



W4CA LOG

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club - Roanoke, Virginia

May/ June 2006

Volume 3 Issue 3

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club
W4CA
P.O. Box 2002
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Officers

President: Ray Crampton AB4YZ
Vice President: Floyd Ponton KB4WYW
Secretary: Karen Anderson KI4GOT
Treasurer: Kathy Page KG4PBX

Board of Directors

Phil Roark K4WFO
Dave Kinsey KS4BO
Leroy Maxey AG4RW
Ron Ramsey AB4A
Ray Pillow KK4HR

Appointed Positions

Net Manager: LeRoy Maxey AG4RW
RVARC Chef: Bob Anderson K4UMK
Membership: Fred Krack K4HVB
Club Call Trustee: Ray Crampton AB4YZ

Log Editors: David Jones N4JED
Catherine Jones KI4EVA

The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club meets the second and fourth Friday of the month at the Roanoke Red Cross Building at 352 Church Ave beginning at 8pm. In addition, the club sponsors a weekly net every Wednesday at 8 pm on the W4CA 146.985- repeater, tone 102.7. Check in five times and receive a number and certificate. Everyone is welcome. The W4CA Log is published bi-monthly by the RVARC for its membership.

The RVARC owns and maintains the following open repeaters:

Voice

146.985- tone 102.7
442.50+ tone 102.7

Packet Digipeaters:

145.050 Rke5 – 1200 baud
145.710 Mill – 1200 baud

Internet Homepage:

<http://w4ca.cupernet.com/cms/>

Festival in the Park



Ray – KK4HR takes the helm of the W4CA special event station at Festival in the Park while KB4WYW and AB4YZ watch on. K4HVB once again logs on the bare table. photo: N4JED

The RVARC helped kick off the 37th annual Festival in the Park with a special event station operating from the center of the park. Club members set up and made 999 contacts over the May 27-28 weekend while an anticipated 50,000 visitors toured the arts and crafts displays around the site.

Great weather over the holiday weekend brought out many club members to provide support. Many long time members visited who had not been seen in a while and potential new members were introduced to the RVARC. Fred – K4HVB was again reunited with Dolly the Lama at the animal display near the club tent.

Club members have been able to identify at least seven consecutive years of operating from the event. Does anyone have a contact card earlier than 2000? If so, please let the Log editor know.

Festival Cont.



RVARC club members providing moral support to the operators at Festival in the Park Saturday afternoon.
photo: N4JED

Once again, the club will issue a special card to stations sending an SASE and the contacts count toward the W4CA Star Award (see web site for details).

Field Day, by K1SO

On June 24-25, local ham radio operators are invited to join the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club in Botetourt County to participate in Field Day. Raising antennas just off Catawba Road (1670 Catawba Road), area hams will gather to test their skills during a 24 hour practice emergency communications event. On air activities begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday and ends at 2 p.m. Sunday. The public is welcome and demonstrations of the many types of radio communications will be featured. Interested citizens are invited to come learn more about the Amateur Radio Service and will be allowed to make a contact with other stations located within the United States.

Field Day takes place annually in June. This year the RVARC will operate as 5-A Virginia

(last year 4-A) indicating up to five transmitters can be on the air at any one time. Thus, more operators are needed to help the club rise to the new challenge and a higher score. For more information about RVARC Field Day contact Ray Crampton @ 992-2844.

Be sure to sign up as a operator or logger position for the annual Field Day exercise by contacting AB4YZ (CW Ops) or K4PK (SSB Ops). Sign-up sheets will be at all club meetings leading up to Field Day, and you can sign-up on the Wednesday night nets. Slots are filling up fast, so get you name in ASAP!

2006 Roanoke Valley Hamfest, by AB4A

The annual Roanoke Valley Hamfest will be held Saturday August 5 at William Byrd High School, 2902 East Washington Ave., Vinton, VA. The inside show opens at 8a.m. with drawings for the main door prizes at 2:30p.m. and close the show at 3:00p.m. The main door prizes this year will be cash. The talk-in station will be W4CA on the 146.985 –600/PL 107.2 repeater. We will have Club members available to help with inside vendor set up on Friday from 5:00p.m.-7p.m. and Saturday starting at 6a.m. Admission is \$5 per person. Tailgate spaces are an additional \$5 per double space (park in the back space and sell in the front space of the paved parking lot) or inside tables are available at \$10 a table (air-conditioned cafeteria) plus admission fee.

Breakfast and lunch will be available at the cafeteria serving line at a reasonable price and the food is good. There will be a hospitality room for the inside vendors from 6:00a.m. to 7:45a.m. when the space will

become the general dining area. There is an additional outside area to eat.

VE exams will be offered at 11:00a.m. **This will be the new exam questions that go into effect July 1, 2006.** Be sure to bring photo identification, an original and copy of current licenses and/or any CSCE held along with \$14.

There will be various demos and speakers to be announced. Free bingo with great prizes is offered for the wives. The main door prizes this year will be cash.

William Byrd HS Wraps Year

The William Byrd HS Amateur Radio Club wrapped up the school year with a QSL card writing and pizza party May 30. Several club members including K4WFO, AB4SK, W4TU, K4WVS and others who have helped with the High school and middle school programs also attended with students from both schools.

The WB4HS group had a busy year attempting to set a new club record in the School Club Roundup and participating with the new radio and electronics school course run by teacher and ham Patricia Smith. Over thirty students were exposed to amateur radio through the class and three wrapped up the year by passing their technician class license. Congrats to Brad Dillon, Jordan Campbell and Eric Dobbie



for their accomplishments. Watch for their future participation in the school club and the RVARC.

The exam session was sponsored by the RVARC and administered by Leroy – AG4RW with the assistance of K4WFO, AB4SK, W4TU, N4JED, K4WVS, and KS4JB.



AG4RW, K4WFO and AB4SK begin exam grading at William Byrd exam session. photo: N4JED

W4KQE Silent Key, by K1SO

William Bernard Sprouse (Bill/W4KQE) became a Silent Key on May 23, 2006. He was born March 8, 1921 in Salem, Virginia. He was a veteran of World War II having served in the U. S. Army Air Force. His tour of duty included 20 months in China with the 158th Army Airways Communication Squadron. After returning from the Military, his life-long interest in Ham Radio began when he was licensed as W4KQE in 1946. Bill was an active ham radio operator and checked in the Wednesday night nets on the W4CA repeater system as number 10. He frequented many club meetings and events over the years.

Sprouse, as he was know to many of the hams in the area, retired in 1986 from Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his wife Frances of 62 years. A son,

Randy M. Sprouse resides in Fort Worth, Texas and many other members of his family in the Roanoke area. Bill will be missed by the members of the RVARC and all of his ham friends worldwide. A fond 73 to you Sprouse.

Well-known Ukrainian Ham visits RVARC, by K1SO

A visit by world and well-known DX'er, Helen Goncharsky/UR5WA, (who also holds US call KT4RP) from the Ukraine, took place Friday May 26th during the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting. Brought to Roanoke by club members Dave and Ganelle Larson – KK4WW and KK4WWW, Ms. Goncharsky spoke about her Ham Radio interest (DXCC Honor Roll) and the Ham Community in the Ukraine. Helen's husband, Victor is US5WE/K1WE and their daughter are also Hams.



UR5WA – Helen at RVARC meeting. photo:KB4CQW

While in the US this trip, Helen visited the Dayton Hamvention in Ohio, May 19-21 and also was Guest of Honor at a reception in Floyd County for the Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service

meeting at FAIRS E.C.C. in Floyd, Virginia. For more information visit the FAIRS website at www.fairs.org.

Hams to Be

PLEASE NOTE: The **NEW** Technician class question pool (Element 3) will take effect on **July 1, 2006**. Be sure you are using the correct study guide for the test you are attending. And be aware of what study guide you may be buying. New study manuals available from the ARRL include:

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual.
All you need to become an Amateur Radio Operator. 1st edition © 2006. #9639--\$24.95

ARRL's Tech Q&A The Best *Question & Answer* Book! Don't be surprised on exam day. Use this book to review from the entire **Technician** question pool. Includes brief explanations, printed directly after each question. 4th edition © 2006. #9647--\$15.95

Also, check with Phil – K4WFO for group orders. New General Class (Element 3) questions become effective July 1, 2007 and the Extra Class (Element 4) July 1, 2008 – subject to pending rule changes.

William Byrd Middle and the School Club Roundup, by AB4SK

The William Byrd Middle School Amateur Radio Club, K4WBM, participated in the 20th annual School Club Roundup (SCR) during February. Founded in 1986, SCR is sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Amateur Radio in the New York City Schools, the ARRL, and its Hudson Division Education Task Force. Its goal is to foster contacts with and among

schools. Last year there were over sixty school club logs submitted.

William Byrd Middle is an ARRL Big Project school. The school has benefited with an equipment grant from the ARRL including a TS-570G transceiver, R6000 antenna, cable, and accessories. The RVARC supported the school with ARRL publications, equipment and several members who are club advisors.

School Club Roundup is a low-key contest that pits school ham-radio clubs against their peers; i.e., middle schools against middle schools, high against high, etc. The goal, of course, it to get kids on the air and to give them someone to talk with while there.

Forty-two kids were in the K4WBM radio room at one time or another during the five-day period. Twenty-five of them got on the microphone and many made multiple contacts. Most of these kids were 11 years old. It was amazing how fast they got over their mike fright.



Jason takes a try at 20 meters while Katie watches at K4WBM photo: AB4SK

This was our third SCR. During the first (2004) we worked a few stations and didn't even submit a log. Last year we ranked

second in the Middle School category. This year we improved markedly. More kids participated, we worked more hours (23.91 out of the 24 hours allowed), made 50% more contacts, and doubled our score. Where will we stand this year? I guess we just have to wait until the October 2006 issue of QST publishes the scores.

