



599 VA - . - . - . - March 2010

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

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

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Meeting Notice

The March meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, March 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.

March Program

Sheila will present a slide show of a recent IOTA DXpedition by the DDXG to Tangier Island, VA. The nominating committee will present its list of nominations for officers for 2010-2011. Nominations are also welcome from the floor. The election will be at the April meeting. Also to be discussed is the current status of FD planning, our performance in the recent ARRL DX CW as well as plans for ARRL DX SSB, and our plans for a big effort in the Virginia QSO Party.

CVCC DX Champion 2009



Bruce receiving his plaque from Bob at the February Meeting. He had 273 new B/E's for the year.



Kyle in a photo from one of his trips to PJ4E earned the award for highest percentage of new B/E's worked versus those needed.

Congratulations to Bruce and Kyle for outstanding efforts.

CVCC Contesting Champion 2009

In the inaugural year of this award the top ten finishers were:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Points</u>
W4PM	3,757,937
W4HZ	3,114,503
WA4PGM	2,349,287
WK4Y	1,778,841
N3UA	1,631,018
W1ZA	1,459,781
NW4V	1,313,864
WD4LBR	980,573
W4MYA	908,476
KG4W	883,491

In addition nine members had points in excess of 500,000 – K2WK, K4OSO, KF7NN, N4DEN, NK4H, W4DR, W4HJ, W4TNX, WS4WW. Another nine of our members also contributed points to one or more CVCC selected contests for the year. This is a great start for “getting back to our roots” as a CONTEST CLUB!

Contests for 2009 were the VAQP, Field Day, ARRL 160 and ARRL 10. This year we have added the ARRL DX CW and ARRL DX SSB for a total of six.

According to Puck, the secret to winning this award is to be active in all of the selected club contests, and to operate multi-single with one of our multi-single stations while also operating at home for those same contests. Of course you must submit your scores for the credit of CVCC!

The club benefits from your participation. In 2009 CVCC had high club score in the VAQP, the highest VA station score for Field Day and is in a good position to win gavels for the ARRL 160 and ARRL 10 meter contests. We won gavels in both those ARRL contests for 2008!

RANDOM SKIP DE W4DR

The results are finally in and for the first time yours truly will not get any metal in the DX Challenge. Sounds like Olympic talk doesn't it. I thought I had a shot at the Bronze, but my friend SP5EWY beat me out for 3rd place by a large margin, 7 band entities. OZ1LO moved from 4th place to second with a score of 3155, but still well behind champ I4EAT at 3163. During 2009 Fausto added an amazing 21 to his first place score in 2008. I suspect over half of these were on 6 meters. Now 4 of the top 5 slots in the Challenge are occupied by Europeans, which is what I have predicted. For any North American to reach the top three again will require a monster F2 season in this present sunspot cycle which I regard as highly improbable. Am I disappointed? No, in fact it takes away a lot of the pressure. What I lacked in numbers in 2009 I made up for in quality with the likes of FT5GA and JT1CO on top band and TO8YY on 10 meters. Several of my friends have suggested that the ARRL should establish a VHF (50 MHz and above) DX Challenge and drop 50 MHz from the present Challenge. This makes some sense, but I for one am not going to champion such a cause as it would seem to be very self-serving. It would level the playing field with the Europeans.

For the first time in a good many years I was a part of a big multi-multi contest operation. My friend, W4PRO and I went to super station, NR4M for the ARRL CW DX contest. We were the 160-meter team.

Although Steve has an antenna system rivaling that of W3LPL and the other big multi-multi stations he still doesn't have the depth of experience with his team. I predict that Steve's and his team will continue to climb in the "big league" standings in future years. I must say that in terms of accommodations his layout is the best I have ever experienced. Steve is a wonderful and generous host and his team of operators are all very friendly. I considered it a great honor to be invited for this contest and it enabled Jim, W4PRO and I to relive out time together as the low band operators at YK9A. Another CVCC'er was a part of the team for this contest. Kyle did a

great job the second night on 80 meters. Our only problem was getting in and out of Steve's 1/4 mile lane which was covered with about a foot of snow and ice. Luckily my 4-wheel drive Honda CRV made it, but others weren't so lucky. Steve's big tractor took care of the unlucky ones.

