



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - February 2013

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

## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

[hmmjr@comcast.net](mailto:hmmjr@comcast.net)

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### Meeting Notice (see agenda on page 6)

The February meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 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 PIZZA HUT 9486 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA. This is a change and was made at the request of Sheila and Bruce. A change from time to time can be a good thing. I'll have my salad before I leave home! Puck

### February Program

Jerry, KJ4IT, has prepared the Program for the February meeting which will include two DVD films. The first will be a 10-minute pre-World War II film under the MGM trademark. The next will be a feature presentation produced by Amateur Radio Video News dealing with the 2006 ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) Championships/International Style Amateur Radio Direction Finding held in Raleigh, North Carolina. This is an interesting aspect of the hobby that is frequently reported on in QST and of which not all of us are aware.

### January Meeting

Joe, K3WRY, gave an excellent program on the 43-foot vertical. In attendance at the meeting were NH4H, WD4LBR, K4WNW, N4DEN, KJ4YKK, W4PM, WU4G, W4HJ, W4DR, N4CFL, N3UA, and K3WRY.

### Annual CVCC Contesting Award

The 2012 contest year is over. The five-contests/operating events for 2012 were the ARRL DX, VAQP, Field Day, ARRL 160 and ARRL 10-meter contests. Currently we are tabulating the 2012 scores and will name a winner for this in the March News Letter. There was just no time to complete the tabulation in January.

### Annual CVCC DX Champion Award

For 2012 the award goes to KG4W, both for number worked and percentage of needed. See W4DR's Random Skip, which follows, for details of Ed's accomplishment.

### 2013-14 Club Officers

In accordance with the CVCC constitution the election of officers for the 2013-14 year will be during the April meeting. The current officers have agreed to serve another term; however, nominations will be taken from the floor if any of you want to run!

### CVCC DUES 2013-2014

Don't forget your dues for the new year are currently due. Bring your \$20 to the meeting or send your check via mail direct to Milt, K4OSO, our treasurer.

## **RANDOM SKIP, The view from Manakintown Ferry Road, by W4DR**

Looking back over 2012 from my prospective it wasn't a great year. Yet it had some real high points. Conditions on the upper HF bands (17-10 meters) were moderately good, but not as good as they were in the fall of 2011. I was only able to add one new country on the high bands, VK0LH on Macquarie Island (12 meter, CW and RTTY). As nice as that was it didn't compare to the thrill of finally working Annobon, 3C0E on 160 in March and then the total surprise of working 7O6T, Yemen on top band in May. This DXpedition just totally surprised everyone because of the dangerous and unstable conditions in that country, but it was the also the wrong time of the year for both the low and high ends of our spectrum. Yet they were workable here in Virginia from 160 through 10 meters. Savvy operators, a good location and good equipment can always produce unexpected results. HK0NA was another wonderful operation and did give me a new RTTY entity to go with 7O6T, D64K and ZL9HR. Alas, though I struck out on my chance to add Spratly to my Digi total. The Blackley's rubbed salt into my wound by each working them on TWO bands! Oh, well, next time I'll get em.

At the beginning of 2012 I was very tempted to jump into the water and see if I could run up a score in the Diamond DXCC program. Upon more sober reflection I decided I couldn't really devote the time required to attempt to work many or most of the 231 countries on the original prewar DXCC list. Then about two weeks ago I brought up the Diamond DXCC countries list and went back through log and started filling in the blanks. Everything had to be worked in 2012, but since my computer log contained only 533 QSOs it didn't take too long to scan the whole thing. Could I have worked at least 100 of those "old countries"? Presto! When I finished I had 106 so I could get the Diamond DXCC, but without any endorsements. Great! Then I read the fine print, "use any band except 60 meters" Alas, 10 of my common countries were on 60 meters! Back into the log to see if I could find substitutes for the ten 60 meter QSOs. Well just by pure luck I had worked 8 of them on other bands, all except OZ and YN. This brought me down to 104, but then I discovered PD0DK on RTTY, which I had missed in my first pass. The application was easy online and it was a fun exercise. I didn't work many common countries like, EI, OZ, GI, SV etc, but then I had ultra-rare Tibet. Two other CVCC'ers that I know of have applied for the Diamond DXCC, N3UA with 159 and WD4LBR with 104. I would encourage the rest of you to see how many prewar countries your 2012 log contains.

Although my own "DX Totals" listing from 2011 through 2012 was a minus (I added 3 new ones, but lost 9 with the deletion of Malyj Vysotskij Island) it was a very different situation for KG4W. Although Ed started the year with a relatively high score of 2,126 he added an amazing 422 to that total for a grand total of 2,548. This vaults him into 3rd place behind only W4MYA and myself overall and earns him the 2012 CVCC DX Champion Award! How did Ed manage this feat without even the benefit of a single gain antenna? Well he has some mighty good wires, he is a great operator and he started with low numbers on the three WARC bands. 2012 was a great year for 30, 17 and 12 meters with lots of great DX activity on all three bands. It will be very tough for Ed to repeat unless he gets on 6 meters where he is still at zero. I think I may put my money on newcomer, John, KJ4YKK who is starting the year with 32. With a little prodding by neighbor and Elmer, N3UA John could take the 2013 plaque.

