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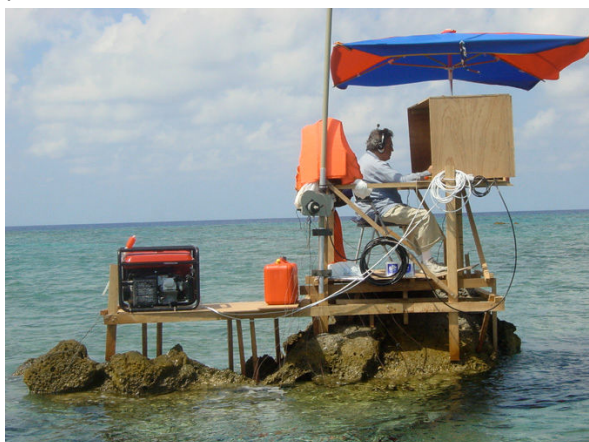
News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Meeting Notice:

The November meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 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:

Don't miss our November meeting. The new BS7H video will be shown this time as was promised last month. (Editor's note – These pictures were put in last month and then the program got bumped one month. They are neat pictures so I'm running them again. How would like to operate sitting on a wood platform built on a rock?)



Bob, W6RGG on Rock 4



James, 9V1YC on 20 mtrs 4 May

Photos from BS7H web page

CVCC 2008 Christmas Dinner

The Central Virginia Contest Club Christmas Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. December 2nd at Topeka's Steakhouse, 1776 E Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23228. Contact n4den@arrl.net for head count.

Random Skip by W4DR

Several days ago I received a silver metal from the ARRL for my second place finish in the DeSoto Cup Challenge. I have frequently been asked if I will ever regain the top slot. An analysis of the DXCC standings by band on the ARRL web site will show you that this is a longer shot than it was for the Tampa Rays to make it to the world series. I would like to further go on record as predicting that no North American will ever capture the Gold in my lifetime. My prediction is based mainly on what has already happened on 6 meters. A look at these standings shows the top position on this band to be LZ2CC at 238 entities. There are 22 stations at or above 200 of which 17 are in central or southern Europe, 4 in Asia and one in South America. The top North America 6-meter station is K1SIX with 163 and my own score is only 150. Serious contenders for Challenge metals are OZ1LO 199 and SP5EWY with 181. As you can see these two guys along with I4EAT, the new champion, aren't even near the top

among Europeans on 50 mHz and they all have a large potential to increase their scores no matter what the next few sun spot cycles produce. In the past I and other NA stations enjoyed a great advantage on 160, but this has changed. The Europeans have a great advantage over NA on that band to rare area of the world except the central Pacific. Now the well-equipped EU stations are cleaning up on that area because it is one of the most open to licensing and the most peaceful area of the world. No terrorists or revolutions going on and many well equipped DXpeditions (prime example VP6DX worked by just about ever 160 DX'er in Europe) There are presently 12 stations on the DXCC listing above 300 entities on 160 and two of them are from Europe including the top slot, OK1RD with 326. As for the other 8 bands from 3.5 to 28 mHz the leaders in every part of the world have virtually all of the DXCC entities on all of them so no large shift in overall totals will alter the standings unless the ARRL greatly alters their "entities" criteria in a way which favors NA...highly unlikely.

Great news: 7100 to 7200 will soon become international spectrum for we amateurs. Followed by bad news. The FCC is granting an experimental license to a high powered station (100 KW) in Alaska for something called DARTS to operate in the new band. This is strongly opposed by the ARRL Let's hope they win! If this move holds we will have something as horrible as the Chinese Dragon right in our backyard. Amateurs defeated the BPL supported by the FCC so lets hope we can nail another of their "hair brained" proposals.

At least the Game and Wildlife people have been forced to open KP5 just a crack and probably the same thing will happen with Navassa. I suspect that they did this to avoid being slapped with a law taking control of these visits totally out of their hands. One can only hope that a new administration will appoint a better set of bureaucrats who have control over our critical concerns then the bunch of clowns presently in charge. Don't bet the farm on it though!

I just received my rebuilt prop pitch rotor from N7NV and it is so pretty I hate to put in the air. Although this of equipment was manufactured 70 years ago it now looks like something just off the production line. All new stainless steel bolts, a professional gray finish, waterproof seals and all new internal bearings. The job wasn't cheap, but the result I believe was better than any of the top of the line commercial rotors presently on the market. W3LPL uses these N7NV rebuilds for all of his big arrays. I will bring it to the next club meeting for all to see. As W4MYA sez, "Say hi"

DX de DR: (September Reports)

This column is dedicated to my mother, Arlene Eshleman who passed away today just 9 weeks short of 99. Although not the slightest bit interested in amateur radio herself she was happy to see her trouble prone teenage son spending lots of time with it which enabled her to keep a watchful eye on him. When I was only 17 she signed a parental release of liability form enabling me to join the Merchant Marines for a voyage to Turkey and Israel. Two years later she again signed another release from, this time the US Coast Guard which enabled me to go to Navassa Island and put a "new country" on the air. For a teenager these were trips of a lifetime. My best friend's mother wouldn't sign for him so he had to settle for QSO's on 3 bands with KC4AB. Jay, W4QDC was one of only a dozen station to work us on 80 meters.

