



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

March Program:

The agenda for the March meeting will include a report by the nominating committee and discussions concerning club organization and assignments.

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. The following members have paid for the current year. If your name is not on the list your dues are due! If you can't attend the meeting just send your check made out to CVCC to our treasurer at his call book address.

K4OSO	N4DWK
K4WHN	NW4V
K4WNW	W4DR
KG4QIT	W4HJ
KJ4IT	W4PFM
N3UA	W4PM
N4CFL	W4TNX
N4DEN	WA4PGM
NK4H	WD4LBR

“Attaboy”



This month a big “Attaboy” goes to our resident Mr. DX and one of the founding members of the CVCC, Bob Eshleman. Bob had been a driving force in the club since its earliest days always supporting club activities in every way possible. He has hosted many a CVCC Multi-Op activity over the years. He currently writes our monthly “DX de DR” and “Random Skip” columns which we all look forward to with great anticipation. He also serves as our program chairman finding great programs for our meetings. It's hard to imagine the CVCC without Bob. He's an all around good guy and friend to all. We want to express our sincere thanks to you Bob for all your continuing efforts on behalf of our club.

February Program:



Photos courtesy of W1ZA

Fifty-nine Wonderful Years and Counting by W4QCW - W4DR Bob's power point presentation covered 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, were a part of the program. Thanks Bob for an excellent program.

March Contest Calendar

SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest
North Carolina QSO Party
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data
ARS Spartan Sprint
AGCW YL-CW Party

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship

SKCC Weekend Sprint
UBA Spring Contest, CW
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest
NSARA Contest

CLARA HF Contest

RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW
NCCC Sprint
HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest

RSGB Commonwealth Contest
AGCW QRP Contest
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint
EA PSK31 Contest
SOC Marathon Sprint
Idaho QSO Party
North American Sprint, RTTY
UBA Spring Contest, 6m
Wisconsin QSO Party
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
Bucharest Contest

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB
Feld Hell Sprint
Mobile Contest
BARTG HF RTTY Contest
SARL VHF/UHF Contest
Russian DX Contest
Oklahoma QSO Party

1200Z-1400Z, Mar 1
1700Z, Mar 1 to 0300Z, Mar 2
2000Z-2130Z, Mar 2
0200Z-0400Z, Mar 3
1900Z-2100Z, Mar 4
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Mar 6
0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8
0400Z-0429Z, Mar 7 and
0430Z-0459Z, Mar 7 and
0500Z-0529Z, Mar 7 and
0530Z-0600Z, Mar 7
2200Z-2359Z, Mar 7 (Low Band) and
0000Z-0159Z, Mar 8 (Low Band) and
0800Z-1159Z, Mar 8 (High Band)
0000Z-2400Z, Mar 8
0700Z-1100Z, Mar 8
1100Z-1700Z, Mar 8
1100Z-1500Z, Mar 8 and
1700Z-2100Z, Mar 8
1700Z, Mar 10 to 1700Z, Mar 11 and
1700Z, Mar 14 to 1700Z, Mar 15
2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
0230Z-0300Z, Mar 13
1830Z-1900Z, Mar 13 (80m) and
1900Z-1930Z, Mar 13 (40m)
1000Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
1400Z-2000Z, Mar 14
1500Z-1800Z, Mar 14
1600Z, Mar 14 to 1600Z, Mar 15
1800Z-2400Z, Mar 14
1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
0700Z-1100Z, Mar 15
1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
0200Z-0400Z, Mar 16
1600Z-1729Z, Mar 16 and
1730Z-1859Z, Mar 16
0130Z-0330Z, Mar 19
2000Z-2130Z, Mar 19
0000Z-2400Z, Mar 21 10-10 Int.
0001Z-2359Z, Mar 21
0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
1000Z, Mar 21 to 1000Z, Mar 22
1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
1300Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22 and

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest

North Dakota QSO Party

Virginia QSO Party

UBA Spring Contest, 2m

9K 15-Meter Contest

QRP Homebrewer Sprint

SKCC Sprint

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

1300Z-1900Z, Mar 22

1600Z-1900Z, Mar 21 (144) and

1900Z-2100Z, Mar 21 (432)

1700Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 22

1800Z, Mar 21 to 0100Z, Mar 23

0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22

1200Z-1600Z, Mar 22

0000Z-0400Z, Mar 23

0000Z-0200Z, Mar 25

0000Z, Mar 28 to 2359Z, Mar 29

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 three big ones in March (the three in bold above). There has been some rumblings that we enter the ARRL DX SSB contest as a local club this year. While we had only fair participation in the CW version, we could do well in the SSB version if we get some commitments for some multi-op entries from W1ZA, W4HZ, W4DR or possibly others. Since we have a number of good SSB ops in this club we should be able to man at least two multi-op efforts as well as a number of single-op entries. The other big ones are the Virginia QSO Party and the CQWW WPX SSB contest. We have won the club competition in the Virginia QSO party for a number of years and we should be able to do it again. This will require an all out effort with entries from everyone as well as some multi-op entries.

