



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - February 2010

<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 February meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 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. We have 12 to 14 inches of snow on the ground. Unless we get a big melt by Tuesday we may have to cancel or reschedule the February meeting. Stay tuned to this channel for updates. ☺

### February Program

The meeting will feature announcement and presentation of the DX Champion awards, announcement of the first CVCC Contesting Award scores and winner and a discussion of FD plans (yes we will have a Field Day this year). Also we will discuss the possibility of adding another contest to those CVCC enters as a Local Club in the coming year. No formal program has been set up. That being the case, the program will be a discussion of antennas members have or have had in the past and how they play or played. Please be prepared to add to the discussion.

### Your CVCC 2010 Field Day Committee

K2WK, Walt - Chairman

W4HZ, Jonathan - Co-chairman

W4PM, Puck

NW4V, Ed

NK4H, Bob

K3WRY, Joe

K4OSO, Milt

WA4PGM, Kyle

Others are welcome to serve!

### RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR

This weekend I had grandson Gabe and guess what he wanted to do? You already know. Let's get on the air with "our" transmitter, "Pawpaw". After fixing the power supply we set up a QSO with Duke who assured us everything sounded fine. Then a few CQ's on 3525 kHz around noon local time. To our amazement back came N4EDE in Catharpin, Virginia and we had a nice QSO. It was like reliving my very first QSO on January 10, 1950 when as a 15 year old, W3TVA, answered one of my CQ's. I was using the exact same crystal and the same J-38 straight key and perhaps the same 6L6 tube. It was great to relive that moment. The other two QSOs we made were prearranged so in a sense this was really the first one. There have been hundreds of great minutes in the 60 years since then, but I could compare this one to my first kiss with a 14-year-old named Betty Lou. Now if I can just instill that same wonder and excitement in Gabe I think that the set of goals I made for myself a few years ago will be almost complete.

Since that JT1CO QSO on Top Band in December it no longer seems so important to get up before sunrise every morning. Too bad the VU2's are still compelling me to listen regularly around their sunrise our evening time. I guess it is good to never be completely satisfied. I hope all of my readers are still finding the wonder and excitement of reaching out and touching someone else on whatever band or mode you choose. And oh, don't forget that first kiss. It probably wasn't with the guy or gal you are with now but the memory helps you to understand the analogy.

Bob W4DR

## **JANUARY DX REPORT**

The New Year has arrived and so has some good DX conditions; at least on the low bands! Our member reports listed below reflect lots of 80 & 160 activity. Keep a lookout for the following DX in February:

**XR9JA** South Shetland Is. from 2-27 Feb with a mostly Chilean team operating from Greenwich Island AN-010.

**JD1BMV** Ogasawara from 6-14 Feb. with a Japanese team.

**H40** Temotu from 6-19 Feb. with a three man German team concentrating on 80-160M.

**TX4T** French Polynesia from 9-25 Feb. International team focusing on 80-160 and WPX RTTY and ARRL DX CW Contests.

**V88** Brunei from 22 Feb - Mar 3. One man German operation.

**VK9X** Christmas Is. From 20-27 Feb. British CW only team G3SWH & G3RTE.

**9U1VO** Burundi from 22 Feb – Mar 6. German team using 100W and verticals.

Good luck and happy hunting!

**W4DR** – While not new BE's Bob had enormous fun on 160 working UA0SC, A7/M0FGA, 4S7NE, TX3D, VP8DMN, PY0XB/PY0F, and 5N7M. He laments the difficulty hearing VU2BGS let alone working him on Topband. With the recent success of working JT1CO on 160, Bob received his WAZ 160 certificate this month. Congrats Bob!

**WA4PGM** – Kyle logged TX5D with one call at 100 watts on 160M. Well done, Kyle!!

**K2WK** – Walt was overjoyed to find a 2004 QSL card from FO/A on 40M bringing his current confirmed count to 327; one shy of Honor Roll. He is playing catch up to get back on HR since some new entities have been added over the last few years. Congrats, Walt!

**W4HZ** – Jonathan confirmed via LOTW his 100 & 101'ST contacts on 80M qualifying him for 5 Band DXCC! Awesome accomplishment, Jonathan! He is also just a few states short on each band to qualify for 5 band WAS. Here are his new BE's for Jan: A71FJ 40M SSB, CX5BY 160M CW, OE3DIA 80M SSB, VQ9LA 80M CW, XR0ZA 40 CW.

**N3UA** - Sejo bagged the VP8 and a 5R8 on 17M and a JA on 30M. Nice going!

**W4PM** – Puck was pleased with VP8DMN on 160 for a brand new one! He also logged new BE's on 160 with EU3AR, and PY2XB/PY0F. ST2AR provide a new BE on 40. Puck only managed 525 Q's in Jan mostly from NAQP, HADX, CWOPS mini test, and ARRL VHF.

**WD4LBR** – Bruce has kept up his pace from '09 with logging 13 new band entities for Jan! Six of these were on 160/80. Well done, Bruce!

**K4WNW** - Sheila also had a good month with 10 new BE's, half of which were on either 160 or 80! Great job, Shelia!

**NW4V** - I managed a whopping 1 new BE with C31CT on 80M SSB. I worked a bunch of Q's in NAQP as well. Thanks to all that submitted a report. It was especially good to hear from those we haven't heard from in awhile. Keep up the activity!

Vy 73,

Ed NW4V

## New International CW Club – CWOps

Take a look at this link:

<http://www.cwops.org>

Browse around the web site and be sure to take a look at the CWOps February Newsletter “Solid Copy”.

