



599 VA - . - . - . - February 2009

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Meeting Notice:

The February meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 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.

February Program:

Fifty-nine Wonderful Years and Counting by W4QCW - W4DR Bob's power point presentation will cover the span of a fun filled amateur career from his teen years to the present. Included are half a dozen DXpeditions, antenna stories, brushes with the law and just plain good times. Two visits to Navassa Island, now the third rarest DXCC entity, are a part of the program.

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 section was suggested by Jonathan W4HZ and our first “Attaboy” goes to N4DEN, who spends a LOT of time managing the cluster, not only keeping up with updates, but physically going over to the cluster site to maintain and/or repair problems on short notice on a regular basis. In addition he serves as our secretary and through his efforts we have a very nice place to hold our meeting! Dennis, please accept our warm appreciation for your efforts on behalf of the CVCC!

January Program:

Sejo made a very interesting presentation on the “CCD” antenna he had constructed. If you were not at the meeting and don't know what a “CCD” antenna is, do a search on the Internet for “CCD antenna”. Also at that meeting the PVRC 5M-point award was made to NW4V and the 25M-point endorsement to WK4Y

February Contest Calendar (From Perpetual Contest Calendar – current one not available yet)

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 7
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 7 to 0100Z, Feb 9
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 7 to 1759Z, Feb 8
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 11
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 14 to 2400Z, Feb 15
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 14 to 1000Z, Feb 15
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 14
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 14
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 16
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 21 to 1800Z, Feb 22
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 21 to 1300Z, Feb 22
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 27 to 2159Z, Mar 1
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 28 to 0600Z, Mar 1

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 good ones in February for the RTTY, CW and SSB enthusiasts (the three in bold above). Other smaller ones that are fun are the Dutch PACC, the UBA DX and the NAQP RTTY contests. Some of the state QSO parties can be fun also, being much more low key and good practice for those who haven't played contest for a while! How about some multi-op entries for the ARRL DX contest. Jonathan has offered his station. Any others?

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

Call	Contest	CAT	QSO	State/Prov		Points	Time	Ops
				or MLTs	Cnty			
N2QT	RTTY RU	SO2RLP	1,238	58	58	143,608	24	
WD4LBR	RTTY RU	MOLP?	1038	54	43	100,686		WD4LBR, K4WNW
WA4PGM	NAQPCW	SOQRP	426	150	--	63,900	10	
KG4W	NAQPCW	SOLP	216	114	--	24,624	6.5	
W4PM	NAQPCW	SOLP	151	38	--	5,738	1.5	40 only
W4HZ	NAQPCW	SOLP	123	35	--	4,305	1.5	160 only
W4HJ	NAQPCW	SOLP	43	28	--	1,204	1.7	
W4PM	HADX	SOHP	36	11	--	1,683	1	
K2WK	CQ160CW	SOHP?	1,209	59	66	502,125	22	
W4ML at W4HZ	CQ160CW	MOHP	1,148	57	67	472,688		W4HZ,WK4Y,W4PM
W4PK	CQ160CW	SOHPA	981	56	63	410,312		
N2QT	CQ160CW	SOHPA	443	56	67	269,001		
W4PM	CQ160CW	SOHPA	731	55	47	242,658	15	
KG4W	CQ160CW	SOHPA	588	54	46	173,500		
WA4PGM	CQ160CW	SOLP	312	48	16	49,536	4	
W4HJ	CQ160CW	SOHPA	180	43	23	41,514	9	
N4DWK	CQ160CW	SOHPA	110	42	26	31,484		
WK4Y	CQ160CW	SOHPA	173	36	1	15,133	2.5	



W4PM at W4HZ – Got him!



