



# 599 VA ..... - . - . - . - June 2013

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## News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

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

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### MEETING NOTICE

The June meeting was the annual CVCC Picnic on June 1, 2013. See a report with pictures later in this News Letter. The next meeting will be the September 2013 meeting.

### MAY MEETING

Joe K3WRY made a presentation on Antenna Analyzers and had a number of them on display. Thanks Joe for an informative and timely program. In attendance at the meeting were members W4PM, WB4GZV, WU4G, K4OSO, W4HZ, W4HJ and Jo, N4DEN, N3UA, NK4H, WD4LBR, KN4XJ, K4WNW, KJ4YKK, KJ4IT, K3WRY, and guest Pete Pederson N4AKP.

### JUNE CONTESTS

Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB	1100Z-1300Z, Jun 8
GACW WWSA CW DX Contest	1500Z, Jun 8 to 1500Z, Jun 9
ARRL June VHF Contest	1800Z, Jun 8 to 0259Z, Jun 10
All Asian DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Jun 15 to 2400Z, Jun 16
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Jun 15 to 1500Z, Jun 16 (160 Contest in June?)
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	1200Z, Jun 22 to 1200Z, Jun 23
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jun 22 to 1400Z, Jun 23
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, Jun 22 to 2100Z, Jun 23

A few for your operating pleasure!

### CVCC CONTESTING NEWS

The CVCC won the gavel in the 2012 ARRL 160 Meter Local Club category for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight time. This from ARRL:

"In the Local Club category, the eight entries from the Central Virginia Contest Club totaled just shy of 1 million points, earning the number one position among their smaller club colleagues.

#### Local Category

Central Virginia Contest Club	968,021	8
Maritime Contest Club	830,583	10
DelaraContest Team	277,976	3
DFW Contest Group	258,711	6
Spokane DX Association	257,072	5

Call	Points	QSO	Mult	Cat	QTH	Station and ops
1 N3UA	394,208	1,350	127	D	VA	@ W4DR
2 W4PM	248,724	1,078	108	D	VA	@ W4HZ + K4OSO & W4HZ
3 N4DJ	136,369	779	83	C	VA	
4 KG4W	112,608	567	92	D	VA	
5 WU4G	36,639	250	69	E	VA	
6 K4OSO	16,605	204	41	A	VA	
7 W4ML	12,978	156	42	E	VA	@W4MYA, W4MYA, Op.
8 N4DWK	9,890	102	46	D	VA	
Totals	968,021	4,486	608"			

In addition to the CVCC win, Sejo operating from Bob's station took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Multi-Op category for Virginia and the Roanoke Division as well 4<sup>th</sup> place overall! The crew operating as W4PM from W4HZ's QTH came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in VA, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Roanoke Division as 17<sup>th</sup> overall. These two scores as well as outstanding support from the six other entries did the trick! Congratulations to all who participated and helped the club claim this win.

At the May Meeting W4HZ presented certificates to N4DEN, KJ4IT, W4PM for the W4HZ Multi-single entry in the 2012 ARRL DX SSB contest:

#1 in 4<sup>th</sup> call area

#1 VA section and Roanoke Division,

#10 in NA,

top 20 worldwide!

It's amazing what can be done at a great station by a group of dedicated contest operators.

Yes Virginia, CVCC still does do contests.

No reports were received for any contests in May. It was indeed a slack month for us .

### **RANDOM SKIP - Bob, W4DR**

I recently got an unsolicited email from Chris, ZS6EZ, who you may recognize as one of the leading DX'ers in South Africa. Chris told me he had just gotten authorization to operate on 60 meters, but since the ZS center frequency was 5260 kHz he would have to mostly work split. He wondered if I could give him some tips on how to work DX on 60. Of course I could do that. First tip; set a schedule with W4DR and listen for him on 5405 kHz cw. This was successful and we made what was probably the first ZS/W QSO on 60 meters. I also told him to watch DXSummit 5 mHz band spots. Whereas self-spotting is generally frowned upon it is quite welcome on 60 meters for rare stations who are unable to transmit on 5371.5 or 5403.5 (the two most universal and widely used spots to work DX on 60. Looking at the 5 mHz spots for the past 5 days shows that Chris has been found and is already getting lots of action. He wanted to know if the ARRL would recognize 60 for a new single band DXCC and for DX Challenge credit. I told him I did not think this would happen any time soon, but remembering the early days on 30 meters which was/is a shared band I wouldn't count it out. In the meantime, I suggested what I am doing, DX'ing for the fun of it, collect the cards and/or LoTW credits and when in the future it begins to count you will have a head start. Every current DXCC entity has been on 30 meters except North Korea. Does past history predict the future? I think it might.

