



599 VA - . - . - . - May 2013

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

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

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Meeting Notice (see agenda on page 8)

The May meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. at St Martin's Episcopal Church, 9000 St. Martin Lane, Richmond, Va. 23294. A pre-meeting social and dinner will be at 5:30 P.M. at the Golden Corral, Gaskins Road and West Broad Street.

May Program

Getting Ready for Disaster-One Family's Experience

This is a FEMA-American Red Cross produced video that provides good suggestions for preparations that people should make in order to be ready for natural disasters.

April Meeting

Jerry KJ4IT had a video for us 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. In attendance at the meeting were members W4PM, WU4G, K4OSO, W4HZ, W4HJ and Jo, N4DEN, NK4H, WD4LBR, K4WHW, KJ4YKK, KJ4IT, W4DR, N4CFL, K3WRY, and guest Pete Pederson N4AKP.

May Contests (just a few that may be of interest)

AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 4 to 2359Z, May 5
ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 4 to 1159Z, May 5
7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 4 to 0700Z, May 5
Indiana QSO Party	1600Z, May 4 to 0400Z, May 5
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 4 to 2400Z, May 5
EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party	1000Z-1200Z, May 11 and 1800Z-2000Z, May 12
CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 11 to 1159Z, May 12
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 11 to 1200Z, May 12
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 18 to 1200Z, May 19
Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 18 to 0200Z, May 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 20
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 25 to 2359Z, May 26

Permission was received from Bruce Horn to use his contest calendar. Go here for more information:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php>

Some excellent DX contests take place this month as well as some very interesting QSO parties. The big one is the CQWW WPX contest on May 25th. There's QRP as well as a touch of RTTY. Surely you can try out your rig for at least an hour or so in one of these.

MAY CW OPERATING EVENT

As you may know, two of our CVCC members W4PM and K4OSO are also members of the First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC). To commemorate FOC's 75th anniversary in May, FOC is holding a month-long on-air event featuring at least 45 special FOC-suffix calls. These will include GB75FOC, a special anniversary call for our club station. (GC4FOC will be used when operating from Wales, GN4FOC from Northern Ireland, GP4FOC from Guernsey, GS4FOC from Scotland, and GT4FOC from Isle of Man). There will be many other FOC calls on the air all month from outside the UK and USA, including some exotic locations such as 4X, 5B, 5T, 7Q, A6, HZ, KH6, V3 and VQ9. Stations will gain points for contacting any FOC member and a beautiful certificate will be presented to stations who reach certain point levels. See the FOC web site for details – www.g4foc.org

P.S. W4PM will be operating as W2FOC from his home station on May 30 and 31!

CVCC CONTESTING NEWS

The “metadata” file is available for the Virginia QSO Party. It appears we only had 4 entries!

<u>CALL</u>	<u>Ops</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Pwr</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>CTY</u>
W4ML	2	Mixed	High	465,416	GOO
N3UA	1	CW	High	41,888	HCO
W4PM	1	CW	High	39,716	HAN
K4OSO	1	CW	QRP	34,115	HAN

Total Club 581,135

How do Bob and Eric make so many points? WOW!

Former member George KJ4IPF reports he played the whole weekend in the MO QSO party!

W4PM was not very active during the month making less than 200 contacts. Of those, 24 were in the JIDX contest, 44 in the CQ MM DX contest and 16 in the YU DX contest. All were on 15 meters. The CQ MM and the YU DX were at the same time – two logs in N1MM were used alternately. Lots of fun doing it that way!

No other reports were received from members.

JUNE CVCC PICNIC

The CVCC picnic will be held this year on Saturday June 1st at 3:00 P.M. 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. Please let us know if you will attend and how many are in your party and what dish you would like to bring. As in the past send your RSVP and dish information to Bob, NK4H raladd1@verizon.net.

SUMMER BREAK

There will be no CVCC meetings in July or August this year, but the News Letter will continue to be published each month. The next CVCC meeting after the June Picnic will be in September!

RANDOM SKIP - DEATH and DXpeditions – Bob, W4DR

Recently one of three German operators on a DXpedition to Tuvalu (T2) was reported to have suffered a “tragic accident” resulting in his death. Now nearly a month later no cause of this death has been reported. Since I have been “DX'ing” almost from the dawn of the DXpedition era this incident causes me to reflect on the danger that amateurs face in putting the rare and ultra-rare countries on the air.

DXCC entities are rare primarily for one or more of four reasons. They are remote, difficult and dangerous to reach, they are infested with terrorists, pirates or at civil war, they have governments who are hostile to outsiders and especially westerners with amateur radio equipment and lastly hyperactive environmentalists who are afraid we will damage pristine islands. Given all of these dangers it is amazing that there have been very few deaths resulting from travel to and from these rare locations and landing and operating under very adverse conditions.

