



599 VA - . - . - . - April 2009

<http://www.c-v-c-c.us/>

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

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Meeting Notice:

The April meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 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.

April Program:

Election of officers for 2009-2010 term will be the main item on the agenda. The nominating committee presented the following slate at the March meeting.

President – W4PM, Puck

Secretary – NW4V, Ed

Treasurer – NK4H, Bob

In addition **Field Day 2009** plans will be discussed, as will CVCC plans for entering contests as a local club this coming year, membership, and a proposal for a new annual CVCC contesting award.

2009 DUES ARE DUE:

Our esteemed treasurer, Bob NK4H, will be collecting dues at the meeting. Bring your checkbook if you have not yet paid.

“ATTABOY”:



This month's "attaboy" goes to long time member W4MYA. Bob has been a mentor and Elmer to many of us in the club. He is "Mr. Contest" in the CVCC and has hosted numerous multi-multi operations at his world class contest station. Largely through his efforts, CVCC has won a number of gavels over the years in local club competitions. He has been a great supporter of our Field Day events. In the last few years, without his providing rigs and computers and the expertise to set them up, our field days would have been minimal at best. While Bob has been scaling back his big station over the last year or so, he hosted a multi-multi operation for the VA QSO Party this year that set a new record score for such an operation which should stand for many years to come. This virtually guaranteed another win for the CVCC in the club competition for 2009. Bob had been recognized by the club by being elected as a LIFE MEMBER, an honor awarded to very few in the club's history. It's hard to express in mere words how much we appreciate Bob's continued support of the CVCC and how much his friendship means to all of us. THANK YOU and a big "ATTABOY" Bob!

April Contest Calendar

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 3
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 4 to 2400Z, Apr 5
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 4 to 2359Z, Apr 5
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 4 to 1500Z, Apr 5
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 4 to 1600Z, Apr 5
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 4 to 0500Z, Apr 5 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 5
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 4 to 1800Z, Apr 5
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 5
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 6
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 7
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Apr 9 to 2359Z, Apr 19
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 10
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 11 to 1300Z, Apr 12
PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest	1200-1800 local, Apr 11
Radio Maritime Day	1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 11
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 11 to 0359Z, Apr 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 12
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 11 to 2100Z, Apr 12
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 12
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 12
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 13
222 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 14
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 15
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 17
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 18
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 18
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0559Z, Apr 18 and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 18 and 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 18 and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 18 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 18
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 18 1700Z-2000Z, Apr 18 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 18 (80m) and 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 19 (40m) and 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 19 (20-10m)
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1800Z, Apr 18 to 0500Z, Apr 19 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 19
EA-QRP CW Contest	2100Z, Apr 18 to 0500Z, Apr 19 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 19
Ontario QSO Party	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 20
YU DX Contest	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 22
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 22
SKCC Sprint	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 23
432 MHz Spring Sprint	
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	

NCCC Sprint Ladder
 SP DX RTTY Contest
 Helvetia Contest
Florida QSO Party
 Nebraska QSO Party

0230Z-0300Z, Apr 24
 1200Z, Apr 25 to 1200Z, Apr 26
 1300Z, Apr 25 to 1259Z, Apr 26
**1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26 and
 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26**
 1700Z, Apr 25 to 1700Z, Apr 26

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.

No really big ones this month, but in bold above are some state QSO parties and DX contests which your editor has found of interest in the past. They are good practice for the big ones.

Contests, Contests, Contests – March 2009 (CVCC Members & Friends)

