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

Editor: W4PM

hmmjr@comcast.net

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Meeting Notice

The October meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 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 the dinner and hopes others will show up too.

October Program

A video of the presentation by Rob Sherwood which he made at Dayton in 2008 entitled "Roofing Filters, Transmitter Bandwidth and Receiver Performance" will be shown. This will answer some questions about what the various receiver specifications mean and what effect they will have on your contest and Dxing performance. This is a 47-minute presentation so it may be cut a bit short to meet time constraints.

Random Skip by W4DR

To a serious contester or DX'er a tower with a yagi and a few wires hanging off of it is a thing of beauty. Unless you are a W2QHH, NW4V or WD4LBR it is also the ticket to 300+ countries. Unfortunately to the unwashed public what we see as a sacred monument they see as an eye sore. Hence all of the restrictive covenants. Although we in Virginia have a very liberal antenna law (SB480), it only protects those of us fortunate enough to live in the country or in older subdivisions built before the idea of such covenants were popular; and if they were in effect they were designed to keep out undesirable people. In the 50's and later many homes in fringe TV reception areas had towers and no one thought they were unsightly.

This past weekend Rosalie and I visited, Jean, the widow of one of my dental classmates. Since Guy was a orthodontist they had done quite well. In 2006 they began building a \$2 M mansion in Ford's Colony of Williamsburg. Sadly a year before it was finished Guy died. Now Jean and her daughter live there. The place is perfect and I would love to own such a place (but not pay the taxes on it). As we were leaving I remarked to Jean, "Even if you gave me this house I could not live here." I explained to her that restrictive covenants would prevent me from having any kind of antenna and the house and driveway occupies over 80% of the surface area of the lot. She said she could not even erect a fence separating her 20-foot back yard from the golf course.

Well she didn't offer to give it to me and I am now back in my Powhatan house, which looks much smaller and less well appointed. But my towers stand tall and majestic and remind me of all of the thrills a good antenna system have provided me in the 33 years I have lived in the country. Prior to that I always lived on small lots, but had in succession a 40 foot telephone pole, a 40 foot windmill tower, a 60 foot windmill tower and lastly a 80 foot aluminum tilt over tower all with one or more yagi antennas gracing the top. In those days the cost of the tower and antennas was the main consideration.

Last Sunday my pastor preached from the book of Luke and I was very surprised that the New Testament has specific words for radio amateurs! Luke 14:28-30 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will you not first set down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' You can look it up! This has happened to several of my friends.

What does the future look like with increasing restrictions and more noise generating devices in every home in

suburbia? I believe remote controlled stations will be the wave of the future. Then perhaps W4MYA and even I could provide airtime at a monthly or hourly rate. I believe there are already several operations like this, but I am not sure this doesn't run afoul of FCC regulations. It won't be me because I am too techno-ignorant to set up a remote station. At some time in the near future the DXCC rules will have to take into account such operations. In the mean time enjoy what you have. The greater the handicap the greater the pleasure when a rare one is put in the log. How else can you explain QRP'ers?
Bob W4DR

October Contest Calendar

California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 2 to 2200Z, Oct 3
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	0700Z-1900Z, Oct 3
YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	1400Z, Oct 8 to 0200Z, Oct 10
CQ SA SSB Contest	0000Z, Oct 9 to 2400Z, Oct 10
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z-0759Z, Oct 9 and 1600Z-2359Z, Oct 9 and 0800Z-1559Z, Oct 10
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 9 to 0800Z, Oct 10
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 9 to 1200Z, Oct 10
Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 9 to 0600Z, Oct 10 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 10
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 9 to 0500Z, Oct 10 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 10
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 10
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Oct 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, Oct 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, Oct 14
Iowa QSO Party	1400Z-2300Z, Oct 16
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 16 to 0200Z, Oct 17
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 16 to 1459Z, Oct 17
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 17 to 0100Z, Oct 18
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 18
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 22
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 23
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 23 to 2359Z, Oct 24
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 23 to 1500Z, Oct 24
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 23 to 2359Z, Oct 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 30 to 2400Z, Oct 31
Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Oct 30 to 2359Z, Oct 31

Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Revision Date: March 14, 2010

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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.