If you need 9U on any band keep your eyes peeled for the German group currently there and if you hear or see them spotted on 160 give me a call!

Happy hunting,

Bob W4DR

FEBRUARY DX REPORT

The headline this month was the consistent openings on 12 meters. Lot of members worked new band countries on 12. Hopefully the solar flux will continue to improve and we can eventually enjoy propagation on 28 mHz! We seem to be in a lull as far as rare DX activation is concerned. However, there are several one-man operations planned for March which should provide some excitement for us in Central VA:

NL8F is planning an operation 80-10M from VK9C **Cocos Is.** Mar. 3-10. G3LZQ will commence from 3B9 **Rodriguez Is.** Mar. 3- Apr. 2 and promises some low band activity. HA5AO will be back in **Lesotho** Mar. 8-22 as 7P8AO. Keep your antennas ready for April and May as there will be some very good planned activations on the bands.

Here are your reports:

WD4LBR Bruce racked up 42 new band mode countries including 15 on 12 meters. Sheila **K4WNN** scored 30 new BMC including 9 on 12 meters. Great job to our dynamic duo! Bruce and Sheila are off to a fine start in 2010.

W4PM Puck had a very busy month with 1,517 total QSO's. Most of these were in the ARRL DX CW Contest and FOC Marathon. He worked a total of 23 new band mode countries with 11 on 12 M. Congrats to Puck for a very good catch on 80M with an EZ station in the log for an all time new one. Well done Mr. President!

W4DR Bob had a productive month with his first new band entity since early December by working a 9K2 station on 60M. He also scored a new BMC with C37NL on 160SSB. Congrats Bob! Bob and long time friend Jim, W4PRO worked the 160M radio at NR4M's MM operation during the ARRL DX contest. They managed a total of 282 Q's across 68 countries. Bob had a great time with the two element phased L Array.

W4HJ A.C. reports a short stint in the ARRL DX contest with 21 countries in the log after one hour and ten minutes of operating on 40M. Great job A.C.!

W4PFM Paul is enjoying the enhanced propagation with 3 all time new countries since Jan. and 24 new BC; with 6 on 12M. His accomplishments have all come with 100 Watts. Way to go, Paul!

N3UA Sejo worked 23 new band entities with 18 on 12 meters! Sejo takes the prize for the most new ones on 12 meters this month. Congratulations! Also of note, is the fine catch of 4S7 on 40M.

NW4V worked two new ones on 12M with C21DL and TL0A. I was also pleased with C3 on 80M SSB and Z2 on 40 CW.

Thanks to all who sent in a report and apologies to those I may have missed due to the late request notice for submission this month.

73, Ed NW4V

March Contest Calendar

ARS Spartan Sprint

0200Z-0400Z, Mar 2

AGCW YL-CW Party

1900Z-2100Z, Mar 2

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB

0000Z, Mar 6 to 2400Z, Mar 7

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

0600Z-0629Z, Mar 6 and 0630Z-0659Z, Mar 6

and 0700Z-0729Z, Mar 6 and 0730Z-0800Z, Mar 6

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship

2000Z-2159Z, Mar 6 (Low Band)

and 2200Z-2359Z, Mar 6 (Low Band)

and 0800Z-1159Z, Mar 7 (High Band)

