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

Editor: W4PM

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News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Meeting Notice

The April meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 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. W4PM will be at dinner even if no one else comes.

April Program

Our April program entitled, "Multi-Multi Contesting - A Guest Operator's Point View" will be presented by Jim W4PRO. Jim has been licensed since 1946, W4PRO since 1949. His interests are antennas, station design, DX (SSB & CW), and contesting. He is a life member of ARRL and presently an Assistant Director of the Roanoke Division as well as a Life Member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and presently secretary-treasurer of QCWA Tidewater Chapter #119. His ham radio related awards consist of DXCC Honor Roll, 5BDXCC, and 160 Meter WAS and DXCC. This should be a very interesting and informative program. Please try to make this meeting and invite your friends in other clubs.

April is the month for election of officers for 2010-2011. Proposed officers for 2010-2011 – W4PM, President; K4OSO, Treasurer; WU4G, Secretary. The April meeting is also the deadline to pay your dues and keep your membership current!

RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR

Most of you, who are interested in DX awards, know that since DXCC numbers are only published once a year in QST you can find all of the standings for the Honor Roll, different modes and different bands as well as the most recent DX Challenge on the ARRL web site. Look under Operating Awards by clicking on DXCC. When I finally got my 160-meter WAZ I asked Floyd, K5FG, how many stations had achieved WAZ on top band. He replied that he didn't know, but I could get the complete information about all of the WAZ awards on CQ Magazine's web site.

When I got to the 160 awards I found a plethora of information. You can get the 160 WAZ certificate when you submit 35 zones. As you submit each additional zone you receive a little gold sticker until you have 5 of them indicating all 40 zones are confirmed. This I knew because when I sent in 39 zones in 2000 I received a certificate with 4 stickers. What I did not know was that the web site carries a complete listing of all the certificate holders, 335 in number, and shows the zones still needed. For those stations having all 40 zones it says "None" after their call. I quickly counted 135 stations with "None" giving the number who had managed to work all the corners of the earth on 160. Then I decided to see how many North Americans had all 40 confirmed. Surprisingly there were only 25, which included one Canadian, and no stations from zones 6, 7 or 8. This was somewhat surprising because NA Topband DX'ers are the most numerous, are likely to live in quieter locations with access to more land and they have larger frequency allocations as well as more generous power levels. Six of the 25 are from the mid-Atlantic region, but only two are from the MD/PA/VA central region, W3AP and myself.

In 1979 there was a Russian DXpedition to UA0Y, which is a tiny piece of Asiatic Russia in Zone 23. Several of the guys in our region worked this well equipped operation. Since then JT1CO in Mongolia has been the only station who is somewhat active on 160 and who has the power, antennas, operating skill and quiet location to cross the north pole which I call the "death zone". For our area zone 23 is the key to getting this award, although zones 24 and 26 are also very difficult. You would think that zone 18, which lies directly behind the pole would be tough, but it is the closest in distance and has numerous well equipped stations who are on the band almost every

day during the winter months. In the 1980's VS6DO, Hong Kong, was very active on 160 with a excellent signal, but he migrated to the US and since then zone 24 has been represented by low power stations with poor receiving locations. Zone 26 has no truly workable stations, but several mega-dxpedititions made East Coast contacts possible for brief periods. All of these zones are relatively easy from the West Coast, but at this writing only N7DD and W7UT have all 40, not a single W6! This is partly explained by the fact that the least ham-populated zone, which is behind the North Pole for them, is 34, Egypt, Sudan and several other countries.

Next I decided to see how the remaining 110 awards were distributed over the globe. The Europeans have the lions share with 100 complete WAZ's. Now since every area of the globe has one or more zones, which lie behind the "death zone" what is this zone for Europe? It is Zone 31, which is very large, contains Hawaii and many Pacific Islands that are visited regularly by major DXpeditions especially operations by Europeans themselves. There is activity every day from this zone so when a good day comes along even very modest stations on small city lots will make contacts. What about the remaining continents? Of the remaining 10 awards, Asia had the most with 5 and only one of these was from Japan which has many times the number of top-banders than other areas of this large continent. For the JA's zone 2 is the killer and it has little activity even though it is easily activated. It is too close to other NA zones to be rare for us, so there are few operations attempting to work JA. The other 4 were 2 4X4's, a 5B4 and a UA0. There were 3 awards from Africa, but two of them were EA8's which are practically in Europe. The other one was ZS4TX. For him KL7 lies behind the pole, but is well represented by powerful stations in quiet locations. South America's only two awardees are PY1BVY and PY3CEJ. I had the pleasure of sending BVY his very rare DU QSL from zone 27 and years ago he was my first Brazil contact. There was not a single Oceanic 40 zone WAZ. It was fun for me to study this distribution and make some sense of it. I hope it didn't bore you.

Bob W4DR



Photo by W1ZA – W4DR's 160 WAZ – Not many of us will ever see one of these with our calls on it!

CVCC Annual Picnic

Last year the picnic was held on May 30. We need to set a date and begin planning for this year.

