 window in CT open). I asked dozens of stations to QSY to our other frequencies and was pleased to see via the networked logging that many did. Alt-J will give you the run frequencies of our other stations. Bob (W4MYA) has been preaching this act of "passing of mults/Qs", but this is the first contest that I have really made a conscious effort to do it and I did see some positive results.

Late breaking (and scanty) news about CO WPX SSB effort at W4MYA's:

Bob elected to use Ed's call, NW4V, and it seemed to help some, as it made us a needed prefix for many.

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Although we had few operators and poor conditions, we did make a credible showing and certainly helped the PVRC out with our contest score. On Saturday, we didn't think conditions could get much worse, but with the "rain/snow static" on Sunday, they did!

Kyle (WA4PGM) recently completed his "QRP Worked all USA counties" award. I think he is only the 2nd QRP station to ever complete that incredible task. Congratulations Kyle!

Mouse in the shack tip: If you have evidence of a mouse (the furry kind) in the shack, try using peanut butter as bait. Just put a blob of peanut butter where you would normally put a piece of cheese. They can sometimes steal the cheese, but the peanut butter is a killer. Dit Dit Dit Dah Dit Dah (SK)!!!

OPDX reports that there were 228 DX countries active for the week ending 3/23/2003. On 3/26/2003, the SFI was 109, the A index 5, and the K index 2. I noticed that on 3/23/2003 the SFI was 89, the A index was 14 and the K index was 3. Those are really rotten numbers and the phrase "Solar Limbo" comes to mind (how low can you go). It sounds like we are headed for the bottom of a cycle – maybe the low bands will be the "silver lining" to this sunspot cloud.

NU1AW/4:

It's a stretch to make this a part of my DX column, but let me say that the CVCC has always looked at contests like the Va. QSO Party and the IARU contest as great opportunities for our training efforts for the DX contests. Both new and old operators can benefit from the operating experience and put any new equipment through a "shakedown cruise" test in these operations.

I was part of an IARU winning USA team at W4MYA's using WU4G's call a few years ago and was very pleased to be on another winning USA team last year as NU1AW/4. Many thanks are given to both K4JA and W4MYA for hosting that contest effort. These stations are literally putting Virginia on the contesting map. Recently, I got a nice personally signed letter from Dave Sumner (K1ZZ, Sec. of IARU and Trustee of NU1AW and the "BIG DOG" at ARRL HQ) thanking me for my participation in last year's IARU HF Championship with the callsign NU1AW/4. As a nice gesture, Dave sent a few blank picture QSL cards that will make a nice shack wall addition, framed with his letter. I might use the front and back of two of them to commemorate the event in the same frame with the letter.

Maybe I can find a way to work the novice CW QSL I have from Dave circa 1963 into some kind of artistic arrangement in the same frame. The back of the QSL card gives some interesting historical information on the callsign NU1AW, maybe a future article here for those of you who didn't get the info.

Va. QSO Party stuff:

I worked a bunch of stations on 40M SSB Saturday afternoon from my QTH. I also dipped into the CW Band and worked the "Junk Man", K4JM. Tom always puts in a great effort in this contest and I am always pleased to hear his fine fist. Went out to Bob's on Sunday and mostly played on 15M, where I had a 9K2, a VQ9, a TK5 and a 6W1 answer my CQs. Bet there are very few Va. QSO Party logs with those calls in the log!

CVCC Website:

Is there anyone out there willing to take ownership of the CVCC Website? I have a very "dated" CVCC webspace on my personal website that is in need of updating or moving somewhere else. Someone out there is bound to have "Web" skills enough to take this on. I'm looking for a volunteer. Kyle (WA4PGM) did this for us for a number of years (for which we are very appreciative!), and I have done a semi-job of it for a couple of years, with help from Dennis (N4DEN).

Outgoing DX:

VP6DIA (Ducie Island) was active from 3/8 to 3/13 and should have given a new country to many, as this was

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only the second DXpedition there that I know about, since it's approval as a new DX entity. I didn't have any luck with them on 40M CW or 15M RTTY on the only two band/modes (and short occasions) that I tried for them. I already have them confirmed on SSB and CW on other bands and didn't want to deprive the "deserving" on those bands/modes.

R1FJ (Franz Josef Land) was active from 3/12 to 3/19 by Russian operators. This is a semi-rare DX entity and would have been a good catch, if you needed it.

