



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - July 2008

## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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### Meeting Notice:

The July meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at St Martin's Episcopal Church, 9000 St. Martin Lane, Richmond, Va. 23294. The pre-meeting social and dinner will be at 5:30 P.M. at the Golden Corral, Gaskins Road and West Broad Street.

### Program:

Duke, W1ZA, has put together a slide program of "good" photos and ham radio photos. The ham stuff includes some KC1XX, K1ZM (at PEI), K1IR, W0RF, W9EFL, W4QBK, W1ZA and of K1EA, K1IR, K1VR operating at W1ZA in the 1970's. Nancy Payne is providing the projector.

### Annual Picnic: (See the pictures on pages 8-11)

We had great food and fellowship and missed those who could not be there. Thanks to Walt K2WK for bringing Bill, W2DLP, his "Elmer". N3UA brought his marinated chicken and it was delicious! Those who didn't try it missed the boat. NK4H, Bob did his usual great job with supplies and being "Master Chef". Really I think Faye did most of the preparation!

The group from Lynchburg area came and we enjoyed their company again. JV, KT4U; Dave, AJ4FM; Linzy, KD4CQW; and Fred, W4DF operated mobile coming down and going home. Fred worked a bunch on the county hunters net CW and some DX. See JV's jeep with all the antennas. Blew out his GPS coming down. Fred's 40M CW was just too powerful.

Thanks guys for a joyful afternoon.  
A. C W4HJ

### Field Day:

Greetings from your Field Day Chairman, for CVCC's upcoming 2008 Field Day event.

This is a reminder of the event, and that it is on Saturday, June 28th, and Sunday, June 29th. This year CVCC will hold Field Day at "Short Pump Park" on Pump Road, Western Henrico County. A map of the location is attached.

Those of you who are planning to attend, several of us will meet at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Gaskins Rd, at 8:00 AM Saturday morning for breakfast, then to the FD site at 9:00 AM. We invite you to have breakfast with us and to be on scene at 9:00 AM for briefing and setup. Breakfast on your own. We would appreciate assistance from all who can assist in setup and take down of the operation.

Saturday evening around 5:00 PM on site, we plan to have Burgers, Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks, and etc. **If you would like to attend this feast, please send an email to Bob Ladd, NK4H, so we can have a head count and be able to plan for food accordingly. Please notify Bob at least by Wednesday, June 25th. Bob's email address is**

[raladd@comcast.net](mailto:raladd@comcast.net) . So far only 5 have signed up for dinner. That's not enough to retain the services of the Master Chef!

If you haven't committed to operating & wish to do so, please contact Duke, W1ZA, at [jdukebrown@earthlink.net](mailto:jdukebrown@earthlink.net)

Bob Morris, W4MYA, will be bringing (3) Yaesu FT1000's to use for our operation. Come on out and operate them. If anyone is interested, they will be available for sale at the end of the Field Day operation.

73, Roy Davis, Jr. - WK4Y

### CVCC Virginia QSO Party Results:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Pwr</u>	
KG4W	FIXED	107,343	MIXED	ALL	LOW	S/O
W1ZA	FIXED	352,226	MIXED	ALL	HIGH	M/S High VA M/S
W4DR	FIXED	799	MIXED	ALL	LOW	S/O
W4DR	MOBILE	1,032	PHONE	2M	LOW	S/O
W4HZ	FIXED	14,620	PHONE	ALL	HIGH	S/O
W4ML	FIXED	944,597	MIXED	ALL	HIGH	M/M High VA M/M
W4PM	FIXED	56,691	CW	ALL	HIGH	S/O
W4TNX	FIXED	108	MIXED	40M	LOW	S/O
WA4PGM	MOBILE	214,000	MIXED	ALL	LOW	S/O High VA Mobile
WS4WW	FIXED	273	PHONE	ALL	LOW	S/O

CVCC High VA CLUB  
 TOTAL: 1,691,689

Multi OP Station Operators:

W4ML: K2WK, K4ADU, KF4QQY, KI4TOQ, W4MYA, WK4Y, WD4LBR, WS4WW  
 W1ZA: N3UA, NW4V, W1ZA, W4TNX

You'll notice the "High" notations in the above table. CVCC as a club did it again. Also congratulations to the Kyle for high VA Mobile and to the crews at W4ML and W1ZA for winning their respective categories. Nineteen members participated and submitted scores. Things are looking up. Duke and Sejo visited Manassas Hamfest and attended VA QSO Party Awards ceremony. They harvested lots of wood and paper certificates (will be passed on at July's meeting). See a couple of pictures on page 11.

### ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Ops</u>
W4MYA	Single-Op	High	116,732	
<b>W1ZA</b>	Multi-Op	High	<b>103,638</b>	W1ZA, N3UA, W4TNX
<b>W4HZ</b>	Multi-Op	High	<b>84,912</b>	W4HZ, WK4Y, Others?
<b>W4PM</b>	Single-Op	High	<b>20,480</b>	
KG4W	Single-Op	Low	18,550	
<b>WD4LBR</b>	Single-Op	Low	<b>16,500</b>	
W4HJ	Single-Op	High	5,060	
<b>WK4Y</b>	Single-Op	High	<b>4,320</b>	
<b>K2WK</b>	Single-Op	High	<b>3,136</b>	
<b>WA4PGM</b>	Single-Op	Low	<b>3,264</b>	
<b>N3UA</b>	Single-Op	Low	<b>1,872</b>	
<b>NW4V</b>	Single-Op	Low	<b>1,088</b>	
<b>N4DWK</b>	Single-Op	Low	<b>504</b>	



I received permission from Bruce Horn to use his contest calendar. It can be found by following links on [www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com). It looks like there may be something for everyone from HF to VHF, SSB, RTTY, Feld Hell, QSO parties, etc. The QSO parties and the RAC Canada Day are fun events. Some of the smaller contests can even generate a nice certificate for us little pistols to hang on our walls. I just received a certificate for 2<sup>ND</sup> place in the USA for my entry in the 2007 Baltic contest. I had a grand total of 37 QSO's in that one!

### **Random Skip by W4DR**

I just made a DXCC credit application via LOTW. Compared to registering and uploading logs it was amazingly simple for a semi-literate computer user like myself. Since the other half of the application will be having W4ZYT check seven paper cards at our Field Day I think my credits won't be accepted until the entire transaction is completed. The field checking and LOTW submissions save money and frustration in so many ways. You don't send your precious paper cards in the mail and in addition to paying big bucks for registered mail two ways they never leave your shack. About half of my credits are for QSO's which I still don't have the actual QSL in hand yet, i.e. VP6DX on 160. I also learned that you are only charged the one submission fee, \$12, when you make a combined paper (field check or HQ. check) and LOTW. As more and more DXpeditions and DX stations join the system the popularity of the DXCC programs will skyrocket.

This whole chain of thought brings up another subject. What a great bunch of guys and gals the CVCC group is. Although we are small in number, almost any kind of help or advice is readily available from our ranks - digital modes, antenna construction and repairs, equipment advice and even loans, DX information, multi-op and guest operation for anyone who wants to operate a station which may have features they don't enjoy from their home location. I could go on and on. Let's just continue our fine tradition of being Elmers to each other and reaching out to those who want to join our ranks. Personally I have received more help and encouragement from fellow CVCC'ers than I will ever be able to repay in a lifetime.

As I have mentioned earlier six meters is a fickle friend and if one believes in "fairness" it doesn't qualify. Here we are two thirds of the way through June, one of the two best E-skip months and I have yet to make a single Trans-Atlantic QSO or even a double hop QSO to the West Coast. Yet stations as close as one or two grids away have worked KH6 and some southern 4's have even worked Japan on 6. It seems most of the multi-hop openings have landed north, south and/or west of the mid-Atlantic region. Maybe our luck will change, but at this point I am not optimistic.

One last tip in the "Hints and Kinks" class. I own three amplifiers and all three use multiple 3CX800A ceramic tubes. When these tubes fail it is usually via a grid-cathode short. Typically I discover this when my amplifier is on and in standby. I notice a hot smell, glance at the plate current meter and see that a great deal of current is flowing despite the fact that no excitation has been applied. The problem is to figure which one of the tubes is the bad one. Turn the amplifier off, remove the top cover screws so it can be easily and quickly removed. With the cover back on activate the power for a short time and then switch the amplifier off and remove the cover, Wet the tip of your index finger and lightly and quickly touch the metal body of the tube. The bad one will be much hotter than the good ones which will also be warm. Having identified the bad tube remove it. You can sometimes eliminate the short by giving the tube a hard wack with a metal tool. In time the short will usually return so it is wise to order a spare tube at this point if you don't already have one. Remember safety first when dealing with power amplifiers.

