



599 VA

.....-.-.....-.-



November 2011

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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

Editor: KJ4IPF bytehd@us.net

Meeting Notice

The November meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday 1 November 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

October Meeting

Robert Orndorff, W4BNO, gave a very interesting presentation entitled "Introduction to Antenna Modeling" covering the basics on what you need to know to get started modeling antennas and some of the modeling software that is available. The meeting was attended by members K4OSO, N4DEN, KJ4IT, NK4H, K3WRY, K4WNW, WD4LBR, KJ4YKK, W4DR, KJ4IPF, W1ZA, N3UA, WU4G, W4PM and visitors W4BNO, N3DJ and W3TB.

December Holiday Dinner

Dennis, N4DEN, has made arrangements for our annual Holiday dinner to be held at Nicks' Roman Terrace, 8051 W Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23294 on Tuesday December 6th at 6:30 P.M.. As you may recall this is the place we had the dinner last year. Please RSVP to Dennis at N4DEN@comcast.net so he can get a head count.

Monthly Program

Don Johnson, a newcomer to the Central Virginia area, having moved to New Kent from Hampton in July of this year will present information on low frequency half-square antennas. As he says on his web site (www.n4dj.com), "In order to work DX you need an antenna with low angle radiation. The more power you can focus at the low angles the better your DX results will be." On 160 and 80 meters obtaining low angle radiation can be very difficult with normal horizontal antennas. Vertical antennas yield better low angle radiation but their performance is directly related to the quality of the ground system under them. The half square may just be the answer for many of us giving the most bang for the buck and the effort expended

Random Skip by W4DR

I have written before about the renovation of my shack, or as Rosalie calls it, "the man cave". After 34 years of the same look it was totally transformed in just 3 weeks time. She had been after me to redo this basement room for some years, but I always resisted for several reasons. The biggest one was that it would take so long that I would miss something that I really needed. The second reason was that I dreaded dealing with the mass of cables under the desk and wondered if I could ever sort them out, eliminate the unused ones, and ever make the station work again. I finally decided that if we could fit the whole job in a period between the end of the low band season and the beginning of the 6 meter E-skip season we could do the job. To my great amazement we got the whole job done between April 27

and May 17 and nothing important happened during that period. The room is now so well appointed with a new flat screen TV and recliner sofa that Rosalie likes to spend lots of time down here. This can be a problem as I get requests to keep the noise level down! The law of unexpected consequences.

Since the redeco job there has been a great 6 meter season netting me 5 new countries and 11 grids. This has been followed by major DXpeditions, ST0R, 4W6A, 3D2R (Rotuma), T32C, YJ0VK and H40KJ. All of these operations have been of excellent quality and although they have slightly overlapped this has not created a problem. Each operation has covered almost every band (some even 60 meters) and mode. As these come to an end we can look forward to a major operation from Nepal in several weeks. The sun has finally come alive with some sun spots and all of these operations have been workable up to 10 meters and for some even 6 meter F2.

The T32C group deserves special mention. This operation has lasted an entire month with several rotating groups of operators. As I write this they are in their final 4 hours of operation and they have made over 210,000 qsos with 49,000 unique call signs on all bands from 1.8 to 50 Mhz. They have used CW, SSB, RTTY, FM, JT-65 and PSK-63. Their web site shows who the leaders are with the most "band slots" in each CQ zone. Not surprisingly a N6 leads the pack with 34 slots worked of a possible 38. In our zone our own K4WNW and WD4LBR are near the top with 30 band slots and when the smoke clears they may well be at the very top. I have tried to keep up with them, but when I think I have caught up they have scored several more! The race has been great fun and they are wonderful sports. Bruce even called me late one afternoon to alert me to a rare 28 Mhz FM opportunity which I would have missed otherwise. I wasn't sure how well my FT1000 would do on FM, but I pushed the FM button, made about 3 calls and they were in the log.

More good news. Bill Moore and Sharon Taratula, who run the DXCC operation at ARRL, had requested that the ST0R, Southern Sudan, group put their logs on LOTW to save much of the manual checking of cards which would descend on them otherwise. The group had announced that they would upload to LOTW in about a year. Bless their hearts, they have given in to these pleas and have uploaded their logs for all their contributors. It would have been better if they had done the whole log, but this is a great help and I hope that most of the DX'ers, who would submit for DXCC credit, would have already made a contribution to this excellent DXpedition. Many of the "real" cardboards are already in circulation to the worthy.

This is a great time to be on the bands whether you are a contester, serious DX'er, casual DX'er or a rag chewer. There is lots of activity on all of the modes and bands. Enjoy the chase, we are in a golden era of amateur radio.

