



# 599 VA ..... -.-. ...- .- September 2010

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

Editor: W4PM

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## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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### Meeting Notice

The September meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 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.

### September Program

Bob, W4DR is bringing a DVD entitled "Seven DXpeditions of the year, The Untold Stories" by Bob Allphin, K4UEE.

A foot note at the bottom of the DVD says, "it ain't all about radio.."

### Random Skip by W4DR

There are still five lines left in my current ARRL Log book. When I fill them in I will have filled 57 of these spiral bound log books. In addition to those 57 I have two log books recording the 1954 KC4AB, Navassa Island DXpedition and another smaller Mobile log book used in the 60's when I did HF mobile operation. These books don't quite represent all of my QSOs as I didn't put my contest logs in them. Then in 1993 KG4W brought an old computer here and got me started on packet and computer logging. I never trusted computers, and still don't, so for the past 17 years I have kept a parallel paper log. These paper logs contain QSOs, which are for some reason or other special. For example, new countries, new grids, old long lost friends, unusual propagation, etc. The computer logs aren't complete either as I "back filled" them from 1950-1993 with all of the DXCC entities by band and mode. Since I have lost copies of some of my contest era logs during the 60's through the 80's I don't have a number representing my total number of QSOs made in the past 60 years. Maybe some day when I am too old to do anything else I will go back and enter all of the written entries into my computer log, but probably not.

Back to the paper log. There is something comforting about a bound ARRL Log Book. Perhaps it is nostalgia. The size, shape and format of the official ARRL logbooks have remained the same for all of these years. The main differences being my first books cost only 50 cents and now they are 5 dollars, a ten-fold increase. During the same period international postage went from 25 cents to 98 cents but IRCs went from 15 cents to \$2.10. One IRC in the good old days would prepay a surface mail QSL from anywhere in the world, but for airmail most countries required between 2 and 5 IRCs. As you can see QSLing is now cheaper than it was when I began my amateur career and that does not even factor in LoTW or the ARRL Outgoing Bureau. LoTW is a wonderful tool and I use it as much as possible to avoid having to risk my precious QSLs to the postal service twice again, but I still insist on a real, hold in your hand, QSL for any new band or band mode country. In the January 2010 issue of 599 VA I wrote the story of my long quest and final success in working Zone 23's JT1CO on 160. I had LoTW confirmation at the ARRL within a week, but it was almost 5 weeks till I could look on my wall and see the card Chak sent me with his signature on it. Then it was real.

I guess as an old timer. I am still obsessed with things I can see and hold. It is still thrilling to look through that #1 ARRL Log Book and relive the thrills that are called to memory. Frequently on the comments column there were notes of frustration or triumph. My handwriting was lousy in those days and my entries are much neater now. Now I wonder what will happen to all of this paper data when I am gone. I hope someone will want and treasure it, but in all likelihood it will end up in a recycle bin like most of my old QSTs already have. But for me

the recording of QSOs and the collection of QSLs have brought me great pleasure over what for many is a lifetime. May your niche in our great hobby afford you the same pleasure.

Bob W4DR

## August DX Report by NW4V

First off, thanks to Bob, W4DR, for stepping up and filling in for me last month. This month is a little short on member news and I don't see much planned DX activity for September. However as the fall months approach, we can always look forward to the numerous DX contests and planned expeditions. Here are two Middle Eastern operations worth listening for in September:

**SYRIA** 9/6 – 9/17 YK1BA, Saad, will be back in YK to give out a new one. Details and operating guidelines here: <http://www.qrz.com/db/yk1ba>

**JORDAN** 9/17 – 9/19 JY7P, This Special Event Station will be continuously active for 70 hours. Details here: <http://www.jy7p.com/news.php?show=1&id=14>

Other resources to check often: <http://dx-world.net/> <http://ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

Here are your reports:

W4PM – Puck had no new entities but worked lots of DX primarily on 40 & 20. The best was JA on 20 and VK on 40.

W4TNX - John reminds us that the “DX Sherlock” has changed servers.

W4HJ - A.C. has his 80M antenna back up and is planning some beverage work.

WD4LBR - Bruce worked 5 new band entities.

K4WNW – Sheila worked 8 new band entities including a 9X on 20 RTTY, and VQ9 on 80 CW. Nice going, Sheila!

