



W4CA LOG

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club - Roanoke, Virginia

July / August 2006

Volume 3 Issue 4

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: Russ Abbey KG4MAV
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 it's 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:

www.w4ca.net

RVARC Sets New Club Record as W4CA 5A VA



Botetourt County Board of Supervisors Chairman Steve Clinton visits the Field Day site of W4CA and the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. photo K1SO

15,320. That is the club record setting score for the W4CA Field Day operation this year according to club president Ray-AB4YZ. It may be enough to put us in the top list for the nation this time. It definitely topped the RVARC's previous records and here at the bottom of the sun spot cycle.

For the first time, W4CA participated as 5A Virginia operating CW and Phone on the same bands using filtering assembled by Jimmy – KS4KX. At different times during the weekend, W4CA could be heard on everything from 2 meters thru 8 meters along with APRS, packet, and Satellite.

A variety of visitors stopped by to see the demonstration of amateur radio and emergency operations. All got an opportunity to operate at the GOTA station in addition to a

tour of the various other stations. Visitors included Steve Clinton, Botetourt County's Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Mike Guzo, Emergency Manager for the City of Roanoke. Several School Board members from various local school systems who were familiar with the RVARC's sponsorship of school programs also made the pilgrimage to learn more of ham radio. And did you see us on TV ?? At least those who went home overnight could.

Field Day 2006 will leave many memories with the participants. Intrepid scandalmonger K4HVB reported on the midnight bandit whose joy ride thru the camp yanked the generator power cord to the 20m/80m trailer loose while stripping it to the bare copper. Something about nighttime mowing. And only one tent was lost to the Saturday night rain and hail storm. While one operator spent the next several hours swimming in a soaked sleeping bag, at least the equipment in the tent remained dry. As usual, the food was great and plentiful and several members showed up just to eat! And the radio cake with the edible log sheets was super - thanks to Carla - KF4WGZ for making it.

Speaking of Carla, you haven't seen as much excitement and cheering as came from her husband Brian - KG4NIQ when he made a QRP satellite contact on the last pass of Field Day. And we understand it was done with 2.5 watts! See the Field Day photos for the handheld antenna and over-the shoulder radios. Truly a portable QRP satellite station.



Though it did not directly add points to our score, the wireless computer network spread across the site was a big and successful help in uniting all the computer logging to a central computer point. Way to go Phil.

Check out the photos by N4JED and K1SO at the end of this newsletter and be sure to look up the W4CA Log on the web site where many more photos are posted and all are in color! Many of our 70 plus participants can be seen there.

Question for the month - what famous (or infamous) club member made only one contact during Field Day - and it was a dupe ?

President's Column

Field Day is now history. I believe that this was the most successful Field Day in the history of the club. Over 70 people signed the Field Day attendance log. All of the changes that we made for this Field Day were very successful. The setup went without a hitch. Operations of multiple stations on the same band (40, 20, 80) worked like a charm. We garnered all of the special points possible and the GOTA station was a tremendous success. I have submitted the score to the ARRL. The final total was 15320. If scores were consistent with last year that would put well into the top ten stations in the country. Not bad for littl' ole Roanoke. Thanks to all the people that made this event an unqualified success.



The next event on the schedule is the Annual Ham Fest. It will be great to see all of the hams in the area that we don't get to see very often. The date is August 5th and it will be held again at William Bird High School in Vinton, Virginia.

I am about to leave for a trip to the annual County Hunting Convention in Appleton Wisconsin. See you all when I get back.

Remember ---- Amateur Radio is fun
Ray, AB4YZ

2006 Roanoke Valley Hamfest, by AB4A

The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club's annual Hamfest will be Saturday August 5 at William Byrd High School, 2902 East Washington Ave., Vinton, VA. The inside show opens at 8 a.m. with drawings for the main door prizes at 2:30p.m. The show wraps up at 3:00p.m. The main door prize this year will be cash. The talk-in station will be W4CA on the 146.985 -600/PL 102.7 repeater. Club members

will be available to help with inside vendor setup on Friday from 5:00 p.m.-7p.m. and Saturday starting at 6 a.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 a reasonable price and the food is good. There will be a hospitality room for the inside vendors from 6:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. at which time the space becomes the general dining area. There is an additional outside area to eat.

VE exams are 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.

William Byrd High School is located just past Vinton on Route 24/ Washington Ave next to the Blue Ridge Parkway interchange.