Upcoming DX:

STØRY, Sudan, will be active from 3/20 thru 4/2 by DLs (I have been scoring big here – see below)..

VK9C, Cocos Keeling Island, will be QRV from 10/9 thru 10/25 by 2 different groups.

VK9XI, Christmas Island, will be QRV from 4/7 thru 4/21 by VK3OT.

VK9X, Christmas Island, will also be QRV from 10/4 thru 11/19 by 2 different groups.

9N7DX, Nepal, will be QRV by 4Z4DX from 4/22 thru 5/5.

DXploits by Members:

W4TNX: Worked new BMCs as follows: STØRY on 40M, 30M & 15M CW, R1ANF on 15M SSB and ZD7BG on 30M CW.

From W4DR The month of March netted me 11 new RTTY countries: SU, 5N0, VP6DIA (took 4 hours of calling!), H44, MJ/K8PT, STØ, J5, V7, T30, P29 and 5Z4. One more will make 200 in 8 months of activity. In addition VP6DIA was a new BMC on 80 and 20 cw. Sadly I only heard traces of their signal on 160. H44MS was new on 12 ssb and it was great fun to work STØRY on 9 bands and three modes. I wish that crew had gone to Ducie and Chesterfield. A RTTY QSL from YI1BGD brightened my mailbox today...it tested negative for WMD.

Needed DX:

Send me your pet DX needs and I will print them here for a possible "one-ringer" at some future date!

W4DR: JT1CO on 160M & ZD7 on 6M

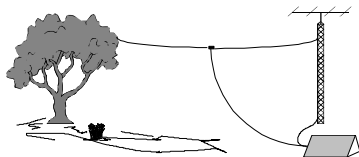
W4MYA: FR/J

W4TNX: 7O, BS7, FR/G, FR/J, P5, VU4 & VU7

Will be looking for all of you in the DX pile-ups and the contests!

73,

John, W4TNX



DXPEDITION INFO

INFORMATION GATHERED FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES

Dates DXCC Callsign OSL Info More Info

DXpeditions

04/07/03	04/21/03	Christmas Island	VK9XI	VK3OT Direct	By VK3OT; 160-6m; focus on CW; yagi, vert, sloper; lowbands at SR/SS (2300/1000z) http://members.datafast.net.au/electronics/vk9x.htm
04/09/03	04/21/03	Madeira	CT3AS	DJ8FW	By DJ8FW; 80-15m; CW RTTY PSK31; as time permits
04/09/03	04/14/03	Micronesia	V63JE	KIØRO	By KIØRO fm Pohnpei (OC-010); 40-10m; Part-time operation
04/10/03	04/16/03	Aland Islands	OHØCO	SM6CCO	By SM6CCO fm EU-002; focus on WARC CW; QSL OK via SM Buro or direct
04/11/03	04/14/03	Guam	KH2/K1HP	JE2EHP Buro	By JE2EHP as K1HP/KH2 fm OC-026; 80-6m; SSB CW
04/12/03	04/23/03	Grenada	J3	HB9CGA	By HB9AFH HB9CGA, perhaps as J3/HB9CGA fm NA-024; 80-10m; mainly CW, some SSB
04/13/03	04/21/03	Maldives	8Q7RL/8Q7RC	Homecall(s)	By IZ5EBL IZ5BRO as 8Q7RL 8Q7RC fm AS-013; 40-10m; SSB CW PSK31
04/14/03	04/28/03	Cyprus SBA	ZC4ESB	G4EHT	By G4EHT; HF CW
04/14/03	04/21/03	Western Sahara	S05X	EA4URE	By CT1BWW EA1BT EA2RC EA5XX I8NHJ KD7RCD N6TQS YT1AD YU1AU; 160-6m; Pilot: EA5RM; after, logs at: http://www.ure.es/info at http://193.207.106.231/s05x/
04/15/03	04/27/03	Syria	YK1BA	N5FF	By N5FF; mainly 20m SSB CW. Part-time operation - details uncertain
04/18/03	04/22/03	Antigua & Barbuda	V21BBQ	See Info	By Antigua & Barbuda Radio Club fm Barbuda Is; 160-10m + 2m; 1st operation fm Barbuda?
04/19/03	04/25/03	Aland Islands	OHØ/HOMECALL	Homecall(s)	By DF8QJ DL2VB DK6QW DG1YTF DL6YFB as OHØ/homecall fm EU-002; 80-2m; CW SSB RTTY
04/19/03	04/24/03	Fiji	3D2JX	JN1HOW	By JF6OJX fm Mana Is (OC-121); 80-6m, perhaps 160m; focus on 80-30m for EU; wire antennas http://www.ndxa.jp/pedi/3d2-2003/
04/19/03	05/02/03	Sardinia	ISØ	IZ1EPM	By IZ1EPM fm Santa Teresa di Gallura (EU-024); 40-10m; focus on 30m; QSL OK via Buro or direct
04/19/03	05/01/03	Senegal	6W/F5VHQ	F5VHQ	By F5VHQ as 6W/F5VHQ fm St Louis; 40-10m; SSB