Finally a few sunspots have appeared and my monthly activity reports reflect this along with the generally better conditions which come with fall.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

W4HZ: Jonathan is looking for a few members to help him tweak his 4 square RX antenna system. He and Nancy, K4VIV recently helped me put together a PowerPoint program for a future CVCC meeting.

W4MYA: Bob continues to dismantle his station, but keeps us updated on AC's progress.

WK4Y: Roy and Kyle are only 3 weeks away from their PJ4E adventure with Roy's new K-3 ready to be a part of the action.

WD4LBR: Bruce had a good month. No one told him conditions were bad and so he worked 16 new B/M's. Included in that number were two new ones on 80 towards his 5BDXCC. He got OJ0 on 80C and 30 and 20 RTTY as well as E51 on 30. YO and OJ0 were new on 80.

K4WNW: Sheila nailed OJ0 and 4X for new ones on RTTY.

W4HJ: AC continues to recover from 4 bypasses and a valve replacement. No, these weren't in one of his radios, but were some of the parts in his heart. He describes his ordeal as being like having a truck run over him. His doctor says he may be able to come home by next weekend.

W4PM: Puck made around 450 QSO's this month, many of which were in 5 contests. 40 has been his best band with evening openings to EU and the near East and morning openings to Oceania and Asia where he heard, but could not raise YB and VR2. He reports nothing above 17 meters and finds 160/80 still quite noisy. His best catch was H40MY on 40 for a new B/E. E51 and FO/N6JA were neat catches, but not new.

NW4V: Ed reports his first new B/E this season, ZK3MW on 20C. He is hoping to work H40MY on 80 before Mike sails for other entities.

W1ZA: Duke received the first order of CVCC shirts and also worked ZK3 and OJ0 on 160 for new ones.

N3UA: Sejo worked 3 new B/E's this month: TG9 and ZK3 on 30 and TY6A on 40. He is working on a CCD (current controlled dipole) for 40 meters. Tests to be reported shortly. Could this be an antenna to compete with or possibly replace Puck's Red Hot Radiator?

N2QT: Mark made 1276 QSO's in the CQ RTTY Contest and he worked OJ0B on 160 SSB. He reports that those guys had a huge signal on topband both modes.

N4DWK: Dave worked E51 and OJ0 on 30 plus the OJ0 on 17 and ZB3B on 17 SSB. 9M2 continues to elude him.

W4DR: I have been informed that my prop pitch rotor and about to be shipped from Nevada so I will be trying to assemble crew to get it back up. When that job is finished my station will be available for guest ops who want to contest. I finally worked something new, OJ0B on 160 SSB, #189 on that Band/Mode.

Oops, when I listed CVCC'ers who were at the NR4M bash I forgot at least two. My apologies to Barry and Chris who were very much in evidence especially by the BBQ pit, which could be said of quite a few of us including your columnist.

Happy Hunting,

Bob W4DR

DX de DR: (October Reports)

The FCC's announcement of a new experimental service licensed at 100 KW in a frequency range including our 40 meter band called DART blew up as quickly as a real dart into a helium balloon. The ARRL quickly got them to recognize their error and the frequency allocation got moved above 7.3 MHz. If they get too close to their band edge we could still experience interference at that power level.

Every week my weekly email DX bulletins report the same line on Marion Island's, ZS8T. That is that there is no report. You will recall that this is the same guy assigned to Bouvet Island a few years ago who did manage to make a few QSO's even though he was totally inexperienced. He was then given a year's work assignment to Marion Island and sent off with a lot of equipment and antennas with a great deal of hoopla and expectations of making that rare one available again. Now for some reason he can't communicate with his sponsors even via commercial channels. This is a really strange situation. Perhaps someday we will learn what really happened on this lonely outpost.

I spent a lot of time looking for TO5DX, Barthelmy Island on ten meters this past week to no avail although from the spots I could see that stations north, south and west of us had openings to them on ten. It would have been nice to add that new Band Entity but there will almost certainly be lots of future DXpeditioners visiting this spot in coming years.

