



599 VA - . - . - . - September 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 September meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 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.

September Program

This month the main item of business will be the proposed changes to the club Constitution and By-laws. I sent them to all members and you should print them out and bring them to the meeting. After discussion and any proposed additions and/or changes they will be sent to all members for approval at the October meeting or by e-mail ballot. Since it takes 2/3 vote of the entire membership to approve any changes I am recommending we use e-mail balloting as well as a vote at the meeting or we will never get the required votes either for approval or rejection!

The program after the business portion will be "Show and Tell". I'm bringing a number of Vibroplex bugs of various models from 1907 to the present. Maybe I can convince one of our accomplished bug senders to give a short demonstration of how to send properly with these keys. I will also give a very short talk on the history of the bug and of Vibroplex.

Please bring anything you may have that you would like to show and tell about. The more we have the more interesting this could be.

Puck, W4PM

2009 Club Contest Competition Award

Our new Club Contest Competition Award was announced at our August meeting. All club members are eligible to participate, and we certainly hope everyone will! Even if a member is not eligible for the ARRL Local Club competition because they live outside the circle, they can still participate and earn points if they operate at one of our multi-op stations.

4 Contests count towards this year's award:

VA QSO Party

Field Day – 100,000 point participation award

ARRL 160M in December

ARRL 10M in December

Scoring is very similar to the PVRC Million Point Award. We take the scores from each contest and normalize them by assigning 1,000,000 points to the top single op score. Each score below that is then a percentage of the million. Multi-op score are also a percentage of the top single op score but it's then divided by the number of ops. The station owner gets an extra bonus. If you operate, say at home and part-time at a multi, you get both scores! Official rules will be posted on the club's web site.

Good Luck!

Ronnie, WU4G

September Contest Calendar

All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0400Z-0600Z, Sep 5
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 5
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 6
MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 7 to 0300Z, Sep 8
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13
Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	1300Z-1900Z, Sep 12
SOC Marathon Sprint	1800Z-2400Z, Sep 12
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z, Sep 18 to 1000Z, Sep 20
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Sep 19 to 2400 local, Sep 20
SRT HF Contest SSB	1300Z, Sep 19 to 1300Z, Sep 20
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 to 2400Z, Sep 20
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 26 to 2000Z, Sep 27
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 28

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 some nice ones for the SSB operator. The All Asian DX should be quite a challenge in these days of no sun spots. The WAE will give you lots of Q's and a lot of fun passing QTC's. The big one for RTTY ops is the CQWW DX RTTY contest. If you have not tried a RTTY contest here's a good one to give it a go. The complete calendar was not ready so I used the perpetual calendar for Sept. Check back to Bruce's web site for a more complete September calendar.

AUGUST DX REPORT de NW4V

As you have undoubtedly heard, the ARRL DXCC desk approved the 701YGF operation from April 2000. A required bit of documentation had become available to make it a valid operation. Not sure why it took 9 years to find, but hey, goes to prove the notion of never throwing out QSL cards! "Congrats" to all those who have a card. I understand LoTW already has the logs and confirmations are rolling!

More good news on the Glorioso operation. Plane tickets are in hand for a scheduled departure from Paris on Sept. 11 and return on October 8th. This should give us at least three weeks of operating time from much needed FR/G. The team will have three stations and seven ops. Good luck to everyone!

Lack of sunspots continue to make the news. I listened to the recent PVRC "webinar" from Carl, K9LA, on Cycle 24. The bottom line is that most predictions have cycle 24 to be a low cycle based on the extended time between cycle 23 ending and cycle 24 beginning. To support this theory space weather.com reports through August 25 that we are currently at 45 days in a row without sunspots. There has been 187 days so far in 2009 without sunspots (79%) and since 2004 there has been 698 days without spots. Typical solar min has 485 days!

Here are your reports:

KJ4IT – Jerry reported last month that he has a Buckmaster OCF Dipole up and is getting great reports. His most unique contact was SX8R, who gave him a 599.

WD4LBR – Bruce has some real fine new band countries as follows: SAUDI ARABIA 40M SSB. NIGERIA 30M CW .GEORGIA 40M SSB. EGYPT 20M SSB. GUANTANAMO BAY 80M CW.

K4WNW – Sheila did very well also: NIGERIA 30M CW. GEORGIA 40M SSB EGYPT 20M SSB

W4PFM - It was great to hear from Paul this month. He finally has his 51' crank up tower installed with a Mosely TA-33JR with WARC and 6-element 6-meter beam. For the lower bands he has a horizontal loop. He's running 100 watts with a new K3. New band countries include FJ and 7P on 40M. 20M CW: HA, YV0, OZ, SV, FJ, OX, VP2V, 5N, HB, 7P, YO, CT, UK, A6, 4Z, SV, YL, IZ. 20M SSB: FJ, EK. 20M RTTY: CN, LA. 17M CW: 7P, CP, GD and SSB YO. 10M CW: CT. On top of this, Paul made 59 Q's in the NAQP working 33 states mostly on 20 & 15M. Great activity, Paul. Keep up the good work!

W4TNX – John reports little activity except for a few EU's on 40M CW and the occasional packet spot check for a hopeful 6-meter opening.

W4DR – Bob had no new entities worked this month. He did however gain new counters through LoTW. His 70 contacts provided 3 new BC confirmations on 30, 17, & 12M. Bob received 5 new 6-meter grid confirmations giving him 1051 on 6. Lots of time was spent listening for C21TI on 60M but no joy there.

