



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - September 2008

## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

---

### Meeting Notice:

The September meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 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:

Rick, AB4U, will be providing the program at the September meeting...a Travelogue of his trip to and operation from Belize in October 2007. He will have photos and logs, etc.

### Random Skip by W4DR

So much to write about and so little time. The Beijing Olympics are complete and were a win of sorts for the USA although China had way more gold than we did. What a shame that these games weren't held during the winter DX season. Our friends in the far east report that the horrible OTHR (Over the Horizon Radar) also know as the "Chinese Dragon" was turned off for the entire period of the games. This cold war relic pretty much destroys 160 in the far east and was responsible for ruining chances for East Coast QSO's with the recent JT1ZW (K4ZW) and BV6 (W8UVZ & W9ZR). Both of these operations held great promise of once in a lifetime opportunity for top band QSO's.

Another interesting news item. Our friends at the USFWS (Fish and Wildlife Service) have sent letters to everyone who in the past 11 years has asked for permission to visit Desecheo, KP5. They are going to give these groups 6 weeks to prepare a proposal that meets their, "stringent requirements". Probably something like you can't kill any flies or mosquitoes. The single group which has the best proposal in the judgment of a 3 person panel of non-hams will be given at least 45 days to prepare to go to the island during the time some USFWS officials are visiting the island. As stupid as this whole thing sounds, it is better than no operation at all and I suspect that it is in response to a bill before congress forcing them to open Desecheo and Navassa to amateur radio operations. Since your editor has been to Navassa twice, KC4AB 54 and K4IA/KC4 69, I had the thought that perhaps these clowns might make a similar proposal for Navassa and the winning group might invite me to join them as someone who knows the island. Don't hold your breath! It is strange that two American islands both easily accessible and less than 1,000 miles from our shores should rank with N. Korea, Yemen and BS7 on the most needed DXCC list. I believe the USFWS are also taking over our N. Pacific islands (KH1,3,4,5,7 and 9) so we can look forward to these becoming very rare as well.

The long expected beginning of Cycle 24 has been delayed again, sounds like the Glorioso operation. Now some solar observers are noting that global temperatures are beginning to drop and there seems to be a relation between solar activity and, read low, earth temperatures. We may, in fact, be entering another ice age with few sun spots as was observed about 500 years ago. Al Gore could be wrong, but an ice age would be worse for us amateurs than global warming and think of the problems a world full of people and little means to provide heat with all of the oil and coal gone.

On August 23 a bunch of CVCC'ers including NW4V, N3UA, W1ZA, W4HJ, W4MYA, K4WNW, N2WK, WD4LBR, and yours truly (who did I forget?) went up to the NR4M open house. Whatta layout! A large L shaped building has a multi-op shack, a machine shop and a huge antique car collection. All of the transceivers are Ten-Tec with a variety of amplifiers. The antennas are spread over a 30+ acre field with a 4 square on 80, stacked 40 meter beams on a 200 footer, 4 stacked 20 meter beams on another 200 foot AB105, and more stacks for 15, 10 and 160 antennas are not finished yet. The only problem I see with this setup is that that open flat field is badly infested with poison ivy so you probably don't want to help with antennas if you are allergic to the stuff. Steve was a wonderful host with a salty old grilling guy whose slogan was "If you kill it I will grill it". We had chicken, pork and even goat meat along with slaw, baked beans, potato salad and all kinds of liquid refreshment. If he does this every year I recommend that you don't miss the event. Oh yes, lots of our more distant VA DX'ers were there like N2QT, W4DF, W4PRO, K4EU, N4NW etc. as well as a bunch of other PVRC guys including the famous K3ZO.