Bob W4DR

## **DX de DR: (May Reports)**

Twenty-six years ago N4CFL and I celebrated our 25th anniversary with a DXpedition to Provo Island as VP5JEX. This being off-season and before the island was discovered by the Jet set we had the place almost to ourselves. This year a much less ambitious trip to the northern neck for #51 with no radio activity included, but hopefully some good dinning. With a string of zero sunspots for 7 straight days beginning on May 29 DXing won't be particularly missed. There are some interesting things happening or about to happen however.

The ARRL has finally announced what I knew since mid December that there is a new Desoto Cup winner, I4EAT. He beat me out 3129 to 3124 with DX Hall of Famer, OZ1LO a close 3rd place at 3119.

The frequently postponed Glorioso operation is tentatively scheduled to take place between September 20 and October 15 by an all French cast. This should really light up the bands as it is very high on the most needed lists. Other operations which are in the immediate future and whose dates are more certain include: FH/DK7LX June 11-13 mainly cw on 80/40/30; S79WP by DL6NBR on SSB 40-10; 4W6R June 10-24 by a Spanish crew on all bands. Unfortunately this much needed entity will not provide much joy for us long suffering east coasters at this date or portion of the sun spot cycle, but lets hope it paves the way for future operations. Six meter DXpeditions to CY0, FJ and 5J0 (HK0) are all taking place between June 25 and July 6 so the 50100-50115 segment may sound like 20 meters if some E clouds pop up during that period.

## **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

W4PM: Puck worked 5 new B/E's (band entities, formerly known as band countries) in May. They were neatly distributed on 80 through 10 with the rarest one being YI9SV on 40. He was in 5 contests netting 933 of his 1071 QSOs. WD4LBR elmered him onto the digital modes resulting in 29 QSOs. Puck is looking forward to some 6 meter DX this summer to fatten his 95 B/E score in 2008.

W4MYA: I haven't seen Bob for so long that I have forgotten the status of his beard...longer, shorter or gone??

NW4V: Ed didn't get any new ones this past month but his wire yielded a JH4 and RK0 on 20 over the polar path.

WK4Y: Roy awaits the delivery of his K3 at the end of the month and then will have to put it together.

WD4LBR and K4WNW: Our "dynamic duo" had a great time in Dayton, but Sheila has been under the weather since then. The RTTY Roundup scores were finally published and they were 5th nationally in the multi-single low power category and 1st place in the Roanoke Division. Bruce hopes that we can cobble together a club entry in a future RTTY contest.

N4DWK: Dave picked up a few "garden variety" B/E's on 30 and 17, and has been enjoying his new SteppIR beam.

W4DR: Your columnist had a slow month, but was happy with a A45XR 30 meter QSL as well as TI9KK confirmed on RTTY. I look forward to making a combo DXCC submission to W4ZYT during Field Day using real cards and about a dozen LOTW credits. I am still waiting for my rebuilt prop pitch rotor to come back from Nevada so I can get back on 40 meters again. Who knows...a BS7 or

P5 could show up unannounced on 40 at any time and I would be out of luck!

Just kidding.

Good hunting to all,

Bob W4DR

### **Member News:**

K2WK, Walt: Conditions suck, big time!!! Part-time effort in CQWW WPX CW, using wires for 80,40 & 20M, scored 272 Q's for 174K pts. Wires for 80, 40, 20 all broke during heavy windstorms soon after that contest. All fixed & repaired with stronger bungee cords at the ends. 20M inv. vee will no longer part of the 40M dipole. Will have to hang that dipole separately, all on its own.

The picnic was a blast. I brought my 83 yr. young Elmer of 40 years, Bill Zeisler, W2DLP who was visiting from Florida. That same night I had to rush Bill to the ER in C'ville. He was having heart problems and was dehydrated after driving straight through from the Cape Canaveral area to Roanoke Rapids on the NC/VA border in one day. Blood clot formation and blood pooling in the legs may have contributed to his distress. I sent him off a couple of days later with the directive to take 15 minute "walk" breaks every 2 hours of driving.

W4PM, Puck: I purchased two Elecraft kits for a local ham in unbuilt kit form – a KX-1 three band QRP rig and a K2 (low power version). I've not built a kit radio since my Heathkit days. The parts are a lot smaller now and my eyes are a lot older. As soon as I find my magnifying visor I'll build the KX-1 and the K2 later if I can get the KX-1 going. Wish me luck. I also ran across a Ten Tec Limited Edition Vibroplex Iambic Paddle on e-Bay. I need another key like I need another hole in my head but I just couldn't resist. Actually the Vibroplex Iambic is a pretty good paddle, not quite up to my Mercury paddles, but very usable indeed.