The first of these tragedies I can recall was when Chuck Swain and Ted Thorpe were hit by a typhoon as they sailed from FW8 to 5W1. No trace of them was ever found. Several years later as a group of four Germans in a small boat were nearing an island in the Spratlys, which they thought was uninhabited, when they were fired upon by Vietnamese. Although they were able to escape, one of the men was fatally injured. To my knowledge these are the only deaths directly associated with travel to or from these rare spots or while setting up and operating from them. Certainly there have been many near misses, broken bones, malaria, heat strokes, insect bites and near drowning.

Perhaps the worst such incident was the crash landing of a small plane on Palmyra Island (KH5). Everyone survived, but there were serious injuries. The wreckage of that plane is still on the island. Danny Weil, an Englishman who was attempting to sail around the world while putting rare islands on the air, ship wrecked several times, but was always rescued. Once when he hit a reef he survived by climbing the mast of his sailboat till he was rescued. Considering all of the places these intrepid amateurs have traveled to we have a great safety record. Some of the most dangerous would be Yemen, Somalia, Burundi, Bouvet, Peter I, South Sandwich Islands, Clipperton, Malpelo, North Korea and Tibet. Navassa Island isn't exactly a piece of cake either with no protected landing and only a rope ladder to gain access.

Say a prayer for all of the brave amateurs who risk life and limb to give us these exciting contacts and thank God for his protecting hand over the past 60 plus years.

ARRL Diamond DXCC Challenge – 75 Years of DXCC

At a club meeting earlier this year Bob, W4DR, informed us of the ARRL Diamond Certificate awarded for contacts during 2012 with 100 or more the original DXCC entities from 75 years ago. If you are interested and think you qualify, go to the ARRL web site, log in, and search on Diamond DXCC. You should be able to find an on-line application. No confirmations are needed. You just enter the stations and the dates worked during 2012. W4PM received his certificate a few days ago. It took almost 2 months to arrive.

CVCC DX Report for April - Ronnie, WU4G

So was there less DX this month or just less activity by us? Reports are definitely a lot smaller. Probably the nicer weather has got us busy outside, hopefully building more antennas. Starting off with the...

Warm Spring Air:

KG4W reports that his rig has been QRT a lot in April. He reports only one new one.

VK9CZ COCOS KEELING 15

S21XV BANGLADESH 30 failed to report in March

We can always count on the Sheila and Bruce band-slotter to turn up some new ground. Bruce says, "Not a whole lot this month." Yeah right.

WD4LBR

Callsign	Country	Band	Mode
5W0M	Samoa	30m	CW
VK9CZ	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	12m	SSB

S21XV Bangladesh on 20M CW, RTTY For an all-time new one.

Worked 5W0M, Samoa, on 14 band slots.

K4WNW

Callsign	Country	Band	Mode
5W0M	Samoa	30m	CW
ES7GN	Estonia	15m	CW
VK9CZ	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	12m	SSB

S21XV Bangladesh on 20M RTTY For an all-time new one.

Worked 5W0M, Samoa, on 11 band slots.

I don't know about everyone else, but all-time new ones count a lot in my logbook.

And of course our elite Doctor of DX, **W4DR** can be counted on to turn what others say is a slow month into something special. Bob reports: "April has been a good DX month for me especially on the bands 17 meters and above with 54 DX contacts in the log. These included 22 band-mode-contacts with 5W0M. My prize among these was a 60-meter cw QSO for #98 on that band. Their web site said they would be on 5405 at 06 GMT on April 15 and at 05:58 they were in my log. Other neat stuff in the log was: 17 meters: 9V1SV, S79VJG; 15 meters: YE6YE, 9M6DXX, EX2F, VK9CZ, BG2AUE; 12 meters: XU4Y, VU2RBI, HS0ZGQ, VK9/OH1VR, 9V1YC; 10 meters: VK9CZ (Cocos Keeling). ZL9HR (RTTY) and 9U4U (160) QSL's were new band and mode cards received directly. I am looking forward to the E-skip season on 6 meters which should start in 3-4 weeks." Way to go Bob! See folks, you just have to turn on that rig and grab the mic, key or keyboard, whichever you might prefer.

Our old/new President, **W4PM** reports only a little over 100 contacts this month with nothing new except LA5SAA for a new band country on 60 meters, if that counts? If that counts!?! Gee Puck, even New Kent counts if you never had a USA contact on that band.

NW4V reported another slow month due to a variety of factors (time, propagation, work etc.) So what are you trying to say, you actually let that stuff interfere with DXing? What's the ham world coming to? Next month someone will say that eating and sleeping is crowding out their DX time. Anyway all was not lost as he got some all CW new band entities: VK9C 17m, 5W 10m & HZ 17m.

