



599 VA - . - . - . - August 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 August meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 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.

August Program

Kyle, WA4PGM will give a presentation of his trips to Bonaire as PJ4E. He has a small PowerPoint to show as well as a video of the 2007 trip. The whole thing will probably take approximately an hour. This should be a very interesting program as well as very informative for those of us who have never had the opportunity to work a DX contest from such an exotic place.

CVCC Membership Certificates

These are ready and will be given out to all current members at the August meeting. Annual membership cards are in the works. They were all designed and ready to print when a power flux took my computer down and I lost the file. Next month for sure!

Puck, W4PM

CVCC Field Day

Here's information from the report submitted to ARRL by Bob W4MYA. Thanks to Bob for a job well done!

Call Used: W4ML GOTA Station Call: W4PM ARRL/RAC Section: VA

Class: 2A

Participants: 50 Club/Group Name: Central Virginia Contest Club

Power Source(s): Generator

Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power 200

Media Publicity 100

Set-up in Public Place 100

Information Booth 100

NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC 100

W1AW Field Day Message 100

Site Visit by invited elected official 100

Site Visit by invited served agency official 100

Youth participation 40

Youth operators=2

Youth participants=2

GOTA Bonus 760
Submitted via the Web 50
Educational activity 100
Total Bonus Points 1,850

CW Digital Phone Total
Total QSOs 1293 0 1342
Total Points 2586 0 1342 3928 Claimed Score = 7,856

Editor's note: Adding the QSO points to the bonus points we had a total of 9,706 points.

August Contest Calendar

TARA Grid Dip Shindig	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 1
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 1 to 2359Z, Aug 2
International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend QSO Contest	0001Z, Aug 1 to 2359Z, Aug 9
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 1
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 1
ARRL UHF Contest	1800Z, Aug 1 to 1800Z, Aug 2
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 1 to 0600Z, Aug 2
RSGB RoPoCo 2	0700Z-0900Z, Aug 2
SARL HF Phone Contest	1300Z-1630Z, Aug 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 4
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 7
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 8 to 2359Z, Aug 9
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 8 to 0400Z, Aug 9 and 1600Z-2359Z, Aug 9
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Aug 9
MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Aug 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 12
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Aug 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 14
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z-0800Z, Aug 15 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 15 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 16
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 15
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 15 to 2400 local, Aug 16
Russian District Award Contest	0800Z, Aug 15 to 0800Z, Aug 16
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest	1200Z, Aug 15 to 1200Z, Aug 16
Feld Hell Sprint	1300Z-1600Z, Aug 15
ARCI Silent Key Memorial Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Aug 15
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 15 to 0600Z, Aug 16
New Jersey QSO Party	2000Z, Aug 15 to 0700Z, Aug 16 and 1300Z, Aug 16 to 0200Z, Aug 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 17
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 21
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 22 to 2200Z, Aug 23
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 26
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Aug 26
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 28
ALARA Contest	0600Z, Aug 29 to 1159Z, Aug 30
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 29 to 1159Z, Aug 30
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 29 to 1200Z, Aug 30
Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 29 to 0200Z, Aug 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.

There are some really good ones this month. Check out the NAQP this weekend, WAE DX on August 8th and the YO DX on the 29th. The SSB version of the NAQP is on the 15th and for you RTTY fans the SARTG WW RTTY contest around the same time. There are a number of state QSO parties too. If you haven't had any contest fun since Field Day (which is not really a contest) give some of these a try to keep your contesting skills up to date!

DX de DR (by NW4V)

While Bob, W4DR, is on vacation he asked me to fill in writing the July DX de DR column. I am sure after reading my report you will greatly anticipate Bob's return for the August edition. I know I will! Here goes:

The Aussie DXpedition to Norfolk Island, VK9NI, is wrapping up at the end of July. This has been a fairly large effort with good band representation and the most activity from Norfolk since the passing of DX Hall of Fame'er Jim Smith, VK9NS.

News of the French expedition to Glorioso continues to be fluid. According to their website the operation is now scheduled for September. Stay tuned for final date announcement. As a follow up on DR's comment last month regarding the demise of VY1JA, several Alaskan ops have committed to activate Yukon for the SSB portion of this year's Sweepstakes. Their length of operation should be Nov. 20-26.

