



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

July Program

Duke will show pictures of Field Day, which he took or collected from others. There will be a preliminary report of how we did and a discussion of what went right and what went wrong and maybe a few "war stories" from the participants!

CVCC Annual Picnic

A little rain did not dampen our spirits! The picnic was a great success and I'm sure all that attended will attest to that fact. Many thank to A.C. for making the arrangements, to Jim Frame for letting us use his fine facility, to our resident chef Bob NK4H for his hard work at the grill, and to all who brought those yummy dishes. Go here to see all the pictures:

<http://c-v-c-c.us/CVCCPicnic/2009/>

I've included a few of them with this News Letter. See them on page 8.

CVCC Field Day

Field Day 2009 is now history. There are not enough "Attaboy's" to go around to all who worked so hard to get everything done and to all the operators for their time and effort to keep the rigs hot during the 24 hour FD period. Mention must be made of W4MYA's supplying the rigs software and computers, of W1ZA's tireless efforts at scheduling operators, of N4LSP's and WS4WW's antennas, of Barry and Bradley's generator work, of NK4H's assuming chef duties again, of W1ZA's XYL's chili and watermelon, of W4HZ and K4VIV's bringing Saturday lunch and Sunday morning's breakfast and of all those who assisted with set up and take down.

We did not win Category 2A and our score is a bit less than last year but we still had a very respectable 2600+ QSO's and an estimated 9,500+ points. We were able to increase the bonus points a bit and that's a very positive thing. I think this was a very successful effort. As Field Day Chairman this year my vision was to get more of the club members involved with operating and to insure everyone had fun, not to try to win at all costs by concentrating on CW at the expense of our SSB ops. The sign-in log shows 20 of our 31 members participated in one way or another and most all operated or at least had the opportunity to operate is they so desired. In my way of thinking FD is a great time to get in some practice for the serious contests in which we participate as a local club and it's a time to socialize and have fun in addition to operating and working hard to get everything done. Hopefully all those that participated did indeed enjoy this 2009 version of the CVCC Field Day.

Some pictures are included in this News Letter on pages 9 & 10. Hopefully Kyle will put all the pictures on the CVCC web site soon.

It is not too early to start thinking about FD 2010. We will not have the benefit of all the rigs that Bob W4MYA so generously contributes each year so start thinking about what rig you might bring. Also think about volunteering to be our 2010 Field Day Chairman or serving on the FD committee. One thing we might consider is to add RTTY or other digital modes to our FD bag of tricks next year. Those contacts count two points too!

Puck, W4PM

July Contest Calendar

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
Digital Pentathlon	1800Z-2200Z, Jul 3
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	0000Z, Jul 4 to 2359Z, Jul 5
WLOTA Contest	0600Z, Jul 4 to 1200Z, Jul 5
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 4 to 1059Z, Jul 5
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jul 4 to 1500Z, Jul 5
PODXS 070 Club 40m Firecracker Sprint	2000 local, Jul 4 to 0200 local, Jul 5
MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint	2300Z, Jul 4 to 0300Z, Jul 5
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 5
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 6
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 7
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 10
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 11
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 11 to 1200Z, Jul 12
Feld Hell Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Jul 11
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Jul 12
ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Jul 12
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 15
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 16
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 17
Russian Radio Team Championship	0700Z-1459Z, Jul 18
DMC RTTY Contest	1200Z, Jul 18 to 1200Z, Jul 19
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 18 to 0600Z, Jul 19
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 18 to 2100Z, Jul 19
RSGB Low Power Field Day	0900Z-1200Z and 1300Z-1600Z, Jul 19
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	2000Z-2159Z, Jul 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 22
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Jul 23
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 24
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 25 to 1200Z, Jul 26
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 31

Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Revision Date: September 10, 2008

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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.

Nothing jumps out and grabs me although the RAC Canada Contest on July 1 was a fun event. There are some RTTY, Digital, QRP and VHF contests during July that may hold interest for some.