WU4G - While I made fewer contacts for the month, I was still fairly active, for me. I put 25 QSO's in the log, all CW but one (had to test the mic). Again I had good success with my window on 30m with CN8KD Morocco, EK7DX Armenia and 4K8M Azerbaijan. On 17m it gave me RW0SC Asiatic Russia & UN7QX Kazakhstan; and 12m it netted T2YY Tuvalu & KH2L Guam. I can't complain. I permanently disconnected by 160 Inv-L for the season. All the elevated radials were busted and on the ground due to limbs crashing through them and I picked up my first tick bite when inspecting them, so I'm through traipsing through the woods for the season.

Didn't much in the way of what you missed so the report is a bit sparse as well for the...

Solar Flare:

W4HZ takes the prize with this one: "Nothing new this month. Seems while I should have more time now, I'm as busy as I was when I was working!"

WU4G - Still haven't made it through to through to the ZK3 - Tokelau that's on now. And I never could be heard by the VK9C, V63, 5W, or E51 on the bands that I needed them. Didn't try on the others. As Bill Nighman sk-W4XR would say: "Aw, who needs them."

May looks like it has some good possibilities to listen out for: VK9N - Norfolk, VU7 - Laccadive Is, SU - Egypt, C9 - Mozambique, and ZS8 - Marion Is. So quit working, spending time with the family, cutting grass, and for gosh sakes, stop sleeping so much and work some new ones!

73 & DX

Ronnie WU4G

Member News

WB4GVZ (e-mail to W4PM)

I expect to be back in RIC by May! I joined a radio club down here in Punta Gorda, FL - the "Peace River Radio Association" and have become friends with Ron Farley also from Midlothian and living part time in Punta Gorda! Likely will be going together to the Tampa Hamfest next week.

One item I've picked up upon down here, they really know how to spell apathy! It runs "rampid". I've gotten to know the president of the club now in his 6th year as president. No one will step up and take on the position, even as he requests and begs for a replacement! Being a super nice easy going guy he refuses to simply lay down the gavel and walk away! They have 90 plus members!

The city of Punta Gorda is EXTREMELY ham friendly. There are towers and verticals everywhere. 16,000 people in town with over 350 of them being hams. I've met W9DR an active ham especially on 6 meters. Yes, he knows our DR!

I haven't read anything from the informal committee on how to put a shot in the arm of the club, but assume some good ideas have surfaced. One thought that reoccurs in my thought process is to better educate the ham community in Richmond on the CVCC group. A suggestion to do this would be to compile a list of hams say in a 25 mile radius and invite them to the club meetings. The hook to the meeting would be the presentation at the meeting. Having read DR's discussion in this past month's newsletter it occurred to me how capturing a presentation DR could put on regarding his many experiences! Dennis's discussion on DX cluster and it's interworking would also be a great subject that many should be interested in hearing. The club has so much to offer with the experience of so many I think all that experience could be used as a great draw to pull in some eager amateurs!

Eager to hear your thoughts,
Dave WB4GVZ

W4HZ

Here's the latest from Vinita.

N4UYQ, T.J. came up from his Williamsburg home with his lovely bride on April 7th to climb the tower in order to properly orient the Yagis & did just that. We had a technical problem with the rotation that we were unable to overcome in the time frame allotted for the climb & while the antennas are now synced, the rotator won't go to full 360 degrees clockwise. T.J. is going to schedule another visit to finish the project soon. Many thanks to W4MYA for his input & advice! While he's on the tower then, I'm considering having him install a Double Extended Zepp for 30M at the 100 foot level that AI4CM designed for me. 30M is the only band I need to fill in DXCC for the HF bands & I don't have a dedicated antenna for that band. More to come.

N4LSP, Mike is going to assist in changing the 4 Square receive system from its current compromise size for 80 & 160M to full size for 160M. We anticipate having a transit available this week to stake out the new configuration and hopefully move the array out to the 160M size (about 130 feet square from its current 96 feet square). More to come.

I still have several items that were listed last month for sale, trying to move old stock (some still NIB) for a family friend that moved to CA & is not currently active. She advised to take any reasonable offer for the stuff.

On a more personal note, granddaughter Vivian who will turn 9 next month, is learning Morse code & has asked for the license manual for her birthday to see if she can obtain her own license. I'm keeping my fingers crossed!

Also, NB4B, John is making great progress in his rehabilitation & actually spoke to a few of the 160M group via the 145.430 repeater last week. That was really something! He's still at Lexington Court in the far West End &

will probably be there for a while longer until he gets independent enough to go into an outpatient environment. If you haven't already done so & know John, please send him a QSL card with a personal note on the back to his home address listed in QRZ.com.