One last story. If you read the article, Homebrew High Adventure, 1955 Style in August QST pages 50-51 you will read the great saga of a beautiful homebuilt ham band receiver. This radio was built by 28 year old Hugh Pettis, the communications officer of the American Embassy in 1955 in Kabul, using parts ordered from Allied Radio and sent via diplomatic pouch to Afghanistan. The article stated that at that time amateur radio was not permitted in YA, but he wanted the radio so he could listen on the ham bands. A side bar of the article said that Hugh was now K3EC and a Adjunct Professor at Eastern Mennonite University where I did my pre-dental training. I asked my friend, Paul Wyse W4PFM if he knew Hugh and he said yes, quite well and that Hugh would be at Paul and Peggy's 50th wedding anniversary party, an event we were planning to attend the following Sunday. Memory told me that sometime in the mid 50's I had worked a station in Kabul (YA) so I went to my old scrapbook and sure enough there was a QSL from YA1AM dated December 1, 1955. The card was always somewhat of a mystery to me as it came via the ARRL, had no operators name or address printed on it, but was signed, "Hank". It was credited by the ARRL and was probably one of the first YA's on the bands. I decided to carry the 53 year old card to Harrisonburg and see what Hugh knew about it. He knew the whole story. The operator was the second secretary of the American Embassy, Arnum Myers, who would later become the US ambassador to Japan and Lebanon. He had direct access to the King who gave him permission to operate, but instructed him to remain "low profile". Arnum's middle name was Henry and so he use Hank as his "handle" on the air. Isn't amateur radio a wonderful hobby that connects people across the world and across decades of time?

### September Contest Calendar:

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 1 to 0300Z, Sep 2
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 5
International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 5 to 2300Z, Sep 7
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 6 to 2400Z, Sep 7
Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 6
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 6
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Sep 6 and 0430Z-0459Z, Sep 6 and 0500Z-0529Z, Sep 6 and 0530Z-0600Z, Sep 6
RSGB SSB Field Day	1300Z, Sep 6 to 1300Z, Sep 7
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 6
IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	1300Z, Sep 6 to 1259Z, Sep 7
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 7
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 11
FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend	0000Z, Sep 12 to 2400Z, Sep 14
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 12
PODXS 070 Club 80m Autumn Sprint	2000 local, Sep 12 to 0200 local, Sep 13
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 13 to 2359Z, Sep 14
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 13
Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 13 to 0600Z, Sep 14 and

ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1500Z-2400Z, Sep 14
North American Sprint, SSB	1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, Sep 15
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 14
ARCI End of Summer Digital Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Sep 14
YLRL Howdy Days	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 18
NCCC Sprint	1400Z, Sep 18 to 0200Z, Sep 20
ARRL EME Contest	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 19
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0000Z, Sep 20 to 2359Z, Sep 21
Colorado QSO Party	0600 local, Sep 20 to 2400 local, Sep 21
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1000Z, Sep 20 to 0400Z, Sep 21
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1000Z, Sep 20 to 1000Z, Sep 21
CIS DX Contest	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
South Carolina QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 20 to 1200Z, Sep 21
QRP Afield	1300Z, Sep 20 to 2100Z, Sep 21
Washington State Salmon Run	1500Z-2100Z, Sep 15
	1600Z, Sep 20 to 0700Z, Sep 21 and
	1600Z-2400Z, Sep 21
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 20 to 1800Z, Sep 21
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Sep 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 22
144 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 24
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Sep 24
BCC QSO Party	1700Z-1900Z, Sep 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 26
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 27 to 2400Z, Sep 28
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Sep 27 to 1200Z, Sep 28
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 to 0200Z, Sep 28 and
	1400Z-2000Z, Sep 28
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Sep 27 (144) and
	1900Z-2100Z, Sep 27 (432)
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Sep 28
222 MHz Fall Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Sep 30

---

*Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, [WA7BNM](mailto:WA7BNM)*

*Revision Date: August 3, 2008*

*© 1998-2008 Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, All Rights Reserved*

Permission was received from Bruce Horn to use his contest calendar. It can be found by following links on [www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com).

Lots of good ones coming up this month. For you RTTY guys and gals, there's a big one – the CQWW RTTY test as well as the Russian RTTY test. For the VHFer's there are some nice contests on the schedule. Don't forget the state QSO parties. The TXQP is a lot of fun. Lots of stations to work and with their square and rectangular shaped counties some mobiles park at the intersection of 4 counties and give you a four for one! Yes, that's allowed in that one. The SAC, CIS and UBA are fun DX contests. This is a contest club. Let's contest! If nothing else, the smaller ones are good practice for big ones in which PVRC and CVCC enter the club competition fray!