UBA Spring Contest, CW

0700Z-1100Z, Mar 7

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Mar 7
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 7
CLARA HF Contest	1700Z, Mar 9 to 1700Z, Mar 10 and 1700Z, Mar 13 to 1700Z, Mar 14
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Mar 10 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 10 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 11
HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest	1830Z-1900Z, Mar 12 (80m) and 1900Z-1930Z, Mar 12 (40m)
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 13 to 1000Z, Mar 14
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 13
ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint	1500Z-1800Z, Mar 13
Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1800Z, Mar 13
EA PSK31 Contest	1600Z, Mar 13 to 1600Z, Mar 14
Elecraft QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 13 to 1800Z, Mar 14
SOC Marathon Sprint	1800Z-2400Z, Mar 13
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 13 to 1900Z, Mar 14
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 14
SKCC Weekend Sprint	0000Z-2400Z, Mar 14
UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 14
NSARA Contest	1100Z-1500Z, Mar 14 and 1700Z-2100Z, Mar 14
Bucharest Contest	1600Z-1729Z, Mar 15 and 1730Z-1859Z, Mar 15
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0100Z, Mar 15
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 18 10-10
Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 20
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 20 to 0200Z, Mar 22
SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	1000Z, Mar 20 to 1000Z, Mar 21
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 20 to 1200Z, Mar 21
Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 20 to 0100Z, Mar 21 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 21
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1659Z, Mar 20 (144) and 1700Z-1759Z, Mar 20 (432)
North Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 20 to 1800Z, Mar 21
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 20 to 0100Z, Mar 22
9K 15-Meter Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 24
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 27 to 2359Z, Mar 28
UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 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.

The big ones for March are the ARRL DX SSB, the Virginia QSO Party, and the CQ WPX SSB contests. The first two of these are part of the CVCC Contesting Award program. We have won the club competition in the VAQP for years but will need the help of W4MYA's multi-multi effort as well as any multi-single and all the single ops we can get. W4PM won the plaque for CW High Power last year and welcomes competition for this plaque this year. There are also QSO parties in ND, OK and WI this month as well as the Russian DX contest.

CQ CONTEST – CVCC – ARRL DX CW 2010

<u>Call</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>Mult's</u>	<u>Claimed Score</u>	
W4HZ	1,153	251	865,950	W4HZ, WA4PGM, W4PM, KJ4IT
W4PM	528	259	410,256	
KG4W	492	248	366,084	
WD4LBR	353	168	177,912	
WK4Y	211	174	110,142	
K4OSO	268	130	104,520	
N3UA	210	129	81,270	
NW4V	207	124	76,632	
WU4G	198	114	67,716	
WA4PGM	125	87	32,635	

CVCC			2,293,117	
TOTAL				

W4MYA also participated and had a score that was higher than all of the rest combined! His scores of course go to PVRC. It was good to see as much participation on CW as we got! Things are looking up.

It was thought at first that we had a shot at winning the Local Club competition, but it was learned that we can only have 10 entries for both CW and SSB combined. We already have our 10 for CW! We can just enter the Medium Club category and let the chips fall where they may. There may be other options for future years, which we will discuss at the meeting.

A number of CVCC members were heard in the CQ160 SSB test this past weekend. W4PM even got in a little voice mode practice for the upcoming ARRL DX SSB contest. Conditions were good the first night but very poor the second night. W4MYA did his normal bang up job with well over 400,000 points!

FrostFest 2010

Sadly this event was not well attended this year due to the weather. WU4G and W4PM had rented tables and invited CVCC members to participate with them but decided not to risk driving to the event and did not attend. Reports from those who did attend mentioned the excellent display set up by DDXG. Too bad more did not see the results of their efforts.

Member News

Nothing received this month

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:

Straight Keys – US Military Surplus

Navy CLT 26012A made by Lundquist Tool & Mfg. Co. (These keys have a slot in the side to plug in a bug

Navy CMH 26012A made by American Radio Hardware wedge connector - \$30.00 each)

Army J-44 – A J-3 key on a black base with a “VOICE/TELEG” switch - \$30.00

AEA Morsematic MM-2 CW keyer and trainer. I have the manual in PDF format on CD. I tested it and it works as described in the instructions. – \$40.00

Ten Tec Model 291 200-watt T-network tuner. A basic tuner with no meter but it does have a Ten Tec 4:1 balun which I added to allow the use of balanced feeders. I have the Ten Tec manual for it- \$50.00

Paddlette BP (back packer) sub-miniature iambic paddle key. – This was originally purchased by our own Jim Green W4ML and has never been used. I have original shipping box, carrying case and all paperwork as originally supplied - \$40.00.

Many old Vibroplex bugs from \$65 to \$1,000. A list will be provided to any one interested.

All prices are for local pickup. Any packing and shipping would be at the buyer’s expense. Contact me via e-mail in you are interested in any of these items.

73,

Puck W4PM