



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - October 2009

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

## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

[hmmjr@comcast.net](mailto:hmmjr@comcast.net)

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### Meeting Notice

The October meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, October 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. Does anyone go to this pre-meeting dinner meeting anymore? The last two months there was only one member present.

### October Program

We will show a DVD from PVRC "Contesting Video Program" either on "Antennas" by W3LPL or "Contesting - SO" by K3ZO or K4ZW. I'll review then again and make a decision before the meeting. These programs are on a set of 6 DVD's, which include 21 different programs. The set was given to the club by W4MYA. They will be available for loan if you would like to view them at your leisure at home.

Puck W4PM

### 2009 Club Contest Competition Award

This was announced in the September News Letter. In case you might be interested in the scores to date based on participation in the VAQP and Field Day read on.

Top 15

W1ZA	1,138,984	W4HZ	638,984	NK4H	638,984
NW4V	1,100,000	W4TNX	638,984	WS4WW	638,984
W4PM	967,261	K2WK	638,984	N3UA	543,978
WA4PGM	952,352	N4DEN	638,984	W4HJ	538,984
W4MYA	908,476	KF7NN	638,984	WK4Y	538,984

### CVCC Constitution and By-Laws

A copy of the proposed changes as amended at the September meeting were sent to all members. Please review them and vote not later than the end of November meeting. You may vote in person at the October and November meetings or via e-mail to the club secretary Ed NW4V.

### October Contest Calendar

SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Oct 1
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 2
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 3
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 3
German Telegraphy Contest	0700Z-0959Z, Oct 3
<b>Oceania DX Contest, Phone</b>	<b>0800Z, Oct 3 to 0800Z, Oct 4</b>
International HELL-Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Oct 3 (80m) and 0900Z-1100Z, Oct 4 (40m)
<b>California QSO Party</b>	<b>1600Z, Oct 3 to 2159Z, Oct 4</b>
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 3

**UBA ON Contest, CW**

RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest  
 ARS Spartan Sprint  
 432 MHz Fall Sprint  
 RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW  
 NCCC Sprint  
 YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest  
 ARRL EME Contest  
 Makrothen RTTY Contest

Int. 10-10 Day Sprint

**Oceania DX Contest, CW**

Pennsylvania QSO Party  
 EU Autumn Sprint, CW  
 Arizona QSO Party  
 FISTS Fall Sprint  
 North American Sprint, RTTY  
 SKCC Weekend Sprint

**UBA ON Contest, SSB**

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint  
 NCCC Sprint  
 Araucaria VHF Contest  
 JARTS WW RTTY Contest  
 Microwave Fall Sprint  
 Feld Hell Sprint  
 ARCI Fall QSO Party  
 Iowa QSO Party

**Stew Perry Topband Challenge****Worked All Germany Contest**

W/VE Islands QSO Party  
 New York QSO Party  
 PODXS Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint  
 Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW  
 UBA ON Contest, 2m  
 Illinois QSO Party  
 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest  
 ARRL School Club Roundup  
 RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB  
 NCCC Sprint

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB**

10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW  
 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital  
 50 MHz Fall Sprint  
 SKCC Sprint  
 NCCC Sprint

**0600Z-1000Z, Oct 4**

0700Z-1900Z, Oct 4  
 0100Z-0300Z, Oct 6  
 1900 local - 2300 local, Oct 7  
 1900Z-2030Z, Oct 8  
 0230Z-0300Z, Oct 9  
 1400Z, Oct 9 to 0200Z, Oct 11  
 0000Z, Oct 10 to 2359Z, Oct 11  
 0000Z-0759Z, Oct 10 and 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 10 and 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 11 10-10  
 0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10

**0800Z, Oct 10 to 0800Z, Oct 11**

1600Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11  
 1600Z-1959Z, Oct 10  
 1600Z, Oct 10 to 0400Z, Oct 11 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 11  
 1700Z-2100Z, Oct 10  
 0000Z-0400Z, Oct 11  
 0000Z-2400Z, Oct 11

**0600Z-1000Z, Oct 11**

0030Z-0230Z, Oct 14  
 0230Z-0300Z, Oct 16  
 0000Z, Oct 17 to 1600Z, Oct 18  
 0000Z, Oct 17 to 2400Z, Oct 18  
 0600 local - 1200 local, Oct 17  
 1000Z-2000Z, Oct 17  
 1200Z, Oct 17 to 2400Z, Oct 18  
 1400Z-2300Z, Oct 17