All in all a busy spring planned.

GL DX.

Jonathan

N4DJ

Only thing new was working VR2 on 17 CW and SSB for a couple new band countries and the 5W0M expedition on a couple more. I now have DXCC on 6 Bands, so I need to turn my attention to the others.

Getting ready to roll up the Beverage feed lines for the summer. Maybe next year I will get them under ground. I checked out my Drake TR4310 transceiver and it seems to be working OK. As soon as I can figure out what it's worth I plan to sell it. It is almost identical to a Drake TR-7A functionally plus it covers 1.5 to 30 mHz continuously on both transmit and receive.

73,

Don, N4DJ

WD4LBR

Put up a 12M beam on a short mast - unfortunately not in time for the Samoa DXpedition. Missed them on 12M SSB. They copied my call incorrectly. Bummer.

The only plans for next month: We are planning to go to the Dayton Hamvention.

CUL

Bruce

For Sale

KJ4IT

Ameritron Model RCS-8V 5-position remote antenna switch. This equipment is new and unused in the original carton. Asking \$145.00. Call Jerry Williams KJ4IT at 804-357-2190. (I will bring this item to the upcoming CVCC meeting)

N5SMQ

From an e-mail received by W4PM:

My name is Butch Washer, N5SMQ. I moved to Highland County, VA from Baton Rouge, LA in 2002 where I was a budding contester. I had the hopes of re-erecting my LA station here, but the past couple of years has brought about some changes in my life both medical and family. I had a stroke in 2011 and just before that my wife was accepted into the Methodist Church as a pastor. I have decided that I need to down size my ham "stuff" and get the stuff to someone that would make good use of it.

I have 4 antennas to offer, they will all be assembled here in my yard, checked for parts, tuning and condition. They will be sold as-is with good descriptions. The Short List is as follows: 6 element 10 meter beam by Maco; 4 element 15 meter beam home made; 3 element 20 meter beam by Hygain and 6 element tri-band (10, 15, 20) beam by Wilson.

First up is the 6-element 10-meter beam. Formally a Maco Laser 400 CB beam. Re-assembled as a M-106 Horizontal Beam tuned for 10 meters. Here are the Specs:

Boom Length- 31'

Boom Diameter- 2"

Turning Radius- 16'

Longest Element- 17'

Wind load- 10.28 sq. ft

Weight 39 lbs.

Gain specs from Maco
Forward gain 17dbi
F/B 31 dB
Gain from YagiMax Yagi design program
Forward gain- 12 dBi
F/B- 25 dB
Either way it is a mean antenna.

This antenna spent from 1994 till 1998 on a 100' tower in LA and on a 40' tower from 1998 till 2002 in a second LA location. It helped win 3 Louisiana Section First Place finishes in the Nov SS Phone, 1997, 2000 and 2001.

The antenna could use some new nuts and washers and the u-bolts and saddles could stand to be blasted and painted or replaced. Everything is there and it is assembled and I am going to use it on the air. the manual comes with it. The boom and elements are marked for assembly. You can come by here and see it and take it or I can meet you for delivery. That will be worked out in discussion.

Retail price for a Maco M106 new is \$380.00 at Copper Electronics.
I am asking \$200.00 or make an offer. Feel free to contact me with questions.

Next is a Hygain 203BA-S 3 element 20-meter beam. It is in good shape, not a lot of rust on the hardware. I have the BN-86 balun for the driven element with it. It is currently part way together, I have been using it off and on some lately.

Specs from the Hygain manual I have: <http://www.hy-gain.com/Product.php?productid=LJ-203BA>

Boom length: 16'
Boom diameter: 2"
Longest element: 37'1"
Weight: 32 lbs.
Wind surface area 5.38 sq. ft.
Turning radius: 20.1'
Gain: 8.5dB minimum
F/B: 20-25 dB
Can be tuned for 17 meters if wanted
Price new is \$329.95

This antenna spent from 1994 till 1998 on a 100' tower in LA and on a 40' tower from 1998 till 2002 in a second LA location. It helped win 3 Louisiana Section First Place finishes in the Nov SS Phone, 1997, 2000 and 2001.

My price is starting at \$200 or make an offer.

Please contact me for more info on these or the other two antennas.

n5smqw4@gmail.com

**Central Virginia Contest Club
May 7, 2013
Meeting Agenda**

Call to Order – 7:00 P.M.

Secretary’s reading of the minutes

Treasurer’s Report

Introduction of Members and Guests and their comments

Old Business

Incorporation?

Other

New Business

Program as defined in the News Letter – 7:45to 8:25 P.M

Adjourn meeting 8:25 P.M.