I've cut this down to those I think are of more interest to the club. The ones in bold are contests I have enjoyed in the past. The CQP will be mostly over before you receive this but it is one of the best QSO parties. I worked a couple of hours QRP with my K2. I made 60 very hard-earned QSOs. I still think life is too short for QRP. Maybe if I had a gigantic antenna farm I'd have a different view, but QRP with a wire antenna is not for me. The WAG is great fun and the SP Topband Challenge is a good one to make sure you have your antennas ready for the ARRL 160 contest later in the year. Lots of state QSO parties this month. They can be entertaining but a bit slow going. The big one for the month is of course the CQWW DX SSB contest.

I invite you all to join in for the FOC QSO Party on October 23rd. This used to be the Bill Windle QSO party but has been renamed to more accurately reflect the sponsor, "The First Class C.W. Operators' Club" We still call CQ BW however. It's an event open to all with certificates awarded to the top member and non-member scores

by continent. I'll be banging away for as many of the 24 hours as I can stay awake and would appreciate QSOs with any and all CVCC members who can manage a little CW!
Puck W4PM

Virginia Beach Hamfest Review

By W4HZ/Jonathan

As you are certainly aware, the Virginia Beach Hamfest was held on 11 September and for the first time in many years, was back in the facility that had proven to be so pleasant in the past that was called the Pavilion in those days and now is referred to as the Convention Center. It's been completely remodeled and I found it to be an excellent venue for the gathering as it was very clean, well lit and comfortable with plenty of close in parking.

Although we were disappointed at the turn out of vendors, both in the center proper and in the tailgate parking area, I realize that it's going to take some time for the Ham world to find out that the "Beachfest" is back to its roots and in an environment that we so much enjoyed in the past. I think the facility is even better than it was before and light years ahead of the past several years' venues. Once word gets out, I think we'll see a large improvement in vendors and attendees in the next year or so.

We were fortunate to have Bob/W4DR & Rosalie/N4CFL join us at the beach for a few days and Bob accompanied me to the Hamfest as well as co-sponsored the social at our condo after the Hamfest. We were able to see good friends that we had not seen for quite a while and were introduced to several new people and, although neither of us made any heavy duty purchases, it was quite fun.

Thanks to the Herculean efforts by Nancy/K4VIV and Rosalie/N4CFL, we were able to host a very successful social at the condo on the beach after the Hamfest on Saturday afternoon (Bob & I showed up and did what we were told, so we can't take ANY credit for the great party). We had over 25 friends attend including a large contingent from the ARRL including President Kay Craigie, DXCC honcho Bill Moore, our Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, Division Vice Director Jim Boehner, Honorary Vice President, John Kanode and others. Also, several of our friends from the Va. Beach club attended as did a few from the Richmond area. (Thanks for the photos Sejo). One of the highlights of the party was the arrival of our friend, Bob Allphin/K4UEE who, as you all know, is a living legend, known world wide as the premier DxPedititioner of our time.

After the social, most of us re-convened at Mahi Mah's, one of the restaurants on the beach, for the DX Dinner to enjoy good food and fellowship and where Bob Alphin presented a very interesting program about one of his more recent DxPedititions, the Peter 1, 3Y0X effort. After seeing the presentation and hearing Bob speak about the hardships and dangers, I can say without hesitation that those people who went there to give us a very rare entity are truly heroes in our hobby.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable weekend. Perfect weather, great friends and good food. We're looking forward to next year!