The popular CQ 160 meter CW contest just finished today and 6th year in a row N3UA has operated the contest from my station. His previous best score was in 2008 with 690,000. This year he beat his previous best with an amazing total of 815,000 in round numbers. This score will go to PVRC as CQ does not recognize small clubs. You may remember that Sejo scored over 400K in the ARRL 160 contest in December and his score along with some other real good efforts may well win us another gavel. It is such a pleasure to see someone use my station to do things I could only dream of plus I even get enough sleep Saturday night to stay awake in church on Sunday morning. Maybe I can get Sejo to come over in mid February to work 9U (Burundi) on 160 for me...it's the only mainland African country I need on 160 and has eluded me for 40 years. Just kidding, I will have to do this myself.

May 2013 bring you lots of excitement as you contest and DX on our wonderful amateur bands. We are so blessed to have this entire spectrum available to us!

The "DX Dr" W4DR

## FEBRUARY CONTESTS

### Triathlon DX Contest

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z-0759Z, Feb 2 (RTTY) and 0800Z-1559Z, Feb 2 (SSB) and 1600Z-2359Z, Feb 2 (CW)
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0000Z, Feb 2 to 2400Z, Feb 3
Black Sea Cup International	0001Z, Feb 2 to 2359Z, Feb 3
EPC WW DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 2 to 1159Z, Feb 3
Minnesota QSO Party	1200Z, Feb 2 to 1200Z, Feb 3
Delaware QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 2
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1700Z, Feb 2 to 2359Z, Feb 3
North American Sprint, CW	1800Z, Feb 2 to 1759Z, Feb 3
ARS Spartan Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 3
YLRL YL-OM Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Feb 5
<b>CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest</b>	1400Z, Feb 8 to 0200Z, Feb 10
YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW	<b>0000Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 10</b>
Dutch PACC Contest	0000Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 10
Louisiana QSO Party	1200Z, Feb 9 to 1200Z, Feb 10
New Hampshire QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 9 to 0300Z, Feb 10
	1600Z, Feb 9 to 0400Z, Feb 10 and 1200Z-2200Z, Feb 10
Russian PSK WW Contest	2100Z, Feb 17 to 2100Z, Feb 18
<b>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW</b>	<b>0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17</b>
<b>CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB</b>	<b>2200Z, Feb 22 to 2159Z, Feb 24</b>
REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 23 to 1800Z, Feb 24
UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 23 to 1300Z, Feb 24
Mississippi QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 23 to 0300Z, Feb 24
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 23 to 0559Z, Feb 24
North Carolina QSO Party	1500Z, Feb 24 to 0059Z, Feb 25

*Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, [WA7BNM](mailto: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](http://www.contesting.com).

There are lots of contests in February, a number of state QSO parties, smaller DX contests, YL contests, some digital contests and of course, the ARRL DX CW contest. Hopefully we can put on a good show in the ARRL DX contest. If you can do CW at all get on the air and make some contacts. We may need all the logs we can get for a club entry. We won't have a multi entry this year so get on from home!

The Triathlon is a new one which appears to be periods of RTTY, SSB, and CW in the same contest! Look it up if you are interested. W4PM will be on during the first weekend in February in the FOC Marathon. Unfortunately it's a closed event only for club members, but he likes saying hello to CVCC members at any time, so call him if you hear him.

## CVCC CONTESTING NEWS

There were a number of contests in January. Here are results from a couple of them:

### CQ 160 CW:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Contacts</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>St+P</u>	<u>DX</u>	<u>Score</u>
N3UA @ W4DR					815,000
N4DJ	831	2421	53	27	193,680

W4PM	350	1129	43	24	75,643
KG4W	112	337	27	9	12,132
WU4G	127	310	34	5	12,090

**DEADLINE FOR LOG SUBMISSION IS FEBRUARY 1, 2013!**

Comments:

N4DJ

I have three new Beverage antennas. One in the air and two BOG's. They work great!

Great runs. Some Dude in Goochland that I met on the air in 1961 said "run 'em if you can". so I ran 'em. 745 of my 831 QSOs were running. I had 83 DX QSOs, 26 of which came in one hour during a good run at European sunrise. Having Europe call me was quite a treat. I never would have heard them if it were not for the new Beverages.

W4PM

I spent 5 hours calling CQ Saturday night. Conditions were excellent even with a rather marginal antenna. Most of the DX called me during my CQ. That seldom happens to me on 160.

KG4W

I didn't feel like a full bore effort, so decided to see if I could work some DX. This was a flawed strategy!!

In almost every case, when a DX station was spotted, or I just found the DX, a W was calling CQ TEST on the frequency. Very frustrating, there's no area of the band where Ws will not CQ!

I have a suggestion, i.e.- if everyone would use spotting, then they would know where the DX is and they wouldn't call there (or would they) ? I worked a few DX through or around the Ws.

