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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 - February, 2003 Issue

Prez' Practices Program Promises

- De Bob Eshleman, W4DR

Our February 11th program will be a multi-media presentation by W4TJ, Bill Lakatosh and AD4YM, Jim Condon entitled "RADIO ASTRONOMY". Bill is known to many of us for his exploits on VHF, UHF and low band DX'ing. Some years ago I visited his station and marveled at what he was working on 1296 EME with only 50 watts using homebuilt equipment. This promises to be a great program so come out and invite your friends!

I just love the conditions on the low bands during the dead of winter with long haul contacts on the low bands a frequent occurrence. I played in the CQ 160 CW contest this past weekend and had more fun than I thought I would and even made a small score of 174 QSO's, 40 states, 41 countries for 63,747 points. I didn't call CQ a single time..just hunt and pounce for a few hours. Maybe some year I will try a all out effort if I ever get a contest logging program.

Our treasurer promises to be present at our February meeting so remember to bring you dues to the meeting and help get us back in the solid black.

I hope to see some of you Feb 9 at the Frostfest.

Bob, W4DR



From the internet reflectors, I see that the conditions were FB on 160M for the start of the January contest. I had a start-up at work, changing out a line-shaft to a sectional drive on a "paper machine", and had a week-end full of my job getting in the way of my hobby! I did not get to operate at all in the 160M contest, usually one of my favorites. The good news is that my start-up was smooth and I should get a huge raise (if my boss ever reads this - small chance!). I am just glad that the start-up was successful and finally **OVER!**

OPDX reports that there were 234 DX countries active for the week ending 1/27/03. On 01/27/2003, the SFI was 121, the A index 9, and the K index 3. We are certainly sliding down from the peak of the current sunspot cycle.

Upcoming DX:

Extremely Rare: There is a second VP6/D (Ducie Island) DX'pedition scheduled for March 8 thru 15. If you missed the first one, you need to stay tuned. This will probably be one of the top 10 "most needed" in the next DX poll. Bob (W4MYA) heard that there could be an FR/J (Juan de Nova) operation this year by a French operator (I need this one for a **NEW ONE!**).

Rare: S21YV (Bangladesh) from 1/27 - 3/2 and STORY (Sudan) from 3/10 - 3/31. 3B9FR, a Rodriguez Isl. resident, has been fairly active recently and D88S (S. Shetlands) will be active until 11/30.

CVCC Awards:

Last call! Bob (W4DR) needs your totals by the end of February, if you think you are a contender for one of the CVCC awards (Most total new Band Countries or Best Percentage Increase of Needed Band Countries).

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Please send your year's totals info (start of year and end of year) to W4DR, so he can determine and immortalize the winners with plaques! The easiest way to submit your scores for listing on my website is by using the "HTML" format to be found at the "CVCC DXTOTALS" link on my website at:

<http://www.qsl.net/w4tnx>

For qualifying for one of the CVCC awards, Bob would probably prefer the bottom line totals of a table similar to this:

W4TNX Band Country Totals for 2002:

<u>Band</u>	<u>12/31/2002 Totals</u>	<u>12/31/2001 Totals</u>	<u>Year's Increase</u>
160	29	22	7
80	156	154	2
40	274	273	1
30	180	170	10
20	306	302	4
17	227	226	1
15	286	278	8
12	177	170	7
10	265	265	0
<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>
Totals	1918	1873	45

Note that sending in your end of year totals also qualifies you for next year's competition. I think Bruce (W3BP) could be a dual winner for this year, but I know Roy (WK4Y) has been very active and there is always the possibility of a "dark horse".

DXploits by Members:

W4DR: January was a good month!: Bob picked up 4W6MM, W8XGI/KH0, 4S7AB, ZP2AA, JW0HU, CE0ZIS, YI1BGD and V31GW to reach 175 on the digital modes and he nabbed 8N1OGA for # 304 on 160M. Bob also got XQ6ET on 160M CW for a new BMC (Band Mode Country). Although not new, S9SS, EY8MM and RU9TC were exciting QSOs on topband. ST2X was a new BMC on 10M CW and Bob nabbed DU9/N0NM on 80M CW for the first time (Bob was the QSL manager for N0NM, Jon <ex-3DA0CA, I think he was> for several years and Jon gave a program for the CVCC a few years ago).

