



599 VA - . - . - . - . - . - October 2008

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Meeting Notice:

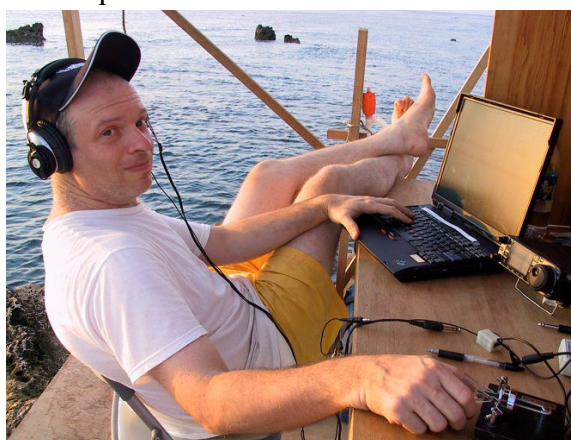
The October meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at St Martin's Episcopal Church, 9000 St. Martin Lane, Richmond, Va. 23294. The pre-meeting social and dinner will be at 5:30 P.M. at the Golden Corral, Gaskins Road and West Broad Street.

Program:

Bob, W4DR, will show a video of the BS7H 2007 DXpedition.



Bob, W6RGG on Rock 4



James, 9V1YC on 20 mtrs 4 May

Photos from BS7H web page

Random Skip by W4DR

The 160 meter band became a real DX band sometime in the mid 1970's when it was popularized by the late great W1BB. Stew Perry got the first DXCC in the mid 70's after years of promoting the band and encouraging its use. My top band DXCC was issued in December of 1977 and was #9. By this time the use of LORAN was fading and we were permitted more spectrum as well as higher power levels. Since that time the band has become universal and I am not aware of any DXCC entities which do not authorize use of 160 meters. To the best of my knowledge there are only six DXCC entities, which have never been workable by anyone on top band. They are Pagalu (3C0), Yemen, North Korea, Crozet Island, Glorioso Island and the South Sandwich Islands. This means that someone could have around 330 plus a handful of deleted countries if they never missed anything and were active from the mid 70's. If you go to the ARRL web site, click on Operating Activities, click on Awards, click on DXCC you can then see all of the accredited totals by band and mode. Most of the totals in the top ten on 160 include about ten deleted countries and until very recently W4ZA was in the top spot with 323, followed by K1ZM 320, W8LRL 318, W4DR 317, VE1ZZ 315 and the top European at 304 was ON4UN placing #7. Now suddenly OK1RD has appeared as the world leader in the ARRL 160 DXCC standings with 326 confirmed and credited. Although I do not know OK1RD personally I know that he is a very technically proficient guy who also has excellent resources (translation money) at his disposal. He has written of his remote control receiving and transmitting setup, probably the best in the world or at least rivaling K9DX who has a remote 9 circle antenna system. RD certainly has the

ability to hear and perhaps work stuff most of us only dream of. Although as I pointed out most of the DXCC entities have been worked some of them have not been on the air for many years. These facts make it extremely unlikely that a "sleeper" will suddenly appear and rise to the top of the pile on 160. Today's technology using the internet and the ability to remotely control stations anywhere in the world makes it possible to "work" stations which may not be possible from your own DXCC entity location. I can only hope that these technologies are not being used to corrupt our sport. I remember years ago a N4 who was unknown to the 160 DX fraternity suddenly appeared at the top of the DXCC 160 list. It was later found that he had a source of Gus Browning dxpedition QSL's bearing the stamp of the QSL manager who by that time was deceased. Gus was also a silent key and his logs were long gone so the cards looked legitimate to the ARRL DXCC desk. Eventually it came to light that this guy had credit for 160 DXCC entities that no one else in the world had worked. He disappeared from the list. Sports medicine has made it possible for athletes to gain unfair advantage...lets hope that our modern technology doesn't spoil our own amateur radio sports of DX'ing and contesting.

