



599 VA - . - ...- .- December 2009

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

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

hmmjr@comcast.net

Meeting Notice

The December meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. at Topeka's Steakhouse, 1776 E Parham Rd, Richmond, VA 23228. Contact n4den@comcast.net for a head count if you have not yet done so.

December Program

Two items of business will be discussed **briefly** – Field Day and CVCC participation in the ARRL 160 and 10 meter contests. Other than that its good food, good company! Happy Holidays to one and all!

CVCC Constitution and By-Laws

A copy of the proposed changes as amended at the September meeting was sent to all members. Please review them and vote not later than the end of year. You may vote in person at the December meetings or via e-mail to the club secretary Ed NW4V. We only have votes from 21 of our members. We need 2/3 or 22 of the members voting yes for them to be adopted. Please VOTE!

Future Programs

We need some ideas for future programs. Give us some ideas and let's plan a bit ahead. E-mails and telephone calls on this subject are gladly accepted!

CVCC 2009 Field Day Results

We place 14th nationwide in category 2A in which there were 441 entries. That's down from last year when we finished 3rd. We had more bonus points but our QSO totals slipped. Of the nine entries from VA in category 2A we were number one beating out the second place finisher by 1,790 points and 292 QSO's. I seem to think one reason for the decreased QSO total was the feed line we had going to at least one antenna. Did you see that stuff? I don't know what Chinese firm made it but it was POOR! I'll bet by the time that the RF got to the antenna we were QRP! I don't mean to downplay the effectiveness of Mike's loop antennas because they played very well the year before, but I think we had better feed line in 2008. The long runs to the antennas with poor coax can mean a lot of attenuation. We need to come up with some better feed line this year. Keep an eye out for some good stuff we can beg or borrow. I notice Ed KG4W put up some big numbers in CQWW CW using Carolina Windoms. Perhaps we might try one of these at FD 2010. Any other antenna ideas would be of interest too.

Another reason for lesser score in 2009 than 2008 was partly due to a command decision I made about the split of CW to SSB QSO's. Let's face it, we have more SSB ops than CW ops and all members should get a chance to operate. Field Day is not strictly a contest. There are no certificates or gavels awarded. It's a way to show off Ham Radio to the public at large and hone our emergency operating skills and techniques. It also should be fun for all. I think we met these requirements very well. I don't advocate we, as a contest club, go to a completely social event to the detriment of maximizing QSO's but I think we should assure that we enable all our club members to participate in the mode of their choice to the best of their ability. – Puck W4PM

New Member

We welcome Joe Palsa K3WRY to the CVCC. Joe was elected to membership at the November meeting having made his application for membership and having met the two-function requirement by attending the CVCC 2009 field day and the November meeting. Many of us have known Joe for years. He may have been a member of CVCC in the past but memory fails me. We should have gotten a bio from him but I notice his E-mail signature lists the following - ARRL Life—ARES, VDEM-ARCA, Chesterfield AEC, SKYWARN, Storm Spotter VRIC035. Joe has been busy with work and family over the years but he reports he has more time for ham radio now. He will be a fine addition to our group.

NOVEMBER DX REPORT de NW4V

It's hard to believe Thanksgiving is over and we are approaching another New Year! November brought some good DX activity, as we will see from our member reports below. However, planned (rare/semi-rare) DXpeditions for December promises to be a bit slower. A two man French team will activate Cambodia early in the month. I don't hold out much hope for hearing them from our part of the world. But you never know! The South Cook Islands will be activated by a European group Dec. 6-13. Here's their website:

<http://www.pacificdxpedition.com/index.php?s=intro>

For a few days at the end of the month, a Japanese contingency will activate Ogasawara. Here's more info:

<http://sapphire.es.tohoku.ac.jp/jd1bmh/>

That's about all there is to look forward to in December. We do have two CVCC entry contests on the calendar. The ARRL 160 is Dec. 4-6 and the ARRL 10-Meter Contest is Dec. 12-13. Be sure to coordinate your entry so we maintain a Local Club entry level. W4DR will once again be tabulating our DX Champion of the year. Be sure to submit your scores to Bob at the end of December.