WD4GOY: Ed reports the mixed mode WAZ hardwood "is on the shack wall" . FB and way to go Ed!

W4MYA: The grapevine heard W4MYA work EY8MM on 160M.

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W4TNX: Received a QSL for both SSB and CW from YA5T on 15M. Needed the CW one for a new DXCC country.

WK4Y: Roy worked 12 new BC on 7 bands in January: 160M FG5FR & D4B on CW, 80M T31MY AH3D & HH6CM on CW, 40M T31MY on CW, 30M DU3NXE ZD7BG & AH3D, 15M T31MY on CW, 12M T31MY on CW, and 10M YI1BGD on SSB – FB Roy, a great showing!

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 (Note that Ogasawara has been dropped from 160M – way to go Bob!)

W4MYA: FR/J

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

CW tips (the best way to work DX, IMHO):

“Cut” numbers are widely used on CW, both in contests and in chasing DX. “Cut” numbers are greatly abbreviated versions of normal CW numbers, used when the context is obvious (when you know you are expecting to be receiving a number). Although there are “cut” versions of all the numbers, the most common ones used are:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Normal CW Code</u>	<u>Cut CW Code</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Zero	da da da da dah	dah (T)	Many Europeans use: da da dah
One	dit da da da dah	dit dah (A)	
Five	di di di di dit	dit (E)	Only occasionally used, but good to know
Nine	da da da dah dit	dah dit (N)	

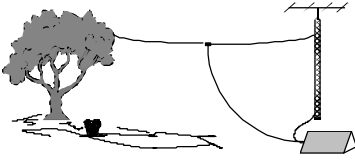
The most common use of “cut” numbers is for RST reports, as in “5NN” for 599, or “57N” for 579, but you will also find stations send their power as “ATT” (for 100) watts or “TT5” (for 5) watts. Another “cut” code character is the “period” or “decimal point”, which is conventionally sent as: “dit dah dit dah dit dah”. The “cut” form of the “decimal point”, when in context, is the letter “R”, sent as: “dit dah dit”.

Usage would include “1R8” or “3R5”, as CW abbreviations for 1.8 Mhz and 3.5 Mhz, respectively. A CW exchange could be: “U QRV on 1R8?” or “QSY 3R5?”.