**1500Z, Oct 17 to 1500Z, Oct 18****1500Z, Oct 17 to 1459Z, Oct 18**

1600Z, Oct 17 to 2359Z, Oct 18  
 1800Z, Oct 17 to 0600Z, Oct 18  
 2000 local, Oct 17 to 0200 local, Oct 18  
 0000Z-0200Z, Oct 18  
 0600Z-1000Z, Oct 18  
 1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19  
 0100Z-0300Z, Oct 19  
 1300Z, Oct 19 to 2400Z, Oct 23  
 1900Z-2030Z, Oct 21  
 0230Z-0300Z, Oct 23

**0000Z, Oct 24 to 2400Z, Oct 25**

0001Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25  
 0001Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25  
 2300Z, Oct 24 to 0300Z, Oct 25  
 0000Z-0200Z, Oct 28  
 0230Z-0300Z, Oct 30

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

October has a lot to offer for RTTY, SSB and CW ops. I've put the ones I think are of the most interest in **BOLD**. In addition there are QSO parties from PA, AZ, IA, NY and IL if you may be into collecting U.S. counties. The CAQP is the big QSO party. I've got a certificate in the past for First Place in VA. The Stew Perry Top Band challenge will help you get your 160 set up ready for the ARRL 160 contest later in the year. The Oceania DX Contest on both Phone and CW might help pick up some B/E's out in the Pacific area. For me, many of my needed B/E's are out that way. The UBA and WAG contests are just good fun. The big DX contest is the SSB version of the CQWW DX. You can't miss that one!

Let's go play contest!

Puck W4PM

## **September DX REPORT de NW4V**

With FT5GA winding down, we look toward October for some much-anticipated DX activity. The next big undertaking is Conway Reef. I understand the crew is on the island and should begin operation shortly. Original DXpedition dates are Oct 1-10. Website here: <http://www.conwayreef2009.de/>

Next up is Midway K4M October 9-19. Website here: <http://www.midway2009.com/index.html>

This should be a very good operation and fairly easy to work from VA. Lots of other interesting stuff will be on in October. Look here <http://ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> and here <http://dx-hamspirit.com/>

Apologies for the abbreviated write up. Hopefully, I will have more time next month to provide expanded coverage.

### **Your Reports:**

**W4TNX** reports the acquisition of a new lab puppy and time spent training his new best friend! John did manage to begin clearing some woods for a future antenna farm

**W4DR** hit the jackpot this month with FT5GA. He scored 5 new band countries 160, 80, 30, 17 and 12 meters! Especially gratifying is the 160-meter contact with only 11 other North American stations worked. Also new was a contact on RTTY. Congratulations, Bob!

**W4PFM** had a good month with over 50 DX contacts. New band countries were VQ9LC on 80 cw, LU on 40 SSB, YB0 & SV5 on 20 SSB and 5N0 on 15 SSB. Paul also added 4 new RTTY countries: ON, 5N, GJ, OZ. Biggest catch was FT5GA on 17 SSB! Great activity, Paul.

**W4PM** slowed down a bit this month with only 214 Q's in the log! New band countries were 160 OJ0B, 40 ZL7/N7OU, 30 H44MY, and 17 CN8IG. Apparently Puck worked a pirate FT5 on 30M which was very disappointing. The FT5 has been elusive on the other bands with Puck's wire antenna. (I can relate to this very well!) *ed*

**WD4LBR** and **K4WNW** had such a huge month I can't begin to list all the details! In summary, Bruce worked 1 new B/E on 12, 5 on 17, 5 on 20, 14 on 30, 7 on 40, and 2 on 80! Sheila had 1 on 12, 3 on 17, 3 on 20, 5 on 30, 10 on 40, and 1 on 80! Late breaking news has both Bruce and Sheila working FT5GA on 20 SSB! Great job to our dynamic duo of DX!

**NW4V** had no new scores this month - very busy with work and travel. Hope to be around for all the good stuff in October.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a report. Good hunting in the coming month.