MARCH DX REPORT

With much anticipation, the YI9PSE **Iraq** expedition planned for April 3-11 is about to begin. This mostly American team, including PVRC members K3LP and W0UCE, will be active on all bands and modes providing many of us with needed YI band slots. They have a terrific website here: <http://www.yi9pse.com/> Also of

particular note for April 1-18 will be the activation of rare Asian IOTA AS-185 in **Vietnam** by a mainly Swiss team of operators. They plan to concentrate on the low bands using 4 square antennas. Check out their informative website here: <http://www.3w6c.qrv.ch/>. The end of the month will hopefully see Pierre, ZS1HF activate **Marion Is** ZS8M. The South African will be on a one-year assignment to ZS8. His website is still under development. More DX news here: <http://dx-world.net/>

Have fun and good luck on the bands!

The vernal equinox always seems to bring improved band openings, especially on 17 & 20M. This March was no different! Our members found a good variety of new band entities as well as all time new ones! Here are your reports:

W4HZ With his newly minted 5BDXCC Award, Jonathan has found renewed interest in chasing band entities! He had a very good month with concentrated activity on 17 & 40M. Jonathan found 4 new ones on 17M, 6 on 40M, 4 on 20M, 1 on 30M and 1 on 160M. Total for the month 16. Well done, Jonathan!

W4HJ A.C. had plenty of fun at Bob's, W4MYA, on 40M phone during the VAQP.

W4DR Bob laments the recent 9U operation did not operate on 160M. He did find joy in working OK1IF who is newly authorized to operate on 60M. Another fine 60M catch was ZF2UL.

W1ZA Duke hosted two M/S events in March - ARRL DX and VAQP. For ARRL total was 2,324,106 by W1ZA, NW4V, W4DR, and K4PUF. For VAQP total was 347,990 by W1ZA, W4DR, WK4Y, and NW4V. A fine time was had by all. Thanks, Duke!

WD4LBR Bruce racked up another impressive month with 43 new band countries! Congratulations, Bruce!

K4WNW Sheila had an outstanding month as well with 37 new band entities! Great job, Sheila!

W4TNX John announces the best news of all...a new baby granddaughter! "Congrats" John and Kat! John also found time to play in the ARRL DX Contest using his attic dipole and 50W.

N3UA Sejo had a fine month with 15 new band entities and one all time new one with XV2RZ on 20M. Sejo snagged S7 on 80, 30, and 17. He also managed OD5 on 40. Way to go, Sejo!

NW4V I also found joy in an all time new one with XV2RZ on 20 CW! Pleased to work S7 & Z2 on 40M CW for new BE's. In addition to operating at Duke's earlier in the month, I played a little at home in the WPX contest.

Great fun!

Thanks to all who submitted a report.

Very 73,

Ed NW4V

Addition – **W4PM** did not send in a report due to NO new DX worked by the deadline. Fortunately S79GM made the log on March 30 and 31st on 160, 80, 40 for new B/E's. Too many U.S. contests (CWOp mini-test, IDQP, WIQP, VAQP) and not enough Dxing almost skunked W4PM. Also he did the ARRL DX SSB contest but phone contacts don't get counted at W4PM – probably no new ones anyhow!

April Contest Calendar

ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Apr 1 to 2359Z, Apr 11
SARL 80m QSO Party	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 1
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 2
LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest	0400Z-0800Z, Apr 3
ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 3 to 2359Z, Apr 4
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 3 to 1500Z, Apr 4
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 3 to 1600Z, Apr 4
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 3 to 0500Z, Apr 4 and 1800Z-2359Z, Apr 4
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0830Z, Apr 4
Low Power Spring Sprint	1400Z-2000Z, Apr 5
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 5
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 6
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 9
Montana QSO Party	0000Z, Apr 10 to 2400Z, Apr 11
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 10 to 1300Z, Apr 11

Radio Maritime Day	1200Z, Apr 10 to 1200Z, Apr 11
PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors	1200-1800 local, Apr 10
EU Spring Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 10
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 10 to 0359Z, Apr 11 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 11
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 10 to 1800Z, Apr 11
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 10 to 2100Z, Apr 11
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 11
UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Apr 11
International Vintage Contest HF	0800Z-1200Z, Apr 11 and 1400Z-1800Z, Apr 11
144 MHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 14
CWOps Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Apr 14 and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 14 and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 15
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 14
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 16
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 17
Holyland DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Apr 17
ES Open HF Championship	0500Z-0559Z, Apr 17 and 0600Z-0659Z, Apr 17 And 0700Z-0759Z, Apr 17 and 0800Z-0859Z, Apr 17
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 17 to 0400Z, Apr 18
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1600Z-1959Z, Apr 17
EA-QRP CW Contest	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 17 (20-10m) and 2000Z-2300Z, Apr 17 (80m) And 0700Z-1100Z, Apr 18 (40m) and 1100Z-1300Z, Apr 18 (20-10m)
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 17 to 0500Z, Apr 18 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 18
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Apr 17
YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 17 to 0500Z, Apr 18 and 0900Z-1700Z, Apr 18
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 19
222 mHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 20
AWA John Rollins Memorial DX	2300Z, Apr 21 to 2300Z, Apr 22 and 2300Z, Apr 24 to 2300Z, Apr 25
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 22
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 23
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, Apr 24 to 2359Z, Apr 25
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 24 to 1200Z, Apr 25
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 24 to 1259Z, Apr 25
QRP to the Field	1500Z, Apr 24 to 0300Z, Apr 25
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 24 to 0159Z, Apr 25 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 25
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 24 to 1700Z, Apr 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 28
432 mHz Spring Sprint	1900 local - 2300 local, Apr 28
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 30

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.