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

<u>Call</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>CAT</u>	<u>QSO</u>	<u>MLT's</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ops</u>
N2QT	RTTY WPX	SOLP	1,318	572	2,152,136	29.9	
W4PM	ARRL DX CW	SOHP(A)	762	287	656,943	20	
KG4W	ARRL DX CW	SOHP(A)	476	248	355,144	?	
N3UA	ARRL DX CW	M/S (?)	491	215	314,760	14	
NW4V	ARRL DX CW	SOLP	220	78	51,480	?	20 M only
WD4LBR	ARRL DX CW				?		Active but no report rx
W1ZA	ARRL DX CW				?		Active but no report rx

Random Skip by W4DR:

The winner of our DX Champion competition this year was George, KF7NN. Since George has not been in the club for very long and has been unable to attend meetings during much of 2008 I thought this column would be a good medium to let everyone get to know him better. I asked George for a bio and what he wrote was so interesting that I want to share it in its entirety.

Member Profile – KF7NN – Laszlo George Vagner

I was born in Hazlet, NJ in 1964 son to a Hungarian immigrant and a local rumrunner's daughter. I resided in Hazlet until I was 19 years old, my father was a plumber then and still is today. The whole family moved out to Flagstaff Arizona at the end of 1983 and opened a Dairy Queen, which prospered up until it was sold in 1991.

In 1987 I met a guy named Scott Hogin (then N7FU now N2ZEN) who was showing me a new mode called "packet" and I asked him how can I use packet, he said I have to be a "ham", so I started learning morse code. I purchased an old Hammerlund SX-170 and a Johnson Viking Pacemaker. In September of 1987 I passed my Novice test and became KB7CWR. From 1987 to 1991 I progressed up to Advanced class (KF7NN) using an old Swan 350 and Butternut vertical antenna. I bought a new Yaesu FT-990 and got involved with the Northern Arizona DX Association and met up with a few real good operators. One in particular still sticks in my mind he is a founding member of PVRC and a very good friend (W7YS). I used to go over to Bills with some basket case radio to see if he could fix it just about every week.

When the Dairy Queen was sold we moved to Tempe Arizona in which I had my station setup and soon found myself enrolling in college at DeVry to take electronics. During my last semester I realized that I had enough theory and code speed to pass my extra, it was a done deal. During college I had a particular instructor named Robert Johnson, he was very strict but really knew his stuff about digital electronics so I followed his every word and learned a ton of good stuff only to find out he was a ham (KE7LZ)! We became friends and he appreciated my never-ending questions, I think.

After receiving my degree I got a local job at ASM repairing circuit boards for semiconductor processing equipment and progressed to systems technician until 1995 when I got a position in Texas at TI, which ended in 1998. I worked at a few more semi-conductor companies since then and in 2002 I drove back out to NJ to see my old stomping ground. While there my aunt called me up and said she wanted me to drive to Virginia to meet her friend. I did, and her friend became my wife. I worked briefly at Micron in Manassas for a vendor and soon got a job at Infineon Technologies (now Qimonda) in Sandston.

One day I had a 2 meter station sitting on 146.580 just by chance and heard this guy talking, after listening to him he was talking to someone like he was interviewing them for a security job or something. I heard things like "have you ever been convicted of a felony" and so forth, well this went on for about 45 minutes non-stop without unkeying. When the guy finally was ending the interview he said his phone number and for the guy to call him if he needed. I copied the number down and called it and the man answered I said to him "you're on the air" he said "no I am not" I said "yes you are" and I held the phone up to the speaker, I heard a loud click on the 2M and his signal was gone. He inadvertently pushed a book up to the PTT button on the mic that was sitting on his desk. He thanked me and told me his call sign was W4MYA and his name was Bob Morris. I told him my call and name and he invited me over to check out his station. I told him I would come see it sometime

During this time my mom/dad moved to Amherst county Virginia. I purchased a house in Goochland on 5 acres that was completely surrounded by trees and slowly started moving in. I thought I would get involved some more into DXing when I remembered Bob. I looked up his address and it was right around the corner. I went over and introduced myself and he opened his ham shack door. To my amazement here I stood in front of 7 FT-1000's all with amps and computers to control them on 7 separate towers, he explained that he was a contester and had people over during the contests to operate each station. I walked out of there thinking to myself. "OK I am obsessed with Ham radio but I got to show this to my dad, he won't believe me unless he sees it himself".

