



599 VA ..... - . - . - . - January 2009

## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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### Meeting Notice:

The January meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, January 6, 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.

**Program:** Sejo is preparing something. No word yet what it will be. Come for a surprise!

### Random Skip by W4DR:

This month I will recount the events in my 59th year of amateur radio. Excuse me for mixing in a few personal items, but as is the case in every ham's life these events affect what you can and can't do. At age 73 I find that my ability and desire to set up all night to contest is diminished as is my tolerance for long operating sessions. Yet my pulse and blood pressure go up when a new band entity or mode entity appears on the band. I have been grounded from tower climbing so maintaining my antenna system is more difficult. Serious health concerns also play an increasing role in my life and obviously in the lives of many of you as well as your family members. Although we all like to complain about health care we should be thankful that we live in a nation which provides the best care available. Many of us would not even be here, including Rosalie and I, were it not for the skill of the medical profession. This summer I made a trip to Indiana to see my mother for the last time. She died at 98 years of age three months later which leaves me with the task of settling the estate and relieves my sister of monitoring her daily care. Fortunately my part time job affords me some extra income so I can keep my station going. There were highs and lows. I sold my extra FT1000 to Chris Waters and bought a Ten-Tec Omni VII to replace my lightning zapped IC736. Recently I learned that lightning destroyed Chris' FT1000 as well as other gear he had. My 40 meter rotor fell apart and I sent another prop pitch motor out to K7NV for a complete rebuild. It returned in 4 months and over Thanksgiving son Curtis, KK4HJ and KF4VIZ put the new rotor up. Curtis also repaired and replaced some hardware on the beam. As he was hooking the coax up at dusk he discovered the RG-11 and its PL-259 had been damaged so until I get that 15-foot piece of soft line replaced I am still off of 40 meters. I had hoped to make my station available for guest operators during some of the major contests, but without 40 meters, the station isn't very useful for any all band effort. Most of the fall season I was plagued with severe line noise especially bad on 160 and 80 meters. Friend, Bill Bowen located the noise source, a defective lightning arrestor about 2 miles north of me, but it took another month to get a Dominion Virginia Power crew out to replace it. Fortunately it was fixed just before the ARRL 160 contest which N3UA guest operated from here. In spite of this litany of problems some good stuff happened. Sixty meters was fun and I was able to raise my DX total on that band from 58 to 72 entities worked. My climb in the DX digital totals was much less with only 5 new ones to reach 309. Two of our associate members have big RTTY scores, W4PK at 338 and N2QT at 334. I slipped to second place in 2007 on the DX Challenge. I4EAT finished last year 5 entities ahead of me. As of December 30 he is certain to retain his standing with 3138 to my 3136. I was amazed to have gained 3 on him...if I just hadn't missed that 4O3 on 6 and the FJ on 10 I could have tied. These scores could change tomorrow, but I think this is unlikely. Working Japan on 6 meters this summer was a huge thrill and something I didn't think would ever happen. With the low solar activity there were many days this year when the A and K indices were at or near Zero. This made for some good QSOs on 160

over the North Pole to Zones 17, 18, 19 and 22. Sadly neither UA0YAY or JT1CO, the only two 160 operators in zone 23, were active during these openings. I guess it is a sign of aging, but I find myself interested in some of the gear I used as a teenager in the early 1950's. My grandson, Gabe, age 6 and I have been building a 6L6 oscillator and power supply. It is a great thrill to see his interest in the project, but I must admit that as it nears completion I have a worry that it won't work. It is strange that with my years of experience I am worried about being able to duplicate something I made as a 14 year old! This month Rosalie and I traveled to Smithfield to attend a 80th birthday party for our good friend, Jim Wise, W4PRO. You may recall he accompanied us to Syria in 2001 and was my low band partner in the YK9A DXpedition. There were lots of Virginia Century Club members there including W4ZYT who wants to do Field Day with us again this year. I am happy to report that Jim is in great shape in both mind and body. So how was 2008 for me? Better than 2007 and I hope not as good as 2009. I have much to be thankful for including all of you, my friends, who have aided me in so many ways. Without you, my enjoyment of our wonderful hobby would be much diminished. Bob W4DR