<u>Call</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>CAT</u>	<u>QSO</u>	<u>MLT's</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ops</u>
N2QT	CQ 160 SSB	SO/A/HP	852	56/36	213,072	20.5	
W4PM	CQ 160 SSB	SO/A/HP	177	54	24,840	4.5	
W4ML @ W4MYA	VAQP	MM/MIX	3,269	283	1,277,962		K2WK,KF7NN,KI4UDF,N3UA, N4DEN,NK4H,W1ZA,W4HJ, W4MYA,W4TNX,WK4Y,WS4WW
W4W/M	VAQP	MOBILE/MIX	780	119	185,609		20 WA4PGM,KA4RRU VA Mobile
NW4V @ W1ZA	VAQP	SOAB/SSB/HP	1,004	155	156,740		
W4PM	VAQP	SOAB/CW/HP	541	123	135,800	20	
K4OSO	VAQP	SOAB/CW/LP	202	69	28,583		
WD4LBR	VAQP	SOAB/MIX/LP	291	92	28,428		
W4PFM	VAQP	SOAB/MIX/LP	217	86	19,162		
KG4W	VAQP	SOAB/CW/LP	164	54	18,266		
K4WNW	VAQP	SOAB/MIX/LP	128	66	8,712		
W4DR/M	VAQP	MOBILE	12	4	858		
N4CFL/M	VAQP	MOBILE	10	2	824		
W4DR	VAQP	SO?/LP	14	4	556		
Total CVCC					1,861,500		
KG4W	WPX SSB	SOAB/A/HP	779	482	916,764	25	
WK4Y	WPX SSB	SO80/A/HP	341	182	126,672	5.5	

With the record breaking performance of the W4ML multi-multi operation plus the help of a number of other CVCC operations, the 1.8 million points will be hard to beat in the VAQP club competition this year. I count 21 CVCC'ers active in this one. That's got to be some sort of record, at least in my recollection of activity in the last few years. Hopefully that's a sign of good things to come in the future!

**A Pictorial of some of the CVCC action in the Virginia QSO Party
W4W/M (WA4PGM)**

Follow this link for the W4W full story - <http://www.wa4pgm.us/VQP/2009/>



The Vehicle



The Rig



Mike KA4RRU operating

NW4V @ W1ZA

**Photo's on this page courtesy of
WA4PGM
W1ZA
K2WK
N3UA**



Ed going strong

W4ML @ W4MYA



Random Skip by W4DR:

If you attended our last meeting you saw George, KF7NN receive the DX Champion Plaque. He scored a double win with top numbers of new entities worked as well as the highest percentage of needed band entities 249 and 9% respectively. Since returning to active membership status George has really made his presence felt. Not only did he operate as a part of the high scoring W4ML team in the VAQP without his pre-contest antenna and radio repairs it is doubtful that such a successful M/M operation would have been possible. Special mention should be made of the other high scorers on the DX Totals list. Barry, KF4QQY was the only other operator to top 200. He came in with 211. Third through fifth places were closely bunched by N3UA, W4PM and WD4LBR all around 150. Sejo was number two in the percentage race with 7.4 %, just 1.6 behind George. If we ever get any sunspots it is anyone's guess who next years winner(s) may be.

Paul Wyse, W4PFM and a whole list of DX calls, has a grandson, Nathan who is a close friend of my grandson, Gabe. The two boys see each other quite regularly. You may recall my writing about the small transmitter Gabe and I were making. Paul told me in a recent schedule that Nathan wanted to build a transmitter with him like Gabe and his grandfather were doing. Paul says he doesn't have a junk box so he has ordered a kit. It's a little early for these guys to obtain a license at age seven/eight, but I see the real possibility of two third generation hams from our families. Paul's son, Curtis is licensed as is my son Curtis.

Speaking of the transmitter project, with the help of a few parts from N4CH and WB4ZOT, I am proud to say that the little rig is putting out 10 watts on 3525 using the same crystal I used for my first QSO as W4QCW on January 10, 1950. I don't know who was more excited, me or Gabe when we saw the power meter needle move and heard the signal on my FT1000. Gabe didn't want to stop there, he insisted that we try the BC-455 receiver which has been sitting on the basement shelf for 3 or 4 years. I bought it at the Virginia Beach hamfest, but never plugged in the little home built power supply attached to the back of the radio where a dynamotor was originally mounted. To our great amazement with only 2 feet of wire attached to it there were amateur and broadcast signals coming in. Just think this little radio is at least 60 years old with original tubes and capacitors in it. It tunes 6 to 9 mHz. Wil, WB4ZOT recently gave me a near mint BC-454 which covers 3 to 6 mHz. It has not been converted to amateur use, but only 4 small parts, plus a tuning knob will get it up and running. With my original J-38 key I will be have my original station up and running.

