



# 599 VA .....-.-.-.-.- May 2012

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

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

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## Meeting Notice

The May meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday 1 May 2012 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.

## May Program

We are going to try something different this month.

**You have been assigned homework!**

You should have already received via email a 12-page list of contesting tips that were gathered over the years by K1AR. Read through them and be prepared to talk about the ones you think are the most important and of the most value to a successful contest entry. As you know we have some new members who are learning contesting and we have some older members who may well have forgotten more than some of us know! In any event it's good idea to prepare a bit for the future. We are, after all, a "Contest" club.



Print out the 12 pages OR select the ones you think are best and print only those and bring them to the meeting. If you have other tips you have learned over the years, add them to your list. Be prepared to discuss contesting at the meeting. Maybe we'll call it contesting 102 - we've all had contesting 101 haven't we?

## April Meeting

The April Program on propagation was presented by Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society president Robert Orndorff, W4BNO. Robert did an outstanding job as usual. We appreciate his efforts in bringing this information to us. In attendance at the meeting were WU4G, NK4H, N4DEN, W4PM, KJ4IT, K4WNW, WD4LBR, K3WRY, K4OSO, N3UA, and guest W4BNO. Being election night, the previous officers were unanimously elected for another term.

## CVCC Annual Picnic – 2012

The CVCC picnic will be held this year on May 12th at 3:00 until you're ready to go home. We're going back to James Frame's place on the James River where we have been for the past several years. As usual the club will furnish the burgers, dogs, buns, and condiments. Members are asked to bring a covered dish to share with the group. Also remember to bring your own drinks – beer and wine are permissible – and a comfortable chair to sit in. Those planning to attend so far are listed below. Please let me know if you will attend and how many are in your party and what dish you would like to bring.

Bob, NK4H [raladd1@verizon.net](mailto:raladd1@verizon.net)

At last count there were 19 folks attending. We hope more can come.



## April / May Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 28 to 2359Z, Apr 29
Nebraska QSO Party	1100Z, Apr 28 to 1700Z, Apr 29
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z, Apr 28 to 1200Z, Apr 29
Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 28 to 1259Z, Apr 29
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 28 to 0159Z, Apr 29 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 29
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 5 to 2359Z, May 6
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 5 to 1159Z, May 6
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 5 to 0700Z, May 6
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 5 to 0400Z, May 6
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 5 to 0500Z, May 6 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 6
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 12 to 1200Z, May 13
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 12 to 1159Z, May 13
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 12 to 0300Z, May 13
His Maj. King of Spain, CW	1200Z, May 19 to 1200Z, May 20
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 19 to 0200Z, May 20

Lots of interesting smaller DX contests for our SSB, CW as well as RTTY ops. Also some good state QSO parties. For those of us who are getting a bit rusty in our contest operating, pick one of these and RUN'EM!

## CVCC Wins Another Gavel!

Lead by N3UA at W4DR's QTH and a multi single entry from W4HZ the CVCC won another gavel in the 2011 ARRL 160-Meter Contest. In addition we had five other entries to fill out the winning score. It's too bad we didn't have more logs, but fortunately 7 was enough. (QST June 2012, pg 84)



### Results:

<b>Central Virginia Contest Club</b>	<b>697,053</b>	<b>7</b>
Kansas City DX Club	591,311	4
Delara Contest Team	495,947	8
New Mexico Big River Contesters	220,613	5
Bristol (TN) ARC	166,273	8

### CVCC Logs Submitted:

N3UA	358,190	1,279	119	D	@ W4DR
W4HZ	192,042	994	94	D	+ W4PM
KG4W	66,882	462	71	D	
WD4LBR	41,216	365	56	D	
WU4G	21,369	202	51	B	
K4OSO	12,692	171	38	A	
N4DWK	4,662	61	37	D	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>697,053</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>466</b>		

Sejo's score in the Multi-op HP category was number 1 in the Roanoke Division and number 4 in the nation. Way to go Sejo!

## April DX REPORT

Fair sunspot numbers pushing 150 at the end of April.