Wow, a lot of contests this month. There are no really big ones but some interesting QSO parties in MO, MT, GA, MI, ON, FL, NE. Perhaps we can work a few of these guys as pay back for the QSOs we got from them in the VAQP. There are also some interesting DX contests this month that could provide some new B/E's especially if the higher bands open up for us. Remember the old Novice Roundup? Thee ARRL Rookie Roundup with SSB in April, RTTY in August, and CW in December have replaced it. This is just another sign of changing times!

CQ CONTEST – CVCC

ARRL DX
SSB 2010

<u>Call</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>Mult's</u>	<u>Claimed Score</u>	
TI5N	8,322	316	7,889,256	WA4PGM , AJ3G, KA4RRU, TI2LCO, W0CN, W4DC
W1ZA	2,017	386	2,324,106	W1ZA, NW4V, K4PUF, W4DR
K2WK	513	260	400,140	
N4DWK	516	245	379,260	
KG4W	416	222	277,056	
W4PM	358	215	230,910	
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TOTAL	11,368	1,207	11,500,728	

Virginia QSO
Party 2010

W4MYA	3,127	245	1,182,380 mixed	K2WK, KF4QQY, KI4TOQ, KJ4IPF, W4HJ, W4MYA
W1ZA	1,755	198	347,990 mixed	W1ZA, NW4V, W4DR, WK4Y
AI4CM	1,159	173	210,195 ssb	AI4CM, W4HZ
W4PM	478	119	117,358 cw	
KG4W	484	122	97,124 mixed	
K4OSO	214	78	34,164 cw	
N3UA	165	69	22,670 mixed	
W4PFM	185	71	14,061 ssb	
N4DWK	158	75	12,350 ssb	
W4HJ	18	15	450 mixed	
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	7,743	1,165	2,038,742	

This year we participated with PVRC in the ARRL DX SSB contest. W4MYA had a big score but his score could not be found anywhere to include here. This contest will count for the CVCC Contesting Champion award for 2010. Perhaps next year we'll do CW for PVRC and SSB for CVCC? Look at that score Kyle and the guys at TI5N posted. Way to go!

It was great to see 17 of our members participating in the VAQP this year. The guys at the multi-stations W4MYA, W1ZA, and AI4CM gave us a good shot at the high club award again this year. W4PM tried to defend his CW High Power Plaque from 2009 but fell short of last year's totals. We'll have to wait to see how it all shakes out. If you participated in these contests and don't see your score – you didn't report it to your News Letter editor! It's very good to see W1ZA back in the fray again after his recent health issues!

Field Day 2010 - CVCC

The quote for the required liability insurance has been received. We'll get a check from the treasurer at the meeting and send it off. The county has approved our request for the use of Short Pump Park pending the receipt of an Insurance Certificate. If anyone would like to kick in a few extra dollars to cover this unexpected \$320.00 cost bring your checkbook or cash to the meeting!

Free Straight Keys

W4PM posted this on the CWOps reflector:

"The PRIMARY purpose of this list is to provide a forum for the club's objectives which are promoting CW and nurturing friendship among members."

In line with the above statement by Jim in his recent message about the list I offer the following.

For budding CW ops who you know or who you are elmering I offer 3 FREE straight keys for deserving folks. If they can meet the CW requirements for this club then they do not qualify for a gift of these keys! They are not for sale nor will they be sent to any member of this club. One exception to this I might consider is, if you run a beginners' CW class, I may send a key to you which you could award to the person who makes the best progress in class. The keys are not for proficient CW ops or for collectors. They are for beginners genuinely interested in learning and using CW on the air.

The keys are old military surplus consisting of two Navy keys with the designation 16012A and one Army J-44. While they are old, they are in good condition and perform well. Send me the name and amateur call, if any, and the reason why you think he or she would benefit from having one of these keys. If I get more than three requests I'll make the determination of who gets them and my decision is final. I'll contact you for the mailing address if I select the person you nominate. I'll ship the keys, postage paid by me, directly to those I select. This can be anywhere in the world.

While this is dated April 1 it is NOT an April Fool's joke. I am very serious about this! Contact me by e-mail directly - NOT through this list.

73,
Puck W4PM

This offer is extended to CVCC members and friends who know of someone who would qualify for one of these FREE keys.