I have been off of 40 meters for nearly a year. First it was a damaged prop pitch rotor. I waited months to get a rebuilt one. When it finally came more time was consumed till I got son Curtis and Peter, KF4VIZ to install the rotor. At dusk Curtis discovered that the RG-11 soft line at the top of the tower was damaged. Finally last week Curtis called and said, "Dad, Saturday looks like a good day, I'll come and install the line". W4ML in the VAQP was the first QSO with the newly activated antenna. Maybe with the foreign broadcasters leaving 7100-200 I will finally be able to work a 4S7 on 40 SSB or maybe even a BY, two countries which have evaded me on that band/mode. This blessed event is supposed to happen on March 29.

It looks like the beloved USFWS is loosening up on allowing amateur operations on some of the "fragile" island possessions of the USA. In October Midway Island will be activated for the first time in ten years. It is #24 on the need list and will be a K5D style operation for 10 days. Since W8GEX is one of the operators I feel sure that unlike K5D this operation will include 60 meters. I have dubbed Joe, W8GEX, the Stew Perry of 60 meters. You older hams may remember that it was Stew Perry, W1BB who promoted operation and especially DX'ing on 160 meters back in the 50's and 60's when many of the commercial rigs did not include that band and only a few countries authorized it. Like 60 meters it was plagued with strange non-amateur signals (LORAN) Now I would guess that within the next several years there will be stations reaching the century mark of countries on that band.

Enough rambling for this month...Isn't amateur radio a wonderful hobby!

Bob W4DR

DX de DR (March Reports):

Guess what, I have my own web site. Kyle set it up for me. The address is: <http://w4dr.110mb.com>. It has a good bit of the stuff that I gave recently at the CVCC and later at the DDXG meetings. Every Sunday morning I keep a schedule with some of my Harrisonburg friends who are now scattered from Florida to Indiana all the while keeping a watchful eye on the W4ML node for interesting DX that needs working. To my surprise I got a "T" talk from old friend, Dow, WA4HMX. We agreed to meet on 75 to chat after the schedule and before I had to leave for church. He seems to have an ideal mountain QTH and gets out a good signal all across the spectrum. There has been lots of talk recently about the lack of sunspots and also about global warming. I recently read that a long period of a quiet sun could result in just the opposite with the earth cooling with the polar caps increasing in size rather than shrinking. Probably it is best not to sell your beachfront property even if Al Gore is recommending that you do so.

If you need JT on some of the "middle bands" April 21-28 will provide a good opportunity with a group of JA's going there. I say middle bands because we no have no common darkness with Mongolia and the lack of solar activity means no high band openings. The recent operation by a group of UA's from JT1CO's place was sadly also slightly late in the season for a shot at them on 160. We had about ten minutes of common darkness both morning and evening, but propagation guru, W4ZV says at least a 30 minute band of darkness is needed for these over the pole contacts to happen. I suspect this is true, but can't explain why. I do know that this year was the best ever for top band QSO's with zones 18 and 19 on both our morning and evening paths. Another semi-rare one is YK1BA by N5FF who apparently has dual US/Syrian citizenship. He will again be active from Syria until April 12 mainly on 30, 40 and 80. He uses all three modes. QSL to his home QTH.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

W4PFM: Paul has just erected his 60 foot crankup tower and hopes to have his rotor and beam in place within a week or so. He loves his new K-3. What's next? Maybe an amplifier...

NW4V: Ed is in hot pursuit of VK9LA on 80 and 17 and VK9GMW anywhere as he needs Mellish as a all time new one. The Mellish group is supposed to be on till April 10, so I would bet he succeeds.

W4PM: Puck made 739 QSO's in March most of which were in contests as usual. VK9LA, Lord Howe, was a new all time one and the QSO was made through an EU pileup on 40 cw. His other new ones were PY0/F on 80 and 30 plus an EA9 on 30. Puck needs only ten 10-meter confirmations to have 5BDXCC entirely on LOTW and only 3 on any band to get a 200 DXCC sticker via LOTW. He wishes everyone used LOTW. Maybe they will when it gets easier for us computer illiterates to use.

WD4LBR: Bruce got VK9LA on 20 (yes it was good) 40 and 30 on all 3 modes for an all time new one along with 27 other BMC's. Especially notable was XWIB on 20 RTTY.

