



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - January 2010

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

## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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### Meeting Notice

The January meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 6:30 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. This pre-meeting social has been dropping off in attendance and maybe should be cancelled. If you will attend in January send an e-mail to your News Letter editor, W4PM. I'll not attend if I'm the only one.

### January Program

Bob W4DR has another video for us of some recent Dxpeditions. If Santa brought you some ham radio related toys bring them along for a show and tell. If it's too heavy bring a picture and tell us about it.

### Future Programs

We need some ideas for future programs. Give us some ideas and let's plan a bit ahead. E-mails and telephone calls on this subject are gladly accepted!

### December DX Report & Annual CVCC DX Awards

There is no DX report this month but if you want to enter the competition for the 2009 CVCC DX awards make sure you update your totals as of December 31, 2009 no later than January 15, 2010.

### CVCC First Annual Contesting Award

The 2009 contest year is over. The four contests/operating events for 2009 were the VAQP, Field Day, ARRL 160 and ARRL 10 meter contests. Hopefully we can add other events for the 2010 contest year. Give this some thought for suggestions at the January meeting. Currently we are tabulating the 2009 scores and will name a winner for this in the February News Letter.

### CVCC 2010 Field Day?

So far no one has stepped forward to chair the committee for this event. The following folks have volunteered to serve on the committee:

W4PM, Puck

NW4V, Ed

NK4H, Bob

W4HZ, Jonathan

K3WRY, Joe

K2WK, Walt

K4OSO, Milt

A lot of planning has to be done in the following areas:

Site selection and securement

Determination of entry category  
Operator scheduling – including finding operators for GOTA station  
Rigs, computers and networking  
Antennas  
Generators  
Public relations including public info at field day as well as an educational activity  
Food, drinks and other accoutrements at field day  
Bonus point honcho – the person who makes sure we get as many as possible.

Notice we have more areas to cover than we have committee members!

There may indeed be more areas that need attention which will be determined by the committee. As you can see we need more help during the planning stage; BUT without someone stepping forward to lead this effort it could be that we have to forget about CVCC participation in Field Day for 2010. W4PM will not serve this position again so someone needs to step forward. Others who would like to volunteer for the FD committee please send an e-mail to the current INTERIM field day chairman W4PM.

### **RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR**

For a mountain climber the ultimate achievement is to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. For a HF DX'er in the Eastern US the ultimate QSO is to work Zone 23 on 160 meters. To begin with the path is 3 degrees North right through the middle of the auroral zone which is where low frequency signals die. The second problem is that there is only one amateur in Mongolia with a setup, which could penetrate that auroral zone under the most favorable conditions. For the past several years, Chak has almost never visited 160 and when he did it wasn't during our short period of common darkness.

In 2000 Ken, K4ZW raised money to purchase a Titanex 160 vertical for JT1CO. Chak had it shipped to him. The next year Ken went over and tuned the antenna and put up some beverage receiving antennas. My hopes were high when he worked a half dozen East Coast big guns, but I wasn't one of the lucky ones. This was followed by a long period of inactivity. Several years ago Ken went back to Mongolia and operated from Chak's station in an attempt to penetrate the "death zone", but alas the Chinese Dragon (Over the Horizon Radar) was in full voice during Ken's entire visit making top band QSO's impossible.