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04/20/03	04/27/03	Malta	9H/HOMECALL	Buro	By OE8YDQ OE8CIQ as 9H/homecall (or personal calls); 80-10m; SSB CW; 100w; vert; QSL OK via OE Buro or direct http://www.oe8ciq.com/
04/20/03	05/04/03	Mozambique	C9	Homecall(s)	By IZ4DPV IK4ZHH fm Maputo and Beira; 80-10m; SSB CW, perhaps RTTY + 6m; TH7, wire verts; 100 watts
04/20/03	04/24/03	Svalbard	JW/F8DVD	F8DVD	By F8DVD as JW/F8DVD fm Longyearbyen; 80-10m; SSB
04/22/03	05/20/03	Nepal	9N7DX	4Z4DX	By 4Z4DX
04/25/03	05/09/03	Marquesas	TX4PG	I2YSB	By Italian team fm OC-027; HF + 6m CW SSB PSK/RTTY http://digilander.libero.it/i2ysb/marquesas/marq.htm
04/26/03	05/02/03	Christmas Island	VK9X	Homecall(s)	By JA3MCA JA8VE JA1KJW JA1JQY as VK9XC VK9XE VK9XK VK9XY; 160-6m; SSB CW RTTY; 4 stns; 400w; beacon: 50.110 mHz
04/27/03	05/14/03	South Cook	ZK1AYL/ZK1SIM	VK4SJ	By VK4SJ VK4BP as ZK1AYL and ZK1SIM fm Aitutaki Is (OC-083); 40-10m; SSB only
04/28/03	05/12/03	Marquesas	FO	TBA	By I2YSB I2MOV IK2DIA IK2GNW IK2WXV IK1AOD IK1PMR fm OC-027; HF + 6m (50.105 mHz beacon); CW SSB PSK/RTTY; 3 HF stations; dates unsure
05/03/03	05/25/03	French Polynesia	FO/F8DQL	F8DQL	By F8DQL as FO/F8DQL fm Tahiti (OC-046); 21030 28030 14030kHz ± QRM; CW only; also fm Moorea (OC-046) for several days; QSL OK via REF Buro or direct
05/15/03	05/26/03	South Cook	ZK1AYL/ZK1SIM	VK4SJ	By VK4SJ VK4BP as ZK1AYL and ZK1SIM fm Rarotonga Is (OC-013); 40-10m; SSB only
05/23/03	05/26/03	Mariana Islands	AL5A/NHØ	JHØMGJ	By JHØMGJ as AL5A/NH0 fm Saipan
05/26/03	05/30/03	Fiji	3D2LB	GM3VLB Direct	By GM3VLB fm Beachcomber Is (OC-121)
<u>Ongoing</u>					
01/01/02 - 12/31/02		South Shetland Is.	HFØPOL	SQ5TA	CW, RTTY and PSK31
04/21/02 - 11/30/02		Macquarie Island	VKØMQI	See other info	By VKØMQI; JAs QSL to JE1LET, all others to JA1ELY; begin and end dates uncertain

ARRL DX Contest Rumors (Courtesy K4JA)