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

73,

John, W4TNX



DXPELITION INFO

INFORMATION GATHERED FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES

<u>Dates</u>	<u>DXCC</u>	<u>Callsign</u>	<u>OSL Info</u>	<u>More Info</u>	
<u>DXpeditions</u>					
02/01/03	02/13/03	Grenada	J3/DJ7RJ	DJ7RJ	By DJ7RJ as J3/DJ7RJ; 160-6m; CW SSB
02/02/03	02/08/03	Antigua	V2/K4UP	K4UP	By W4LW K4FMD as V2/K4UP High bands only
02/03/03	03/26/03	Bhutan	A51B	WØGJ Direct	By WØGJ; focus on 80m local SR/SS; QRV for CQ/RJ RTTY + ARRL DX CW
02/04/03	03/11/03	Cyprus	5B/G3PMR	G3PMR	By G3PMR
02/04/03	02/19/03	Panama	HP?	DL6MYL	By DJ7AA fm Contadora Is (NA-073); mainly 160 + 80m CW; check 1826.5/3560.0 kHz, split Also in ARRL DX
02/04/03	02/04/03	Pitcairn Island	VP6EM	W2SN	By W2SN; 1700-2359z; 20 15 10m
02/05/03	02/18/03	Ghana	9G5/HOMECALL	Home Call	By DL1CW and DL3GA
02/06/03	02/09/03	Mexico	XF1K	N6AWD	By XE2K XE2CHE XE2FCR XE2ZY XE2CK N6VR fm Isla Pelicano (NA-167); 80 40 20 15 10m; 18 hours/day; QSL OK via Buro or direct
02/07/03	02/12/03	Belau	T88/	Home Call	By JA5AUC/T88TM JA5ROH/T88RH JA5MY/T88FB JA5SUD/T88DY JA5Eiy/T88EI; 160-6m
02/08/03	02/15/03	Bahamas	C6APX	KC4PX	By KC4PX fm Nassau (NA-001); 6m
02/08/03	02/25/03	Belize	V31/HOMECALL	Home Call	By DL2SWW DG2TM; callsigns TBD; focus on low bands
02/08/03	02/15/03	Lord Howe Island	VK9LBJ		By VK2LBJ fm OC-004
02/09/03	02/15/03	Mauritius	3B8/DK7AO	DL3APO	By DK7AO DL1XD DL2AWG DL3APO http://www.radioklub.de/3b8/
02/09/03	02/22/03	Sint Maarten	PJ7/HOMECALL	ND5S	By ND5S KF5LG as PJ7/homecall fm NA-105; 160-10m
02/09/03	02/23/03	Uganda	5X1DC	DL7AFS	By DL7AFS DJ7ZG http://www.qsl.net/dl7afs/
02/11/03	02/17/03	Burkina Faso	XT2WP	G4BWP	By G4BWP; 30 17 12 6m,
02/11/03	02/19/03	Guantanamo Bay	KG4	Home Call	By W4ZYT/KG4ZK N8CH/KG4NW KU4EC/KG4EC N6ZO/KG4ZO also in ARRL DX CW as KG4DZ
02/11/03	03/03/03	Trinidad & Tobago	9Y4/HOMECALL	See Info	By DL6RAI IV3IYH as 9Y4/homecall; 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL DL6RAI via homecall and IV3IYH via IK2ILH
02/12/03	02/18/03	Fernando de Noronha	PYØZFO	W9VA	By W9VA; QRV for ARRL DX CW w/ special

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					callsign
02/12/03	03/12/03	Guadeloupe	FG/F6FXS	F6FXS	By F6FXS as FG/F6FXS fm NA-102
02/12/03	02/19/03	St Kitts	V4	Home Call	By AC8W K8DD; focus on WARC + PSK31 RTTY; callsigns TBA;
02/17/03	02/25/03	Antigua	V2	Home Call	By W4WX W1LR Call TBA
02/18/03	03/12/03	Sint Maarten	PJ6/DJ4SO	DJ4SO	By DJ4SO fm Saba (NA-145) as PJ6/DJ4SO
02/21/03	02/23/03	Belize	V31/HOMECALL	Home Call	By DJ4KW DK9GG DL2SWW DG2TM fm NA-073
02/23/03	03/23/03	Sint Maarten	PJ7/W8EB	W8EB	By W8EB as PJ7/W8EB
02/23/03	03/01/03	Svalbard	JW/HOMECALL	Home Call	By SM0BSO SM0LQB SM1TDE http://w1.865.telia.com/~u86523219/JW03.htm
02/25/03	03/07/03	Antigua	V26DX	KU9C	By W3CF WX0B N5CK N2EA KD3TB
03/08/03	03/15/03	Ducie Island	VP6	JR2KDN	By JR2KDN FO3BM VP6AZ VP6DB VP6MW fm OC-182 http://www.qsl.net/aa0mz/ducie2.htm
03/08/03	03/15/03	North Cook Islands	ZK1EAA	HB9EAA	By HB9EAA fm Penrhyn (OC-082) http://www.qsl.net/hb9eaa/dxped03/
03/09/03	03/22/03	Mauritius	3B8/ON4AME	TBA	By ON4AME as 3B8/ON4AME fm AF-049; all bands; SSB CW + digital
03/10/03	03/21/03	Haiti	HH4/HOMECALL	See Info	By K4QD N2WB W4WX K3VN as HH4/homecall fm NW Haiti; 160-6m; all modes; QSL via homecall, except HH4/N2WB via N2OO http://www.geocities.com/n2wb2003/
03/10/03	03/31/03	Sudan	STØRY	TBA	By DK7YY DL3DXX DL9NDS DL7FER DL5NAM;
03/11/03	03/13/03	Mariana Island	KHØ/JR1KGF	JR1KGF	Saipan; HF + 6m
03/15/03	03/22/03	South Cook Islands	ZK1EAA	HB9EAA	By HB9EAA fm Aitutaki (OC-083)



