



599 VA - . - . - . - November 2009

<http://www.c-v-c-c.us/>

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

hmmjr@comcast.net

Meeting Notice

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

November Program

Bob W4DR has obtained a DVD of the K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition, which we will show at the meeting.



CVCC Constitution and By-Laws

A copy of the proposed changes as amended at the September meeting was sent to all members. Please review them and vote not later than the end of November meeting. You may vote in person at the November meetings or via e-mail to the club secretary Ed NW4V. We only have votes from 15 of our members. We need 2/3 or 21 of the members voting yes for them to be adopted. Please VOTE!

December Dinner Meeting

Christmas dinner is on Tuesday December 1st @ 6:30 P.M. at Topeaka's Steakhouse, Richmond, VA. Reservations made for 30 people. If folks want to send me a note I will get a head count.

Send to: n4den@comcast.net

CU,

Dennis

RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR

Cyberspace has been buzzing recently with comparisons of the recent operations by FT5GA (Glorioso) and K4M (Midway), especially the 160 reflector. In general 160 operators in both Europe and North America have been unhappy with the FT5, but North Americans were very pleased with K4M.

It's really isn't fair to compare the two operations. One was a true DXpedition and the other was a DX operation with lots of restrictions. They both made a similar number of QSO's, but K4M did it in about one third of the time. Both operations had proficient operators. K4M kept 3 or more stations on the air around the clock and were on just about any band that was open. They were on 160 from sunset to sunrise every day. In contrast FT5GA had long periods of silence due to other duties on the island including a specific mealtime for all operators. I suspect that this mealtime was over the peak time for 80 and 160 meter propagation to the USA. I am pretty sure that they only operated over this narrow window 0230-0250 GMT on one day. This was the day that a dozen very lucky NA stations, including yours truly, made a top band QSO with them. I believe that schedule conflicts plus the relatively low per hour QSO rate on 160 resulted in limited activity on that band. This plus the fact that Glorioso was so high on the overall needs list of DX'ers worldwide the operators perhaps opted for a maximum number of QSO's on the most productive bands.

On 80 meters where relatively good per hour rates are possible the FT5GA guys made 1,667 QSO's compared to only 157 on 160. By contrast, on Midway 2,638 top band QSO's were made and a whopping total of 5,776 on 80. Another interesting comparison was at the opposite end of the spectrum. The FT5GA team had nearly 9,000 QSO's combined total for 10 and 12 meters whereas K4M had only 1,000 on the same two bands. The longer time period of operation allowed the FT5GA guys to catch more good days than the Midway group.

One criticism of both groups is that when a station from a very difficult area of the world breaks through the pileup the operator should immediately begin selective calls. For example there was very limited propagation from Midway to the UK as that is a polar path and the window is short. This opening occurs when there is almost always a wall of loud US signals calling. As a result of this oversight only 4 UK stations worked K4M. I observed the same thing with BS7H who had short windows to the eastern US on 30 and 40 meters at the same time as the JA wall plus the western US wall were calling. When K3ZO broke through the 40-meter operator, a W4, should have known to ask for NA only or better yet W1-4. Instead he waited an hour to go to NA only and by that time the West Coast owned him.

The gold standard for DXpeditions is clearly VP6DX (Ducie) which not only set the record for total QSO's, but also had operators who were very savvy to the narrow propagation windows to difficult areas of the world on each band. That said we owe a lot to the guys and gals who spend a lot of money, take time and risks to put on these DXpeditions and they have the right to play it their way especially when they have little public funding as was the case with FT5GA.

When and where will the next "mega-Dxpedition" take place? I can't wait. As a result of these last two big operations spanning almost a month I developed a chronic pain in my right knee. It wasn't until the last day of K4M that I discovered that it was the operation of my foot switch that caused the problem. I will just have to break an old habit and start using VOX.

Happy hunting,

Bob W4DR

OCTOBER DX REPORT de NW4V

This months column is dedicated to the memory of the C6APR team: Peter Radding W2GJ/C6APR, Edwin Steeble K3IXD/C6AXD, James Hargenrader K4QO/C6AQO, and Dallas Carter W3PP

I hope everyone was able to work at least some of the great DX available during October. The K4M crew from Midway did an outstanding job in my opinion. They provided lots of band activity and worked through the pile-ups in a very efficient manner. Conway Reef and Marquesas were also activated during the month. It was quite a treat to have such rare entities on the air!

