



599 VA-.-.-.-.- January 2011

Newsletter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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

Editor: KJ4IPF bytehd@us.net

Meeting Notice

The January meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 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.

January Program

Sheila, K4WNW will present a slide show about her and Bruce's 5-½ week trip out west this summer. This will be very interesting and get our minds off the cold snowy weather.

FROST FEST 2011 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

The CVCC will have a table this year! It is in Henrico Hall near RATS and RARC. It is Table ORG-11. I will have information on the club and various contests. I am looking for audio and video from contests. (still pictures, too!) I will also try to showcase some of our member stations. If you have anything for display please let me know. I will be at the next 2 club meetings. Also let me know if you wish to drop something off on the day of the show.

I also would like to have a schedule to staff the table. I will run a schedule with 30 minute increments. Let me know if you are interested. I think this will be a good way to talk up contesting to old and new hams alike.

Ron W8VZM
bowmanr@gmail.com

Random Skip by W4DR

December is usually one of the really good months for low band DX, but this year so far has been a bust. The recent 160 meter reflector carried a blurb by RA4LW about his working and confirming all 50 states on 160 SSB. He even posted a photo of the 50 cards. Guess who was the Virginia QSO/QSL?

Vlad worked almost all of the states during December of 2009. Those who read this column may remember that it was in December 09 that I finally worked Mongolia in Zone 23 on 160. It was a magic month. Perhaps the rising solar activity has spoiled the magic this season.

December marked the passing of two amateurs who were important to DX in general and me personally. Joe Galeski, W4IMP, was the founder of Galeski Optical and a well known business man in the Richmond area. What is less well known is that in the late 1950's he was a pioneer on SSB. Joe was important in bringing about the transformation of AM to SSB as the mode for phone DX'ing. He built a light, small 100 watt 20 meter transmitter and sent it as a loaner to various rare and semirare DX locations to put them on the air for the first time. He also published a QST article on the rig called

"The IMP". Joe and his friend, W4IYC were the ones who loaned me the equipment to get on SSB. Joe was for many years the trustee of W4ZA the club call of the RARC. RIP, Joe.

The second loss was Ahamed, HZ1HZ. He was the father of amateur radio in Saudi Arabia much as YK1AA was in Syria. Ahamed was licensed in 1949 and has been active on the bands ever since then. He was the Deputy Minister of the PTT for many years and represented Saudi Arabia at the ITU Conferences since 1956. For me he was my 100th DXCC entity and I still treasure his QSL with the words across the front, "Mecca, the holy city prohibited to non-Muslims".

Two other personal items. I recently received a notification that INDEXA was awarding honorary life membership to DX Hall of Fame members, an unexpected honor. INDEXA was one of the foundations who supported our YK9A dxpedition in 2001. These foundations which include NCDXF and the Yasme Foundation are very valuable resources in making the really rare DX locations available to the DX fraternity. They deserve our support. You may also remember me mentioning my friend, Tony, W2VRK. He sent me a rare VO2 QSL which was one of the 10 deleted countries I had not worked. Recently he sent me a 1950 W4QCW QSL, which I had sent to a W1. It was a beautiful card with a 1 cent stamp on it. W1 was the best DX I worked on 160 before I came back on the band in 1969. About a week ago I got another gift from Tony, a PK6DA qsl. This reduces to 4 the number of "entities" I need cards from to have a complete collection of all 400 postwar DXCC entities. They are FI, FN, CR8/D and PK5. Tony tells me these cards are extremely rare and bring big bucks on E-bay. I may have to settle for 396 out of 400.

Thanks for joining me in another trip down memory lane. May 2011 create some new DX memories for you to share with younger amateurs. And if you think DX'ing is dying out read the recent ARRL news item about the large increase in QSL bureau activity (ingoing and outgoing) and in the DXCC applications and endorsements. They are way up from 2009.

Happy New Year,
Bob W4DR

OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

It's time to start thinking about our officers for the upcoming year. I hope our current Secretary and Treasurer will consider serving another year. As for me, I think 2 years as President is enough, so we need someone to step up and take the reins. Give it some thought! If you get your committees set up your job will be easy. We'll also need volunteers for the Contest Committee, Program Committee, Field Day Committee, Social Committee, Membership Committee, and possibly others as may be needed. The club can only function well if we have membership support!