In addition to the long awaited Conway and Midway operations this October, the dynamic duo of AA7JV and HA7RY will be activating Chesterfield Island in late November. If they do as good a job as they did on Mellish Reef this past spring, we should all be in for a low band fiesta!

Our very own WA4PGM, Kyle, was in Bermuda during July and gave out quite a few 6 meter contacts to the deserving. This includes a fair contingent of CVCC'ers! I'm sure Kyle had a great time handing out the contacts!

Individual Reports:

W4DR – The German activation of St. Barts with TO8YY led Bob to a new band entity on 10 meters. Quite a rare occurrence for the Dr. of DX! They also provided Bob new Band Mode Countries on 10 & 12 for SSB & CW. Bob also found joy on six meters with a new grid, FL10, activated by CO8LY/P and a new BMC with 5J0BV on SSB. Congratulations, Bob and keep up the good hunting!

Bruce and Sheila came off their blistering June pace of new band mode countries to record the following:

WD4LBR – Bruce scored 5 new band countries: Bermuda on 6M CW, SSB.

St. Barthelemy on 10M CW, 12M CW, SSB, and 15M CW, SSB, RTTY. Brazil on 30M RTTY.

K4WNW – Sheila faired slightly better with 7 new band countries: Bermuda on 6M SSB.

Portugal, 20M SSB. Cayman Islands, 12M CW. Brazil, 30M RTTY. St. Barthelemy on 10M CW, 12M SSB, 15M RTTY.

Well done, Bruce and Sheila!

W4TNX – John reported lots of activity with 6 meters and lots of fun as well! New ones on 6 were: NP4A, VP9/WA4PGM (Kyle), CO8LY/P (in FL10) both modes, HI3TEJ, and C6ANX. The one that got away was a J79. Might have to wait for next season on that one! Great job, John.

W4HJ – A.C. reports little DX activity for July. He did work a few in the IARU test on CW. Also spent time interfacing his FT 847 with his old computer. Hopefully A.C. will be able to find some good catches in August.

W4PM – With nearly 1,000 CW contacts in the log, Puck takes the award for most activity this month. The majority of the QSO's came from the Canada Day and IARU Contests. He snagged new BE's with a KL7 on 80M, YL on 30M, and a 5N on 15; all CW. Six meters proved good with a definite QSO with VP9 (Kyle) for a new BC. Puck is hopeful for confirmation of a 6 meter QSO with HI. It's in his log until proved otherwise! With a newly found light duty rotor, there could be a 3-element 6-meter beam going up at W4PM. Hopefully he can have it installed before the 6M season ends. Congrats on all the contacts, Puck.

NW4V – I managed to work an all time new one with JD1BMM, Ogasawara on 20 SSB. That sure was a great feeling. Had fun working around 80 CW QSO's during the IARU contest. This is really an enjoyable contest in my opinion. You can work anybody, there's none of the wall to wall QRM like the major events, and there's interesting DX to be had. I need to plan ahead for more participation next year!

If you are interested, PVRC will be conducting their next webinar August 5 at 8PM local. The presentation that evening will be Contest Antennas - DX or Domestic, What's Your Pleasure by Dean Straw N6BV. You need to register at the PVRC website.

Thanks to all who contributed information for this month column.

Vy 73 and Good Dx!
Ed NW4V

RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR

If you didn't notice the July 20th edition of the Richmond Times Dispatch had a front-page article entitled "Langley propelled Apollo II", this being the 40th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon. The rest of the article was on page A5. When I turned to that page there was Jim Wise holding a picture of the simulator, which he helped to design and build. Jim has a long history with our club and me and is none other than the well known, in ham circles, W4PRO.

Rosalie and I recently attended his 80th birthday celebration in Smithfield. He was a very active member of the Virginia Century Club as both a DX'er and contester. In 2001 I invited him to join the YK9A DXpedition group as my partner to be responsible for the low band operation. The two of us kept YK9A on 160, 80 and 40 going all night for over a week while our fellow DXpeditioners caught their beauty sleep. We had a great time together.

Several years later Jim traveled alone to Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet and operated from the first two. The Chinese don't allow foreigners to operate from Tibet. Jim and his wife Linda live in Smithfield and his station, shop, antennas and home are perfectly laid out. They love to entertain and if the weather is right you can take a dip in their salt-water swimming pool. Jim has given several programs to our club and perhaps we can get him again. It is nice to see him getting some recognition for work he did over 40 years ago. I only wish the article had mentioned that he was a radio amateur.