CVCC Wins Another Gavel in the 2008 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

This from the ARRL:

This year, there were 19 clubs in the Local Club category, six more than in 2007. The Central Virginia Contest Club took the top prize in 2008, with six club members combining for a total score of 209,928 points. The Iowa DX and Contest Club came in a very close second place with 203,892 points earned from three logs. How close was the victory? The difference of just over 6,000 points could probably have been bridged with one more 100-QSO log entry. Last year's category winner, the Midland Amateur Radio Club of Midland, Texas finished third this year. Seven club members combined for a score of 154,270 points

CVCC Scores as reported by ARRL were:

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Power	Section	Club	Ops
1	W1ZA	132,348	475	82	D	C	VA	Central Virginia Contest Club	(+ W4TNX, K4OSO)
2	W4PM	33,440	190	44	D	C	VA	Central Virginia Contest Club	
3	KG4W	16,616	136	31	C	B	VA	Central Virginia Contest Club	
4	N3UA	11,900	93	35	D	C	VA	Central Virginia Contest Club	
5	WD4LBR	8,712	79	33	D	B	VA	Central Virginia Contest Club	
6	N4DWK	6,912	80	32	D	C	VA	Central Virginia Contest Club	
	Totals	209,928	1,053	257					

Way to go CVCC!

DX de DR

Had I not been in Pennsylvania on Saturday morning June 27 I would have missed TZ6EI on 6 meters anyway because I would have been helping setup the CVCC Field Day operation. The DX Summit spots indicated an opening to VE, W1, W2 and W9. Maybe there will be another opening before they QRT on July 6. It is a good thing some sunspots are showing up.

We just might have some good conditions for the much-anticipated Glorioso operation scheduled for July 9-28. I do believe this time it will really happen. An October operation would have suited everyone much better, but as my friend, Sam said many years ago, "You take pie when pie is passed". Even without Glorioso October promises to be an exciting month with both Midway and Conway Reef operations scheduled by large groups. Both of these rare Pacific entities have been unrepresented on the bands for a long time.

The C21TI operation has been rescheduled till August 16-24 and they promise some 60-meter operation. Let's hope they deliver on that promise better than the recent ZY0F group who didn't manage a single contact on our newest band even though they had a special license for operation on 60 meters.

In the bad news category, VY1JA says he is giving up amateur radio. He was the guy who made many clean sweeps possible in Sweepstakes. Perhaps the strain of being so sought after was just too much for him. We hope someone takes his place.

STOP THE PRESS:

This just in, the Glorioso DXpedition has been postponed again due to problems with the runway. It is now scheduled for late August. This is actually great news for everyone and for me personally. Conditions on the low bands will be better, the HF propagation will be better and several more operators will be able to go along. For me personally, I will be at home during the entire period rather than being on several trips which would have limited my chances to work them on the many bands I still need FT8G (everywhere except 40/20/15/10). Now if we can just get the sun to hurry up and make a few spots we may even get a shot at them as high as 12 meters.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

NW4V: Ed had a good month with 4 new B/E's. ZK2 17, H44 30, 4O3A 10 and SV9 on 12. Note the last two, which is a good omen for future opportunities on our high bands.

W1ZA: Duke has let the low sunspot numbers and summer thunderstorm activity keep him out of the shack. He has however put a major effort into scheduling operators for the CVCC Field Day bash.

W4PM: Being president of the CVCC has not slowed down Puck's DX activity. Among his 1237 Q's were 6 new B/E's of which BV4VR 20 and H44MY 40 were all time new ones. YS1G 17 and the BV4 are already confirmed by LOTW, which gives him a 200 DXCC sticker entirely confirmed by LOTW. Still without a beam for 6 Puck managed QSOs with F8RZ and EA2LU. I personally can verify the latter QSO as I heard both ends of it.

WD4LBR: Bruce got 66 new BMC's (band mode countries) which I can't translate to B/E's, but can guess it included quite a few of the latter. His best catches were: ZK2V 3 modes on 15 plus cw Q's on 20/30/40, TL0A on 15/17/20 SSB, OY 40, H44MY, JD1BMN 30, BX5 20 SSB and 8R1DB on 6. The real catch was EZ3W on 15 CW. If this was a legit station it is a real breakthrough as the amateurs in Turkmenistan were put off the air several years ago. So far I have seen no official announcement that this policy has changed.

K4WNW: Sheila came up with 36 BMC's with most of the same catches as Bruce, but also including a VU on 20 SSB and 5V7PM on 20 RTTY. She also got that EZ3. I believe the new beam is doing wonders at the Blackley household. Add a linear and this couple will be hard to beat in our DX Champion competition.