Then during the ARRL 160 contest this year JT1CO was spotted near our sunrise. Sejo, N3UA was guest operating my station and stopped his run to listen carefully for him, but nothing heard. The next week I was up every morning around 11 GMT and on Thursday, December 10 a few East Coast stations made QSO's. I actually heard both ends of W8UVZ's QSO, but Chak was too weak to call. The next night I slept fitfully with dreams of working Mongolia. I was in the shack with my Command Tech 2500 warmed up by 11 GMT and immediately saw a spot for JT1CO on 1818. At first I didn't hear anything and then clear as a bell I heard "de JT1CO qrz up 1". A 3x de W4DR brought a response that I thought might be me, but not readable so I sent "agn agn de W4DR". This time I heard "W4DR W4DR 559 BK". I responded and then heard a "CFM CFM". To make matters sweeter a few minutes later JT1CO sent me a "congratulations, Bob" on the Low Band chat room. By the end of the week Chak's logs were uploaded to LOTW and I had DXCC credit for the contact. I asked myself, did this really happen? I had hoped for this contact ever since I put up my 4 square array in 1996. That first year I worked 8Q7CW zone 22, UA0KAG zone 19 and XZ1N zone 26 to reach 39 zones. Thirteen years later I had decided I would never finish WAZ on top band. I guess the moral of this story is never say you can't do something.

**Mea Culpa.** Back in September I wrote about two calls which disappeared from the 160 DXCC listings. Although I did not know why this happened and said so, I made the mistake of giving the whole calls. I made the mistake of thinking our readership was mostly local. Much to my surprise one of the stations wrote to Puck and although we couldn't quite understand his message it was apparent that he was quite unhappy. Lesson learned, don't give calls when writing about strange happenings even if you are pretty sure you know the circumstances.

At the Dayton Hamvention every year the DX banquet is a sold out event with over 300 DX'ers in attendance. One of the features is the DX Countdown. They have all DXCC members stand and then count by tens. When your number is reached you set down. By the time they reach 350 there aren't many standing and they go by fives and finally ones until one person is standing. Obviously the numbers above 338 is a function of how many deleted DX entities you have credited. Doing a little research on old QRZ records I determined that the #1 guy, K6ZO at 394 is 94 years old. There are 17 stations ahead of my 386 total and 13 of them are US stations. Their ages vary from 94 down to 79 and the 79 year old is the only one in his 70's. The average age of the group is 90. Of the overseas guys 4X4DK is my age, 74, SM3BIZ is 83. I could not determine the age of DJ2BW and IOAMU. So I figure if I keep going to Dayton ever year for the next ten years I have a chance of being the last one standing, but that wouldn't be as good as winning the top door prize which is usually a high priced transceiver.

**Here and there.** Ed isn't doing his regular DX column this month, but I do know that W4MYA took advantage of the good polar conditions by getting his first Zone 19 on 160 and he is gunning for Zones 23 and 24 to finish his WAZ. BU2AQ has been very active from Zone 24, but doesn't have much of a signal and only K1ZM and W4ZV have worked him from the east as far as I know. W1ZA was able to work 4S7NE on 40 SSB, a real catch. I had a shot at HV0A on 160 SSB, but couldn't break the huge European pileup.

Please up date your DX Totals on the CVCC web site between December 31 and January 15, 2010. It is hard to predict who the winner(s) may be, but I suspect it will be some new blood. In retrospect 2009 has been a great year for DX. As usual there have been some exciting DXpeditions. The increased use of LOTW has greatly reduced the cost of getting ARRL based awards. Online logs have helped us be sure that our QSO's were "in the log" and not with some pirate. The loss of a cw testing requirement has not caused the demise of cw nor ruined the ham bands as some predicted. Life is good!

Enjoy it.

Bob W4DR

## January Contest Calendar

New Year Snowball Contest	0000Z-0100Z, Jan 1
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW Happy New Year Contest	0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1659Z, Jan 1 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Jan 1 (432)\
Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 2 to 1500Z, Jan 3
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 2 to 2400Z, Jan 3
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z-2300Z, Jan 2 and 0400Z-0700Z, Jan 3
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 3
ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 5
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 8
PODXS 070 Club PSKFest	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 9
Hunting Lions in the Air	Contest 0000Z, Jan 9 to 2400Z, Jan 10
Mongolian RTTY DX	Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Jan 9
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 9 to 2359Z, Jan 10
WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 9 to 1200Z, Jan 10
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 9
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0600Z, Jan 10
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 10
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 10
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 10
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 15
LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0600Z, Jan 16
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 16 to 1159Z, Jan 17