The Willis Island group using VK9DWX did themselves proud as expected. This was another first class operation putting out excellent signals on all bands from 160 through 10 (10 and 12) to selected areas only. They did a great

job especially on RTTY and CW and they introduced a new element to the mega-DXpedition scene. They selected two new, young beginning DX'ers from a group of applicants and they each got to spend a week on the island at no cost except for their airfare to Australia. What a great way to get new blood in the ranks of DXpeditioners!

Other rare stuff. Crack operator 5T5SN is now TN5SN and we can all hope he is as active in TN as he was at 5T5. A native operator TN5MM joins him. Puck reports hearing good signals from the VU7 guys, but as the late W4ZSH famously said, "Who needs it"...it seems that W4PM didn't even call because you guessed it, he already had a 40 meter VU7. About 6 months ago it was announced that Ireland had granted 60 meter privileges to it amateurs, but until last weekend none were heard. It seemed as though each station who wanted to use the band had to apply for a special license and up until now none had been granted. Now EI3IO is quite active on 5.403.5 mHz along with one or two others.

The Game and Fish people have selected a group to activate KP5. They have shown unexpected wisdom in awarding the permit to a group, which includes K4UEE and W0GJ. These guys will see that all bands and modes are made available to the deserving sometime in January.

I just received word from my friend, W4PFM, that one of the famous DX'er from my earliest days in the hobby has passed away in Harrisonburg. I first learned to know Oscar Short as W3JNN when he was an executive at Westinghouse. He lived near Pittsburgh and was at the top of the DXCC Honor Roll on phone along with W1FH and W8GZ. In later years Oscar and Ruth retired to Churchville, Virginia and he became W4YJ. Rosalie and I visited them occasionally at that location where he still had an impressive layout. His latter years were spent at the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Home in Harrisonburg where we visited him just 6 months ago. RIP Oscar, we will miss you.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

NW4V: VK9DWX on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 10...Ed didn't need them on 30

N3UA: Sejo worked 12 new B/E's including VK9DWX on 80, 40 & 17, plus 9L1X, an all time new one, on 80 through 15, FO/M on 15 and a 5N on 30 and 15.

W4PM: faithful reporter, Puck says that 15 and 17 are really coming to life these days, but he still finds nothing on 12, 10 and 6. Puck got 14 new B/E's this month to edge out Sejo by two. His catches were spread from 160 to 15 and it was especially noted that 4 of them were on the highest band, 15. Up there he scored with 9L1X, VK9DWX, a ZC4 and FO/M. Willis Island was a new all time entity and I bet they will put their logs on LOTW at some point.

WD4LBR: Bruce reports 25 BMC's (Band Mode Countries) in October. I am not sure how many of these were new B/E's, (Band Entities) but probably most of them were. He worked Willis Island on 40 through 15 using all three modes, 9L1X on 4 bands and a 6W on 20 RTTY plus a bunch of others he didn't list.

K4WNW: Sheila reports 10 BMC's including the VK9 on 20, 15 and 17 as well as 9L1X on 15 and 20. She also got the 6W on 20 RTTY

WK4Y: Roy sent me an email after arriving at PJ4E saying that Murphy had done a number on their antennas and he suspected some of them could not be fixed. I am sure we will get a detailed account of he and Kyle's adventures at a future meeting or posting. They were worked in the contest by club members on 80 through 15, and heard on 10.

W4DR: At last something new to report VK9DWX on RTTY. It took me over 2 hours to get my first RTTY QSO on 17 meters. The next morning I worked them in 2 minutes on 30 meters. Also EI3IO was a new one on 60 meters.

73 Bob W4DR

October Program

Ken, K4ZW, president of PVRC came down to make an appeal for entries in Sweepstakes this year. This is the 75th Diamond Anniversary of this ARRL sponsored event. Last year the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) beat out the PVRC by a score of 19,142,808 to 18,012,122. They were aided by the fact that they had 32 more entries than PVRC did. Club scores include both the CW and SSB weekends. Please enter SS this year and help PVRC obtain a victory in this Diamond Anniversary year. If you can't make a big effort give it the time you have. No entry is too small. Try both weekends. Rumor has it that W4PM will even do an S&P effort in the SSB weekend!

November Contest Calendar

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 1
IPARC Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 1 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 1
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 1 to 1200Z, Nov 2
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 1 to 0300Z, Nov 3
IPARC Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 2 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 2
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 2 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Nov 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 4
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 7
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 8 to 1300Z, Nov 9
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 8 to 1200Z, Nov 9
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 8 to 0200Z, Nov 9
CQ-WE Contest	1900Z, Nov 8 to 0500Z, Nov 9
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 9
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Nov 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 14
ARRL EME Contest 0000Z,	Nov 15 to 2359Z, Nov 16
JT Hamradio-50 Anniversary DX Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 15
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 15 to 1000Z, Nov 16
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 15 to 0700Z, Nov 16
Feld Hell Sprint	1800Z-2100Z, Nov 15
RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 15 to 0100Z, Nov 16
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 15 to 0300Z, Nov 17
EU PSK63 QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 20
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 21
YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 21
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 22 to 1200Z, Nov 23
SKCC Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Nov 26
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Nov 26 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 28
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30

Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

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Permission was received from Bruce Horn to use his contest calendar. It can be found by following links on www.contesting.com.