### **June Program:**

Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, presented our June 3 program. Ken is a good friend of JT1CO and has made several trips to Mongolia to install antennas and operate from Chak's place. He is also a leading contester in and current President of PVRC. His power point slide presentation covered the following subjects.

- A look back at JT1ZW
- Building the NR4M Super Station in Orange Co.
- A look at Voice of America projects (when 1500 watts just isn't enough)

Of course the questions came to my mind came on the drive back home and I wish I had asked them at the end of his program. How much loss per 100 ft. is there in that "quasi-coax" feed line for the multi-KW broadcast stations? Would silver plating the copper tubing coils in those gigantic ATU's reduce losses or is the cost greater than the value gained by so doing? When I set up my 500 KW ham station I'll need to know these things!



Photo by Duke, W1ZA

Our thanks to Ken for taking the time to drive down to the area and make this excellent presentation! Gee whiz Ken, what is that flying over your head?

## **The Swap Shop or “Puck’s List”**

Here’s where you can post items for sale or swap, as well as wants. Someone may need what you have or have what you need!

W4HZ, Jonathan: I have a Heil Pro Set headset for sale. It has an HC4 DX/Contesting style cartridge that was recently refurbished by W4MYA & is in pretty good condition. HRO sells them new for about \$118.00 & I’m asking \$65.00 for mine but will entertain a reasonable offer.

W4HZ, Jonathan: I also have an Astron 20 amp power supply for sale. I’m asking \$70.00 or best offer

W4PM, Puck: I have a number of Vibroplex bugs that need new homes. They are of various ages, models and finishes. Even if you never send with them they make great display items as well as good paperweights. They will be priced right to CVCC members in my pre-Estate Sale. Inquiries welcome.

W4PM, Puck: Ten Tec Delta II HF 160 through 10 transceiver back from Ten Tec service and not used since. It’s in the shipping box and has the original manual. Everything should be fine except the backlight on the LCD display is not working. Ten Tec no longer stocks the parts to repair that but the display is easily readable in decent lighting situations. An after market backlight is available for those who would like to repair this feature themselves. \$350 or make an offer.

W4MYA, Bob: Bob will be bringing (3) Yaesu FT1000's to use for our Field Day operation. Come on out and operate them. If anyone is interested, they will be available for sale at the end of the Field Day operation.

WA4PGM, Kyle: Looking for a small 6 meter and 432 yagi that would be good for portable operations. Let me know what you have. Thanks! Kyle

WA4PGM, Kyle: I recently picked up a SB-200 converted to 6 meters and the output power is low so I'm in need of two 572B's. Doesn't have to be new one, please let me know what you have and how much. Thanks! Kyle

### **A Note from Tony Day**

As I’m sure you all know Tony has surgery about two weeks ago. Here’s a note from Tony which was passed to me by Jonathan.

I just wanted to say hello to everyone and let you know of my progress. As you can see from the attached picture (ed. No picture attached. It was in the e-mail set to all previously) my world right now consists of watching DVD’s as you see stacked up against my fireplace hearth, for someone who normally watches 2 or 3 DVD movies a year this is a whole new experience. You can also see the many cards I’ve received from you all plus many more e-mails telling of your support and concern. I expected a couple of cards and e-mails but never did I expect as many as I received to date. I really appreciate your concern and heartfelt feelings of concern.

It has been 13 days since my surgery and I “almost” feel like a human being but a very sore and weak one. Today is momentous, as it is the first day I’ve been able to take a shower but I’m very familiar with sponges lol. As the surgery was extensive I was told it would take 4 to 6 weeks to recover completely. Personally I’m looking to accomplish my recovery in less than 6 weeks as they predict.

It’s at times like this that I pray to God for having led me to someone as wonderful and supportive as my precious wife Becky.

I’m sure I speak for all the members of CVCC when I wish Tony a speedy recovery!

**SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR PICTURES**



**PICNIC PICTURES by K2WK**



**Sejo – Our President**



**AC**



**Bill, W2DLP – Walt's Elmer**



**Now, that's a smile!**



**Lively Conversation**



**Roy & Jonathan**



**PICNIC PICTURES by N3UA**





**PICNIC PICTURES by N3UA**



**PICNIC PICTURES by W4HJ**







**VAQP Awards Pictures by N3UA**