November promises some good activity as well. First up, is Chesterfield Islands activated by the dynamic duo of AA7JV and HA7RY. These guys are great ops and plan lots of low band activity. Check them out here: <http://www.tx3a.com/>. They should be active for most of the entire month. Vietnam will be activated by a

German team from Nov. 4-17. This hold some good promise for North America contacts this time of year. Here's their website: <http://www.dl7df.com/xv/index.html>

Toward the end of the month through Dec 5 keep an ear out for another German crew, which will activate Christmas Island. More info here: <http://www.dl2rmc.com/tom/VK9X2009/>. While not so rare for North America, an international crew will active Easter Island from the end of October through Nov. 15. They have a wonderful website and they "Twitter" also! Here: <http://rapanui2009.org/>.

Don't forget November Sweepstakes CW Nov. 7-8 and SSB Nov. 21-22. This is a PVRC score submission event. Let's try and win the gavel two years in a row!

Here are your Reports:

W4DR - The Doctor of DX had a good month with the following: 14! Band slots with FT5GA and all confirmed on LoTW! The Conway and Midway operations gave Bob his number 313, and 314 totals on digital modes. He also worked Midway on 60 meters for number 76 there! YI9TM was a great catch on 40 SSB for a new band mode country, which has been confirmed on LoTW. Bob also had fun breaking the 160 pileups on TX5SPA and 3D2KJ. Congratulations, Bob!

W1ZA had a productive month as well. Duke is thankful for a slightly higher solar flux which yielded the following new BC: TX5SPA on 80 through 12; K4M on 160 through 15; JA7NI on 160; 3D20CR on 40, 30, 17; TX5SPM on 20, 15, 17; 3D2MJ on 80; TY1MS on 30, 15; AA4V/VP9, PZ5M on 12; RK2FWA, CT3AS, Z29KN, 3D2KJ, Z30U, GW3YDX on 30; and UA0CM, JD1BMM, KL5O on 17. Duke also worked the PJ2T group during CQWW on 80-15 meters. Well done, Duke!

W4HJ and **KJ4IT** both sadly report no DX activity for the month of October. I'm sure these guys will find something to work in November!

WD4LBR and **K4WNW** had yet another outstanding month of DX activity. Their band by band breakdown is too extensive to list here! Bruce netted a whopping 46 new band countries and 2 all time new ones with Midway and Conway. His most productive bands were 40 and 17 meters each with 10 new BC's. Sheila matched Bruce at 46 new band countries and netted 3 all time new ones with Midway, Conway and 4U1UN. Her most productive bands were also 40 with 17 new ones and 17 with 12 new ones. Great job Bruce and Sheila!

W4PM - Puck had his best month for DX since January of this year thanks to the numerous DXpeditions. Total Q's were 311 (all cw) of which 147 came from CAQP participation. Band by band looks like this: 80 - TX5SPA 4U1UN TO7RJ; 40 - CP4BT K4M FH/DJ7RJ; 30 - TX5SPA K4M TY1MS TX5SPM; 17 - TX5SPA TX5SPM ST2KSS; 15 - TY1MS; 12 - VQ9LA. The VQ9 on 12 is a good catch for this part of the cycle. "Congrats" on a good month, Puck!

W4PFM - Paul had an interesting month. He laments the large hill to his west that hampers his signal from reaching the Pacific. Hence, a marginal contact with Conway and none with Midway. Paul also discovered during CQWW that his 80M antenna had been knocked down by a falling dead tree. To top it off, he lost power for a few hours Sunday morning during the contest! The good news is that the 80M antenna was not damaged and his new K3 performed flawlessly in the contest. Paul racked up 400 Q's in the test with 106 countries. He scored 16 new band countries with 10 on 15M. Well done, Paul!

NW4V - I was very pleased with two all time new ones in Midway and Conway. Worked K4M on 80-17 and Conway on 40 & 30.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a report and good luck in November. We are fast approaching the end of the year and the calculation of the 2009 DX Champion by W4DR. Keep your radio's on!

Vy 73, Ed NW4V

November Contest Calendar

High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 1 and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 3 NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 5
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 6
ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 7 to 2359Z, Nov 8
IPARC Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 7 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 7
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 7 to 1200Z, Nov 8
ARRL SS Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9
NA Collegiate ARC Chmpship, CW	2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 8
IPARC Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Nov 8 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 8
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Nov 8
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 12
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 13
Bill Windle QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Nov 14
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15
JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 14 to 1300Z, Nov 15
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 14 to 1200Z, Nov 15
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 14 to 0200Z, Nov 15
CQ-WE Contest	1900Z-2300Z, Nov 14 (CW/Digital) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 15 (Phone) and 1900Z-2300Z, Nov 15 (Phone) and 0100Z-0500Z, Nov 16 (CW/Digital)
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 16
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 19
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 20
YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 20
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 21 to 1000Z, Nov 22
Feld Hell Sprint	1200Z-1600Z, Nov 21
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 21 to 1200Z, Nov 22
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 21 to 0700Z, Nov 22
ARRL SS Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23
RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 21 to 0100Z, Nov 22
NA Collegiate ARC Chmpship, SSB	2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23
EU PSK63 QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Nov 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 25
RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Nov 25
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 27
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z, Nov 29