Puck W4PM

DECEMBER DX REPORT

January will be quite a busy month with three rare/semi-rare Dxpeditions going on. The main event for January is the planned operation, DX0DX, from **Spratly Island** Jan 06 -01 Feb. They have an excellent website here: <http://www.dx0dx.net/> Also follow on Twitter <http://twitter.com/DX0DX>. This international group of operators will man 12 stations. This will include a 160M plan headed up by K1ZM. There will also be a humanitarian aspect to the dxpedition with two ham doctors performing health check-ups on the local population.

Christmas Island will be activated by a group of JA operators January 14-20. This looks to be more like a holiday style operation but keep your ears open for VK9XA.

South Orkney Islands will be the focus of the Micro-Lite Penguins Dxpediton Team January 27- February 08. Website here: <http://www.vp8o.com/> they will have an emphasis on the low bands.

Good luck with all the activity! Don't forget to send W4DR your 2010 band totals before January 15. Here are your December Reports:

W4PM – Puck had a busy month with over 800 contest Q's and nearly 200 other contacts. He snagged J6 and PJ2 on 160 and 9Q on 40 for new BE's. He also received his 5 Million Award from PVRC. Nice job, Puck!

W4DR - Bob was very pleased to log his number 330 on digital with ZD9T on 20 RTTY. Although not new, he enjoyed working the 9Q on 160. Congrats, Bob!

W4TNX - John had fun working some African DX at W1ZA's for the ARRL 10M Contest.

K4WNW – Sheila had a fine month with 7 new BE's including 9Q on 15,20,30, and 40M! Way to go Sheila!

WD4LBR – Bruce recorded 18 new BE's with some good catches on 80 (V73) and 160M (VK6). Congrats, Bruce!

NW4V - A quiet month for me. I attempted a 30M QSO with the 9Q5 operation under very difficult receive conditions. I thought I worked him but discovered a "Sorry, no QSO's found" under their on line log search.

Happy, Healthy New Years' wishes to all!

Vy 73,

Ed NW4V

January Contest Calendar - by W4PM

ARRL SKN (an operating event)

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest

AGCW Happy New Year Contest

Original QRP Contest

ARRL RTTY Roundup

North American QSO Party, CW

EUCW 160m Contest

Hungarian DX Contest

North American QSO Party, SSB

YL-ISSB QSO Party, SSB

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW

REF Contest, CW

UBA DX Contest, SSB

0000Z-2359Z, Jan 1

0800Z-1100Z, Jan 1

0900Z-1200Z, Jan 1

1500Z, Jan 1 to 1500Z, Jan 2

1800Z, Jan 8 to 2400Z, Jan 9

1800Z, Jan 8 to 0600Z, Jan 9

2000Z-2300Z, Jan 8 and

0400Z-0700Z, Jan 9

1200Z, Jan 15 to 1159Z, Jan 16

1800Z, Jan 15 to 0600Z, Jan 16

0000Z, Jan 22 to 2359Z, Jan 23

1900Z, Jan 22 to 0359Z, Jan 24

2200Z, Jan 28 to 2200Z, Jan 30

0600Z, Jan 29 to 1800Z, Jan 30

1300Z, Jan 29 to 1300Z, Jan 30

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

Revision Date: March 14, 2010

© 1998-2010 Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, All Rights Reserved

Permission was received from Bruce Horn to use his contest calendar. It can be found by following links on www.contesting.com

The larger January contests are in bold but there are some interesting QRP, YL and DX contests. There's something for our CW, SSB and RTTY ops! Don't forget about the ARRL SKN (straight key night). Get out you J-38's or other hand pumps and make a few contacts. Check the ARRL web site for information.

Put March 5-6 on your calendar now for the ARRL DX SSB contest. Since we limited our club entry to CW last year we will do SSB only this year for club competition. For the CW portion we will support PVRC. Since we have more SSB ops than CW ops let's make a big showing!