Thanks, Jim for helping our country be the first (and only) nation to set foot on the moon!

Bob W4DR

July Meeting:

Duke, W1ZA showed all the FD pictures he had taken or gathered from others. Very nice job Duke!

In addition the business session covered our recent Field Day event inviting comments from members about what went right and what went wrong. Please start thinking about next year now.

Awards were announced and/or presented for the VA QSO Party:

Plaque to W4ML @ W4MYA– High multi-multi

Plaque to WA4PGM – High VA Mobile

Plaque to W4PM – High Single Op CW High Power

Plaque to CVCC – High Virginia Club combined score

This a great showing from the CVCC!

In addition, certificates were given out to operators of W4ML multi-multi station. (if you did not attend and did not get yours W4PM has yours and will mail it if you don't come to August meeting)

An item of old business, the proposed changes to CVCC Constitution and By-laws, has been delayed due to time constraints on the chairman of this committee (W4PM). This will be addressed during August and ready for membership comment at the September meeting.

Member News

N2QT, Mark: Great season on 6M E skip, worked 48 countries with 15 of them new! Was glad to work Kyle in VP9 and already get a QSL from him for 6M. Entered IARU SO LP SSB only but wimped out before getting in the full 24 hours so score was down from last year. Got my picture in CQ for the WPX RTTY contest. Finally broke 80 in golf, so not a bad summer!

W4PM, Puck: Judy and I finally got our Rinker Drive house ready to sell. I never want to see another paint brush, roller or floor sander again. The house hits the market on August 30th. Wish me luck because it is indeed a buyers' market and there aren't that many buyers out there. Since we don't have any big projects now, Judy decided we must have a goldfish pond at the Linderwood QTH. The fact that we live on a lake did not quell her enthusiasm for that pond! So we are not shoveling dirt and making a big hole where there used to be some nice grass.

I still manage to find some time for ham radio and enjoyed the RAC Canada Day contest as well as the IARU contest last month. As Ed NW4V pointed out in his column the IARU is a fun event. Being able to work everyone I was able to see the N1MM rate meter hit 200/hr a couple of times. Of course that was a monetary thing but I still had 2 or 3 hours with 90 to 100 QSO's. That's fun! I even picked up one new B/E in that contest. The Canada Day contest was unusual for a contest because it occurred on Wednesday, July 1. July 1 in Canada is like July 4 here. I though I'd support our good neighbors to the north and it was an enjoyable activity.

W4HZ, Jonathan: Picture submitted without comment – just the title, “Little Boy at Vinita”



Editor's Note: Let's hope those deer don't go tromping thorough the 160M receive antenna array!

DDXG Wins One

After three tries the Dominion DX Group finally won the gavel in the local club category for the ARRL RTTY Roundup. Due to a clerical error the article in QST does not reflect this. In the article The Dominion DX Group was placed into the medium club category. After a brief phone call to the ARRL, the problem was corrected and after being placed into the local club category where we belong, we beat the number two club by 63,900 points. According to the contest manger at the ARRL, a correction will be printed in the August copy of QST. Several of the members participating in this year s RTTY Roundup have only been operating RTTY for about a year and for some this was their first RTTY contest, and for others this was their first contest ever.

This is the first time the Dominion DX Group has ever won a contest but with a little luck I hope it won't be the last.

73, Bruce WD4LBR

Editor's Note: NICE GOING DDXG! The same thing (classified as a medium club) happened to the CVCC in the 10-meter contest. Largely due to Bruce's efforts this was also corrected!

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!

No one informed me to continue past postings so they were deleted.

W4PM: 2-meter Isopole free to anyone who would like to pick it up from my house.

W1ZA: For Sale, Shure Microphone _ Beta-58. Quality stage mic. XLR connection..
http://www.shure.com/ProAudio/Products/WiredMicrophones/us_pro_Beta58A_content

Rane MS-1 Mic Preamp _ Broadcast quality with power supply. For dynamic, condenser or electret microphone to a line level output with a minimum of noise and distortion. I had this unit apart to repair the off-on slide switch for the phantom supply.

<http://www.rane.com/pdf/old/ms1dat.pdf>

XLR Cables for above

I believe that either unit alone new would go for about \$150. Yours \$150 for the lot
Contact :W1ZA@comcast.net