Here are your November Reports:

W4PFM - Paul had fun working Sweepstakes this month and achieved his first ever Clean Sweep! His new wire antenna for 80-30M is working FB. Paul had 6 new band countries and 1 new RTTY country this month. Congrats, Paul!

K2WK - Walt reports on working TX3A Chesterfield Is. on 160 & 80. He spent time working Sweepstakes CW @ NR4M's and SSB from home. I know Walt loves CQWW CW, so we'll be waiting for next months report to hear of his exploits from this event.

K4WNW - Sheila and Bruce WD4LBR had another very impressive month. Sheila scored 54 new band countries and Bruce had 61! I think Bruce must have sneaked in a few more without telling Sheila! Great job to both of you!

N3UA - Sejo- I unfortunately published last month's column a little ahead of schedule and did not include Sejo's October report. He had a great month with 4 all time new countries and 24 new Band slots! Way to go Sejo!

W4DR - Bob had a good month with his 77th QSO on 60M; snagging T30KI. Bob also had a very gratifying catch with 4S7NE on 40 SSB for his amazing #345 band mode country on 40. He explains that he waited years for a 4S7 to be listening in the portion of the US phone band. He worked Nelson through all the Sweepstakes QRM and a major EU pileup. Bob also had fun working 160 with the following QSO's: JH7VHZ, RZ0AF, UA9MA, R1FJM, TX3A, XR0Y, 5N00CH, 9G5TT and 9L7NS. Congrats, Bob.

NW4V - I had a decent month working Chesterfield Is. on 160 & 80. Also A3, Tonga on 80M. Thanks to all that submitted a report. I hope Santa Claus brings lots of radio toys for all the good girls and boys! Best wishes for Christmas everyone!
Vy 73, Ed NW4V

December Contest Calendar

ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z-0600Z, Dec 3
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 4
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z, Dec 6
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Dec 5 to 2359Z, Dec 6
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 5
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0429Z, Dec 5 and 0430Z-0459Z, Dec 5 and 0500Z-0529Z, Dec 5 and 0530Z-0600Z, Dec 5
TOPS Activity Contest	1600Z, Dec 5 to 1759Z, Dec 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 8
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 9
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 11
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 12
MDXA PSK DeathMatch	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally	0000Z, Dec 12 to 0200Z, Dec 16
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 12 to 1559Z, Dec 13
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 13
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	2100Z-2259Z, Dec 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 18
AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 18
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z-2300Z, Dec 18
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 19
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	0001Z, Dec 19 to 2359Z, Jan 3
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20
ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 21
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 23
South Dakota QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 26
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 26 to 1500Z, Dec 27
PODXS 070 Club QRP DX Scramble	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 27
RAEM Contest	0200Z-0959Z, Dec 27

This is the month of the big push for CVCC entries in the local club category of the 160 and 10 meter contests. Jonathan will host a Multi operation for both contests and perhaps there will be other multi or host station operations. More info will be given at the December dinner meeting and to follow by e-mail. If you can operate at a multi station and also from home please consider it. We want to make sure we have our ten entries in each contest. In case we have somehow have more than ten entries please coordinate your entries with the club secretary with a copy to me before sending in your logs marked for CVCC. We will send in the ten best logs for CVCC. While it would be very unusual to exceed ten entries considering the current club contest activity it has happened at least ONE time before. We don't compete well in the medium club category!

There are some other interesting ones in December. The Stew Perry Topband challenge can be a hoot. There's something for everyone with some RTTY and QRP and Sprints. There's even a SD QSO party. I've got to enter that one. How much activity could there be from that state? I might win a certificate for a Virginia entry with a handful of contacts!

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.

NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

Here are all the scores I was sent or could find for CVCC members and friends. Nice job guys.