On a related subject, Chris told me how hard it is to run up a big DX Challenge score. He is at 2600, but thinks it is impossible for him to reach the 3000 level. The main reason being that DXpeditions spend very little time listening for Africa and especially southern Africa. There are so few stations active from there and the really rare DXpeditions are under great pressure from EU/NA and JA areas where there is an endless supply of hungry callers. Also, there are relatively few DXCC entities that are easy shots for him on the really tough bands, 160 and 6 meters. Assuming Chris works 150 countries on 6, which is a big score for anyone living outside of

Europe, he still needs to average nearly 320 on each of the other bands from 160 through 10 meters. Bottom line is if you want to run up a big Challenge score over the next 10-20 years I suggest you buy a villa in Italy or Greece. In the meantime let's work what we can from where we are. "Bloom where you are planted"

## **CVCC DX Report for May - Ronnie, WU4G**

The month of May is amply named – one "May" get on the radio if there's time. It appears that time was in short supply.

### **Springtime in the valley:**

**W4DR** – "May only netted 18 DX QSOs, but I did find a 1975 QSL from Papua which I can submit for CW DXCC credit. I'll tell that story in next month's Random Skip."

**NW4V** – Ed got Z81X South Sudan on 10M CW for a new BE. "Had fun for a few hours in WPX CW with 107 Q's 20M LP....really cool to hear some interesting propagation in the 7-8 AM local time both Sat and Sun with VK6's 20 over S9....also worked a JA who was very strong...he was the only JA that strong and I only managed one other JA who was considerably weaker."

**W4HZ** – "Nothing new here, but am working on station antennas." He did get confirmation from Gitmo on 160.

Even Bruce and Sheila reported slim pickings this month:

### **WD4LBR**

TZ6BB Mali 30m CW  
VK9NT Norfolk Island 10m CW

### **K4WNW**

TZ6BB Mali 30m CW  
VK9NT Norfolk Island 10m CW

On another note:

Sheila and I had a good time in Dayton this year. It is nice to meet and speak with people you have worked on DXpeditions. We also met and spoke with some very nice hams from Qatar. They had a booth near the ARRL's booth. While we were speaking to one of the hams there we mentioned that we had worked their club call. He was very friendly and asked if we had ever worked him personally. When we said we weren't sure, he got out an Ipad and said, I have my log here, I will check. Sheila and I had both worked him on 17M. He pulled out two very beautiful QSL cards and filled them out and gave them to us. You can't beat that for special delivery.

**WU4G** – My logbook also looked sparse this month. By coincidence I also had 18 DX QSO's like W4DR. Didn't work anything really interesting.

ZB2FK Gibraltar 12m CW  
YN/IK2PFL Nicaragua 30m CW  
IS0IGV Sardinia 30m CW  
TF4M Iceland 40m CW  
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### **Tornado alley:**

**W4DR** – "The big one got away! I had high hopes for a 12-meter QSO with VU7KV during his 3 day operation from VU7. On his last day he was working a huge pileup of Europeans around 19Z and after about 30 minutes he emerged from the noise. A few minutes later he asked for NA and 8 or 10 W4's, including me, began to call him. He called CQ NA once, answered no one and then disappeared for one hour. At 20Z he appeared on 15, but by that time the 12 meter opening was history. When I looked up VU7KV on QRZ several days later he acknowledged that he probably missed a chance to work NA while he was working EU on 12 that day. He stated he never did work any NA stations on 12 or 10 meters so at least I don't have to be envious of any of my

buddies. He is a native Indian who resides in Florida with the call W4VKU so I suspect he will get to VU7 again sometime in the future. Let's just hope it is when the SFI numbers are high enough for 12 meter propagation. On the same subject I was disappointed to learn that the mega-DXpedition to Heard Island, VK0, has been moved back a year to January 2015. This greatly diminishes the chances for propagation to the US on 10 and 12 meters which are the two bands on which I need Heard Island."