KF4QQY: Barry's tower project has experienced a growth spurt with the help of son, KI4TOQ. The tower is now up to 25' and the TA33M partially assembled. Completion of the project will have to wait till September when Barry returns from a work job in West Virginia.

W4MYA: Bob has found time from his new business to work a bunch of 6 meter DX including two new ones, J39BS and 5J0BV to reach 133 on that band.

WA4PGM: Kyle was happy with D44TD on 6 for a new one on that band.

K2WK: I heard Walt working VK9GMW on 160 cw - a real rare catch.

W4DR: At last something to report. Four new 6-meter grids in central Spain one day after the C37 6-meter operation went QRT. UR7D in KN18 was my best DX so far this summer on 6 and I added rare FN59 by VA2NU and HP84 with TF8GX. With a little luck in QSLing these 7 grids I can get a 1050 VUCC sticker for 6. VA2BK made #75 on 60 meters. PV8ADI on 6 cw was a new grid, FJ92. Still no joy with TZ|6EI

KJ4IT: Jerry has put his new FT2000 to good use. He has resolved to make at least two DX QSOs every day using cw to regain his original skill with that mode. He is actively working for his DXCC and during our reporting period has worked 20 + entities in 4 continents. Some of his best catches include E7, 5B4, LY, HI, 8P6, PY and J93. He is also submitting his contest scores to PVRC. Keep up the good work Jerry!

Happy Hunting
Bob W4DR

RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR

The ARRL DXCC yearbook came last week. Unlike last year all of the DXCC totals for mixed, cw, phone, digital and the individual bands were listed. Like everyone else I looked for my scores in each category to see how I stood. Every score was there until I got to 10 meters and my score was missing as was several of the stations who had similar scores to mine. The highest score listed was my friend, K4DY at 350 and I knew I was 4 ahead of Les. I sent an email to Bill Moore, NC1L asking what happened. He referred me to a blog explaining the new policy. It is simply this. If during a calendar year you do not submit at least one credit in a particular category your score in that category will not be listed. I scratched my head. Why was every band and mode listed for me except 10 meters? Then a light came on. I had worked the new entity, FJ everywhere except 10 meters which kept all of my other scores in print. This policy has the advantage of saving space in the magazine but also has a down side. Many people are interested in knowing the top scores in a particular band or mode and unless the ARRL adds a new entity or so every year all of the top scores will be dropped in the yearbook. For a \$12 fee annually you can remain listed even if you haven't submitted anything. Personally I don't think I will bite on that as 10 bands and 4 modes would get rather expensive! All is not lost though as you can still go to the ARRL web site and click on DXCC and then any band or mode you want to check and all of the scores are there. At least that is the case for now.

More possible bad news. The Russians are going to activate an OTHR (over the horizon radar) all around their huge country. We don't know what frequencies will be protected, but if it is like their old "woodpecker" or the later Chinese "Dragon" this has the potential to do much damage to our amateur frequencies as well as other HF communication. Let's hope for the best.

Congratulations to Sejo, N3UA and his entire family who are now full fledged American citizens. These are the kind of people whose contributions to our national well being are always needed. Welcome to the land of freedom and opportunity, Sejo, Amira, Nedim and Neira!

From all indications VETEX run by W4MYA and KF7NN is taking off with some really happy customers including yours truly. What a wonderful thing to have a local repair shop run by good friends. Let's support them with our own jobs and refer our friends.

Bob W4DR

Member News:

W4PM, Puck: I received a log checking report from the 2008 CQWW contest. I had 529 QSO's and 521,280 points in that one and had ZERO errors! That's the first time that has happened. Normally I have 1 to 2 % errors. Five stations did copy my call incorrectly though. I was W4GM in two logs, and in three other logs I appeared as W2PM, W4RM, and even W4PMS. I don't know about "PMS" – I was feeling pretty good during that contest!

WK4Y, Roy: WK4Y - Field Day, 2009.

This Field Day I was located at Edith's relatives' place on the NW River in Currituck County, in North Carolina. This is located about 4 or 5 miles over the VA line, in the VA Beach / Chesapeake VA area. I was actually within rock throwing distance of the river, which runs North and South. And my Shack location was next to the boat ramp/canal to the river.