<u>CW</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Tot Q/M</u>	<u>160m</u>	<u>80m</u>	<u>40m</u>	<u>20m</u>	<u>15m</u>	<u>10m</u>
<u>M/2</u>								
K4JA	9.754	5730/569	63/49	586/77	1231/108	1239/112	1473/115	1138/108
N3RS	9.689	5809/556	58/33	470/74	1318/104	1266/110	1535/115	1165/115
K1KI	9.125	5442/560	43/34	445/76	1175/110	1129/115	1516/116	1134/109
N4RV	6.512	4308/504	46/35	163/63	794/92	903/103	1423/110	979/101
K8CC	5.446	3624/501	29/32	204/68	641/96	712/104	1215/110	823/101
KØTV	5.246	3592/489	34/29	265/66	614/089	692/100	1151/105	836/100
K8LX	5.063	3540/485	35/24	122/62	815/95	782/99	929/102	857/103
<u>M/M</u>								
KC1XX	13.945	7499/621	154/59	850/83	1517/110	1877/130	1847/124	1254/115
W3LPL	12.865							
K1XM	12.586	6957/604	135/56	902/88	1336/107	1738/122	1652/119	1194/112
K1TTT	9.832	5710/575	72/47	396/76	1017/101	1565/122	1592/118	1068/111
K1RX	9.791	5701/574	100/46	594/79	1032/100	1552/124	1360/115	1063/110
K9NS	9.088	5237/581	67/45	317/77	930/106	1311/123	1311/123	1055/113
W4MYA	9.006	5359/564	79/48	321/74	982/102	1335/121	1558/111	1084/108
N2RM	7.782	5037/515	39/32	356/70	1065/97	1341/113	1245/107	991/96
KB1H	6.827	4453/514	21/17	324/71	650/94	1330/118	1266/108	862/106
K5GO	6.623	4029/548	47/33	166/66	960/109	842/118	1257/113	757/109
K5KG	5.989	3889/513	46/22	179/66	789/97	902/104	1081/104	892/110
NY4A (@ N4AF)	5.379	3742/481	55/30	387/68	888/93	818/97	967/103	627/90
K3NM	4.803	3210/499	35/29	273/63	494/93	673/104	931/107	904/107
W0AIH	4.588	3259/488	38/27	126/63	496/95	801/100	846/100	832/103
<u>SSB</u>								
<u>M/2</u>								
K4JA	8.574	4841/594	58/45	324/77	538/92	1441/135	1619/119	861/119
N3RS	7.442	4360/569	33/30	391/80	493/93	1056/131	1836/126	551/108
N2NT	6.531	3940/553	60/42	312/70	290/77	1260/134	1375/122	640/108
NK7U	3.351	2642/423	13/11	107/41	382/74	663/112	1206/111	271/74
AA5NT	3.067	2343/442	16/15	53/32	273/73	439/102	872/107	690/113
N5YA	2.371	2000/399	14/12	57/40	114/57	387/89	604/95	824/106
K1KI	2.324	1709/455	18/17	157/57	158/71	525/109	464/99	387/102
K3OO	2.201	1627/451	30/29	78/53	89/60	543/106	470/103	417/100
W2XL	1.989	1658/400	7/7	93/50	108/58	650/101	465/91	335/93
<u>M/M</u>								
KC1XX	12.176	6410/634	77/48	593/86	632/95	1944/148	2202/138	963/119
W3LPL								
K9NS	8.665	4835/599	53/41	209/69	478/93	1388/136	1798/138	909/122
W4MYA	7.272	4255/575	60/44	291/74	454/92	1165/128	1565/123	720/114
K1RX	6.967	4261/547	54/39	286/71	256/79	1638/133	1486/120	541/105
N2RM	5.494	3433/534	42/34	303/74	266/75	1159/125	1032/117	631/109
W2FU	5.809	3581/542	43/36	284/71	338/82	957/125	1432/124	527/105
W3PP	5.66	3481/542	41/37	227/68	307/80	1018/131	1171/114	717/112
K1TTT	5.587	3546/529	42/27	272/72	243/79	1391/127	1205/115	393/101
KB1H	4.778	3197/505	14/13	193/67	239/78	1164/126	1108/117	479/104
W0AIH	3.624	2444/495	28/24	97/51	214/76	689/122	870/116	546/106
KØTV/1	3.438	2397/481	30/26	261/67	178/75	655/118	912/105	361/90

Events!