### Upcoming Dxpeditions of interest:

JD1 and XX9 – see ng3k link below for details.

### 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/>

### W4DR – Bob

71 DX qsos mainly on RTTY (FSK). The FSK was a station improvement for me thanks to N3UA and it is much more user friendly then the old AFSK I had used for years. Sadly the one station I wanted on RTTY, 9M0L, was not worked. (*Ed comment – the Blackley's were tying them up – see below*). My only new BE for April was VX9GHD on 60 meters. The E51 activity on 60 was a bust for me as well. Bob

### WD4LBR - Bruce

Number	Callsign	Country	Band	Mode
1	3D2R	Rotuma Island	15m	CW
2	9M0L	Spratly Islands	17m	RTTY
3	9M0L	Spratly Islands	15m	RTTY
4	DU3/N0QM	Philippines	17m	CW
5	E51M	North Cook Islands	20m	CW
6	E51M	North Cook Islands	10m	CW
7	FK8DD	New Caledonia	12m	CW
8	SV2ASP/A	Mount Athos	17m	SSB
9	VP2V/DF1UX	British Virgin Islands	12m	SSB
10	YJ0VK	Vanuatu	17m	CW
11	YJ0VK	Vanuatu	20m	CW

### K4WNW - Sheila

Number	Callsign	Country	Band	Mode
1	3D2R	Rotuma Island	15m	CW
2	9M0L	Spratly Islands	17m	RTTY
3	9M0L	Spratly Islands	15m	RTTY
4	DU3/N0QM	Philippines	17m	CW
5	E51M	North Cook Islands	10m	CW
6	FK8DD	New Caledonia	12m	CW
7	FK8DD	New Caledonia	15m	CW
8	HK1MW	Colombia	30m	CW
9	VP2V/DF1UX	British Virgin Islands	12m	SSB
10	YJ0VK	Vanuatu	17m	CW
11	YJ0VK	Vanuatu	20m	CW

**W4HZ** – Jonathan

*Report is that work is getting in the way of the hobby!*

**KG4W** – Ed

*Ed is loving the LOTW!*

CALL	QTH	BAND
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8R1AK	GUYANA	12 NEW
E51M	NORTH COOK IS	12 NEW
OX3XR	GREENLAND	12 NEW
VP2MFF	MONTSERRAT	12 NEW
E51M	NORTH COOK IS	17 NEW
YB2TJV	INDONESIA	17 NEW
BY8AC	CHINA	17 NEW
5B4AHY	CYPRUS	17 NEW
VP2MQR	MONTSERRAT	17 NEW
8R1PY	GUYANA	30 NEW
JT1CO	MONGOLIA	30 NEW
9M0L	SPRATLY IS	40 NEW

**N4UA** – Sejo

Here are my new BEs worked:

10m : E51 , FK8

12m: JD1 ,TJ6,XW

15m: 9M0L , Spratly All time new (*Ed – great going Sejo!*)

20m: SV2/ASP/A

30m:4L

73

Sejo , N3UA

**W4TNX** – John

I stumbled onto the CQMM contest on 10m the weekend of 4/22 and worked a bunch of SA stations and a few NA (like XE). I don't remember this contest from earlier years, but it has only recently been opened up outside of SA. It was interesting to see that DX Sherlock was graphically identifying most of the NA to SA QSOs as via TE and most of the EUR to SA as F2.

Fun to work the paddles, but alas, nothing new for me.

**KJ4IPF** - George

Played in the SD QSO Contest “by accident” and snagged a measly 2 QSOs (K0MCM and K0PIR)

Hard to snag with only 100,000 watts.

73s and tnx for the submittals,

John W4TNX

**Field Day 2012**

The insurance certificate was sent to the county and we have the signed permission to use Short Pump Park for the CVCC Field day in hand. Please plan on supporting the club in its annual effort this June.

Since we are taking names and handing out money (kidding), anyone who wants to commit to serve/bring/work/help during Field day is encouraged to tell Puck or Jerry Williams KJ4IT what you can bring to the table(s).

Even if same as last year, just let us know.