NW4V – The only thing new for me this month was 7P on 80M CW. Already confirmed on LoTW. How great is that!

Very 73 and Good DX!
Ed NW4V

RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR

What a pleasant surprise the ARRL/DXCC announcement of accepting 7O1YGF for DXCC credit. Although this is 9 years after the fact it is better late than never. I had long argued that this case was parallel to the P5/4L4FN North Korea operation, which was immediately credited. It is my understanding that no official radio amateur license was submitted in either case. The logic is that a paranoid country like North Korea would not have allowed several months of very open operation if it were not sanctioned officially. In both cases the "officials" decided it was a mistake and terminated the operations abruptly. There was never a question that the Germans were operating in Yemen, had entered the country legally and were operating openly as was the Georgian UN official in North Korea. I applaud this wise and now consistent decision.

I realize that the ARRL does not want to credit operations which are forbidden and which would set back the cause of amateur radio in a particular country if they did so. For example, there is nothing to prevent a DXpedition to Navassa Island without the USFWS permission as there is no one on the island to guard against such a visit or operation. If this were done the agency would be so mad that further sanctioned operations from other territories which they control would be impossible. Already they have cooperated in the case of Desecheo and a Midway Island operation is eminent. I believe it is only a matter of a few years and Navassa will come on the air with a fully sanctioned operation.

When I submitted my 3 Yemen QSL's via the LoTW I took a look at the DXCC band standings on the web to make sure they were really credited. They were, but I discovered something else. The listing for OK1RD at the

top of the 160-meter listings was gone. He had appeared suddenly out of thin air about a year ago with a total that put him in first place ahead of perennial leaders, W4ZV, W8LRL and K1ZM. Also dropped was PY3CEJ who I recall tried to get a card for a 160 contact from YK9A for a QSO, which simply didn't happen. I can only guess what happened up at Newington as they don't talk about such matters, at least not on the record. It is good to know that our national society does an excellent job of preserving the integrity of their DX'ing and contesting awards.

A good friend and fellow DX'er recently passed away and I was able to obtain four QSL's from his collection. Since he was an active DX'er prior to 1950 these cards represented deleted countries I never had a chance to work. Of course I would rather have cards with W4QCW or W4DR on them, but it would be neat to have a complete collection of valid QSL's for all of the DXCC entities ever credited. I now lack only 6 cards and one of them should be relatively easy to find. A Newfoundland or Labrador card dated before March 21, 1949 would reduce my list to 5. The rarest of the remaining ones is CR8 Diu/Damao from which only 50 some QSO's were made. French Indochina, French India, Netherlands Borneo and Celebe & Molucca Islands round out the list. I understand Duke's and my friend Joe, W1JR has the complete set.

Lastly, I strongly urge your support of Ed, NW4V who will write our regular DX column. Ed is a very talented DX'er, stays on top of current events and will provide a fresh prospective to 599Virginia.

Bob W4DR

August Meeting

Kyle, WA4PGM gave a presentation of his trips to Bonaire as PJ4E. This was a very interesting and informative program. Thanks Kyle!



Kyle on 160 from PJ4E

Member News

K4OSO: Milt has been very pleased with the performance into Europe of his new Extended Double Zepp. The wire, which is cut for 17 meters and fed with ladder line, has performed well (subjective) on 40, 30, 20, 17, and 15 meters. The Zepp was erected two weeks ago at 60 feet, and broadsides 45 degrees (centered on the UK). Minor lobes seem to also perform acceptably well.

KJ4IT: Jerry says he is sorry to miss the September meeting but he has surgery scheduled for that day. We wish him a speedy recovery.

W4PM: Judy's little goldfish pond is complete. Since it's below my antenna I figure I have an additional .003 dB gain from the ground reflection!



During August we took a trip down to the Outer Banks. We didn't get in much swimming due the big waves and rip currents kicked up by Hurricane Bill but we did get in a nice trip down to Ocracoke on Saturday. I measured the balcony of our room at the Blue Heron Motel where we stayed and a 20-meter $\frac{1}{2}$ wave square dipole will fit there nicely. We may go down in October or November and I'll take my little Elecraft K2 (QRP Version) and some wire and see if I can make a QSO on two sitting on that balcony.

I didn't send in anything to Ed for the DX column because I didn't work anything new! I think I almost heard the C21 one morning but too weak to attempt a call. Unlike some others if I can't hear them well I don't call them! The only contests I entered in August were the WAE for 415 Q's and the RDA for 27 Q's. Sadly I missed the NAQP. I did have very nice SSB QSO with Roy WK4Y on six meters. His new K3 sounds great.

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!

No one informed me to continue past postings so they were deleted.

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 \$70.

MFJ Model 941B Versa Tuner II rated at 100 w for 80-10 meters. Features include SWR/Watt meter, 4:1 balun for balanced lines, and a switch on the back to select either of two coax fed antennas, balanced line, or bypass. While this is rated at 100w I think it's better use would be QRP! Priced at \$35

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 \$60.

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 405 amplifier (50 watt matching linear amp)

Model 206 Crystal Calibrator for the 509

Model 208 Audio CW filter for the 509

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

The 509 needs a PTO rebuild. I've never tried the 405. If anything doesn't not 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. The 509 and accessories all for \$200.

AEA Morsematic MM-2 CW keyer and trainer. An oldie but a goodie. \$35

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