Bob W4DR

DX de DR: (August Reports)

The 2007 DXCC Yearbook is back from the printers and mailing to all active DXCC members who are also ARRL members begins next week. All others may obtain a copy for \$7 postpaid. This edition is the longest ever and should make great reading while we mainly just dream about DX anyhow. But there are a few interesting operations promised for this fall. KM9D and girlfriend, KF4TUG will sail their boat to H40MY very soon. This pair usually puts on a fine operation. From Oct 16-27 a group including my friend and fellow 60 meter DX'er, W8GEX will be on from FJ. This newest DXCC entity has been pretty well represented on the bands except for 10 meters and this should provide a great chance for that as well as maybe 60 meters if Joe could swing it. Also beginning in early October is VK9DWX from Willis by a great group of DXpeditioners. A real opportunity to pickup needed B/E's or modes, which for me will be RTTY. Our friends at USFWS are allowing a single group to visit KP5 sometime between Oct and Dec. I am not certain if we should thank them or give them a rotten egg for making this easily accessible island unavailable to would be DXpeditioners for 15 years. Perhaps we should make nice to them in hopes that they will open Navassa up. There will be several stations on from VU7 in October. In the less certain category are two greatly anticipated operations: Petrus, ZS8T has been on Marion Island for almost 5 months without getting on the air. Although he has another 7 months on the island I wouldn't bet on a qso with him and we are still waiting for Glorioso this fall.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS (not many!)

W4PM: By far our most active member. Puck had 400 QSO's in August with 300 in the WAE and Ohio QP. All of these netted him only one new B/E, 4O3A on 15. He does report EU openings on 15 and weak ones on 10 as well. 30 meters is the best band during our evenings with good signals from the Pacific like FO, FW and ZL Nothing heard on 6.

W4TNX: John is finally back on the air and caught a rare early August transatlantic opening on 6 working CT, CU and CT3. EA was heard but not worked

WD4LBR: Bruce worked BT1OH on 20 RTTY & SSB as well as UN7PBY on 30. He made several trips to DR's place to upgrade my computer and logging program. K4WNW: Sheila nailed the BT1 on RTTY as well. Working China on digital with no amplifier and a wire antenna during the bottom of the cycle is pretty amazing!

Congratulations to our dynamic duo couple.

W4MYA: Bob didn't send in a report, but he was spotted at NR4M's open house sporting a fresh haircut and neatly trimmed facial hair.

WK4Y: Roy is busy putting his K3 kit together and hopes to have it operational in time to take to Bon Aire along with Kyle for a contest dxpedition. These little radios are ideal for this type of operation as they are super light and have great receivers. W4DR: For the first time in many months I didn't get a single new B/E, Grid or Band Mode Entity.

73

Bob "DX de DR"

September Program

Rick, AB4U, presented a slide show travelogue of his trip and mini-DXpedition to Belize. Great photos, great stories, extremely interesting stuff! Thanks Rick!

October Contest Calendar

RSGB 21/28 mHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 1
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 3
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	1400Z, Oct 3 to 0200Z, Oct 5
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 4
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5
International HELL-Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Oct 4 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 5 (40m)
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 4
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4 to 2159Z, Oct 5
UBA ON Contest, 6m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 5
432 mHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 9 10-10 Int.
10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 10
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB	1400Z, Oct 10 to 0200Z, Oct 12
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Oct 11 and 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 11 and 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 12 0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12 1600Z-1959Z, Oct 11 1600Z, Oct 11 to 0500Z, Oct 12 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 12
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 11
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 12
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 12
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 17
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 19
ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 19
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1459Z, Oct 19
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
PODXS 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint	2000 local, Oct 18 to 0200 local, Oct 19
Feld Hell Sprint	2200Z-2400Z, Oct 18
50 mHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Oct 18 to 0300Z, Oct 19
Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 19
UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 20
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 20 to 2400Z, Oct 24
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 22
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Oct 22
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26
10-10 Int. Fall Contest	0001Z, Oct 25 to 2359Z, Oct 26
Microwave Fall Sprint	0600 local - 1200 local, Oct 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 31

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

Revision Date: September 10, 2008

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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.

There are some very interesting ones here. The WAG, Stew Perry Topband Challenge, and CAQP are lots of fun as well as the BIG ONE for you SSB guys – CQWW SSB (see Kyle’s info under Member News). There’s some RTTY in there too!