Contests

- Apr-12 EU Spring Sprint SSB (http://loja.kkn.net/~i2uuy/eu_rules.html)
1500Z to 1859Z Sat
- Apr-12 - Apr-13 Georgia QSO Party (<http://secc.contesting.com/page3.html>)
1800Z Sat to 0359Z Sun and 1400-2359Z Sunday
- Apr-12 - Apr-13 QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party - CW
1200Z Sat to 2400Z Sunday
- Apr-13 UBA Spring Contest - CW (<http://www.uba.be/>)
0600Z to 1000Z Sun
- Apr-19 EU Spring Sprint - CW (http://loja.kkn.net/~i2uuy/eu_rules.html)
1500Z to 1859Z Sat
- Apr-19 Holyland DX Contest (<http://home.online.no/~janalme/newrules/holyland.html>)
1800Z Sat to 1800Z Sun
- Apr-19 - Apr-20 Michigan QSO Party (<http://www.miqp.org/>)
1600Z Sat to 0400Z Sun
- Apr-19 - Apr-20 Ontario QSO Party (<http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html>)
1800Z Sat to 1800Z Sun
- Apr-19 - Apr-20 YU DX Contest (<http://solair.eunet.yu/~yu1ab/awards/rules.htm>)
1200Z Sat to 1200Z Sun
- Apr-21 Low Power Spring Sprint
1400Z to 2000Z Mon
- Apr-26 - Apr-27 Florida QSO Party (<http://www.qsl.net/fqp/>)
1600Z Sat to 0159Z Sun and 1200Z to 2159Z Sun
- Apr-26 - Apr-27 HB9 (Helvetia) Contest (<http://home.online.no/~janalme/htmlrules/h26.html>)
1300Z sat to 1300Z Sun
- Apr-26 - Apr-27 Nebraska QSO Party (<http://www.qsl.net/hdxa/neqso/>)
1700Z Sat to 1700Z Sun
- Apr-26 - Apr-27 SP DX RTTY Contest (<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/spdxrtty.htm>)
1200Z sat to 1200Z Sun
- May-03 - May-04 Indiana QSO Party (<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>)
1300Z Sat to 0500Z Sun
- May-03 - May-04 Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest (<http://www.ten-ten.org/rules.html>)
0001Z Sat (Fri night local) to 2400Z Sun
- May-10 - May-11 CQ-M International DX Contest (<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/cqmidxc.htm>)
2100Z Sat to 2100Z Sun
- May-10 - May-11 Oregon QSO Party (<http://www.codxc.org/content/Ore-QSO-Party.asp>)
1400Z Sat to - 0200Z Sun
- May-11 - May-12 Volta WW RTTY Contest
1200Z Sat to 1200Z Sun
- May-17 - May-18 Baltic Contest (<http://www.lrsf.lt/Bcontest/index1.htm>)
2100Z Sat to 0200Z Sun (Sat night local)

CVCC Events

- Apr-08 CVCC April Meeting
7 PM at Henrico Doctor's Parham - Dinner before at Nick's Roman Terrace

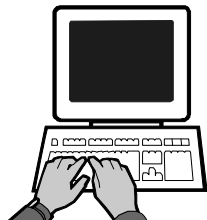
Exams

- Apr-12 Richmond Area Amateur Exams - ARRL VE (Held at J. Sargeant Reynolds CC - Contact Pat Wilson,
W4PW at 932-9424)
9:00 AM

Hamfests

- Apr-13 Raleigh, NC Hamfest (<http://www.rars.org/hamfest> Email: ac4zo@arrl.net)

AR Cluster Connection Software available



Hi All. I have been writing a telnet user program, specifically for AR Cluster. One of the biggest problems local users have is to set their filters properly. This program started out as an attempt to simplify the setting of these filters. I kind of got carried away and kept going. It now has most of the features of a stand alone cluster user program.

I think I have solved the filter problems, at least what can be done from the outside of AR Cluster. This program is point and click. No long command lines to mess up. With this program you connect to any AR Cluster. The program asks the cluster for your filter settings. If they have errors, the program corrects these and sends the corrected settings back to the node. It corrects problems with incorrect country prefixes and incorrect state/province settings. It fixes the settings that cause you to not get any spots at all! It won't allow you to send these kind of settings to the node. You can get all the settings from one node, disconnect and connect to another AR Node. You can then simply update this other node with the same filter settings from the first node. This is very useful if your regular node goes down occasionally.

For contests, it should be a simple matter to change filter settings. With a couple of mouse clicks you can set your filter to only pass Europeans for the WAE contests. ALL of the Europeans, every country and nothing else. Same for Oceania or AA contests. I still need to work on the Band/Mode settings, but most other user functions are working. The talk window auto focuses when anyone sends you a talk message. This prevents you from missing talk messages. I have added my own filtering to get rid of RTTY, FSK, PSK, and IOTA spots. If anyone else wants to reject these, all they have to do is click them.

Several of the users on my node have been successfully using this program. If anyone else wishes to try it, it is available at:

<http://www.ve7cc.net/files/ve7cc.zip>

Just unzip it and run the setup program. If you connect to the VE7CC node and there is an update available, a hidden button will show up telling you about this update. Just click the button and it should update, almost automatically. It is not complete, but I am working on it! I would be glad to hear of any suggestions for improvements or new features.