My wife went over to Bob's house one time and when I arrived back home she said to me, "Don't ever get like Bob, he is obsessed". I told her I wouldn't. I wanted to put up a tower now since I had seen the competition and called Bob to see where to buy one. Bob said he has one for me, a 100 footer. About that time I met Barry N4QQY who works for Caterpillar and has just about every tool on the planet. I bought the anchors, u-bolts had the hole dug and got the permit, we all started and soon completed the installation even after the tower climber never showed and I had to learn how to be a tower installer instantly. I cannot express how grateful I am to Barry, Bob and Ralph (W4FEG) for sharing their expertise and time during the install. We only had one guy pass out and one guy fall over a stump backwards. I found muscles I never knew I had.

Pictures of the install are here:

http://vagner.com/?q=gallery&g2_itemId=28813

In 2007 we had a baby girl and named her Tiffany and since then my life has been turned upside down. Gone were the quiet days of relaxing replaced by sleepless nights and constant screaming. Today Tiffany is a little older and understands more. She is not as worrisome as she was when she was an infant, I can tell when she really needs something or is just putting on an act.

The station today consists of an Icom 756 Pro3 and a Cushcraft A3s @ 100 ft with a full size 80-meter loop and various dipoles driven by an Alpha 99 amplifier. My backup rigs are Yaesu FT-990, Yaesu FT-757, Kenwood TS-820s, and 2 Kenwood TS-120s's, Icom IC-706 and an Icom IC-7000.

The future is uncertain as of this Thursday I will no longer work at Qimonda due to the slump in memory prices and demand. I am confident another opportunity will arise for someone to work me to death for next to nothing and I will just accept it because I have a hobby to support.

KF7NN

Next month I intend to critique the K5D operation as well as share a little of the old and new information on the 3rd rarest DXCC entity, Navassa, so stay tuned.

W4DR

DX de DR (February Reports):

The K5D operation is over and it was a huge success with over 114K QSO's. Twenty had the most with 27K, 17 was next with 21K, followed by 15K for 80, 40 and 30, 15 meters had 10K and 160 an amazing 7K.

Not surprising 12, 10 and 6 had only a handful each. Does this mean Navassa is next? I believe it is. If the amateurs invite some USFWS officials along for a free ride, a few biologists and can get a helicopter to land them on top of the island near the unused lighthouse most of the objections to an operation could be removed. The lighthouse is 150 foot tall so would make an ideal mast for all kinds of antennas. This has been done once before by W0EX who was a Navy officer.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

KF7NN: George worked K5D on 160-17

W4PM: Puck found conditions during the ARRL CW DX TEST excellent. He said, "Perhaps we are finally getting off the bottom of the cycle." One hundred watt JA's light up his "red hot wire" S7-8 on 40 and 20. He found K5D on 17 band slots and 3 modes along with YN, YS and J8 on 160, 9J on 80, a all time new T27 on 40 and a Z2 on 20.

W4DR: I continue to miss VP8DIF and TN5SN who I need on RTTY. They always show when I am at work, church or on a trip. At least K5D provided me a new digital mode credit and 8P9MD was #73 on 60. TF3SG was a new BMC on 160 SSB and a quick QSL.

N3UA: Sejo got T27A on 40 for an all time new one as well as K5D on 20 and 17 along with J8 on 30.

KG4W: Ed was in the K5D long for 160, 80, 40 and 20. What no WARC bands, Ed?

WA4PGM: Kyle got K5D on 80 just before they pulled the antenna down to go along with 7 other band slot on all 3 modes. He heard them on 12, but no joy.

W4TNX: John used his 50-watter and attic antennas to nab K5D on 6 band slots and 3 new ones. He waited till Feb 22 and was able to make all of his QSO's with ease using this modest setup. With no computer in the attic he had to key manually.

N4CH: Herman worked 8P9MD on 60 and K5D was a new BMC on 160 SSB. He laments that they could not find any time to break new ground on 60 meters.

K4WNW: Sheila had 11 band slots with K5D using all 3 modes and added EY8MM on 20 RTTY as well as FW5RE on 17, 20 and 40.