Call	Prec.	QSO's	Sections	Score	OPs at Multi
CW:					
W4MYA	U	1,137	80	181,920	
W4PM	U	862	80	137,920	
K2WK@NR4M	U	642	78	100,152	
KG4W	U	621	79	98,118	
N3UA	U	597	80	95,520	
K4OSO	A	104	49	10,192	
N4DWK	U	65	41	5,330	
KJ4IT	?	24	21	1,008	
SSB:					
W4MYA	U	1,655	80	264,800	
AI4CM @ W4HZ	M	1,128	80	180,480	AI4CM, W4HZ, WK4Y, W4PM
N2QT	U	753	80	120,480	
KG4W	U	663	80	106,080	
K2WK	U	500	73	73,000	
N3UA	U	398	80	63,680	
W4PM	U	375	79	59,250	
W4PFM	A	350	80	56,000	
N4DWK	U	308	72	44,352	
KJ4IT	B	24	20	960	

Dave, N4DWK made an uncomplimentary comment about his CW ability. At least he made the effort and did pretty well at that! I see Jerry, KJ4IT is getting into the contest swing again both on CW and SSB. Keep up the good work Jerry.

Do you remember this from the October News Letter?

“This year I will be sponsoring a CVCC SS award with certificates awarded to all members who score at least 75,000 points, a clean sweep of all 80 sections, or both. SSB and CW will be counted separately so you can get two certificates if you play on both modes. Our name suggests we are a contest club. Let’s prove it and help PVRC win again this year.” As you can see from the above that makes 11 certificates won. They will be forthcoming in the New Year once I get them designed and printed. If you are a creative person and would like to help with the design give me a jingle at 550-3423. – Puck W4PM

CQWW CW

Early returns show the following (QSO-Countries-Zones-Points):

KG4W - 961-346-108-1,201,973

W4PM - 653-324- 99- 763,092

NW3V – I thought Ed sent me an e-mail but for some reason I can’t find it!

W4MYA – I heard Bob running them big time but I don’t know how he did. I’ll bet on big numbers from him!

There may have been others.

November Program:

Bob W4DR brought a DVD of the K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition, which we showed at the meeting. It was very entertaining. Thanks Bob!

Member News

KF4QQY, Barry: Because of my work schedule out west I will not be able to come to the Christmas dinner, I will be spending the rest of the year out in the coal fields of far western Virginia (Norton). This is also why I have not been to any of the club meetings this year. Please give our best wishes to everyone at the dinner!

With regrets!

Barry KF4QQY

WD4LBR, Bruce: Sheila and I drove up to the ARRL headquarters Sunday and spent the day Monday looking around and talking to everyone. They were all very nice and while we were there Sheila applied for her DXCC certificate for 40M and 17M and I applied for mine on 17M. We were able to bring out certificates home with us. We drove back Tuesday. Going up we went through Washington, Baltimore and New York. We paid at least \$50.00 in tolls. Coming back we drove farther west and returned via I-81. A little longer but less traffic, no tolls and a lot more pleasant drive. See you at the dinner.

Bruce

Bruce added in a telephone conversation that they had called ahead and let the folks at ARRL know they were coming. When they arrived there was a welcome sign posted for them and they were treated like visiting royalty. Nice going ARRL!

W4PM, Puck: I forgot to send in my activity /DX report for November. November was my month of the contests with participation in the BWQP, both SS tests and the CQWW CW contests. Over 2,400 QSO's made my log with 2351 being contest type QSO's. You notice I also did SS SSB both from Jonathan's and at home. SSB tests are tough on the ears with all those guys running their gain to the max and adding max processing. Don't they understand that a nice signal with great audio is more productive than a garbage signal you can hardly understand? Also an exceedingly wide and distorted signal does not put you on the many "good guy" lists. They rank right down there with the big key click guys on CW. DX-wise was an OK month with 8 new B/E's but I missed Chesterfield Island. I thought I might pick up a few new ones in the CQWW CW test but only got one – a CN on 20 meters, of all bands.

VA QSO Party Plaque Sponsorship

At the November meeting the membership voted to sponsor the Multi-Multi and LP SSB VA QSO Party plaques in 2010. This is the same as we did in past years. Our esteemed treasurer has sent off the check.