### **DX de DR (November Reports):**

Grandson, Gabe, was here this weekend so I did not play in the CQ WW CW, but instead we finished the 6L6 transmitter project and now only lack a power supply to test it. Bill Bowen has been out to find my horrible line noise on the low bands and has found the offending pole, but as usual Dominion Virginia Power has been slow to send a repair crew out. Despite this handicap November was a pretty good month for top band operators. I began the month with A43DLH and VU7SJ and then worked 7 stations in Zone 18 and two in Zone 17. The Zone 18 guys were very close to Zone 23, but as usual 23 was absent. 4L/UU4JMG rounded out a very interesting month on 160 despite the bad line noise. The unusual number of A/K 0/0 number days probably accounted for my good fortune. Son Curtis with KF4VIZ installed my new 40 meter prop pitch rotor and Curtis did maintenance on the 30 year old beam, but he ran out of daylight before the feed line problem could be fixed so I am still without 40 meters. Oh well, until BS7 and P5 come on again it doesn't make much difference. Not many individual reports this month, but here is what I got:

WD4LBR: Bruce leads the pack with 37 new Band/Mode countries including 3D2YA, Fiji for an all time new one. He tried the new digi mode, Olivia, and is very impressed with it. One of his QSO's was with a GM who was so weak that no signal was visible on the waterfalls and for a while he couldn't even hear the signal and yet the print was solid. The Scot was running 20 watts to in indoor 20 meter loop! These new modes may make old RTTY a thing of the past before too long.

K4WNW: Sheila worked the 3D2YA as well along with 10 other new ones.

WK4Y: Roy is busy redoing his station with a new desk and repainting the room. He is also installing the second receiver in his K3. With all of the talking at PJ4 he probably needs a rest anyhow.

W4HZ: Jonathan sent in a nice report. He made a special effort to get a "clean sweep" in SSB SS. The lack of KP4 almost ruined the effort, but he finally got one on Sunday evening. I believe he gets a coffee mug for the effort and just maybe the PVRC beat the CCC this year. Keep your fingers crossed. In addition to the clean sweep Jonathan worked 6 new band/entities: 5K0T (San Andres) 160, TC3EC 75, C91LW 40, TT8JT 20, OX3XR 17 and 7P8BA 15. Note the one/band distribution...the sign of a fully functional antenna farm! The dates and team leaders for the KP5 operation have been announced. Anyone who misses this one will have been taking a Rip Van Winkle length nap. Is Navassa Island next? Bob W4DR

W4PM: Puck (This did not make Bob's November report. It is added by your News Letter editor.)

For November I had 1,771 Q's of which 1,663 were from the SS CW, URDX, OK/OM DX, SS SSB and the CQWW CW contests. Contest season is here! 16 New Band entities: 160 - a little DX worked but nothing new. Antenna still in summer mode - rolled up radial; 80 - EL, EY, 8Q; 40 - 5N, 9V, YJ, 8Q, C9; 30 - 5N; 20 - CEOY, YJ, T8; 17 - J6, FR/R; 15 - 5R, 3X; 12 & 10 - zippo, nada, zilch heard on these bands. The CQWW contest gave me the 8Q, C9 and T8! New countries overall were the YJ, 5N, 9V and T8 It was a pretty good month in spite of the antenna being down for a week. :-)

## **DX de DR (December Reports):**

2008 wasn't a great year for DX unless you worked 160 or 6 meters or perhaps even 60 meters. Notice that the exciting bands all had "6's" in their designations! Well that is really just my personal view, which does not necessarily represent the view of the management. On a more serious note our president, Sejo thinks we may be entering a period of a quiet sun repeating a period in history known as the Maunder Minimum. This period was observed long before the radio era. There is a theory that there is a cycle of cycles with our sun. If this is the case and history repeats itself most of us will not live long enough to see ever see conditions like we experienced during the last five cycles. I am hoping that this Maunder Minimum doesn't begin for another two cycles but don't bet the farm on that wish. Regardless of how this pans out, there will always be DX to work on all of our bands. The sport will just be more challenging. Just look what VP6DX accomplished without help from good solar conditions. Looking ahead to 2009 there are several operations which should afford the faithful the opportunity to score new DXCC entities on one or more bands. Starting with E44M January 1-11. Gee, I hope these guys are going to the West Bank rather than the Gaza Strip. In February KP5 will light up the bands from February 12-26 and I suspect this operation will be the biggest event in 09. Their web site is [www.kp5.us](http://www.kp5.us). Starting any day now FT5WO will become active from Crozet. He will be there till November of 09. Let's hope he doesn't model his operation after ZS8T! He says early activity should be around 17 GMT on or near 14.262. This is one of the rarest of the Indian Ocean Island entities so grab him when you can. To my knowledge there has never been a DXpedition to Crozet and in recent years resident activity has been sparse. From March 7-12 a group of Koreans plan to mount a major effort from S21.

## **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**

W4HJ: AC reports that he is getting back to normal after major surgery. He is converting from AFSK to FSK something I should do myself.