INVITATION TO BWQP (Bill Windle QSO Party sponsored by the FOC):

All are invited to participate in the BWQP, which runs for the 24 hour period from 0000z to 2359z on Saturday October 18, 2008. Call *CQ BW* from 015 to 040 kHz on all bands, excluding the WARC bands. The minimum exchange is RST, name, and FOC number (non-members will only send RST and name). However, feel free to engage in longer QSOs if you so desire. FOC members may want to add FOC in their CQs from time to time to indicate to non-members that they are a member. Try something like this: CQ BW de KZ5D FOC. After it is over, you can send in an activity report, but it is not required. Members are invited to report QSO totals and total FOC QSOs, counted once per band; use this format: 125/97, indicating a total of 125 QSOs, of which 97 were with FOC members. Non-members will report total QSOs with FOC members, counted once per band. Send in your activity report to <kz5d@aol.com> no later than one week after the event. A brief report will be published in the *News Sheet* and a fuller report, including members’ and non-members’ comments, will be published in *FOCUS*. All non-members who submit their totals will also receive a copy of the results and some information about FOC.

Contests, Contests, Contests - September 2008 (CVCC members)

<u>Call</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>Mult.</u>	<u>Points</u>
W4PM	YODX CW	SOSB40HP	42	27	5,913
W4PM	TNQP CW	SOLP	67	56	11,256
W4PM	ARQP CW	SOLP	3	3	18 (I couldn't find many to work!)
W4PM	SAC CW	SOHP	98	58	12,644
W4PM	TXQP CW	SO	178	119	74,046
W4PM	ARRL				
	VHFQP CW	SOSB6LP	11	5	55 (I'm a real contender on VHF!)

No other scores reported. W4MYA was heard in the ARRL VHF QSO Party. If you want to see scores by anyone other than W4PM – send them in! Is everyone else completely inactive? Is this a contest club or not?

Member News:

W1ZA: Here’s a photo from a recent get away trip over to Chincoteague (IOTA NA-083)



Editor’s Note – Great photo Duke! How about a trip here for the IOTA contest? We could do as Multi/Single Mobile.

WA4PGM: Team PJ4E will operate from K2NG's place on the island of Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. CVCC members WA4PGM and WK4Y will operate with a group of 6 other operators. Plans are to operate the CQWW SSB Contest in the Multi-Multi category. Operators include K0RAY, K4EJ, K5GS, K6AM, N0VD, WA4PGM, WK4Y. QSL direct to WA4PGM, all PJ4E logs are uploaded to LoTW and eQSL.

<http://www.wa4pgm.us/PJ4/2008/>



Here's the 2007 Team PJ4E. Sitting in front WZ8P, N0VD, standing in front K6AM, in back W0CN, WA4PGM, WK4Y.

WA4PGM: Wanted - Operators for the 2010 ARRL DX SSB or CW. If you have any interest please let me know ASAP. Several operators have shown interest and space is running out. Questions? wa4pgm@nelsoncable.com

W4PM: Sadly, I report the passing of Judy's Mom on September 11, 2008. She was 99 years old, had a good long life, and died peacefully here at home in the presence of her family.

W4HJ, AC's status de W4MYA

As you know AC recently underwent open-heart surgery. Here's a note from Bob as 9/27/08:

I am happy to report AC called me on the phone tonight. Asked him how he felt and he asked me if I got the license plate number of the truck that hit him? He is out of ICU. He is now in what they call a "step down unit" which he thinks is on the 4th floor and in room #18. He will go into a regular room when they deem him ready. He is eating the hospital food and Jo is bringing in applesauce, fruit and some sweets for the nurses. The doctor estimates he will go home in 7 days, so like next weekend. AC says he is not strong enough for have visitors yet. He will let me know. I will put out that word when it comes. He does appreciate all of the cards he has gotten. More when I know more. cu/mya

We wish AC a very speedy recovery!

CVCC Shirts de W1ZA

I have a promise from the stitcher to have shirts ready for the next meeting. Those who have not ordered have a look at the product and place your orders for the next batch. Blue or white, L or XL, \$25 each plus a buck or two to help me with the set up cost.

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!

W1ZA, Duke: For Sale - Shure dynamic mic, Model 58B, XLR connection. Normally used for stage work. I used it as a desk mic but recently replaced it with a condenser mic.

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. In addition a Vibroplex Iambic Presentation Paddle is offered for sale at \$150.00 firm

N3UA, Sejo: WANTED- Looking for paddle Hi-Mound MK-706

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.