NW4V: Ed was very pleased to work FW5RE on 17 during a brief opening. A spot by a KY station alerted him to the opening. He got the K5 on 80, 40, 20 and 17.

N4DWK: Dave worked K5D on CW and SSB 160 through 15. He also added a UR5 and LA5 on difficult 160 SSB.

WD4LBR: Bruce had 16 band slots with K5D and had FW5RE on 40, 20 and 17 plus a 9k2 on 40 cw.

W1ZA: Duke was the only local to extend the table with K5D by working them on 12 as well as all of the bands below. He spent a lot of time watching 10, but says they missed the one E Skip opening during their stay. He used the DX contest to pick up 4 new ones on 160, the hardest of which was OA4WW. KG6DX and T27A were his best prizes on 80. He mistook 6Y1LZ for BY1LZ on 40 the first morning only to discover the error the next day. Sorry about that extra dit, Duke!

A final thought. How often have you been asked what is the big deal about working some distant point on the

globe with your ham radio when you can call them on the telephone or contact them on the internet? It is really hard to explain the thrill of that weak signal answering you. I can still remember how I felt nearly 60 years ago when I worked my first DX. Well, KE3Q has a great answer. Ask the person, "Why go fishing when fish are so much cheaper and easily available in the grocery store?" Even your friends will grasp the concept that "the message is the medium".

Happy fishing!

Bob W4DR

K5D – Desecheo Island – BIG DX News of the Month



Photo courtesy KP4IA, KP4FIE and KP4RY

This picture is from the K5D website. The operating camp can be seen on the helicopter pad at the center of the picture. There are 3 antenna fields. One is on the ridge above and to the east of the camp, another is spread along the beach below the camp, and the third is to the left and north of the camp. Go here <http://www.k5d.us/>, enter the site and click on the picture. The larger picture allows you to see many of the antennas in more detail. By the time you read this, the operation will be history with all operations shut down. With over 114,000 contacts this should move Desecheo Island well down the DXCC most wanted list. I hope all CVCC'ers who needed this one made a few contacts with them. The CVCC was one of the club sponsors of this Dxpediton. See our certificate of appreciation on the CVCC web site. Additional costs of the Dxpediton were incurred due to helicopter transfer of the crews because to bad weather. You might consider making a personal contribution to help the guys defray some of these additional costs.

Member News:

WA4PGM, Kyle: Certificates Received:

2008 CQ160 VP9I Single Op Low Power - #3 World, #1 North America

2007 CQWW SSB PJ4E Multi-2 - #4 World

PJ4E Photos:



WA4PGM – Kyle

WK4Y - Roy

PJ4NX - PE2MC - PE2KY

W4HZ, Jonathan: Worked K5D on 80 & 160, haven't been around during the times they have been active on the high bands. I'll open my station for the CQ WW 160 SSB contest if there is any interest.

N2QT, Mark: I did pretty well in RTTY WPX, LP, 2,152,436 points which was 30% better than last year. Took time during my break on RTTY to work K5D on 160, which was a new one for me.

Missed ARRL CW, but will take a shot at the 160 contest this weekend.

No new toys, but would sure like to trade a couple of my Kenwood 940's towards a K3!

W4PM, Puck: I kicked off the month with the FOC Marathon on Jan 31/Feb 1, then spent the rest of the month chasing K5D and doing the ARRL DX test last weekend. The great job done by the Desecheo Dxpediton allowed me to log them on CW on 7 bands, SSB on 5 bands and 3 bands on RTTY. Yes I do have a mic for my Omni VII and thanks to Bruce's instructions I can RTTY a little bit too! Not ham radio related, but I finally bit the bullet and updated the TV with a new 32" LCD HD TV. It sure has a nice picture but the sound was not all that great. I found a Bose Wave Music System for a great price on "Craig's List" and ran the TV sound through it. When Judy and I watch movies now it's almost like being in a movie theater.

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) at a "Make Offer" price.

N4ZJ, Tom: I know someone in CVCC used to collect old radios, but I can't remember who. Cleaning out the attic today, I found an old Emerson wood case radio that looks like it's from the late 30s, early 40s. If anyone collects them, it's yours! Also, I have a lot of misc. computer stuff - CDROM drives, motherboards - Pentium 3 and 4, processors, net cards, and misc. other stuff. I have a complete Dell P3, 1Ghz machine - these were pretty nice, and run NA and other ham software just fine. I may have more than one that works. If any or all interests you, let me know before it goes to the computer recycling company this weekend. I'll probably unearth some more stuff, maybe even (heaven forbid) some ham stuff that's gotta go. Tom - N4ZJ