**WU4G** – My miss was ZA/IZ4JMA. Just couldn't get him to hear me. I did have a QSL disappointment. While I have LoTW confirmations for Montenegro, I really wanted a card to add to my collection. I had what I thought was an easy contact with 4O3A in the ARRL SSB, but got my card back marked "Not in log." Hate it when that happens.

The June pickings look a bit slim for DXpeditions. Another Solomon Is. operation is about it. Good DX and enjoy start of summer!

73 & DX  
Ronnie WU4G

## Member News

Joe **K3WRY** reports he has been elected a PVRC Trustee.

Ronnie **WU4G** sent this:

WU4G has been continued as an Assistant Director for the Roanoke Division.

"I was first appointed as an Assistant Director in 1989 by John Kanode N1MM when he was the Roanoke Division Director at that time. Each Director since has continued that appointment. Our current Director, Dennis Bodson W4PWF contacted me back in March asking if I was willing to continue and I offered that I was but left it open to him if there was someone else he preferred. He contacted me back and said that I was continued. There are nine Assistant Directors currently appointed in Virginia. While I wear my badge at hamfests (when I remember to go), I realize I don't speak up about it often enough at meetings. With that, if anyone ever has anything that they feel strongly enough about to have relayed, please feel free to bend my ear or fill my Inbox."

Bruce **WD4LBR** says, "I now have a 12/17M beam to install on a 40 ft mast. I will put it up as soon as the Wire man sends me the rotor control cable I ordered from him at Dayton.

Puck **W4PM** - I mentioned last month that the First Class CW Operators' Club would be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a month long operating event during May 2013. Over 60 stations with a suffix of "FOC" in their call were on the air. To say it was a success would be a complete understatement. Many of the special call stations found conditions akin to what a DXpedition to an exotic DX locale would experience. For example, Gabor, S57WJ, and his XYL, Jelka, S57NW operated as S575FOC and made over 8,000 contacts during the month! Some of the multi-operator stations made well over 10,000 contacts. I had the call W2FOC/4 for just two days and have never had pileups call me like that. Running over 100 stations an hour was possible but difficult to pick out calls because they just kept calling, and calling, and calling ....!

FOC offered award certificates to stations claiming a certain number of points for contacting FOC members. To date over 1,000 certificates have been claimed and the entries keep coming in. Many folks ask when will we do it again. Perhaps for 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 5 years might be possible! It just goes to show, CW is alive and well!

## **JUNE CVCC PICNIC**

The Annual CVCC picnic was held on Saturday June 1st at James Frame's place on the river. In attendance were NK4H and Faye, W4HJ and Jo, W4DR, N4CFL, WD4LBR, K4WNW, KJ4JKK, N3UA, N4DEN and Vicki, NW4V, W4PM, K4OSO and Trey, N4AKP and Frances, guest Bob KW4CQ and XYL Akiko, and James. We had a short meeting at the picnic just long enough to elect Pete N4AKP to membership in CVCC. Pete has attended 2 meetings plus the picnic and asked to join. We welcome Pete to the group. More about Pete next month....

The CVCC wishes to thank the following for their excellent work in making the event a success:

NK4H – Planning, main food dishes, setup and cooking

NW4V – Cooking – who knew Ed was such a fine chef?

Jo, Faye, and Frances (possible others – I was a bit late)– set up

W4HJ – obtaining the site

James Frame – allowing us to use his wonderful facility

All the ladies and guys who brought the tasty side dishes.

Everyone – clean up

Thanks to all for putting together a great event. If you weren't there, shame on you – you missed a good one!

See pictures on the next two pages!





Surprise on next page – Life is not all ham radio.

Where could this be? W2 and VE3 Land?





**If you want to see a lot in a short time –get up high.**



**From the top:**

**High – Duquesne Incline – Pittsburgh, PA**

**Higher – Skylon Tower – Niagara Falls, ON**

**Even Higher – Willis (Sears) Tower – Chicago, IL**

**Highest – CN Tower – Toronto, ON**

**WHERE WILL YOU GO ON YOUR HOLIDAY – PUT YOUR PIX HERE!**