I did Field Day there this year to accommodate Edith's cousin, who is interested in Ham Radio. She, Cheryl, did some tuning and logging, but only towards the end of the event did she start to use the microphone. Next year I am sure she will be ready to run em. We probably spent 12 hours total time on the air, with a total of 425 Q's, not counting dupes.

My equipment setup was the Elecraft K3 transceiver and my antenna was a full wave 80-meter loop hung horizontally in the trees up 50 feet over the Marsh, being used multi band. Had to tread lots of swamp water and watch for snakes when erecting and taking down. The water in this river is brackish, so I hope it helped my signal. I was provided with a 5000-watt generator for use, and the "Quack Shack" which they use during duck hunting season. The shack had a nice overhead fan, which made things most comfortable, and with the location on the water, spared us from the monstrous mosquitoes.

I am including some photos of Cheryl and the location (see below). Sorry, but I don't have one of me while there. Notice the golf cart in one photo. This was my transportation to and from the house, which is located about a 1/5 of a mile from the Quack Shack.

I finally make contact with CVCC during the event. Once on 6 meter SSB, and with the GOTA Station (W4PM) on 20 meter SSB. Never could find CVCC on 80 meters. Both contacts were extremely weak, I think due to the closeness of the locations. 80 meters is probably the only band that communications can be made easily from there.

I hope CVCC did well again this year and will place first in the Nation.



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!

NK4H, Bob: I have a hustler G6 2m vertical, a full wave loop antenna for 80m, and an Astron power supply 8A without meters to give to anyone interested. Call me at 750-1269 or email at raladd@comcast.net. Thanks.

W4MYA, Bob:

FT1000D \$1,800.00 + Shipping This was the run 1 station at CVCC FD. It performed flawlessly.

Also available, FIF 232C computer interface, Rigblaster, Heil headset e/w HC4 element, Yaesu adapter for the headset, foot switch, interface cable to have CW from the parallel port

Ameritron AL-1500 \$1,800+ Shipping

KJ4IT, Jerry Williams: the following items FOR SALE. Cash price is as indicated and all items are being sold ‘AS IS’. The items can be brought to the club cook-out meeting or next membership meeting on request. Contact Jerry on his cell at 357-2190 or via e-mail at kj4it@amsat.org. Jerry added this month – price as noted or MAKE an OFFER!

ICOM IC-271A 2-Meter All Mode Transceiver. This is a basic all mode 2-meter transceiver that develops 25-watts and comes with an Icom DTMF palm microphone, a dc power cable and a downloaded copy of the operator’s manual. The radio was recently tested by a professional technician and found to be in good working order. PRICE: \$150.00.

M-Square 2-Meter HO Loops with Manual: This antenna is comprised of 2-each horizontally polarized omnidirectional 2-meter loops stacked vertically. This antenna can be easily mounted fixed station or mobile with appropriate hardware. Manual included. PRICE: \$85.00.

Gen-Tran Corporation Model 20216 6-Circuit Manual Transfer Switch and Gen-Tran Model L6365 Power Inlet Box: This manual transfer switch handles 6-circuits residential and is intended for use with portable generators up to 5000-watts. This unit is UL Listed. Both items are unused and new in the box. PRICE \$250.00.

Cubex Quad Model 9L2M11L70CM-XP1 2-meter 70-cm quad. Antenna is in poor to fair condition. It was loaned out for testing and returned with a couple of broken elements on 2-m and the coax matching transformer on the 70-cm quad was cut. There are a couple of missing nocks which can be replaced at Green Top. A couple of wire elements have broken strands. The boom and the rods are in good condition. Manual included, please make an offer.

Sinclair Radio labs Model L3B Dummy Load. Rated at 100 watts and tests OK. Type 'N' female connector. \$45.00

EMR Corp Model 1650 125 watt load termination. Frequency range is 0 – 1 GHz. Type 'N' female connector. I have 2-each for \$65.00 apiece.

SEE THE NEXT THREE PAGES FOR PICNIC AND FD PICTURES.

Picnic Pictures



Field Day Pictures



More Field Day Pictures