Vy 73, Ed NW4V

## **NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES (PVRC) de K4ZW**

Last year around this time I sent members a direct e-mail indicating we had big plans for the 75th Anniversary of SS. The reason for the direct mailing vs. using the reflector is that I felt we had a little chance to catch the competition off guard. The results are now history! Obviously any element of surprise is out the window this year, and that's OK. We are now the ones others will be gunning for so it's time to begin laying out our effort for 2009, in defense of the championship.

The first step is to shore up our base from last year. From that we can work on improving on last year's score. Yes I firmly believe we have the horsepower to do that! Shortly you will be contacted by a member of our SS leadership team to see what your plans are for this November. I know some Chapters have already been discussing our effort for this year and those that haven't should begin. I plan to have a couple of on-line events, PVRC members only, to discuss our effort, talk strategy, and anything else you want. There is material from last year on our web page at <http://www.pvrc.org/ss08.htm>. Now would be a good time to mark the dates on your calendar. They are:

ARRL SS CW – November 7-8

ARRL SS SSB – November 21 - 22

I look forward to another big effort from our club as we now get the opportunity to defend our hard won championship from 2008. Please feel free to drop me a line if you have any questions for comments. Go PVRC!

Ken K4ZW

## **CVCC President's comments on SS:**

In 2008 CVCC contributed 13 logs to the PVRC winning effort.

W4MYA - CW & SSB

W4PM - CW & SSB

N3UA - CW & SSB

NW4V - CW & SSB

K2WK - CW & SSB

N4DWK - SSB

KG4W - CW

WA4PGM - CW

We had only 8 members participate out of a membership of 31. I would think we could do better than that this year. Since SS is a USA contest even those of us with wire antennas can "run 'em" big time. It's great practice and will certainly hone your contesting and operating skills be it on CW or SSB. Perhaps some thought might be given to a multi effort or two. Any volunteers to host such an effort? This year I will be sponsoring a CVCC SS award with certificates awarded to all members who score at least 75,000 points, a clean sweep of all 80 sections, or both. SSB and CW will be counted separately so you can get two certificates if you play on both modes. Our name suggests we are a contest club. Let's prove it and help PVRC win again this year.

Puck, W4PM

## **RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR**

The DX Summit and other packet networks have been loaded with FT5GA spots which is very useful, but sadly there are many nasty comments, like "Idiots", "Bozos" or "Worst DXpedition ever". These are unfair and harmful to our hobby for a variety of reasons. They will ultimately be seen by the operators themselves and these guys are the group that have the potential of putting the other rare French islands in the Indian Ocean on the air.

When we got home from Syria in 2001 I reviewed our spots and was not happy with everything I saw. I assume the French operators will do the same. We all tend to judge the quality of an operation on how well it meets our needs and expectations and I must admit I tend to do the same thing. We really do need to cut these guys some slack. This is a 3-week operation and there are only 5 operators with 3 stations and at times two of the rigs have been disabled. They don't have power 24/7. Since this is the 4th rarest DXCC entity worldwide almost everyone wants them on multiple bands and modes. They have duties as military officers other than being on the air and lastly they need to sleep, eat and visit the bathroom. Can you imagine operating under field conditions or in a DX contest for 17 days continuously?

Having said that, if I could give them some advice, there are a few things, which they might have done a little better. The North American low band opening is best right near their sun rise and this has been a period of time during which they, to my knowledge, have only operated one or two days. As a result they have only 12 NA QSO's on 160 and I was very lucky to have been there and worked them during a very brief opening. Another change I would suggest is not to work more than two bands on RTTY. The Europeans will work them on all of the available bands on RTTY as well as CW and SSB and this time would be better used giving QSO's on the other modes. So far as I know no one offers a multiband RTTY award. Lastly, when they have rare openings to NA on the highest bands, 12 and 15 they should ask for NA only. For example, on the day I got my very rare 12-meter contact they should have been alerted to NA propagation at 13:30 GMT when W3LPL got through the European pileup. It was almost an hour until they picked up another NA station although many of us were calling and they had good signals on this side. The opening to NA lasted 2-3 hours and only 26 zone 5 NA stations made QSO's. They should have used this time with NA/SA as the European's have had daily openings on 12 and even 10 meters from 08-15. These criticisms come from a East Coast NA station and I am well aware that all DXpeditioners tend to favor their home region. It is these hams they have to face when they go home. All in all, this team deserves our applause for putting on a great operation. The operators keep their cool, are efficient with high QSO per hour rates and put in long hours. Let's hope they plan Tromelin and Crozet next! The online logs have been great and it would be a nice touch if they submitted their logs to LoTW. Oh well, you can't have everything!

