



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - May 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 May meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 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.

### May Meeting:

Paul Wyse, W4PFM, OA8V, 5Z4FO, 5X4F, T54FO, CP5AR and others, will make a presentation entitled, "ELUDING SNAKES AND REBELS WHILE DXING FROM 3 CONTENIENTS AND 10 COUNTRIES". Hopefully we can have a big turnout for this very interesting program. We've invited the other local clubs in the area as well. After the program we will have a business meeting covering plans for the annual picnic, field day, proposed new contesting award, and Constitution and By-Laws suggested modifications as well as any new business that may be brought before the club. During the month of April your Contesting Committee, Constitution and By-Laws Committee and Field Day Committee all had meetings. It's been a busy month with more to come.

### CVCC Annual Picnic:

The annual picnic will be held either Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May or the following Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. It has been pointed out that the 23<sup>rd</sup> is during the weekend preceding Memorial Day and many may have plans for that weekend. We will have a vote at the meeting Tuesday to select one of these dates and all will be notified by e-mail on Wednesday. Please contact Bob, NK4H, to let him know you will be attending and what covered dish you are bringing. The picnic will be at the same place as in past years, James Frame's QTH at 2320 Huguenot Trail on the river in Powhatan County. We will start gathering around 3:00 with eating by 5:00 and leave shortly after clean up. See the directions below. We will try to post a sign at the driveway entrance.

**\*\*Directions from Huguenot Rd (Rt. 147) and Robious Rd (Rt. 147) in Richmond**

Go West on Robious Road (Rt. 711) approx. 12.5 miles. Robious turns into Huguenot Trail at the County line. 2320 Huguenot Trail is on the right and is approx. 2 miles past Lucky's service station

**\*\*Directions from Goochland Courthouse (Route 6 and Rt. 522)**

Go South on Rt. 522. Cross the James River.

Go East (Left) on Huguenot Trail (Rt. 711) approx. 5.5 miles 2320 is on your Left and approx. 1 mile from Lee's Landing Road.

**\*\*Directions from Rt. 60 and Rt. 522**

Go North on Rt. 522 to Rt. 711. Go East (Right) on Huguenot Trail (Rt. 711) approx. 5.5 miles.

2320 is on your Left and approx. 1 mile from Lee's Landing Road.

There are stone columns at the entrance. James's access road goes around his home and on down to the river.  
PLEASE DRIVE SLOW AND WATCH OUT FOR LITTLE ONES NEAR THE HOUSE.

## May Contest Calendar

NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
MARAC CW QSO Party	0000Z, May 2 to 2400Z, May 3
MARAC SSB QSO Party	0000Z, May 2 to 2400Z, May 3
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, May 2 to 2359Z, May 3
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600-1300 local, May 2
<b>7th Call Area QSO Party</b>	<b>1300Z, May 2 to 0700Z, May 3</b>
Portuguese Navy Day Contest	1500Z, May 2 to 1500Z, May 3
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 2 to 0400Z, May 3
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 2 to 0500Z, May 3 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 3
<b>ARI International DX Contest</b>	<b>2000Z, May 2 to 1959Z, May 3</b>
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, May 4
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, May 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, May 8
SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest	0600 local, May 9 to 2000 local, May 10
VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, May 9
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1000Z-1200Z, May 9 and 1800Z-2000Z, May 10
<b>CQ-M International DX Contest</b>	<b>1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10</b>
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 9
Nevada Mustang Roundup	1700Z, May 9 to 1700Z, May 10
<b>50 MHz Spring Sprint</b>	<b>2300Z, May 9 to 0300Z, May 10</b>
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, May 10
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 13
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 15
Feld Hell Sprint	1200Z-2200Z, May 16
EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
<b>His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW</b>	<b>1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17</b>
<b>Manchester Mineira All America CW</b>	<b>1500Z, May 16 to 2359Z, May 17</b>
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 18
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 21
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 21
QRP Minimal Art Session	1900Z-2300Z, May 21
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 22
<b>**FOC June BWQP CW</b>	<b>0000Z-2359Z May 23 **</b>
<b>Baltic Contest</b>	<b>2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24</b>
MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	2300Z, May 25 to 0300Z, May 26
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 27
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</b>	<b>0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31</b>
Kids Roundup	1400Z, May 30 to 2200Z, May 31
ARCI Hootowl Sprint	2000 local - 2400 local, May 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, which I've shown in bold. The CQWW WPX can yield a lot of QSO's and although while I don't see much sense in counting prefixes for multipliers, you may be able to find a few new B/E's in this one too. The CQ-M is a nice DX contest sponsored by the Soyuz Radiolyubitelei Rossii (SRR) or Russian Amateur Radio Union. Also there are some fun QSO parties and even a 6-meter sprint. Give them a try!

I added the FOC BWQP to the calendar. It's interesting that most contest calendars never will publish FOC events. The BWQP's, which occur twice each year, are open to all and have a lot more participation than some of the obscure ones that do make the calendars. See the BWQP info below.