In a related matter, Gordon NQ4K has agreed to come down to make a presentation on the VAQP. Duke had suggested that we have a joint meeting with the DDXG of which Sheila is the current President. That way Gordon could cover both groups with one trip. I'll need to coordinate with Sheila to see if we go to one of their meetings or they come to one of ours. – Puck

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!

W4HJ, AC: (Not sure if this stuff is still available but I let it run another month – ed.)

Here are a couple of items for sale. One is from a non-club member N4AKP, Pete. He is a cw only op and county hunter. He thought he wanted to try PSK31 and then found out he couldn't do it with his key!

1 RIGblaster Plus 120 VAC, COMPLETE \$129.95 New

1 CW Cable Kit for RIG blaster Plus or pro, 6ft 7.95 New

1 4 Pin to 8 pin Conversion kit (2cables+sheet) 21.95 New

Total \$159.85 New

All the above were new prices. Unit has never been used and Pete is now asking \$75.00 for all of the above.

Contact him at 804-598-0277.

W4HJ has a Kenwood TS-440SAT for sale.

1.8 ssb and 500 cw filters installed.

RS-232 (Chip installed in Radio),

12V Power Cord, Hand mike and Manual are all included. It has been to the shop (N1EQ) in January, 2008, and tested when I received it back it is in excellent working order. It does have a few scratches on the outer case.

Asking \$325.00.

WU4G, Ronnie: Last call for before I advertise elsewhere.

Heathkit SB-220 amp + 1 spare Eimac 3-500Z- \$450

Ronnie 804-798-5191

A Ham Radio Operator's Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas, And all through two-meters, Not a signal was keying up Any repeaters.
The antennas reached up From the tower, quite high, To catch the weak signals That bounced from the sky.
The children, Tech-Pluses, Took their HTs to bed, And dreamed of the day, They'd be Extras, instead.
Mom put on her headphones, I plugged in the key, And we tuned 40 meters For that rare ZK3.
When the meter was pegged By a signal with power. It smoked a small diode, and, I swear shook the tower.
Mom yanked off her phones, And with all she could muster Logged a spot of the signal On the DX Packet Cluster,
While I ran to the window And peered up at the sky, To see what could generate RF that high.
It was way in the distance, But the moon made it gleam - A flying sleigh, with an Eight element beam,
And a little old driver who looked slightly mean. So I though for a moment, That it might be Wayne Green.
But no, it was Santa, The Santa of Hams. On a mission this Christmas To clean up the bands.
He circled the tower, Then stopped in his track, And he slid down the coax Right into the shack.
While Mom and I hid Behind stacks of CQ, This Santa of hamming Knew just what to do.
He cleared off the shack desk Of paper and parts, And filled out all my late QSLs For a start.
He ran copper braid, Took a steel rod and pounded It into the earth, till The station was grounded.
He tightened loose fittings, Re-soldered connections, Cranked down modulation, Installed lightning protection.
He neutralized tubes In my linear amp...(Never worked right before -- Now it works like a champ).
A new, low-pass filter Cleaned up the TV, He corrected the settings In my TNC.
He repaired the computer That would not compute, And he backed up the hard drive And got it to boot.
Then, he reached really deep In the bag that he brought, And he pulled out a big box, "A new rig?" I thought!
"A new Kenwood? An Icom? A Yaesu, for me?!" (If he thought I'd been bad it might be QRP!)
Yes! The Ultimate Station! How could I deserve this? Could it be all those hours that I worked Public Service?
He hooked it all up And in record time, quickly Worked 100 countries, All down on 160.
I should have been happy, It was my call he sent, But the cards and the postage Will cost two month's rent!
He made final adjustments, And left a card by the key: "To Gary, from Santa Claus Seventy-Three."
Then he grabbed his HT, Looked me straight in the eye, Punched a code on the pad, And was gone - no good bye.
I ran back to the station, And the pile-up was big, But a card from St. Nick Would be worth my new rig.
Oh, too late, for his final came over the air. It was copied all over. It was heard everywhere.
The Ham's Santa exclaimed What a ham might expect, "Merry Christmas to all, And to all, good DX."

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My apologies to Gary for reformatting this to make it fit - Puck

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL

