



599 VA - . - . - . - October 2013

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

News Letter of the Central Virginia Contest Club

Editor: W4PM

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MEETING NOTICE

The October meeting of the CVCC will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 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 Golden Corral, Gaskins Road and West Broad Street.

October Program

The program will be a short video on Disaster Preparedness developed by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. This is a timely message at this time of year (Hurricane Season).

September Meeting

This was mainly a discussion of "what we did this summer". Basically we enjoyed socializing and ran out of time for the program! We discussed the 2013 CVCC Holiday Dinner in December. A few ideas were thrown out and hopefully we will be ready to set a time, date, and location at the October meeting. In attendance were: WU4G, W4PM, K4OSO, WD4LBR, K4WNW, WB4GVZ, KJ4YKK, N4DEN, K3WRY, KJ4IT.

October Contests

YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest	1400Z, Oct 4 to 0200Z, Oct 6
TARA PSK Rumble Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Oct 5
EPC Russia DX Contest	0400Z, Oct 5 to 0359Z, Oct 6
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 5 to 0800Z, Oct 6
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6
Makrothen RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 12 to 1559Z, Oct 13
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 12 to 0800Z, Oct 13
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 12 to 1200Z, Oct
Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 2359Z, Oct 13
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 2200Z, Oct 13
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001 19 to 2359Z, Oct 20
New York QSO Party	1400Z Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1500Z, Oct 20
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1459Z, Oct 20
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 21
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 21 to 2359Z, Oct 25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 26 to 2400Z, Oct 27

Here's a few that may be of interest including CW, SSB, RTTY, VHF, DX, and state QSO parties. There's at least one for you! The Oceania DX Contests CW and SSB may help you pick up some semi-rare entities in the

Pacific. Some interesting state QSO parties are on the air, by far the biggest and most fun is the CAQP. The Stew Perry Topband Challenge gets you ready for the ARRL 160 contest in December, the WAG is a lot of fun – there are tons of DL stations, and the CQWW DX SSB is a must for anyone at all interested in contesting! Get on the air for some of these, if only for an hour or so. Do you still have the skills needed to “run ‘em” at a high rate? Practice makes perfect.

CVCC DX Report for September by W4UG

Windows 7:

W4PM – Puck reports very little DX for the month. Activity consisted of a few CW rag chews, the FOC BW QSO Party, the Washington state Salmon Run, and the Texas QSO for a monthly total of 484 QSO's. Best DX was HS0AC on 15 meters. 12 meters has been open and yielded a couple of new band entities. That's good because W4PM's total on 12 is just 107/74. He needs a lot of LOTW confirmations on that band.

WD4LBR & K4WNW – Bruce and Sheila report slim pickings for the month.

WD4LBR:

1	J28NC	Djibouti	17m	CW
2	TZ6BB	Mali	80m	CW

K4WNW:

1	E77DX	Bosnia-Herzegovina	12m	SSB
2	FO/KH0PR	French Polynesia	10m	CW
3	HP0INT/9	Panama	30m	CW
4	SD7W/2	Sweden	17m	CW
5	TZ6BB	Mali	80m	CW

W4DR – Bob reports that the bands are coming to life! He says: “ I had only 49 DX QSOs in September, but what was notable was that they covered every band from 160 through 10 with some neat catches on every band. The month started with our friend UA4WHX opening up from the little Republic of Transnistria nestled between Moldavia and the Ukraine. Although T10VB does not and probably never will count for DXCC it has more characteristics of a “country” than Scarborough Reef for example. Look it up on Wikipedia. I worked Vlad on 6 bands and 3 modes just in case! I operated in the All Asia contest on 15 SSB from 01:15 to 01:45 on September 8 and worked VR2, HS0, XW, JA, UA0, BY4, and DU all S9 and usually on the first call. 3B9EME was a fun catch on 80, 40 and 12. Their 80-meter signal was amazing! On June 1 I worked YV8AD in FJ89 on 6 for a new grid. He airtailed his QSL to me on June 18. I finally received it on September 19.

WU4G – I managed to sneak in 5 QSOs for the month. Got 3B9FR on 20 cw for a new band/mode and 3D2CC for a new band country! Looking forward to getting back on the air after too many summer projects that unfortunately still aren't all finished.

Windows 8:

W4HZ - Jonathan repeats himself a lot apparently: Nothing new from here. Still have rotor problems that I'm not smart enough to figure out.

W4PM – Missed was 9V1VV on 20 meters. I copied his call once but no way I could work him.

W4HJ – reported no activity for the month.

DX Operations for October:

Things are looking up for October! If you need 'em, watch for 9N2YY from Nepal; TX5D Austral Is; A52YB Bhutan; K9W Wake could be one of those worked all Bruce and Sheila operations; XR0ZR Juan Fernandez; S79MHY Seychelles; JD1BOI from Ogasawara. The CQ WW always brings out some good ones.

73 & DX

Ronnie WU4G

FIELD DAY 2014

We received an invitation to participate with RATS and RARC in Field Day 2014. I was at their FD site this past June and assisted with antenna erection and operating. They did an excellent job of setting up stations and antennas. The only shortcoming I could see was a shortage of serious operators and a lack of any commitment to maximize points from their operation. I think we can help in those areas. We need to discuss what we could bring to the table and how we could assist in a joint effort.

Another option is to do a CVCC Field Day again as in the past at Short Pump Park or similar location.

OR we could throttle back a bit and do a smaller 1A at another location. I would host a simple one antenna, one station set up in my back yard. I have a generator and could provide a tent. I have a grill for grilling, a lake for fishing or boating, plus all the facilities of home!

That's three options. We just need someone to step forward and volunteer to head up whichever route we, as a club, decide to take.

Of course option 4 is to continue our latest, "who cares" attitude and do nothing again.

Puck W4PM

UPCOMING CVCC CONTESTS

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 14 to 2400Z, Dec 15

We need to try to get at least one Multi-Single station going in each contest (hopefully W4HZ) but two would be great. Duke, while not officially a current member, mentioned in an e-mail that his station might be available.

We need people to man any multi-stations we put on the air. We also need someone to volunteer to be the contact for each station and arrange for operations, schedules and coordinate with the station owners!

Surely we can do that. We aren't dead yet are we?

The following two pages are a solicitation for support by the 2014 Amsterdam Island DXpedition, included here as courtesy to the organizers. We may want to discuss if CVCC wants to help.



Dear members of the Central Virginia Contest Club,

Several months ago, I wrote to your club and asked that you consider supporting the upcoming DXpedition to Amsterdam Island (FT5ZM). As we are still trying to raise the needed funds to make this a successful and productive project, I am writing again with updated information.

Ralph Fedor, K0IR has assembled an international team of experienced DXpeditioners that should insure that this activation of the #4 most-needed DXCC entity will be as successful as possible. Team members include: Nodir – EY8MM; Michel – FM5CD; Jorge – HK1R; Bob – K4UEE; Craig – K9CT; Erling – LA6VM; George – N4GRN; Arnie – N6HC; Neil - VA7DX; Steve – VE7CT; Bob – N2OO; Jerry – WB9Z and Andy UA3AB. Included are three members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame: K0IR, K4UEE and N2OO.

The last major operation from Amsterdam Island was in 1998, and it has climbed steadily back up the “most wanted” list in those 15 years. Our goal is to give everyone who needs a contact for an all-time new one at least one QSO. Secondly, we will provide band/mode contacts for those chasing the DXCC Challenge and other awards.

The team will be QRV on 160m-10m CW, SSB, and Digital modes. There will be two Operating locations about 2 kilometers apart. Each location will allow a full complement of antennas, including five mono-banders and low band verticals. The separation will allow simultaneous CW, RTTY and SSB transmission on the open bands. The group plans on eight stations; four at each location. Elecraft K3's, antennas for all bands and 500-watt amplifiers will be the backbone of the station configurations.

As with past DXpeditions to "Top Ten" DXCC entities, this is a costly venture. The expenses total just over \$400,000. Each operator will contribute a minimum of \$10,000 of their own money and pay their way to/from Fremantle, Australia. They will be away from home, work and family for seven weeks, spend 18 days at sea, and will face the financial and physical risks inherent in a major DXpedition of this magnitude.

The team members cannot possibly bear the total costs of the DXpedition, but they will put up about half of the costs and all of the time. The remainder must come from the DX Community. So far the response has been very good. Hundreds of individual DXers have contributed. Dozens of DX Clubs worldwide and all the major DX Foundations are on board. But, we are still short and need your help. So, I ask that your DX/Contest Club consider a meaningful contribution and that the individual members of your club also be encouraged to help.

To have your club or organization's logo included on our QSL card, please contribute \$500 or more; or \$250 to have your club's name included on the QSL card. Call signs of individual contributors of \$100 or more will be listed on our QSL card. Everyone who supports the DXpedition will be listed and properly recognized on our website.

We encourage you to visit the Amsterdam Island website (www.amsterdamdx.org) and donate via the PayPal link. Or, you can contribute with a major credit card if you don't have a PayPal account. If that is not convenient, you may print the contribution form provided on our website and mail a check or money order.

If you choose to use the mail, be sure all checks are made payable to: Amsterdam Island DX Group. Remember to put your clubs name/your call sign on the "for" line.

Please mail all contributions to:

**Amsterdam Island DX Group
C/o Bob Allphin, K4UEE
4235 Blackland Dr.
Marietta, Ga. 30067**

If I can answer any questions at all, please contact me at bob@k4uee.com or 770-953-3828.

WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT!

FT5ZM---\$20.00 per minute on the air!

As Chief Financial Officer and fundraiser for the upcoming FT5ZM DXpedition, I am deeply involved in the subject of DXpedition costs and financing. I have served in the same role for numerous high-profile and expensive DXpeditions to very rare DX entities. Examples are 3Y0X, K5D, and HK0NA. However, the article written by Don Greenbaum, N1DG and published in several publications is the definitive work on the subject of DXpedition costs and financing. If you have not seen it, it's available on the NCDXF website at: <http://www.ncdxf.org/pages/dxresources.html>.

Don points out that DXpeditions to the Southern Oceans are the most expensive mainly because they involve a vessel charter. In his study, those charters averaged \$260,000. However, three of the six DXpeditions included in that study took place 13-15 years ago and costs have risen significantly since then. See Ralph – K0IR's article on this website entitled "Why Does This DXpedition Cost So Much?" It was posted in the "News" section on 21 June 2013 at www.amsterdamdxdx.org. It details our current, up to date vessel charter costs. They represent 75% of our \$400,000 DXpedition budget.

Now, to really put DXpedition costs in perspective let me share some simple math with you. At FT5ZM, Let's assume we are on the air for 14 days. That allows two days for set-up and two days for take down. That equates to 20,160 minutes on the air. If our budget is \$400,000 (not including operator travel costs to Perth and back), then our time on the air costs \$19.84 per minute.

Yes, \$19.84 per minute on the air !!!!!

Let's take this a bit further. Assume we make 100,000 QSOs, (a worthy goal for a #4 "most-needed"). The cost per QSO works out to \$4.00.

Yes, \$4.00 per QSO !!!!!

Now, for some good news, the DXpedition operators will pay about half of that. This means however, our sponsors including DX Foundations, DX Clubs and individual DXers worldwide need to pay the remainder.

So, when deciding not if, but how much support you will offer FT5ZM, ask yourself: How many QSOs am I going to make?

How important are those QSOs to me? Am I paying my fair share of the costs? Our DXpedition leader K0IR has often joked that if every DXer would give up a cup of coffee for each QSO with FT5ZM and send that money to support the DXpedition, we would not have to worry about our expenses. You know, he is right.

73 and CU in the pileups!
Bob-K4UEE