I’m very excited about this new club. It was born in December and already has over 630 members consisting of Dxer’s, Contesters, and Rag Chewers from over 50 countries and all continents. The one common denominator we all have in common is enjoying communications via Morse Code (CW) on the air. Charter membership is still available until February 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have an interest in CW and can communicate in the mode at a modest 25 WPM or above I invite you to join. Just send me an e-mail and I’ll point you to the sign up page. Current CVCC’ers who are members of CWOps are WA4PGM, NW4V, K2WK, N3UA, and W4PM .

## February Contest Calendar

RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 1
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 2
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 5
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 6 to 2400Z, Feb 7
YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW	0000Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7 10-10
Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 6 to 1159Z, Feb 7
FYBO Winter QRP Sprint	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6
British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 6 to 0759Z, Feb 7
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 6
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 6 to 2359Z, Feb 7
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 6 to 1759Z, Feb 7
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 7
New Mexico QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 7 to 0300Z, Feb 8
ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Feb 7
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 12
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 10
<b>CWops Mini-CWT Test</b>	1100Z-1200Z, Feb 10 and 1900Z-2000Z, Feb 10 and 0300Z-0400Z, Feb 11
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 10
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 12
YLRL YL-OM Contest	1400Z, Feb 12 to 0200Z, Feb 14
PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	2000 local, Feb 12 to 0200 local, Feb 13
<b>CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest</b>	0000Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 13 to 1000Z, Feb 14
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 13
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 14 to 1200Z, Feb 15
KCJ Topband Contest	1200Z, Feb 13 to 1200Z, Feb 14
Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 13 to 0300Z, Feb 14
OMISS QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 13 to 1500Z, Feb 14
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 13
RSGB 1st 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Feb 13 to 0100Z, Feb 14
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 14
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Feb 14
Classic Exchange, Phone	1400Z, Feb 14 to 0800Z, Feb 15
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 17
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 18
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 19
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW</b>	0000Z, Feb 20 to 2400Z, Feb 21
Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 24
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 26
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 26 to 2100Z, Feb 27

<b>CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB</b>	2200Z, Feb 26 to 2159Z, Feb 28
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 27 to 1800Z, Feb 28
EPC WW DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 27 to 1200Z, Feb 28
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 27 to 1300Z, Feb 28
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 27 to 0300Z, Feb 28
<b>North American QSO Party, RTTY</b>	1800Z, Feb 27 to 0600Z, Feb 28
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 28 and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 28
North Carolina QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 28 to 0300Z, Mar 1

*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).

The big ones this month are the ARRL DX CW contest and the CW 160 SSB contests. For our RTTY fans there's the CQWW RTTY WPX and the NAQP RTTY contests. There are some interesting state QSO parties in February. I like to get in a few of these, hoping that if I support their contests the guys will remember me and call me in the VAQP! You are all invited to join in the CWOps Mini-CWT Tests on Feb 11. These are 3 one-hour events timed to take advantage of the best times for AS, EU and NA. The exchange is name and membership number or name and state for non-members. Next weekend you will hear the FOC Marathon on the air but unfortunately it is still a closed event for members only.

## **FrostFest 2010**

Don't forget the Frostfest Saturday February 6, 2010 from 8:30am - 3:30pm at the Richmond International Raceway. Ronnie WU4G and Puck W4PM will have tables. There will have room if you have a few things you would like to try to sell. Please join us there.

## **Member News**

**W4PM, Puck:** The CQ160 CW was a real hoot this year. My 781 Q's included 3 new B/E's 4X, ER and OY. The 51 countries worked were an all time high for me in a 160 contest. Propagation was very good!

**WD4LBR, Bruce:** A new Carolina Windom 160 was added to his antenna farm. Bruce reports it plays very well.

## **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!

### **WU4G, Ronnie:** Pre-FrostFest Sale

Took advantage of the day off to get some stuff ready for the FrostFest. Finished fixing my rotors and have a package special.

Sommer XP707 - 10-40M 10 elements on 20' boom, plus a lightly used Ham IV (only up for 1 year) - \$600

Refurbished CD-44 - \$120

Refurbished Ham-M rotor only - \$100

Refurbished Ham IV - \$225

Also, last chance for the SB-220 amp with a spare new 3-500z tube - \$450

73, Ronnie WU4G

**W4PM, Puck:** Lots of Vibroplex bugs, a few straight keys, a batch of old telegraph sounders and relays as well as some misc. "junk" will be on my table at the FrostFest.

## **Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In**

This was received from the AARC and is published here as a courtesy to them. It looks like a fun event.

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club will present the first ever Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In scheduled for May 1, 2010. The Saturday event will kick-off at 10 a.m. and run through 4 p.m. rain or shine in Darden Towe Park on Route 20 1/2-mile from Route 250 on the east side of Charlottesville. There is no entry or registration fee; just a great opportunity to showcase mobile ham stations for each other and the public. Pre-registration is requested and all registrants will receive a Certificate of Participation as a keepsake. Pack a picnic lunch and join the fun for a day in the park with your fellow hams. Talk-In will be offered on the Charlottesville Repeater 146.760 WA4TFZ with no tone required. Pre-registration can be accomplished by sending an email to [k4jec@arrl.net](mailto:k4jec@arrl.net) showing your CALL, FULL NAME, and COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS. No mobile equipment is required to register and participate. It would be great to list the ham equipment you have onboard and the approximate value of it for planning purposes. Plan now to join the cruise to Charlottesville and send us a note to register or seek additional information. Spread the word and bring your fellow hams -- we expect it to be the ham event of the year! Additional information can be obtained, as well as online registration, on our website linked on the third line below.

Jim Crosby - K4JEC