### **\*\*The June Bill Windle QSO Party\*\***

**The Event:** The Bill Windle QSO Party. Stations call CQ BW

**Duration:** 24 hours. 0000Z to 2359Z on Saturday, 23 May 2009.

#### **Object :**

**FOC members:** To make as many different QSOs as possible. VHF bands are included but WARC bands are excluded. Members are encouraged to work as many members and non-members as possible to promote operating on CW. This also provides an opportunity to hear the operating practices of others who may be considered for nomination in the future.

**Non-Members:** To contact as many FOC members as possible on all amateur bands including VHF. However, the WARC bands are excluded.

**Exchange:** For FOC members: RST, Name, & FOC Number. For Non-members: RST & Name.

This is the minimum info to exchange. Everyone is encouraged to have at least a mini-chat with other stations.

**Frequencies:** CW portions of all appropriate bands, from 015 to 040. Top Band: Avoid the DX Window

**Activity Report:** FOC members report total QSOs and total FOC QSOs, counted once per band. For example: 302/177 would indicate a score where the first number would be total QSOs, followed by the total FOC member QSOs. Non-Members report total QSOs with FOC members, counted once per band.

**Awards:** Handsome certificates will be awarded to the station on each continent reporting the highest number of QSOs. Certificates will be awarded in both categories, members and non-members. No logs, no verification required; we are only using the honor system. Send your report to KZ5D@aol.com no later than 30 May 2009.

Final results will be posted on the open page of our FOC website and published in the FOC News Sheet. A complete wrap-up will appear in Focus. Member QSOs that qualify can count for the Bill Windle award, Augie, WAFOC, WAS-FOC, etc.

**Next BWQP:** 14 November 2009

### **Contests, Contests, Contests – April 2009 (CVCC Members & Friends)**

Nothing was reported to me and I've had no time to go searching for scores. I entered the FL and GA QSO parties and the YU DX contest, but all were on a very casual and limited basis due to lack of time to play. I also heard N3UA and KG4W banging away in a few contests. Dave, N4DWK, reports he also sent in a score for the club in the VAQP – SOHP SSB, 168 Q's, 72 mults, 12,960 points. Thanks Dave, that's great for a couple of hour's work!

### **April Meeting:**

Officers were elected for the 2009-2010 term.

President – W4PM, Puck

Secretary – NW4V, Ed

Treasurer – NK4H, Bob

In addition Field Day 2009 plans were discussed, as were CVCC plans for entering contests as a local club this coming year, membership, and a proposal for a new annual CVCC contesting award.

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

With only one major DXpedition this past month the bands have been pretty quiet. The Mellish Reef operation was really unique. It was done by two men furnishing their own transportation. They were dedicated 160 meter operators and made no apology for spending lots of time on that band. In spite of this many other QSO's were made on all of the other bands. They fought extremely bad weather going and coming as well as during their time on the tiny island. Despite all of these problems and without any support staff they got out a consistently good signal on 160 which is the hardest band to get up a good transmitting antenna where there are no towers or tall trees. The small size of the island also challenged them to put up efficient receiving antennas. Yet despite all of

these disadvantages they did themselves proud giving a new one to many top band operators as well as to lots of the deserving on other bands. Congratulations to AA7JV and HA7RY. Let's see if we can get them to put India on top band, a much rarer country for NA topbanders and much more accessible.

I just read that the USFWS people were very happy with their experience with the amateur radio team which took them to Desecheo. The team left the island in better shape than they found it. This bodes well for future operations from US territory controlled by the USFWS such as Navassa Island. It does make the point that working cooperatively with a powerful government agency is probably more effective than fighting them in court. K4UEE, W0GJ and NA5U deserve much of the credit for making this approach work and for making future ventures possible. If Desecheo was expensive it will pale compared to the cost of putting on a similar operation from Navassa where the nearest US controlled territory is over 100 miles distance and it ruled by the US military. In the meantime another USFWS territory should be on the air this summer, Midway Island, KH4.

### **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

**N3UA:** Sejo got TL0A on 17 and 20 for an all time new one. Also 5X on 40 and C31 on 30 were new B/E's. He also spent a few hours in the FL and GA QP's as well as the SP DX contest.

**KF7NN:** George, along with W4MYA, has started a new business, VETEX, to repair radios and computers. This is great news for us, as we will no longer have to send our rigs all over the country to get them repaired. Let's support our friends and fellow club members in this venture and urge others to do the same. My FT1000 is headed over there tomorrow.

**KC4AUF:** Tony has added another hobby to his growing collection. He has taken up aviation. Several ham buddies are teaching him to fly. He is still elmering new hams and intends to put on a FD operation from his church grounds. Another project is to establish a regular contact with a DU station to stay in contact with a missionary friend. That will be tough with the poor HF conditions we have.

**W4PM:** Puck has been busy refinishing floors and painting his old QTH. Is a move back there in the works? Despite this he still found time for 306 QSO's most of which were made in 3 contests. C91TX was a new B/E on 17 and VK9GMW was all time new on 30.