**New 160M Vertical**

## Random Skip by W4DR

If you followed the PVRC reflector for the past month you could see an argument about the virtues of elevated radials vs. ground radials for low band verticals. The elevated radial advocates cite more recent research results showing a few elevated radials equal the broadcast standard of 120 on the ground radials. Although I never did any formal research on this subject I do have some real world experience. In 1970 I got on 160 by shunt feeding my 80 foot tower which had a 40 meter beam and a tribander at the top. I used on the ground radials. Since my lot was only 1/3 acre many of the radials were less than 20 feet long and only a few actually 1/4 wave length, this antenna proved to be a very effective radiator on 160. In 1983 I put up a 4 square antenna for 80 with 96 1/4 wave on the ground radials around each vertical. This major project was rewarded with great results. Because I was so happy with it and so frustrated with my performance on 160 I decided to put up a 4 square for that band. At the time (1996) elevated radials had become quite popular largely due to publication of various research publications and seminars. Since this appeared to be so much simpler and faster my new array (4 130 foot insulated Rohn 25 towers) each had 4 elevate quarter wave radials. The antenna proved to be a real flop and I was greatly disappointed with its performance. With the help of W4PFM I increased the number of above ground radials to 16 and like magic the array began to play quite well, but this was 4 to 8 times the number of elevated radials the research results said would equal the broadcast standard of 120 on the ground. Since my radials ran through the woods branches and small trees were constantly breaking them requiring lots of maintenance. Then hurricane Isabel took down all four towers and dozens large trees leaving a tangled mess of wire, tower sections and trees. I decided to rebuild, but this time to have the tower insulators at ground level and use 90 on the ground radials per tower. This array played as good or better than the previous one and required zero maintenance. How to explain real world results vs. research results? I believe the answer is that the researchers all measure ground wave signal levels which is what the broadcast industry is mainly interested in and DX performance is dependent on sky wave radiation.

The Spratly Dxpedition, 9M0L, has kept the DX bands quite busy for the last two weeks. Before they went they advertised that they would make a special effort to work North Americans on RTTY and the low bands because that is a difficult path for most of NA vs. how easy it is for Europe and Asia. With the dxpedition in its final hours I will give my perspective on how well they carried out this goal. To begin with there was not a single North American among the 20 or so listed operators on their web site and this gave me some concern. They had only 3 stations, a limitation based on the amount of gear they could carry and probably the size of the aircraft taking them to the island. With 10 bands and 3 modes in demand for this rare DX entity they were spread very thin. In spite of all of these limitations they made poor choices in band selection. For example during the prime time for NA propagation on most bands they spent on 10 and 12 meters which was above our MUF, but where they could run EU and JA's endlessly. The two times I had good print on RTTY they worked exclusively JA in one session and Eu in the other. During the prime low band propagation time for NA, 10-13 GMT they worked hard on 160 which was very unproductive when operation on 80/40/30 or 20 would have yielded many more East Coast NA qso's. Based on their stated objectives I would grade this DXpedition as a C-. But we should remember that it is their operation..They spent their own time and money to put it on and they can run it however they wish. They don't owe us anything. We are happy for the activity and the excitement they provided on the bands. Since several of the Spratly Island group are accessible by commercial transportation I suspect in the not too distant future there will be more activity from this entry.

Enjoy the chase, Bob W4DR

**For Sale:**

I have decided to part with my Yaesu FT736R.

6 meter, 2 meter, 1.25 meter and 70 centimeter bands.

All mode - AM, FM, USB, LSB. Hand & desk mics included.

Also has the tone module, CW filter and keyer board installed.

CAT interface comes, too. It saddens me a bit, but I just seldom use it.

I am about to put it on eBay for auction, simply because I cannot find a model with the comparable features mine has to figure a price.

That is, unless someone makes an offer.

If you know someone who might be interested, please forward this to them.

73,

Parke, N4KFT

[parke@k4puf.com](mailto:parke@k4puf.com)

**Editors Note:**

Since I forgot to put the April fool's joke in last month, see if you can figure out where it is in this issue.