North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 16 to 0600Z, Jan 17
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Jan 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 18
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 21
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 22
YL-ISSB QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, Jan 23 to 2359Z, Jan 24
MIE 33 Contest	1100Z-1500Z, Jan 23 and 2300Z, Jan 23 to 0300Z, Jan 24
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 23 to 0400Z, Jan 25
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 27
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 29
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 29 to 2159Z, Jan 31
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 30 to 1800Z, Jan 31
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 30 to 1300Z, Jan 31
SPAR Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 30 to 1700Z, Jan 31
Classic Exchange, CW	1400Z, Jan 31 to 0800Z, Feb 1

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

One big one is the CQ-160 CW contest on January 29<sup>th</sup>. If conditions are anything like the SPTBC in December this will be a great event. If you can do CW at all give this one a go. For you RTTY folks the ARRL RTTY round up is this month! The NAQP on both CW and SSB this month are also good ones to build your contesting skills. These are contests in which even modest stations can run'em! There are also DX contests sponsored by REF, UBA, NRAU, DARC to name a few. These smaller contests may help you find a few new B/E's for the 2010 CVCC DX competition or even get you a piece of wall paper for your participation.

## **CVCC Results in ARRL 160 and ARRL 10 Meter Contests**

### **160:**

N3UA @ W4DR	394,250
WK4Y @ W4HZ	283,690 Multi-op with W4HZ, WK4Y and W4PM
KG4W	201,718
WA4PGM	183,303
W1ZA	168,632 Multi-op with W1ZA and NW4V
W4PM	131,008
K4OSO	77,285
N4DWK	15,222
WU4G	8,103

9 logs totaling 1,464,211

Last year we had 8 logs totaling 1,004,341

### **10:**

W4HZ	88,480 Multi-op with W4HZ, W4PM and AI4CM
WK4Y	20,910
WA4PGM	19,488
W4PM	16,896
WD4LBR	14,592
KG4W	5,336
WU4G	3,936

N3UA	1,820
N4DWK	1,770
K4OSO	1,440
10 Logs totaling	174,368

Last year we had 6 logs totaling 209,928. Let's hope others experienced the poorer conditions that we did!

Hopefully all listed above have sent in their logs by now for the credit of CVCC!

If you see any errors in your claimed score or operators at multi's please let e-mail W4PM with the corrections. These scores will be used to determine the CVCC Contest Award winner!



Marshall – AI4CM – 10 meter contest at W4HZ

Puck – W4PM – 10 Meter Contest at W4HZ

Photos by W4HZ

Something is wrong here. The SSB op is resting and the CW op is operating SSB!

## Member News

**W4PM, Puck:** December was a pretty active month with 3 contests entered as well as adding a few contacts to the multi-op entries at W4HZ. Of my 1,394 Q's, 712 were in the ARRL 160, 140 in the ARRL 10, and 416 were in the Stew Perry Top Band Challenge. You would think at least one of the contacts would have been a new country or band entity but sadly that was not the case. As far as new DX goes I struck out!

Christmas was a wonderful family time here. Our new grandson Grayson, while a bit young to understand or remember the activities at his first Christmas, was fascinated by the lights, the mechanical Christmas toys, and the big Christmas tree we had here. I hope you all had a wonderful and blessed Christmas. Best wishes to all for the New Year.

**W4HJ, AC:** HNY to all of CVCC. I had 46 Q's and 27 sec. for a score of 2565 in the 160M contest. All S&P one run up the band in about 1 hour. All I had time for. I will NOT be present at the Jan meeting as Jo and I are heading to Indiana to be with my daughter when she has surgery Wed. Jan 6. Greetings to all.

## December Meeting

Our annual Holiday dinner was held at Topeka's steak house. A good time was had by all. Jump to the next page for pictures by Sejo.

CVCC 2009 Holiday Dinner