**NW4V:** Ed says, "April was the best month in a long time." He got VK9GMW on 40 & 30 and HV0A, TL0A, and SO4R all on 17 SSB for new ones. Ed recommends <http://dx-hmspirit.com/> for DX news and pictures.

**WK4Y:** I had the privilege of visiting Roy's impressive shack last week. It was so neat and professional looking that I felt a pang of guilt about my messy collection of wires and cables. The antennas were also equally neat and well engineered and the lawn didn't have a single weed in it. His present project is a full sized 40 meter vertical with an extensive ground system. He will probably make use of that ground for a 80 meter wire vertical and perhaps even a 160 meter inverted L. Oh yes he did work TL0A on 17 for a new one.

**W4DR:** I had one particularly good morning on 160 working VK9GMW, VK9LA and JH4IFF all with good signals. A direct QSL from EX2A for 160 was a welcome addition to my collection as was a 60 meter card from KH6MB.

**K2WK:** Walt didn't report this to me, but while listening to VK9GMW on 160 I overheard his QSO. Congrats!

**K4WNW:** Sheila had hip surgery, but still managed to get the shack to work C91TX on 17 SSB as well as VP5/W5CW on 17 cw and VK9GMW on 30.

**WD4LBR:** Bruce got 12 new BMC's in April including SO4R on 40, 20 and 15, VK9GMW on 30 & 40 and TL0A on 17 and 20.

**W4HZ:** Jonathan reports just one new B/E in April, SO4R on 40. Funny how almost all of our good catches have one of about 4 call signs.

As our new president said several nights ago, "Things are never quite as bad as they seem nor as good as they seem" I believe the same wisdom applies to conditions on our bands.

Bob W4DR

### **Random Skip by W4DR:**

The January issue of QST has stimulated me to get one of my BC454 aircraft receivers on the air. I noticed that the author gave part numbers for Mouser Electronics so I went online and ordered from them. Wow, what good service. They have no minimum order. I also requested a copy of their catalog and it came yesterday. It is as thick as the Richmond area telephone book - a great reference.

Grandson, Gabe is here this weekend so we will attempt our first QSO with the 6L6 oscillator/pa. Watch 3525 for the pileups!

A recent subject for discussion on the 160 reflector has been would we be better off trying to work long haul DX up at the very top of the band near 1995 kHz rather than down around 1820 where most of the Asian stations hang out. The reasoning being that there would be marginally less absorption at that slightly higher frequency. What do you think? Propagation expert K9LA is asking how this present sunspot minimum has compared to the past several minimums on the low bands and especially on 160. My own very unscientific take on this is that the paths to Asia have almost always been over the North Pole and that they have been unusually good. On the other hand, I haven't worked any long haul Asian/Indian Ocean DX via the SSW path in the morning or in the late afternoons via the SSE path for a long time.

A friend of mine recently took her very bright 7-year-old granddaughter to visit Mt. Vernon. After the visit she said, "Grandma when you are dead and I am old will people visit Obama's home?" I'm not sure why I put that in this column, but I just liked it! The humor of young people can be quite charming.

Son, Lee liked to poke gentle fun at me about how seriously I took DX'ing even though he had a license and had worked a little DX himself. Several days ago Rosalie found one of his humorous letters in the attic. He was 20 at the time and living in Washington, DC and actually had a TS820 and a wire antenna to keeps skeds with us. He wrote, "Snagged the People's Republic of Mongolia SSB 160 around 15:35 and later caught a maritime mobile docked outside of Halloween Island on cw, 80 meters. The moonspot cycle has definitely been a boon to proclamation."

That's it for now...at least until I have something more serious to write about. Oh yes I am taking my FT1000 out the Vetex to get the sub-receiver working again just in case something comes on the air that I need and who is working split frequency wider than the 10 kHz split I get with my TX/RX modes.

Bob W4DR

### **Member News:**

**W4PM, Puck:** This edition of the News Letter is a bit sparse. I've been very busy trying to get the old QTH ready to sell this year. I've decided that I'd rather starve than to get a job refinishing wood floors. My back and my knees are still letting me know I'm too old for that type of labor. Currently I'm painting, two rooms down and two to go. Add to that, Judy and I have been cleaning out all the "stuff" we have accumulated over the years from our attic as well as that in Judy's mother's attic. The garage here is full of this "stuff" - no room anymore for cars or my John Deere. Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May is our big yard/estate/moving sale for all those treasures we are not taking to Motley's Auction. Stop by if you are running short of "stuff".

## **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:** One of my friends in SC has died & his widow is selling his equipment. She has his Alpha 87 for sale. It's very clean, mostly used on 160M one hour per night. It does need the PIN Diodes replace (parts will come with the unit for your installation). She has the price set at \$5,000.00. If interested, let me know & I'll put you in touch.

**NK4H, Bob:** I have a Hustler 4 band trap vertical 10m-40m, 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](mailto:raladd@comcast.net). Thanks.