It has really given our club a shot in the arm. We have seen a big increase in attendance at our Tuesday afternoon meetings since the SCR.

The hams who made this happen include Steve Sizemore, KI4DKH, the faculty advisor who somehow got all the kids there; Doug Moore, K4WVS, who has real gift for working with the kids as they talk on the air; Coy Weaver, W4GMX, who has spent many hours making the station work and look good; Dave Miller, KS4JB, who inspired the kids with demonstrations of his home-brew crystal sets, Mike Marsh, K4MAR, who donated an afternoon to help us log and this author who was there too. School Club Roundup was lots of fun for the kids and we enjoyed it too. Looking forward to next year.

The President's Corner

Hello Fellow Club Members,

We had a great time at the Mill Mountain Picnic/Special Event. Great food - great people. The club was also well represented at Festival in the Park. Both 20 and 40 were open so we made over 300 contacts.

The next event is the grand daddy of them all - Field Day - the last full weekend in June. Everyone is frantically trying to finish all of the preparations so that we can have a big score again this year. If you have never attended Field Day try to make it this year.

Bring your tent and camp out for the weekend if you would like. It is a great opportunity to learn how to set up stations and antennas and see some great operators in action on SSB and CW. Of course we will also be running digital modes and trying to contact a satellite. The food is great and we usually have over 100 people attend.

There is a map in this issue of the log that shows you how to get there. We will be setting up on Friday afternoon and operating from 2:00 P. M. Saturday through 2:00 P.M. Sunday.

Above all, remember Amateur Radio is fun

Ray - AB4YZ

A Skywarn Note from VA's new Section Manager

We currently have a new Skywarn (Amateur Radio) website that has been constructed by Craig Wicks, WX8DX of Roanoke Virginia. This site is loaded with helpful information for the "Spotter". It also has forms for an individual or a second form for a report from a net.

There is also a registration form for "Spotters" to register contact information that is helpful to net controls conducting a Skywarn net. Please encourage your trained spotters to register.

Please use the resources on this webpage. I have heard from hams across the Virginia Section complimenting this site. We are fortunate to have Craig working in our Skywarn coverage area. The address is <http://www.wx4rnk.org/>.

We are asking area clubs to post a link on their club website and to announce this resources to their membership.

73

Glen Sage, W4GHS
Virginia Section Manager

Upcoming Events & Club Activities

JUNE

- 9 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building
- 11-12 ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 17 Kids Day, get a kid on the radio or get on and work one
- 20 Take your HT to work day
- 23 Club meeting will be held at Field Day site (see map)
- 24-25 Field Day @ Crampton Park, Botetourt County**

JULY

- 8-9 IARU HF World Championship
- 14 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building
- 15-16 CQ WW VHF Contest
- 28 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building with a program on Winlink by Dave Potter

AUGUST

- 5 RVARC Hamfest @ William Byrd High School Vinton, Virginia**
- 5-6 ARRL UHF Contest
- 5-6 North American QSO Party - CW
- 6 Berryville Hamfest, Winchester, Virginia
- 11 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building
- 19-20 North American QSO Party - PHONE
- 25 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building

SEPTEMBER

- 15-16 Blue Ridge Bonanza Special Event by W4CA**

OCTOBER

- 21. Winston Link Special Event by W4CA**

Mill Mountain Star Special Event

Did not get a report for the Mill Mountain Star Special Event other than everyone saying the food was great. Leroy – AG4RW did send along some photos of the event at the pavillion next to the star. Hope to have some numbers for the next Log.



Pardon my Messes

Well, this marks my first club newsletter in about 20 years when I used to produce the W4CA Log. Was a short fuse start this time so please excuse any missing or incorrect items. I will improve all as we go along.

Please send all articles, photos, and ideas to me at n4jed@aol.com or P.O. Box 647, Vinton, VA 24179. I can be reached days at work with 344-1212. Articles will be reviewed and edited for content and fit. Please do not send large photo files. I cannot download them with my current service. Please reduce them to medium level Jpeg size before sending or supply on a cd.

A special thanks to club member (and my daughter) Catherine KI4EVA who has worked hard to teach me how to lay all this out on a computer. Twenty years ago, this was all typed, cut up, and wax pasted together by hand.

There will be a schedule for future articles to be delivered for inclusion in the Log. For the July/August issue, I need your submittals by the end of the first week of July. The September/ October issue by the first week of September. Please keep all your good work flowing.

See you on the bands, David – N4JED,
Catherine KI4EVA

Last Minute Update

Our three students from William Byrd have there new calls posted on the web. Brad Dillon is KI4POE, Eric Dobbie is KI4POC and Jordan Campbell is KI4POH. Be sure to congradulate them when you hear them on the air.

W4CA FIELD DAY

CRAMPTON PARK & NECESSARY
1670 CATAWBA RD.
TROUTVILLE, VA