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

Revision Date: September 10, 2008

© 1998-2008 Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, All Rights Reserved

Permission was received from Bruce Horn to use his contest calendar. It can be found by following links on www.contesting.com.

November is a big contest month with SS (both CW and Phone) and the CQWW DX CW contest ending the month. Please join me in the Bill Windle QSO Party, which runs for 24 hours on the 14th. This event is sponsored by the First Class C.W. Operators Club and is open to all. It is a casual operating event and a little rag chewing during the contest is encouraged or you may just go strictly contest style. FOC members send report, name and FOC number. Non-members send report and name. No logs are required, just a report to KZ5D with the number of FOC contacts made. Certificates are awarded for high scores by continent. This is a fun event and becoming more popular every year. We even made Bruce's contest calendar this year! There are a few other DX contests to get you ready for CQWW as well as digital mode contests for those so inclined. Please help PVRC win the unlimited club competition again this year. See article below. Let's play contest. Puck W4PM

NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES (PVRC) de K4ZW

We're down to crunch time. Next weekend we kick off our 2009 ARRL SS campaign. I expect strong competition from NCCC and SMC. The key to repeating as Unlimited club champions is a strong turnout for CW. In 2007 we trailed NCCC by over 1 million points after the CW weekend and we lost. In 2008 we had a 300K point lead that helped propel us to the 75th Anniversary championship.

Please consider getting on and helping us out. Some people are not big on SS or not real comfortable on CW. That's OK. Even a 50, 100 or more QSO effort helps greatly by adding to the club's aggregate score. As we say every year, no score is too small. It's all about turnout. SS rules can be viewed at:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html>

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. If you can get on and help us, I'd appreciate a quick note so we can track the number of participants. Thanks for your consideration.

Ken K4ZW

We had 7 CW entries from the CVCC last year. We can do better than that. I'm sure some of you SSB guys can do CW. If nothing else, just find a comfortable speed and do S&P for sections. As Ken says even 50 or 100 QSO's would be a great help. – Puck W4PM

Member News

WA4PGM, Kyle:

Another amazing experience for the team at PJ2T. In many ways it seems as though the contest gods were smiling on us this year. As usual we spent much of the week before fixing a myriad of equipment glitches and making sure the back up equipment was ready to play. But once the contest started we were off to the races.

Part of our success was a significant amount of planning and looking at previous performance to spot shortcomings and missed opportunities. We all exchanged many emails to ensure that we had captured everyone's preferences and skills. All of this was captured in a fairly extensive "Operating Plan" prepared by Rick, N0YY that put all of our findings in one place in preparation for the contest. The key to a successful operation is the planning before hand and then executing to that plan.

This year we chose teams for each of the operating positions. Rick, N0YY and Martin, G4XUM teamed for the 160 and 15-meter operations. Kyle, WA4PGM and David, G3NKC partnered for the 80 and 10- meter bands. Forty meters was handled by K8LEE, Wayne and N0VD, Kelly. John, K6AM handled the 20-Meter operations with help from Geoff, W0CG/PJ2DX, Joe, W9JUV, and an occasional visit from Kelly, N0VD. The team concept ensured that each of the operating teams built on the band experiences of the previous day. The alignment of our UK visitors on the low bands paid huge dividends. Our 160 and 80 meter performance on multipliers exceeded any previous contest totals and even exceeded our pre-contest targets!

PJ2T Summary 2009 CQWW SSB:



Band QSOs Zones Countries

160:	338	16	62
80:	1023	23	92
40:	2426	31	122
20:	2914	37	137
15:	3281	34	134
10:	914	21	80

Ttl: 10896 162 627 Total Score = 24,992,364

WOW!

WK4Y: Roy hosted Boy Scout Troop 535 at his QTH during the month with a demonstration of ham radio with some on-the-air time for the scouts. According to Roy, "I thought it went very well. Gene Payne, W4YSP, helped on the other end and did a great job in getting each involved in a conversation, more than just a few words."