Bob W4DR

## September Meeting

Much of the meeting was spent going over and amending the proposed changes to the CVCC Constitution and By-Laws. Each member should have received the proposed changed documents, which were sent to you via e-mail. After the lengthy business meeting we had a short "Show and Tell" program. Bob W4DR brought his "copy" of his first station he used over 50 years ago. It consisted of a homebrew transmitter he and his grandson built and a military surplus receiver. Puck W4PM brought some of his collection of old Vibroplex bugs.

## Member News

**KJ4IT:** September has been harrowing and good at the same time. Just before the beginning of the month I was 'gifted' with a working Collins 51-J4 General Coverage Receiver just from casual conversation. It even has a nomenclature plate with a serial number unlike some of the collectibles you see at hamfests. I also acquired a Hustler 4-BTV vertical and a Cushcraft 5-el Beam for 6-M.

September 1 kicked off a very harrowing time in my life. I was scheduled for gall bladder surgery and for the removal of a non-cancerous mass on my left kidney. After 24 hours had gone by I had a total of 3 major surgeries and received 8 units of whole blood, 2 units of red cells then another unit of whole blood in ICU. The doctor did not want to remove a good kidney so hence the surgeries to control the bleeding. During this time I would say I have great deal of respect and thanks to give Roy and Edith Davis for their help during this period particularly assisting my wife during this period.

I returned home on September 10, still woozy but better than I when I woke up in ICU on September 4<sup>th</sup>. On September 11 I managed to work Special Event Station P41USA (a new country). My cw is still a little spastic

but on September 11 I worked as W4ZA/80 from my home QTH for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RARC. I managed to only work 5 stations on 7050 kHz.

While I am still confined at home and can't drive as yet I am turning the corner and expect to be recovered by the middle or latter part of October. In the meantime I expect to be at the October meeting.

**W4PM:** The Elecraft K2 kit I purchased from a local ham a couple of years ago is up and running. I'll have to admit I did not build it but rather sent it to a guy in CA who did a great job of building it for me. My radio is the basic 80-10 meter CW 1-10 watt version with just the addition of the AF Peak Filter /RTC. I have built the 160m board and an amp-key board and will install them when I get up enough nerve to test them out. I also have the Noise Blanker and SSB accessory kits but am not prepared to tackle them yet. These kits, while very well done, are difficult to build if you don't have the right tools and your eyes are not perfect, due to the extreme small size of the boards and parts. You must have a very small soldering iron (a temperature controlled soldering station would be best), some very small diameter solder and a good lighted magnifying glass or magnifying visor. Without these – forget it! These kits are not easy like the old Heathkits because they are so small!

The K2 is a great performer and reportedly has the best receiver in its price class. In fact, the test reports on it put it ahead of many more expensive radios. In actual use, I find it compares well to my Omni VII on receive but the ergonomics due to its small size and cryptic menus make it more difficult to learn and use. As an excellent QRP or portable rig it would be hard to beat. Elecraft makes some outstanding products and are a great value for the money spent even if you have to get someone to build them for you. The support given by the Elecraft company and the on-line Elecraft reflector and web site is outstanding.

### **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 \$60.

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 \$50.

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. \$50

Ten Tec QRP items:

Argonaut 509 80-10m CW and SSB 5 watt transceiver

Model 208 Audio CW filter for the 509

Both are in good cosmetic shape with no major scratches, dings, etc.

The 509 needs a PTO rebuild. If anything doesn't work I'll take the stuff back and refund your money, but at this price you do a little work and you still get a good deal -\$150.

AEA Morsematic MM-2 CW keyer and trainer. An oldie but a goodie. \$25

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. \$250

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](mailto:hmmjr@comcast.net)

**KJ4IT, Jerry: For Sale**

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

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.

**Junior Op – Grayson Howard Fitch - W4PM/Grandson**



**What contest are we doing this weekend, Grandpa?**



**What! A phone contest?**