73

Lee VE7CC



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

If you would like to get in touch with one of the club officers, please contact:

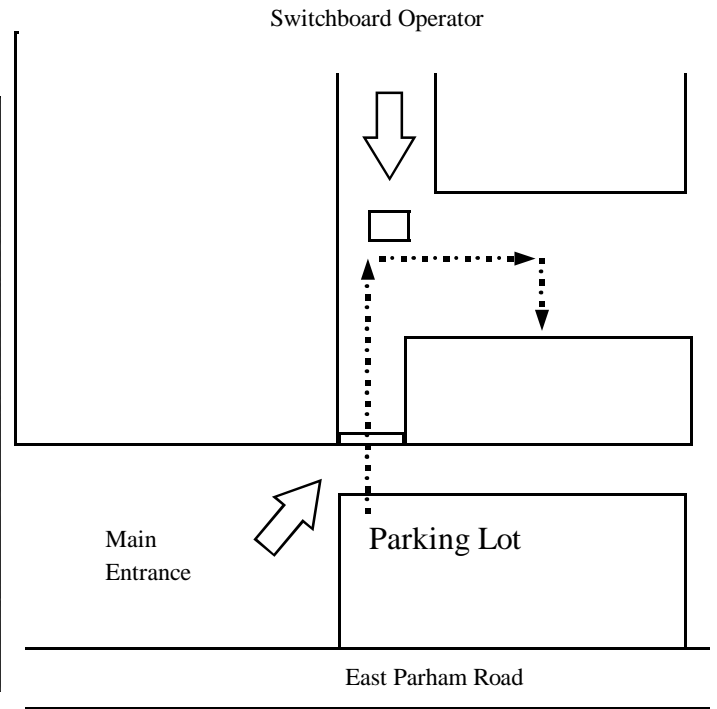
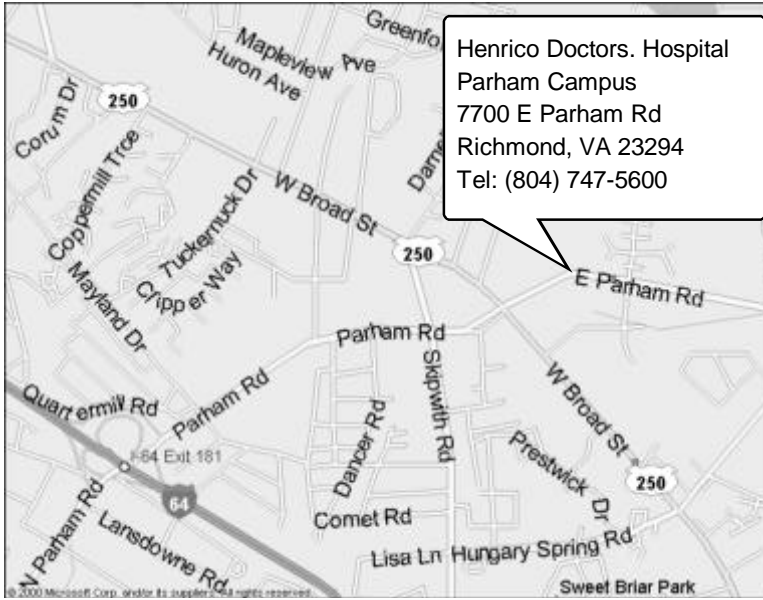
President , Bob Eshleman, W4DR - 794-7143
Email - w4dr@mindspring.com

Secretary Tom Ogburn, N4ZJ - 320-4514
Email - togburn@wwbt.com

Treasurer A.J. Szumski, W4NM - 288-0312
Email - aszumski@attbi.com

The deadline for submission of news or articles for the May newsletter is May 4, 2003.

New Meeting Location



Henrico Doctor's Hospital, Parham Campus, 7700 E Parham Road. Park in parking lot, come in main entrance and go to switchboard operator station. Ask for directions to the cafeteria and meeting room, and mention that you are with CVCC. The cafeteria is down the hall to the right of the operators station. The main phone number is 804-747-5600.



Central Virginia Contest Club

Tom Ogburn
3211 Whitehorse Road

THIS MONTH

599 VA

- ? Elections this month
- ? Dxpeditons/Events
- ? Score Rumors