Nice job Roy! We need to do more of this type of thing and perhaps get more youth interested in ham radio. I wonder if we could get some of these guys out to field day next year?



W4TNX, John:



DX Dog on day one at W4TNX. He has grown 2X since then (20 to 40#)! He enjoys the 2+ acres of wireless fence, but would like wireless to mean literally that!

73 all,
John

We assume he's being trained to "sniff" out rare DX!

W4DF - SK

It is with great sadness that I must come to you again with news of the passing of our beloved friend and Old Dominion QCWA Chapter President Fred Fraley. Fred's wife Mary Ellen sent word that Fred passed very peacefully shortly after 5:00 PM today, Monday October 27, 2009 in the Hearthside Hospice Unit at Westminster - Canterbury Retirement Community in Lynchburg.

William W. (Bill) Perkins, KC4D

QCWA - Old Dominion Chapter - Vice President

See his obituary posted by A.C. on the CVCC reflector. I have a whole page of QSO's with Fred over the years. I wish I had taken advantage of his invitation to visit him at this QTH in Lynchburg. Fred was a friend of CVCC and a friend of many ham radio operators worldwide. He will be missed. RIP FRED - Puck

VA QSO Party Plaque Sponsor Solicitation

If you or your club is interested in sponsoring a plaque again this year, please email back. Sponsorship is one way to directly support the Virginia QSO Party. If you sponsor a plaque, we will announce that you are a sponsor, we will have your name inscribed on the plaque, and you will be invited to present the plaque at our annual awards ceremony in June at the Manassas Hamfest.

Please include which plaque you are interested in sponsoring and the sponsor's name (for example: "Gordon Miller, NQ4K" or "Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.qsl.net/sterling>)"). After the VQP is over, I will contact you to verify the inscription on the plaque. We are asking for \$50 to help defray the cost of the plaque. Checks may be made out to Sterling Park ARC and mailed to:

Gordon Miller, NQ4K
12315 Streamvale Circle
Herndon, VA 20170

The Sterling Park ARC, the sponsor of the VQP, is willing to come to one of your club events and give a presentation on the Party. This includes a discussion of the rules, a review of the statistics from recent Parties, and a brief commentary on the certificates and plaques that are offered. Duke has suggested we might consider a joint meeting with the DDXG for such a presentation.

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!

W4PM, Puck: Good stuff for you

2-meter Isopole free to anyone who would like to pick it up from my house.

Alinco DJ-C1 2 meter 300mw FM transceiver complete in the original box with charger and speaker mike. This gadget is about the size of a credit card and is good to slip in your shirt pocket for communications at hamfests. This can be yours for \$50.

Ten Tec Model 291 200w HF tuner. This one is a basic T-network tuner with no switching or meter. I have modified it by adding a Ten Tec 4:1 balun for balanced feed. Yours for \$40.

Drake W-4 wattmeter. Nice addition to vintage Drake stations. Has switch to select 2 KW or 200 watts forward or reverse. The cabinet shows wear but it still looks pretty good. \$40

AEA Morsematic MM-2 CW keyer and trainer. An oldie but a goodie. \$20

IC-706 (the original model) 160-2 meters Transceiver. This works on all HF bands and 6 meters. The last time I used it would not transmit FM on 2 meters. I think I know what the problem is and a little re-soldering should fix the problem. I have the info for you to try. If it doesn’t work let MYA fix it for you. I have the original box and the separation cable to remote the front panel. \$225

I will entertain lower offers on any of the above but I won’t give them away (except for that marvelous Isopole). Contact me via e-mail - hmmjr@comcast.net

W4HJ, AC:

Here are a couple of items for sale. One is from a non-club member N4AKP, Pete. He is a cw only op and county hunter. He thought he wanted to try PSK31 and then found out he couldn't do it with his key!

1 RIGblaster Plus 120 VAC, COMPLETE \$129.95 New
1 CW Cable Kit for RIG blaster Plus or pro, 6ft 7.95 New
1 4 Pin to 8 pin Conversion kit (2cables+sheet) 21.95 New
Total \$159.85 New

All the above were new prices. Unit has never been used and Pete is now asking \$75.00 for all of the above. Contact him at 804-598-0277.

W4HJ has a Kenwood TS-440SAT for sale.

1.8 ssb and 500 cw filters installed.

RS-232 (Chip installed in Radio),

12V Power Cord, Hand mike and Manual are all included. It has been to the shop (N1EQ) in January, 2008, and tested when I received it back it is in excellent working order. It does have a few scratches on the outer case.

Asking \$325.00.

HAPPY



HALLOWEEN