



599 VA-.-.-.-.- February 2011

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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

Editor: KJ4IPF bytehd@us.net

Meeting Notice

The February meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 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. Don't forget, annual dues will be collected tonight.

February Program

Dennis, N4DEN, will present information about the new DX Cluster software, which includes a new skimmer feature. Make sure you have tried it out and are ready with your questions. Ron, W8VZM, will present the club's plans for our FrostFest display. Please bring any items you may have for this display and consider when you will be available to help man the table during the event. Ron says he has two extra tickets, which we will give away at the meeting to two lucky winners of a drawing.

FROST FEST 2011

The FrostFest is next weekend, Saturday February 5, 2011. More information on our display will be given at our meeting as mentioned above. RATS supplied our club table at no cost so we cannot sell anything from that table. It is for display and club information only. Joe, K3WRY, sent this message:

"I have 2 tables and a bunch of stuff myself----but if someone has something they ----really---need to sell---they can put it on my tables. I am across the aisle from the announcer stand."

Field Day 2011

The latest news is that W4PM has contacted the county and the county has approved our request to use Short Pump Park as has been done in the past. We need only to forward our completed "Special Event/Park Agreement" and return it with a current certificate of insurance. In addition, this note was received from Bob, W4MYA:

"Really thinking about selling off a LOT of stuff shortly.
Both inside and outside.
Wonder what the club would be interested in hanging on to mainly for FD?
Stuff like a set of band filters and stubs?
Couple of laptops that we used last year?
One of the "run" laptops and the one used on 6M?
The 3 loop antennas are stored here.
What else?"

Bob will send a list of items he has for sale and W4PM will bring it to the meeting. He said the stuff he mentioned in his note would most likely be donated gratis to the club. The antennas are ours already.

JANUARY DX REPORT

Although this was in last month's report, the Micro-Lite Penguins Dxpediton Team has now begun operations from South Orkney Islands. They should be there until Feb. 8. Check it out here:

<http://www.vp8o.com/>

The other big operation this month will be from TJ; Cameroon. This group of mainly French operators will be active Feb 10-20. Their website is here: <http://www.tj9pf.fr/>

There is a lot of other activity planned for February. Check out the NG3K site here:

<http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Don't forget ARRL DX CW Feb 19-20!

Here are your reports for January:

W4DR - Bob started off the year right by logging ZS8M on 40M PSK31. He also found CE1/K7CA and DL0GFB on 60 meters. Congratulations, Bob!

W4TNX - John is working to finish off some attic space and considering that or the basement for a possible shack.

W4PM - Puck reports absolutely nothing new in January!

WD4LBR - Bruce had a good month with 13 new ones including ZS8M on 17 CW! Nice going, Bruce!

K4WNW - Sheila also did well in Jan with 6 new band entities including nice catches on 80M with 9L and V5. Good job, Sheila!

W4HJ - A.C. reports some activity in the ARRL RTTY Roundup and few random QSO's in January.

NW4V - I managed to log the H40 from Temotu Island for a new one on 80M.

Good luck to all this month!

Vy 73,

Ed NW4V

RANDOM SKIP by W4DR

I am a regular subscriber to W3UR's, Daily DX and I highly recommend this source of regular up to date DX news. It costs less than \$50/year and insures that you will know the latest, hottest news on a daily basis. It would be illegal for me to reprint W1JR's year in review which was in the January 4 edition of the Daily DX, but I will just lift a summary of several highlights from Joe's write-up. Of the 10 rarest DXCC entities only one was active in 2010, ZS8, Marion Island. This leaves plenty of places to go in 2011 if you want to do a DXpedition to a top ten place. Of the 340 current entities 284 were on the air during 2010. Could you guess which continent had the most entities with no activity? If you guessed Africa you were right. It had 17 blank spots closely followed by Oceania with 13. North America had 7, Asia 9 and Europe only 3. South America had 6 with South Sandwich heading the list as the rarest one. Antarctica only had one, 3Y0, Peter I.