This is a big contest month with both the CW and SSB Sweepstakes weekends and ending up with the CQWW DX CW contest at the end of the month! There's even the WAE RTTY for the RTTY aficionados in our group. Sending QTC's is an interesting part of this one. The smaller contests like the UR DX, the OK/OM DX and the LZ DX contests can also provide some fun and good contest practice. DON'T FORGET THE ARRL SS CW THIS WEEKEND!

Contests, Contests, Contests – September / October 2008 (CVCC Members & Friends)

<u>Call</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>Mult.</u>	<u>Points</u>
N3UA	SAC CW	SOLP	45	33	2,277
K4WNW	CQWWRTTY	SOLP	352	110/79/43	167,040
N3UA	CQWWRTTY	SOSB20LP	95	15/39/13	16,000
W4PK	CQWWRTTY	SOHP	1,154	211/122/79	1,163,076
W4PM	CAQP CW	SOHP	204	54	30,248
N3UA	CAQP Mix	SOLP	153	43	18,748
W4PM	OC DX CW	SOHP	21	14	1,484
W4PM	BWQP CW	SOHP	443	N/A	443 (Should be good for "3peat" 1 st place in NA)
W4PM	CQWSSB	SOSB40HP	175	82/24	50,046
W4DR	CQWSSB	SOHP	20	17/12	1,450
KG4W	CQWSSB	SOHP	374	218/73	303,513
N2QT	CQWSSB	SOHP	668	344/104	817,152
W4PK	CQWSSB	SOHP	198	141/59	112,800
W4MYA	CQWSSB	SOHP	655	283/86	666,783

Scores for PVRC 5,000,000 Award

Effective with the CQWW SSB DX contest next weekend, members who want credit for their scores towards PVRC's 5 Million award must submit their score via the new web page at <http://www.pvrc.org/5M/index.php> Use the "Submit Score" link at the top of the page. In the past scores were collected from 3830, PVRC reflector, or by members' direct submissions. We are no longer going to collect scores from 3830 or the club reflector. The change is being made in order to streamline the collection process and reduce the administrative burden of the program. Thanks for your cooperation and best of luck as we launch into the prime of the fall contest season. Go PVRC!
73 Ken K4ZW

CVCC Recipients of PVRC 5,000,000 Award

NW4V – Initial award - 5 Million
N3UA – Initial award - 5 Million
K2WK – Endorsement - 10 Million
WA4PGM – Endorsement - 20 Million
WK4Y – Endorsement - 25 Million
W4MYA – Endorsement - 100 Million
Congratulations!

Member News

W4DR, Bob: I am happy to report that the results of Rosalie's round of anti-cancer treatment was very good even exceeding her doctor's expectations. She will not need another PET scan till next April and will only have one Rituxan treatment (a maintenance dose) in early December. Thanks for all of your expressions of support.

W4DR, Bob: Got Kyle/Roy on 3 bands in the CQWW SSB contest, but the 10 meter operator must have had poor rx conditions as I called him 50 times and he continued to CQ in my face...line noise? Mainly I was looking for TO5DX on 10 which I never found. Bob

K4WNW, Sheila: (her comments from the CQWW RTTY Test) Great way to earn DXCC in one weekend. I worked 110 countries and had a lot of fun. Love the "enter sends message" feature with N1MM.

W4HJ, A.C.: I would like to thank all who called, sent cards, visited, or said a prayer for me when I had surgery last month. Since then I have been back in the Hospital for 4 days to get my heart regulated (it was beating way to fast with flutter) kind of like an aurora signal. I'm doing well now at home and walking almost a half-mile a day. Many thanks again and hope to make the November meeting.

KG4W, Ed: (his comments from the CQWW SSB contest) Been QRT since August. Nice to get back in the swing. Did almost all S&P & did not have to use my real voice very much! 73 de Ed KG4W

N3UA, Sejo: Here is what I have done this month:

- Played for few hours CaQP, JARTS RTTY and CQWW SSB.
- Tested 40m CCD antenna. It performed very well - will prepare a presentation on this.
- Found Hi-Mound MK-706 paddle
- Received QSL cards I designed and ordered last month.

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!

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.