WD4LBR

I only worked the 160m contest looking for new band countries. I managed to bag two new ones which gives me 101 worked and 93 confirmed. I know you (W4PM) weren't a new one, but I wanted to give you a contact. I am glad you could hear me.

**ARRL RTTY Roundup:**

K4WNW multi with WD4LBR 1,231 Q's, 56 sections, 61 DX, 144,027 points

Nice going Sheila and Bruce. Does anyone do RTTY contests in this club other than these two RTTY masters?

**NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CVCC**

You may be surprised that I am going to run for another term as president of this fine organization. My recent e-mail said otherwise and asked for comments from members on their views of the future of the CVCC. I had many responses and that was encouraging enough to make me want to stick around in my present position for one more year. I've instituted a couple of the suggestions by putting an agenda for the meeting as the last page of this News Letter and will also start each meeting with introductions and comments from the floor. I guess I stopped this because we seemed to have the same 10 or 12 attendees at recent meeting, all of who knew each other very well, so I thought it was unnecessary. I see I was wrong!

I would like to get news from members to put in each News Letter and will request it each month by a general e-mail to all members. I do not agree that we do not need a News Letter. Perhaps we can discuss the frequency of it and even the number of meetings we have each year but the News Letter will continue if I have to do it all myself! We had many other comments and they will all be discussed at the meeting.

In addition, I want to form a Steering Committee to meet in the next 30 days to discuss the future of the CVCC and make recommendations to the general membership on the future of our club. As was pointed out by a number of responses we are more than just a radio club that does contests. Our name and the history of the club indicate a strong preference for radio contesting. We have done very well in that capacity over the years as is indicated by our numerous wins in various ARRL Contests as a Local Club. We are also a club that enjoys

Dxing. The fact that we have one of the premier Dxer's in the world in the person of W4DR insures our continued interest in that facet of amateur radio. That being said, our club constitution says only:

"Wishing to secure for ourselves the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio, we constitute ourselves as the CENTRAL VIRGINIA CONTEST CLUB and enact this constitution as our governing law. It shall be our purpose to further exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare in the community."

Let's come together and determine what our path should be in the future and how we should be organized for a successful future.

Many clubs have a position of vice president who is tasked with planning programs, serving in place of the president when necessary, and being on a path to take the position of president after his term of vice president is done. I think we should consider such a position for our club. In the mean time, Jerry, KJ4IT, has volunteered and I have appointed him Chairman of the Program Committee for the coming year. His job will be, with your help, to come up with programs for club meetings. In the past, we have had videos Jerry provided entitled "The Last Big Field Day" and "The Story of the Queen Mary and W6RO" to name a few. He is working to obtain programs that he feels will be of interest to the club that will not deal just with operating but technical aspects as well. If you have ideas for a program, or you have a presentation you would like to give please contact Jerry by e-mail at [kj4it.jw@gmail.com](mailto:kj4it.jw@gmail.com) or (CELL) 804-357-2190.

Please come to the meeting. We have a lot to discuss!

73,

Puck W4PM

## **OTHER MEMBER NEWS**

KG4W

I've been chasing the DX here and have caught 21 new band countries since 1-1-2013.

I've also been working a lot on "log purification" within my Dx4Win logging program. I recently uploaded my logs to "Club Log" and also to "QRZCq", pretty interesting programs especially Club Log. Long live "OQRS" & "LoTW". Worked UA0BA on 12m, then uploaded to LoTW the next day. I had credit the following day! Same story with YI1RZ. Gotta either stay up late or get up early enough to work ZK3T on 30m, as that would finish that country on the 9 bands that I follow.

K4OSO

Since I enjoy traffic handling, I try to check into the HBN (Hit and Bounce) wide area CW traffic net each morning at 8:30 EST. Since I've been finishing our basement, my shack (with QRO rig) there has been disassembled however, I brought my little 10 watt IC-703 down and have had good luck checking into the net using that rig. One morning last week when I checked in, NCS came back with "GM MILT UR SIG WAY DOWN THIS AM". I checked the rig only to discover, that after working the SKCC K3Y anniversary QRP Challenge event (how low can you go?), I had left the rig on 80mw output!

Needless to say when I went back to 10 watts NCS said I sounded "MUCH BETTER". :-)

..Life is to short to work QRO!

# **Central Virginia Contest Club**

**February 5, 2013**

## **Meeting Agenda**

**Call to Order – 7:00 P.M.**

**Secretary's reading of the minutes**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Introduction of Members and their comments**

### **Old Business**

Gavel received for ARRL DX Contest – 2012

Sponsorship approved in January for VAQP plaque

Field Day 2013 anyone?

Shall we have one?

What will be its format and location?

Dues due

Annual Awards – DX and Contesting

Other

### **New Business**

Plans for 2013 ARRL DX Contest

Plans for VAQP

Plans for VASP

Presentation of slate of officers for 2013-14

Additional Nominations from the floor

Discuss responses to "Future of CVCC"

Steering committee selection and meeting date

Other

**Program as defined in the News Letter by KJ4IT – 7:40 to 8:20 P.M**

**Adjourn meeting**