Joe also recorded a list of pirates, not the Somali type. They were headed by ZS8M on cw, the real item is only on ssb and digi, and all of the ZL9's.

LOTW continues to grow in popularity, but if you still want to send for and answer the paper QSL's, which I do, there is a new rate structure for the Outgoing ARRL Bureau: \$2 for 10 or less qsls, \$3 for 11-20 and 75 cents per ounce for 21 and up. This is a more flexible rate structure than the old system which was for 8 oz or 16 oz.

For those of you who are anxious to start battling a big pileup it is time to sharpen your swords. By the time you read this VP8ORK from the South Orkneys should be going hot and heavy on all bands and since this is a north-south path they may even be workable on 10 and 12. Good luck.
Bob W4DR

February Contest Calendar

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 5 to 2400Z, Feb 6
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 5 to 2359Z, Feb 6
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 5 to 1159Z, Feb 6
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 5
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 5
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 5 to 0100Z, Feb 7
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1800Z, Feb 5 to 1759Z, Feb 6
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 6
CWops Mini-CWT Test	1100Z, Feb 9 to 0400Z, Feb 10
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 12 to 2400Z, Feb 13
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Feb 12 to 1000Z, Feb 13
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 12
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z, Feb 12 to 1200Z, Feb 13
New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 12 to 2200Z, Feb 13
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 12
North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 13
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 16
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 19 to 2400Z, Feb 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 25 to 2159Z, Feb 27
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 26 to 1800Z, Feb 27
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 26 to 1300Z, Feb 27
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 26 to 0600Z, Feb 27
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1700Z, Feb 27

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 bigger events are in bold above. Even though we will be participating with PVRC for the club score with our CW logs we need to see if we can schedule a multi-single or guest operation or two and get some big scores. Start planning for our big effort in the SSB portion of the ARRL DX contest in March. Let's see if we can do better on SSB than on CW last year. For you RTTY fans get ready for the CQWW RTTY WPX contest and the NAQP RTTY contest in February. There are a couple of state QSO parties also. These can be fun and in these you could even win a certificate.

CVCC Contesting

The main contests in January were the ARRL RTTY roundup, NAQP's both CW and SSB, ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes, and the CQ-160 meter CW contest. The CW NAQP was a blast and I was running them at up to 200 Q's per hour (short spurts of course)! I wondered why I was doing so much better than last year. Then, after the contest, I checked the rules and saw it was limited to low power and I was using my amp. Oh well, I had a nice check log. It's a good idea to read the rules BEFORE the contest.

The ARRL VHF sweepstakes was used as a head-to-head competition between W4MYA and myself. I was doing great until about two minutes into the contest. Then Bob took the lead never to look back. My 12 QSO's were only about 200 Q's off Bob's pace. Lousy conditions with few to no band openings made it a very difficult event. January is not the best time for VHF.

The CQ160 CW was a blast. I see from the DX totals that a number of our members don't have a great number of countries on that band. I worked 45 countries in this contest even with my rather poor antenna. The SSB version comes up in February so if you need B/E's on 160 give the SSB contest a go.

I mentioned in an email to the club reflector that I had received the gavel CVCC won in the 2009 ARRL 160 contest. I'll bring it to the meeting. Way to go CVCC! I'm expecting two more gavels for our 2010 performance in both 10 and 160 meter contests!

73,
Puck W4PM

Editors Note:

I put my first two CW QSOs in the book in January on 80m and 40m. My first was in PA and second in Cuba. I think the Cuban was a beginner just like me, as his spacing was so wide you could drive a truck through it. And my comprehension was so bad that night, he repeated RST about 3 times for me! No worries, I am officially at least a Novice Ham now, working people at about 5-12 wpm on a good (non-tired) day. A BIG salute goes out to W4HZ for taking 2 weeks out of his busy schedule to practice with me on 10m. Thanks Jonathan.