Bob W4DR



MONTHLY DX REPORT

OCTOBER DX REPORT

Hi All – Op John here, giving Ed (NW4V) a well deserved break from DX reporting chores. Note that this is a short term “gig” and I will be looking for a replacement in a year (maybe sooner if there are any volunteers).

In case you haven't been looking lately, the sunspots and the stock market both came back in October! With the exception of a few days of the “bad” kind of solar activity, the high bands have been wide open. I even saw a bit of 6 meter F2 activity to New England from Europe on a couple of days (see DX Sherlock below).

The T32C Dxpedition was super with a month of operations. Some selected “band slot”* totals not mentioned below from the on-line log: N4CH 4, W4HZ 3, WA4PGM 10, N4HB 14, W1ZA 2, NW4V 1, W4PM 5, WK4Y 19 & KC4AUF 14.

Another Dxpedition, 3XY1D, wraps up the 1st of November. I gleaned a few selected CVCC related totals from their online log: N4HB 2, WA4PGM 2, K4OSO 1 & W4TNX 1.

Online DX and propagation resources :

<http://dx-world.net/>

<http://ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

<http://www.vhfdx.info/spots/map.php>

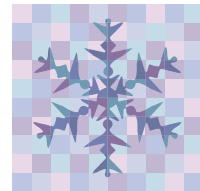
<http://aprs.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/>

I added the resource link for DX Sherlock that I use for VHF, but it is also great for HF. It has a greyline feature that can be toggled on and off and you can also select map (graphic), list (spots) or graph (band map) modes of display by band (use the tabs). The VHF bands show color coded mode of propagation and “hops” in map mode.

The mountainlake link above is unique in that they display color coded lobes of possible propagation based on APRS information.

Check out the following link for LFA (Loop Fed Antenna) designs that are revolutionizing EME work. You may have to hunt around for it, but there is a 1:1 balun strap design perpendicular to the isolated driven element that is unique (and also puts the boom at DC ground). The LFAs and the OWLs (see same link) also work on HF.

<http://www.g0ksc.co.uk/>



Here are the reports:

W4HZ - Jonathan

I've had some fun on the weekends this month working new band countries on 12. Seems I've added about 15 new BC's on 12M & really need them as I don't have my DXCC on that band yet. Nice to see activity on the high bands. It's been a long time. Looks like the station should be ready for the ARRL 160M CW contest in December so maybe I'll get to fill in some 160 countries for that DXCC award.

WD4LBR - Bruce

62 New band countries for the month of October including T32C on 30 band slots.

K4WNW - Sheila

64 New band countries for the month of October including T32C on 30 band slots.

W4DR - Bob

October has been a good month for me. I am nearing my goal of 100 on 60 meters with 3D2R (Rotuma) YJ0VK and OM1II. A92IO had a great signal one evening, but he couldn't hear me. He would have been my #92 on that band. The T32C dxpedition was lots of fun to chase and I managed 28 "band slots" two behind the Blackleys who both had 30. The T32 group used cw, ssb, rtty, fm and psk63 and set a new

record of 213K qsos during their one month long operation. 160 is open again for some good dx and I was pleased to work H40KJ, TL0CW and TX7M in addition to T32C on top band. I am hoping for a shot at BU2 and VU2 this winter.

W4TNX – John

Worked everything in sight w/attic dipoles and 100w w/ Icom 706. (The Yaesu and amp still in the basement, the big aluminum and tower still in the barn – maybe next spring)? Well over 100 DX this month on 10 meters with Africa/Asia/Oceania almost daily. Lots of new band/mode DX on 10m CW. Worked the T32C on SSB and CW on 40m thru 10m (13 band slots, then ran out of antennas/modes). Let the good times roll!

73s and tnx for the submittals,

John W4TNX



* "Band slot" - like a band mode, except differentiates SSB from FM and RTTY from PSK, etc., whereas these would normally be phone and digital modes, respectively.

November Contest Calendar

Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 5 to 1200Z, Nov 6
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 5 to 0300Z, Nov 7
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13
JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 12 to 1300Z, Nov 13
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 12 to 1200Z, Nov 13
Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 12 to 0200Z, Nov 13
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 19 to 1200Z, Nov 20
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 19 to 0300Z, Nov 21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 26 to 2400Z, Nov 27

The big ones this month are the two ARRL Sweepstakes contests and the CQWW DX CW contest. Let's see if we can give PVRC some support in SS. If you do CW at all get in the CQWW DX contest and see if you can find some new ones the higher bands. Propagation on 15 and 10 meters is better than it has been in years! Start planning for the ARRL 160 and 10 meter contests in December. We will try to win gavels in the local club competition in those two contests.



ARRL Headquarters