K4WNW: In addition to running DDXG and very well I might add, Sheila also worked the XW1 on RTTY and ZL7T on 17 cw. She will have a forced vacation following some surgery and promises to get her fair share of air time. Look for some big numbers from her over the next few months.

WK4Y: Roy was pleased with R1ANB in Antarctica on 30.

W4DR: Not a new anything, but RW0CN and V63PR where good catches on 160.

N4CFL: Rosalie got a kick out of supplying W4ML with 8 mobile QSO's in the VAQP from 8 different counties/cities while returning grandson, Gabe to Charlottesville.

N3UA: Sejo reports worked VK9LA on 20m (WPX Phone) as an all time new country. Also earlier this month worked few new BEs: D4 on 17m, PS0F on 15m, V63 on 30m ,VK on 80m , P43 on 12m

Don't give up, Bob, W4DR

Member News:

WA4PGM, Kyle:

April 10-18 - Flying to Las Vegas, driving to Grand Canyon, then Moab, Utah. Will have the Elecraft K2 with 40/20 meters hamsticks in the mobile and a 33' telescoping fiberglass mast and wire for the evenings.

May 2-3 - Mobile trip during MARAC Contest, route undecided.

<http://www.marac.org/contests.htm>

June 20-21 - Mobile trip during the West Virginia QSO Party.

<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/2009wvqprules.html>

June 27-28 - Field Day!

July 10-20 - Operating VP9I during IARU, NAQP RTTY, and CQ VHF.

PJ2T - Curacao - Operators needed for the 2009 CQWW DX SSB. So far, W0CG, W9JUV, WA4PGM confirmed.

TI5N - Costa Rica - Operators needed for the 2010 ARRL DX SSB. W0CN, KA4RRU, W4DC, WA4PGM confirmed at this time.

Contact WA4PGM for more details for these trips.

AB4U, Rick:

I did a little hunting and pouncing during the ARRL SSB DX contest. It was not an all out effort because I had a lot of other things going on that weekend. However, I did work 65 different countries...and a couple of new ones to me... over the two days. I did not do enough to make it worth submitting a log. My best moment was following the propagation on Saturday afternoon and figuring out that 20M was probably about ready to open over the poles. AB4U was one of the first in the east coast to work a few JA's just as the band opened. It was neat to be able to figure out what was likely to happen next with propagation. My station is TS-850s, 100 watts, 3 el Yagi up 10M. Not much else going on Ham Radio wise but I am reorganizing the radio shack to be more useable.

I have been working on refurbishing a couple of TS-830s...just for the fun of it. And I operate HF SSB mobile. Two weeks ago I had a nice chat with a European Russian [near Moscow] as I drove down I-85 to the Florida panhandle. That is probably my best mobile DX lately. FT-857, 100 watts, Little Tarheel I. The contact was on 20M SSB.

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 still have the Vibroplex Iambic presentation key for sale. \$150

W1ZA, Duke: If any target shooters are interested, I have a bunch of very good reloading tools for the 243. Send me an email and I'll send the list.

N2QT, Mark:

For Sale:

TS940SAT with autotuner, both cw filters, hand mic, computer interface. Works well, served as backup \$850

TS940S, with hand mic and computer interface but no tuner or extra filters. Works well (backup to the backup) \$650

Matching speaker SP940 \$100

Complete Heath station

HR10B (with calibrator), DX60B, HG10B, second HR10B for spare parts, and Dowkey 110VAC antenna relay and speaker (non-Heath). Copy of manuals on CD. \$300

Mark N2QT - 434 525 2921 (near Lynchburg)

Another source of RFI!

The "*Daily Mail*", a British Newspaper, reports that a local manufacturer has sold 10,000 "rogue bras" that are causing a unique and unprecedented problem, not to the wearers but to the public at large. Apparently the support wire in these bras has been made out of a kind of copper alloy originally designed for use in fire alarms. When this copper comes into contact with nylon and body heat, it produces static electricity which, in turn, is interfering with local television and radio broadcasts. If you've been noticing some unknown noise lately at your station, check with the wife to see if she has made any new undergarment purchases lately.