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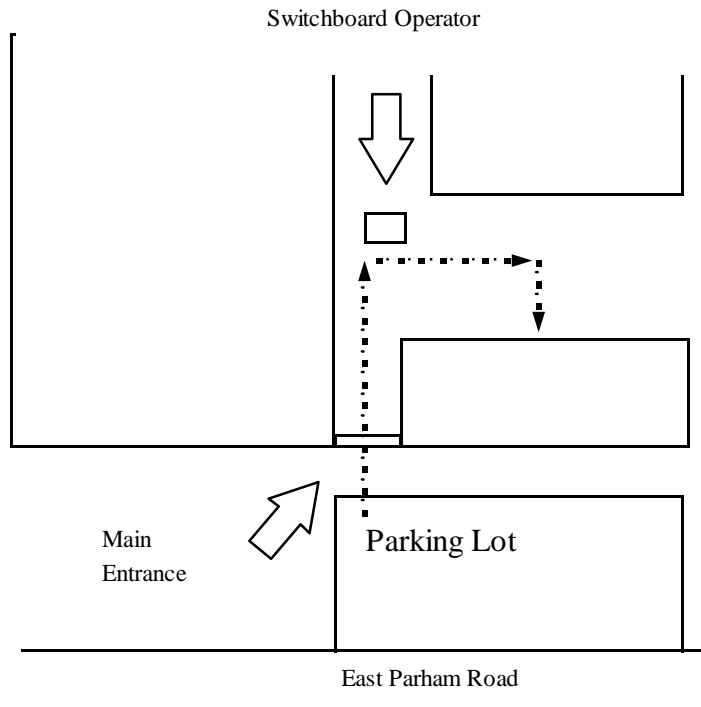
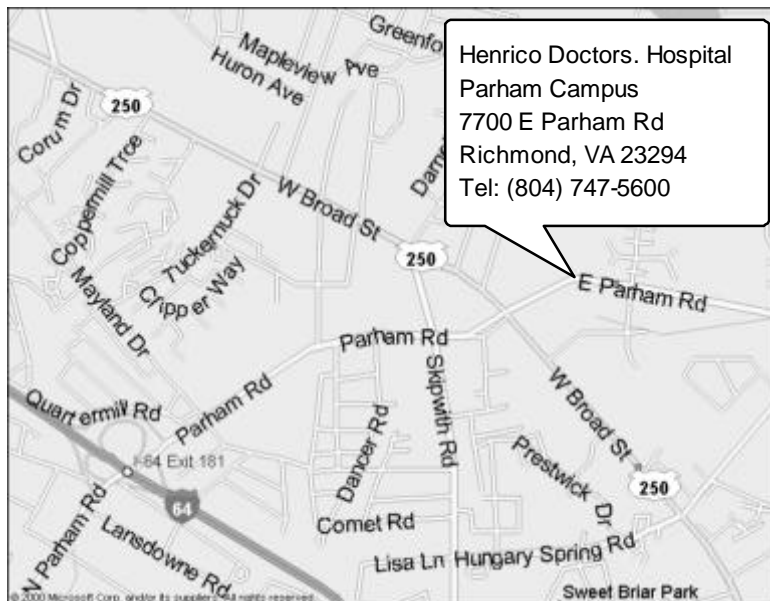
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The deadline for submission of news or articles for the March newsletter is March 4, 2003.

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

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THIS MONTH.....

599 VA

- ? *DX, DX, DX and the Newsletter's Back*
- ? *More DX*
- ? *Meeting at Healthsouth Feb 11*