WK4Y at W4HZ – Serious business

Random Skip by W4DR:

“Exceptional conditions perhaps the best ever” - “A rare combination of favorable solar indices, lack of bad weather in the US and no QRN being propagated in from distant lands” - “The perfect non-storm”. This is how K8MFO, W4ZV and other 160 buffs described the January 22 to 25 period, which included the CQ 160 Contest. I made a total of one QSO in this one, RW0CWA, but other CVCCer’s took advantage of the great conditions with nice scores and multiple new ones. I did however spend Thursday evening before the contest on the band and it was fantastic. At 22:37 EY8MM was easily worked with a 589 followed by TA3D who was 599. I then heard, but did not work 9M2AX who was only 339 and couldn't even hear loud Europeans calling him probably due to local noise on Ross' end. I stayed on the band till 02 GMT and worked EX2A, VQ9LA, 4Z5KJ, UA9MA, ER4ER, RN9MA and 3A/K3OX. The next morning things were still good with 2 JA's, NL7Z, VK4MA and VK6DXI logged around sunrise.

Several "Most Wanted" DX surveys have been published. Navassa Island is now #3 just behind North Korea and Yemen. KP5 is #5, but by the end of February will probably not even be in the top 100. It never ceases to amaze me how things, which were once only semi-rare, can rise to the top of the list and really rare stuff can fall out of the top 100. I realize this is true for me because I have been at the game for almost 60 years, which gives a long view. With universal licensing now almost a reality our DX entities are mainly made rare by "the Green's", wars and a few paranoid governments. To a lesser extent great distances to remote islands make charters very expensive, but the mega-dxpeditions seems to be able to raise 200-500k bucks for places like BS7. Will the worldwide economic downturn put a crimp on these ultra-expensive type operations? Perhaps so, we will see.

For some time now I have wondered how K3ZM in Charlottesville has been able to top our own big gun, W4MYA on 160. Peter is on a suburban lot up there and although he is a brother to top DX'er K1ZM that shouldn't account for his big scores. Finally the mystery is solved. Peter has a contest location on the Chesapeake Bay. I suspect brother, Jeff had a hand in building the station. As you may know Jeff has a super-station on PEI, VY2ZM, another station on coastal Mass. in addition to his great setup in upstate NY. For my part I would really like to have even a modest station somewhere between CO and CA which I could visit for a few months each year. I might even be able to rival the scores of OK1RP, W8LRL, W4ZV and K1ZM on 160. Probably it will never happen, but one can day dream.

My little transmitter project with 6-year-old grandson, Gabe is still not on the air. The power supply is finished and working fine. We attempted to tune up the little rig, but couldn't get any RF out of it. I suspected the variables in the plate tank circuit so took them out and tested them with my little Autek Analyst (something I should have done in

advance) Guess what, they were both defective. My own junk box didn't turn up any good ones of the right sizes for our project so we took a trip to Wil's (WB4ZOT) place. He has a whole building full of radio gear and parts. We found two excellent condensers with right size and value. When Gabe returns at the end of the month we will finish our wiring and try again. Stay tuned!

Bob W4DR

DX de DR (January Reports):

As to be expected January has been a great month for low band operators. We have continued to have low A and K's and the MUF has been very low with the lack of sunspots. TS7C really lit up the bands this month and they reached their goal of setting a new record for number of QSO's on RTTY beating the old record of VP6DX. They were even on 160 RTTY! 2009 holds some promise of activity from long inactive entities. Midway will once again come on the air OCT 5-19 thanks to a permit by the USFWS. This is the same wonderful US government agency who has blocked activity from KP1, KP5 and other rare US possessions for years, but who now seem to be loosening up a bit. Pakistan has recently licensed a non-citizen as AP2AHSF (DL7UPN) who will operate several weeks at a time from his office with commercial gear. The "F" at the end of his call stands for foreigner. Three Germans with visit semi-rare H40 March 2-16 with activity promised on CW, SSB and EME. ZS8T has finally come on the air for a hand full of 20 meters SSB QSO's. He may leave Marion Island in 3 months so based on his performance to date he will probably make it into few logs. A few years ago when ZS8R was there he really stirred up the bands with activity from 160-10. Too bad someone like that isn't stationed out there again.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:

WD4LBR: Bruce got 25 new BMC's this month with TS7C (Tunisia) on 80-15 all three modes.

K4WNW: Sheila worked TS7C on 80, 30, 20 and 17 RTTY plus 40 SSB. I bet she missed 15 due to having to work.