W4MYA has mentored this change. Bob continues to be an Elmer to regional hams even though he is scaling back his own operation.

W4HZ: Jonathan and Nancy's holiday activities were hampered by Nancy's surgery on December 24, but latest report is that she is doing well. He continues to make his fine station available for guest operators.

NW4V: Ed celebrated TO3R on 80 in December and then as the clock was running out on 08 he nailed C31CT on 30 meters giving him a grand total of 38 new B/E's in 08. Santa brought him a Logikit CMOS4 keyer. Half of his UA4WHX African DXpedition cards have arrived

W4PM: Puck only got 3 new ones in December. TG on 30 and 3B8 and HR9 on 17 giving him 141 B/E's for the year of which 18 were all time new ones. This may be the score to beat this year, but I suspect there is a sleeper out there. The addition of 9 radials to his 160 antenna will be a great improvement.

KG4W: Ed appears to be preparing for some serious operating on 160 as he has been busy measuring the losses on his 1100 foot run of 7/8" hard-line to his beverage system.

N3UA: Our president was busy contesting during December especially in the 160 ARRL contest. It appears the CVCC may have a real chance at winning that one again as our combined score was much higher than last years winning score. Sejo's new ones were all on 17: FR, 5N, and 6W

K4WNW: Shelia picked up 6 new ones the best of which was ER4DX on 80.

WD4LBR: Bruce worked 12 new ones in December with his prize catch JH1OGC on 80. He already has his card. His 80 meter score stands at 81 worked. ZS2EZ on RTTY was new on 30.

W1ZA: Duke hosted some CVCC contest activities. He says my frequent calls to alert him to Asian openings on top band finally shamed him into getting on and working UA9MA.

W4DR: Another dry month for me. The lack of a working 40-meter antenna caused me to miss T31 on RTTY, which would have been a new one on digital. I did manage to work him on 160 CW and also the same guy from T32XX, but neither of them were new on 1.8 MHz. A beautiful VU7SJ top band QSL for a November QSO was my best moment. Bob W4DR

## January Contest Calendar

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 2
<b>ARRL RTTY Roundup</b>	<b>1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4</b>
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 3 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 6
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 9
Hunting Lions in the Air Contest	0000Z, Jan 10 to 2400Z, Jan 11
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 10
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 10 to 2359Z, Jan 11
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 10
<b>North American QSO Party, CW</b>	<b>1800Z, Jan 10 to 0600Z, Jan 11</b>
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z-0730Z, Jan 11
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 11
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z-1000Z, Jan 11
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 11
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 16
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 17
LZ Open Contest	0400Z-1200Z, Jan 17
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1159Z, Jan 18
UK DX Contest, RTTY	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1200Z, Jan 18
<b>North American QSO Party, SSB</b>	<b>1800Z, Jan 17 to 0600Z, Jan 18</b>
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 17 to 0400Z, Jan 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 19
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 22
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 23
<b>CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW</b>	<b>2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25</b>
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 24 to 1800Z, Jan 25
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 24 to 1200Z, Jan 25
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 24 to 1300Z, Jan 25
SPAR Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 24 to 1700Z, Jan 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 28
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 30
SARL Youth Day Sprint	0700Z-1100Z, Jan 31

*Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, [WA7BNM](mailto: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](http://www.contesting.com).

There are some interesting ones this month. Not listed is the ARRL's Straight Key Night on January 1<sup>st</sup>. While not a contest it's an interesting operating event allowing us to dust off our straight keys and send until the pain is no longer bearable! The ARRL RTTY Roundup should be great for those so inclined to contest in that mode. The NAQP's for both CW and SSB can be a lot of fun and don't forget the CQ-160 contest which is a good chance to

add to your 160 country totals. A few multi-op entries from the club would be most welcome in this one. W4HZ has volunteered his station. Are there any more?

## Contests, Contests, Contests – December 2008 (CVCC Members & Friends)

### ARRL 160M

N3UA	214,170
W4DR	202,100
WA4PGM	179,780
WK4Y	165,070
KG4W	163,800
N4DWK	10,829
W1ZA	72,333
NW4V	22,724
K2WK	20,790
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Total	1,051,596 CVCC

W4HJ                    25,311 PVRC

### 10M

W1ZA	137,282 Ops: W1ZA. K4OSO, W4TNX
W4PM	33,440
KG4W	18,216
N3UA	12,384
WD4LBR	9,636
N4DWK	8,540
W4HZ	
W4DR	
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Total	219,498 CVCC

No time this month to search for scores. In the future, if you enter a contest and send in a log please send the information to me for publications here. It's rather time consuming to search the various reflectors for the information! It appears we have a good shot at the gavel for the 160 contest. The ten-meter participation was not up last year's levels, but all of you listed above should send in your logs for CVCC. Every point helps. Some more of the above were multi-op efforts but I didn't have all the information on who the operators were.