## Contests, Contests, Contests - August 2008 (CVCC members)

<u>Call</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>QTC's</u>	<u>Mult</u>	<u>Points</u>
N3UA	NAQP CW	SOLP	188		53	9,964
N3UA	WAE CW	SOLP	199	199	141	56,118
N3UA	OHQP CW	SOLP	45		33	2,805
W4PM	NAQP CW	(para-sailing at the beach) ☺				
W4PM	WAE CW	SOHP	204	204	146	59,568
W4PM	OHQP CW	SOHP	91		51	9,894

You'll notice N3UA does as well or better with LP than W4PM does with HP (500 watts). Antennas trump power almost every time. Of course it would be nice to have both!

If you aren't on the list you either didn't play or you didn't let your esteemed editor know! Post your scores on 3830 at [contesting.com](http://contesting.com) and let me know you did so, OR send me the info in the above format.

### Member News:

WK4Y: I have had the K3 not quite 2 weeks. Robert Orndorff is going to help me with the building of it. I was out of town all of last week and Robert hasn't had a free weekend yet. Hopefully, it will be completed after Labor Day. I do not have the confidence to tackle it on my own. My fingers don't always work like they're supposed to, and although it is no soldering, there are a lot of small modules and parts.

KG4W: W's fancy has turned to GOLF ! Again !

W4TNX: Worked a 6m Europe/Africa opening on August 3 with CT1s, CT3, CU worked CW and SSB and EA heard but no QSO. Lots of New England and VE1s the next day.

Went deep sea fishing in XE land the next week and called "CQ" with the fishing lure - caught a 250# striped marlin within the first 1/2 hour of lines in the water, then nothing of any real consequence the rest of the week. We did catch a bunch of football-sized tuna of various "callsigns", but only one yellowfin that we ate for 3 nights! We had a few lethargic hook-ups with billfish, but most were only on for a few seconds - too much natural bait.

W4PM: Judy and I got away for a few days to Nags Head. We went para-sailing. What a hoot it is to be 1,000 feet above the water hanging from a parachute while the speedboat does lazy figure eight's below! While staying at the Blue Heron Motel, I noticed our balcony has room for a 44' rectangular loop which would face the Atlantic Ocean about 200 yards away. With a little inductive loading or perhaps tuned feeders and a tuner it might just make a dandy antenna. I'm building an Elecraft KX-1 QRP rig and will give it a try next year!



Off we go! Up, Up, and away!

Please Captain, don't cut that rope!

Gee, it's a long way down!

## **Antennas: (submitted by WK4Y)**

Here is the formula for an all band antenna that Jim, N4MXZ, has had great success with.

### **N4MXZ Zapper Antenna** **All Band Antenna**

Antenna 3/8 wave over 1/8 wave

#### **Antenna**

468 divided by frequency divided by 2 divided by 2 =  
Add together the two dimensions.

Example – 468 divided by 1.850 = 252.97297

252.97297 divided by 2 = 126.48648

126.48648 divided by 2 = 63.24324

126.48

+ 63.24

189.72 Total antenna length 189.72 feet = 94.86 feet per side

#### **Feed Line**

Example – 468 divided by 1.850 = 252.97297 feet

252.97297 divided by 2 = 126.48648

126.48648 divided by 2 = 63.24324

Total 450 Ohm feed line length = 63.24 feet

Editors Note: The feed line MUST be tuned feeders like window or ladder line to minimize losses. I use a similar antenna but mine is only 176 feet long due to space available. The extra length of this antenna should present a more acceptable load on 160 when tuned as a short dipole. I find mine does much better on 160 when tuned as an inverted “L” or “T” antenna against a ground radial system.

## **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. Broadcast quality mic preamp by Rane. XLR connectors. If anyone is interested, call or email.

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.

WA4PGM. Kyle: 23 IRC's with 31.12.2009 expiration dates for \$35, that's a saving of \$13.30.



**PVRC Events: de W1ZA (Pictures supplied by N3UA)**

Quite a few of us went up to NR4M's open house in Locust Grove. Great time seeing and talking shop with so many contesters. Steve's superb M/M contest station is almost ready to go. Multiple towers and a plush layout inside the "shack" indicate the seriousness of his operation. The barbecue pork and chicken, beans and slaw were very tasty and his hospitality was outstanding.



**Lot's of CVCCer's. How many can you find?**



**W4DR, K3ZO and N3UA (Editor's Note - Sejo, where did you get that shirt? I want one!)**



**Just a few more antennas than the W4PM antenna farm!**