N4DEN – Thanks to Dennis the W4ML cluster is up @ dxc.w4ml.net

NW4V – I worked Belarus on 17 for 1 new band entity in September!

W4DR - Slow month for Bob with only 3, 40M QSO's none of which were new. Bob is looking forward to October when there is a good possibility for 2 new DXCC Countries to be activated: PJ5 & PJ7 – St Eustatius & Sint Maarten. This will offer up to 40 DX Challenge credits within easy reach from VA. Stay tuned!

Good luck on the bands!

Vy 73,

Ed NW4V

## DX Cluster

The RF part of the DX cluster was shut down by the last lightning strike. It was decided at the August meeting that the club would no longer support the RF input feature in the future. Dennis has moved the node to his QTH and moved its domain name to another provider. An E-mail from Dennis dated August 29<sup>th</sup> provided the following information:

“Finally got the domain name transferred and pointing to the correct ip address...

You may now login @ dxc.w4ml.net...

73,

Dennis N4DEN

W4ML syop”

We appreciate the tireless efforts Dennis has made on our behalf to keep our DX node running!

## August Program

Bob W4DR brought DVD on the 2009 DXpedition to Midway Island. It was an excellent production by James 9V1YC (N1YC). Thanks to Bob for a very interesting program.

## New Member

At the August meeting we welcomed our newest member George, KJ4IPF. George was a great help at our 2010 Field Day and we are most pleased to have him join us.

## September Contest Calendar

QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Sep 1
International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	2300Z, Sep 3 to 2300Z, Sep 5
Russian RTTY WW Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Sep 4
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 4 to 2400Z, Sep 5
Colorado QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 4 to 0400Z, Sep 5
CDX Contest	1200Z, Sep 4 to 1200Z, Sep 5
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 4
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 5 to 0300Z, Sep 6
QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Sep 8
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z-1200Z, Sep 8 and 1900Z-2000Z, Sep 8 and 0300Z-0400Z, Sep 9
FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend	0000Z, Sep 10 to 2400Z, Sep 12
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 11 to 2359Z, Sep 12
Arkansas QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 11 to 0100Z, Sep 12
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 11 to 0300Z, Sep 13
Connecticut QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 18
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 18 to 1200Z, Sep 19
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 18 to 2100Z, Sep 19
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 18 to 0700Z, Sep 19 and 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 19
QCWA Fall QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 18 to 1800Z, Sep 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Sep 20
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 25 to 2400Z, Sep 26
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 25 to 0200Z, Sep 26 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 26

*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).

This listing was trimmed down to those that may be of most interest to our club members. Check out the full list at the link given above. Included are all the state QSO parties that occur in September. Maybe if we support their parties they will support ours. The Texas QSO party is the BIG one for the month. The WAE SSB test is a good one for our SSB ops and the Russian RTTY and the CQWW RTTY for our RTTY fans.

## **ARRL DX Contest 2010**

You may have noticed from the latest issue of QST that we finished second in the Local Club category this year.

Local Category (Top scores over 1,000,000 points – There were 25 entries in this category!)

<u>Club</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Logs</u>
Southwest Ohio DX Assn	4,397,364	8
Central Virginia Contest Club	2,168,688	10
Southern California DX Club	1,971,396	6
Kansas City DX Club	1,906,203	6
Delaware ARA (Ohio)	1,382,190	4
Metro DX Club	1,228,992	8

Considering the fact that we have not entered this contest as a club in years, the fact that ALL our logs were CW, and the fact that we had only one part time M/S entry we did a great job. Winning is nice but to finish 2 of 25 isn't bad. We were unaware that we could only send in 10 logs for both CW and SSB after we had sent in all our CW logs! We therefore supported PVRC in the SSB portion with our SSB logs. In 2011 we will do the SSB portion as CVCC and CW as PVRC. Since we have more SSB ops maybe we have a better chance at moving to the top in that one.

## **NEWS LETTER**

I'm looking for someone to take over the News Letter in the future. It's such a fun job it needs to be passed around. We may consider going to a quarterly publication with only monthly meeting notices. Discussion of this will occur at the Sept. meeting.

Puck W4PM