NW4V: Ed finally got all of this UA4WHX African DXpedition QSL's. He was disappointed with E44M who he hoped to work on 80, 30 and 20. He already had Palestine on 40. Looking forward to KP5.

W4HJ: AC had fun in the CQ 160 contest especially without his local neighbor being on the band. He picked up two new ones on the band with one of them being a 4Z5.

N4DWK: Dave was unusually active this month. He got T32YY on 160 and 80. EU3 160, OX3KQ 160 & 80 both on SSB, TS7C 160-30, VP8YLG 40 SSB, HR2DMR on 60, his first DX on that band, and TF3SG on 160 SSB...Hey Dave call me if you hear him again, I have never heard or worked TF on 160 SSB.

W4PM: Puck's addition of radials to his 160 inverted L has really paid off. Of his 15 new BE's 10 were on top band including such choice ones as EL, JA, RW0 and VQ9. Sadly in his 1093 January QSO's there wasn't a single new over all country.

N3UA: Sejo got XW1B for a all time new one and added E44M 20 and TS7C 30 for new BE's

W4DR: Lots of fun on 160, but the only new BMC was OX3KQ on 160 SSB.
Happy hunting, Bob

Member News:

WD4LBR, Bruce reports the following from the ARRL LoTW web site:

Jun 12, 2008: The Most Active Stations -- Ever wonder which stations are the most active on the air? We doubt anyone would be surprised to know that it is HC8N with over 112,000 QSOs reported in the logs of other stations using LoTW.

Logs appear in LoTW with dates from as early as 12 January 1946. There are more than 61,000 QSOs in the system dated prior to 1960, and over 501,000 QSOs dated prior to 1970.

In a recent search amongst all the log data submitted to LoTW, we tallied the Top Ten Most Active Stations based upon QSOs loaded into the system. Here is that list rounded up to the nearest thousand:

1.	HC8N	112,000
2.	PJ2T	105,000
3.	WP2Z	94,000
4.	HG1S	88,000
5.	RU1A	86,000
6.	K3WW	80,000
7.	HG6N	75,000
8.	9A7A	74,000
9.	W4MYA	73,000
10.	VE3EJ	70,000

Editor's Note: This is the number of confirmations, NOT the number of QSO's loaded on the system! As a point of reference W4PM has 62,672 QSO's loaded on the system which generated 16,052 QSL records. That's about 25% so it follows that these folks have MANY more QSO's than QSL records. W4PM's QSO's only go back to 1996 and the newer the QSO's the higher percentage of QSL records. Bob has something like 500,000 QSO's on the system! WOW!

K4WNW, Sheila: At our next meeting of Dominion DX Group we will be hosting Deb and Cass Gryns who will be presenting a program on Emergency Preparedness. The aim of the Emergency Preparedness Program is to provide us with information for emergency planning for ourselves and our families for all types of situations we might find ourselves caught up in (ex: natural disaster, being caught in snow storm in our vehicles, etc.).

We would like to invite you to join us. The meeting will be held at the Henrico Training Center, 7721 Parham Road, Saturday, February 28th at 9:00 a.m. Directions are attached or please call Bruce or Sheila Blackley at 804-883-7733.73, Sheila

N4DWK, Dave: I just got the second receiver installed in my Flex 5000a.

WA4PGM, Kyle: Concerning his NAQP CW QRP entry - Something broke early on the 80m antenna so had to use the 160 L. Worked KP2, KP4, XE, found VE9DX strong on 10 meters plus a couple of New England states. First hour was a struggle but got better and I stuck it out for the full 10 hours. Good luck to everyone in the 2009 and thanks for the contacts.

W4PK, Sam: Concerning his CQ160CW entry - Had fun. This was my first serious attempt at doing a CW contest, to learn how to operate N1MM logger, and also to improve my cw copying. I normally just do S&P, but this time I did some running and actually had fun doing it! Highlight of the test was to finally contact T77C for a new country.

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'd like to sell my Vibroplex Iambic Paddles (presentation model) that I have previously listed, at a "Make Offer" price & the Heil Headset at a blow-out price of \$50.00.



Don't forget that SPECIAL someone this month.

Happy Valentine's Day!