



# 599 VA .....-.-.-.-.- October 2011

Newsletter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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

Editor: KJ4IPF [bytehd@us.net](mailto:bytehd@us.net)

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## Meeting Notice

The October meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday 4 October 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 Program

Robert Orndorff, W4BNO, will give a presentation called "Introduction to Antenna Modeling". This will cover the basics on what you need to know to get started modeling antennas and will also cover some of the modeling software that is available. We will go over what information that you can get from the software and model a few simple antennas.

Bio:

Robert Orndorff, W4BNO

I became a ham in 2001, and quickly got my General and Extra after attending a Field Day event. I have been moderately active since I got licensed. I am a casual DXer and I play in a few contests throughout the year. I really enjoy the technical side of the hobby. I became interested in antenna modeling after seeing a demo at Dayton. I wouldn't call myself an "expert" at modeling, but it's something I enjoy and I have learned a lot over the last several years playing with the different modeling programs.

I have worked at Dominion since 1984. I started in the warehouse while going to school, and then became a field relay technician. I had that job for 11 years and I have worked in the Transmission Fault Analysis department since 1997. I am a IEEE member and also on the Board at RATS. Some other hobbies include programming, electronics, photography, and occasionally piano.

## September Meeting

The September meeting was attended by members W4PM, K4OSO, K3WRY, N4DEN, WU4G, W4DR, KJ4IT, KJ4IPF, KJ4IKK, KG4QIT, W1ZA and guest Scott Hooper, KT0P. Joe, K3WRY, presented a great program covering our electric power from point of generation to when it gets to our shacks including problems it may contain. He noted the USA system is very old and there exists all sorts of quality problems. His suggestion for protection was a whole house surge suppressor protection unit. Any surge suppressor should have a cutoff of no more than 350 volts.

## October Contest Calendar

EPC Russia DX Contest	0400Z, Oct 1 to 0359Z, Oct 2
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 1 to 0800Z, Oct 2
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 1 to 2200Z, Oct 2
UBA ON Contest, SSB	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 2
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 8 to 0800Z, Oct 9
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SB	1200Z, Oct 8 to 1200Z, Oct 9
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 8 to 0500Z, Oct 9 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 9
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 8
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Oct 9
UBA ON Contest, CW	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 9
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 15 to 0200Z, Oct 16
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 15 to 1459Z, Oct 16
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 16 to 0100Z, Oct 17
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 17
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 22
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 22 to 1500Z, Oct 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 29 to 2400Z, Oct 30
50 MHz Fall Sprint	2300Z, Oct 29 to 0300Z, Oct 30

There're some interesting contests in October. The big one is the CQWW SSB on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Other DX contests of interest are the Oceania DX Phone, SAC SSB, the UBA ON both SSB and CW and the Worked All Germany contests. Don't forget some interesting state QSO parties are also in October. The Stew Perry Topband Challenge on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> will help you get ready for some low band Dxing later in the year. Also check out activities for QRP and RTTY this month and please give me a call on CW in the FOC QSO Party on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's not too early to begin planning for the upcoming November Sweepstakes (we help PVRC) and the ARRL 10 meter and 160 meter contests which we enter as a local club.

73,  
Puck W4PM

### For Sale

Cantex 4" I.D. rigid PVC Electrical Conduit. U.L. Approved. 5-each 10' sections (total of 50') of NEW indoor/outdoor Schedule 40 gray conduit. Please see attached sample photo. The product has been stored inside and is in like new condition. I am asking \$100.00 for the lot. Please contact Jerry Williams, KJ4IT 804-357-2190



## Random Skip

### Bruce, Sheila, Rosalie and Bob visit ARRL

When Sheila announced at the DDXG meeting that she was organizing a club trip to Newington I asked if we (non-members) could be included. In the end it was just the four of us going up in their new Ford Explorer. The trip up took nearly 12 hours driving through rain much of the way and huge traffic tie ups near the end of the trip, but we made it without incident. After a nice seafood dinner at the nearby Red Lobster our spirits were restored and we were ready for a good night's rest.

The next morning (Friday) we arrived at 225 Main Street shortly after 9 am and were greeted by a sign in the lobby welcoming the four of us, by name and call sign, to the ARRL. Just around the corner we came to Sharon T's office. Bruce and Sheila had become fast friends with Sharon via telephone and a previous visit. I had several objectives in visiting the DXCC office and Sharon and Bill Moore, NC1L, went right to work on these requests. I wanted a duplicate DXCC certificate for my first award given to W4QCW in 1954 as my original certificate was not in good shape.

Bill went to the paper archives and found the paper record of this award and a new award was immediately printed with original date and number inscribed. When I got a CW DXCC in 1990 I never requested a certificate. Bill again consulted the archives and found a date and number of that award and Sharon quickly had it printed. As a bonus she noticed that I had two LOTW Digital credits which had not been applied and she took care of that without me requesting it. In the meantime it was discovered that Sheila had 100 credits for a DXCC on 30 meters so that was also issued. She thought she had only 99 credits so this was a surprise.

The difference was that she also had one deleted credit which gave her the 100. I don't remember who it was, but sometime during the morning we were each given a \$25 gift certificate. By this time we were feeling pretty good about our national radio society. Bill took us across the parking lot to the W1AW station and I sat down in front of the FT5000 on 20 meters expecting an immediate pileup on my first CQ. It was not to be as 20 was a very flat band. Sheila, Rosalie and I did manage to scratch out a few domestic qso's including Duke, W1ZA. In the meantime another guest operator was on 12 meters using a new FT9000 and he was running Europeans as fast as he could log them. He offered me his chair and I continued the run. It was just like being on a DXpedition. I could only get partial calls each time, but what fun. After about 50 qso's it was time for us to take Bill and Sharon to lunch at a local pub which they recommended.

During the afternoon we had a guided tour of the entire ARRL complex. You must see this yourself to appreciate it. Lots of antique equipment and pictures displayed. We visited the testing lab where new gear is evaluated and written up in QST. We saw the duplicate of the first OSCAR which had its cover off and was transmitting the .... .. (HI) which was heard around the world.

Another highlight was a visit to the Outgoing QSL bureau and chatting with the very friendly lady who, along with volunteers sorts and mails the qsls to every bureau around the world. We added a few more qsls to her work load. Rosalie and I decided we wanted to buy two inscribed bricks for the patio in front of the main building so we filled out forms to have one brick inscribed with our names and call signs. The second brick was in memory of our son Lee, WA4CSG.

Our last stop was at the ARRL store to spend our gift certificates. As we left the building we noticed that the CVCC had an inscribed brick. I had forgotten that we did that a few years ago. All in all a great day at the ARRL topped off by a nice dinner at a local steak house. I strongly recommend that you visit our national radio society headquarters if you ever get a chance.

Bob W4DR