W4TNX at W1ZA - Looks as if John was listening with ESP for that signal that was trying to bounce above the noise.



K4OSO at W1ZA – Runnin' em!

**2008 CVCC DX Totals** – Don't forget to post your 2008 DX totals on the CVCC web page!

### **Member News:**

W4HZ, Jonathan: We received exactly what we wished for yesterday as our Christmas present arrived a day early. The result of Nancy's surgery showed that the cancer seems to be isolated and the tumor, when excised, showed clean margins & the exploratory into the lymph area showed no signs that the cancer had spread further than the tumor area itself. We are told that this is the best possible scenario under these circumstances and that subsequent radiation treatments should reduce the possibility of further re-occurrences. Although there is no guarantee there won't be issues down the road, the long-term prognosis is "very good" and we are quite pleased about that

W4HJ, A.C.: I have finally begun to feel "normal" again. Got on in the ARRL 160M CW and had 201Q's. Also worked a few in the 10M test most CW. My 80M antenna is still down but hope to get it back up this week. I have been on 160m CW a couple of nights and worked some EU but nothing new. Am working on my rig and getting it to function in FSK rather than AFSK so I can use my filters. Thanks to W4MYA's suggestions it is going pretty easy. Had tons of line noise and other noise for the 160M contest but that seems to have gone away. I think Bob W4DR has had Dominion out working! Not much else to report.. Nothing new for Christmas... Just happy to be able to celebrate another one with my Kids and G-Kids. HNY A. C. W4HJ

KC4AUF, Tony: Last Tuesday Dec. 23rd I worked KS4RX on 146.58 as I was Aeronautical Mobile. Warren Mitchell KO4XB asked me if I wanted to fly the Tecnam Bravo airplane he uses to train his students. I met him at the Louisa Airport, I said why are you in the right seat where passengers sit and he said "because you're flying". WOW, so I taxied to the end of the runway ran up the engine and the little light sport class Bravo went barreling down the runway just itching to get airborne. We hit rotate speed, I pulled back on the stick and the little Bravo jumped off the runway up into the air and in what seemed to be only seconds we were at 2,000ft and I was taking a heading of 197deg which would take me right over my house. When we were 2mi from the house I called Becky KS4RX on my 2m HT and she came out onto the back deck where she saw me and Warren flying overhead. I circled over the house twice taking pictures of Becky as she took pictures of us. Warren said "Let's fly up to Lake Anna and take a look around", so I climbed back up to 2,000ft took a heading towards the lake and had the most pleasurable flying experience and the best Christmas present I've ever had. To this day I still think that Warren Mitchell KO4XB "IS" Santa Clause. This was the second time I signed KC4AUF/AA on 146.58, the last time was when Becky and I were flying in the late Jim Green's airplane when we got married.

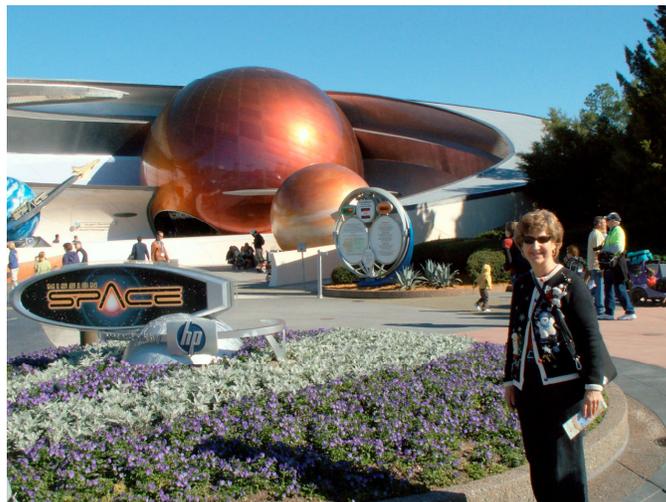
Happy New Year to all de KC4AUF

Tony Day, KC4AUF

"Daybreak Forge"

Mineral, VA

W4PM, Puck: Judy and I attended the FOC December Banquet in Orlando FL this year. We had 73 attendees with a number of folks coming from the UK and DL. It was a fun event. We flew Jet Blue and found that to be a great low cost way to get to Orlando and back. We went down on Thursday and back on Monday, which gave us a free day on Sunday to visit Disney's Epcot center.



## 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.