73,

Jonathan

Editor's Note:

I tried to insert pictures but for some reason my computer and I are not seeing eye-to-eye today. See the pictures at this link:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/sejo.sudic/VirginiaBeachHamfest?feat=directlink>

Ten Tec Hamfest

By W4PM

Judy and I went to Sevierville for the 11th Annual Ten Tec Hamfest on Friday the 24th and Saturday the 25th of September. Being a 7-hour drive, Judy agreed to go along to keep me company on the drive. We drove out Thursday so I could get to Ten Tec early on Friday to put a couple of rigs in their system for repair. It worked because I just got a notice this past Thursday that they were being shipped back to me all fixed up.

The hamfest was great and appears to have been at least as big as the one in Virginia Beach. Friday Ten Tec's day to show off their equipment and do some selling from the factory store. It was also the day to tour the factory. The tour was great and was very interesting to learn of and see the other things Ten Tec does besides just ham radio. Ten Tec announced the new Ten Tec rig, the EAGLE. This was done with a help of an eagle brought by a Dollywood eagle rescue employee who brought "Lincoln", one of their bald eagles.

Lincoln had been hatched at Dollywood and was released to the wild when he reached adulthood. However it was discovered that Lincoln did not like to hunt for his food. Reports of him stealing campers' fried chicken were received and he was captured and returned to Dollywood. They put him in a big avian enclosure along with a rabbit, hoping he would learn to hunt and have the rabbit for dinner. A day or too later there was Lincoln and the rabbit together. It seems Lincoln has made friends with the rabbit! So Lincoln will remain in captivity and is currently in training to fly around at sporting events during the playing of the national anthem!

To get back to the Eagle rig, it's a compact mobile/portable rig (same size as the Argonaut V) with receiver specs comparable to the best radios on the market. I'll have more information on it at the meeting.

Saturday was the tailgating day. I got up at 5:00 AM and arrived by 6:15 to set up. There were already 50 or more already set up and doing business! Folks were walking around with flashlights looking at the goodies. The folks kept rolling in and there must have been 400 or more tailgaters by 9:00 A.M.

Since Judy was along we did a lot of things of interest to her. We went to the "Black Bear Jamboree", Dolly Parton's "Dixie Stampede", the Titanic museum, toured a winery and an art gallery, had a number of great dinners out, spent Sunday checking out the Gatlinburg Arts and Crafts community as well as a trip to the Smoky Mountains National Park's "Cade's Cove". I was amazed at what a "mega" tourist attraction the Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg area has become. It's well worth a visit.

We drove back Monday and it rained the entire trip. That wasn't fun but I'd do it again because we enjoyed the trip so much.

Editor's note: Again I could not insert pictures. Computers drive me nuts!

Members' News

KJ4IPF, George:

Participated in the TX QSO Party Sept 25 and 26. 58 Qs with 38 counties, all on phone. Good practice for a newcomer working with an indoor antenna. Didn't seem to be many people on and working against, at times an S3 noise level. It was still fun as I found for example, a guy on his boat on a county line and another mobile at a 4 county intersection. The most rewarding part was working people in the mud, as some like myself were working barefoot and were patient enough to come back to me until we got the QSO. Now I'm off to learn that code.

K3WRY, Joe:

I was at the VA Beach HF - sold 4 radios and several other items. Good turn out to start rebuilding the former hamfest they used to run. Smoked my 10-160 folded dipole by accident. Installed a Buxcom Windom, which is doing a great job. Will replace smoked antennna with B&W 90 antenna. Received new 6 ele 6M Hygain and A3sS for new tower. Tried a VHF contest - was a bust because of bad conditions. Have a new/used ALPHA that I have not fired up yet. Wife says yard looks like spider web.

New News Letter Editor

George KJ4IPF has volunteered to take over the responsibility of doing the CVCC News Letter beginning with the November issue. All future columns, articles, and news should be directed to him in the future. I greatly appreciate his generous offer to take this off my shoulders. I am so pleased George joined our club. We need to seek out more members like him!

Puck W4PM