Blue Ridge Bonanza

by K1SO

There are many ways to travel and experience the "All-American Road" the Blue Ridge Parkway winding along 469-miles of ridge lines and mountaintops across Virginia and North Carolina's scenic Appalachian Mountains. You can either drive the road or now you can

travel the route by making contact via Amateur Radio with mobile and portable stations located on the picturesque trail.

This well known scenic roadway goes thru some the most beautiful state and national parks in the county, connecting the Shenandoah National Park, Virginia at one end with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina at the other. The Parkway surrounds the traveler with natural beauty of native forest lands and mountain pastures on both side of the highway. At a speed limit of 45 mph the journey could take several days to cover the entire Blue Ridge Parkway. So why not travel along with Amateur Radio and check in with all the locations during the multi-state special event.

On September 16th and 17th clubs in Virginia and North Carolina will activate stations all along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club along with members of the Lexington Amateur Radio Club, Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club and Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, and other volunteers will operate from various locations also the route starting with Rockfish Gap (mile post 0) and ending in Cherokee in North Carolina (mile post 455.7).

The Saturday and Sunday times for 20 meter and 40 meter operations will begin at 1300 UTC (9:00 a.m. EDT) and end at 2100 UTC (5:00 p.m. EDT) each day. Along the route locations such as the Natural Bridge, Peaks of Otter, Explore Park Mabry Mill and Blue Ridge Music Center all in Virginia and Cumberland Knob (mile post 217.5) and Linville Falls and Mount Pisgah in North Carolina will be activated. Traveling along the Parkway and on the National Park Service web map, you will see numbered mileposts starting with zero and running south. Each station location will give the name of their location along with the milepost number and county. More than a dozen locations will on the air for the weekend special event. Twenty (20 meter) meter stations will be spaced from 14.205 MHz to 14.285 MHz and on forty (40 meter) meter stations will be spaced from 7.225 MHz to 7.283 MHz.

There will ample opportunities to contact and collect each location along the Blue Ridge Parkway. They can be redeemed for panorama photo QSL cards and Certificates of the Special Event. Request for QSL cards can be sent to W4CA call book address. Any other instructions will be given at the time of the contact. Multiple contacts will be placed on one card and a

contact with all locations will be earn a Special Certificate.

Plans call for the Virginia stations to sign W4CA/ (location) and for North Carolina stations to sign W4NC/ (location).

With elevations along the mountain range from 600 feet to over 4,000 feet and, with good band conditions, everyone should be able to make contact on the HF bands.

Join in the Blue Ridge Bonanza this September 2006, Watch for more information on the RVARC web site and be sure to turn on your radio and travel the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The following locations have been manned as of this time. Please contact Ray – AB4YZ at (540) 992-2844 if you would like to assist at additional locations.

Virginia

Rockfish Gap MP 0
 Natural Bridge MP 64
 Apple Orchard Mtn MP 76
 Peaks of Otter MP 115
 Explore Park MP 115
 Devil's Backbone MP 144
 Mabry Mill MP 157
 Groundhog Mtn MP 189
 Fancy Gap MP 200
 Blue Ridge Music Center MP 213

North Carolina

Cumberland Knob MP 217
 Linville Falls MP 315
 Mount Pigeon MP 409

Committee Appointed to Solicit Officers

A nomination committee has been appointed to solicit candidates for office in the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. Committee members are Debbie-KE4SBZ, Phil-K4WFO and Jack KS4FK. Club members interested in running for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer should contact the committee. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted the night of the vote.

Corrections

A minor correction to the last issue, Fred-HVB was not reunited with Dolly the Lama this year at Festival in the Park. Dolly has been replaced with a younger lama. Fred's distraught condition

may explain his logging on the bare table instead of the log book.

Ham Radio Scout Camp Calling Protocol Established by ARRL and AB4A

A group of radio amateurs active with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have established an HF calling plan for scouting camps. Dubbed the "Scout Camps Calling Protocol," (SCCP), the plan aims to make it easier for scouts in the US and around the world to contact other scouts to meet the Radio merit badge requirements, pass traffic or to just get acquainted with other scouts and hams on the air.

Given the multitude of scout camps and time zones, SCCP proponents acknowledge that the likelihood of one scout camp contacting another specific camp would be slim. The concept depends on ham "scouters" and other interested radio amateurs *not* at camp to support scouts who are by providing contacts for them.

Here's how it works:

- Use traditional [scout calling frequencies](#) ±10 kHz, avoiding any nets or QSOs in progress.
- Scout camps and interested ham-scouters *not* at camp are encouraged to get on the air at 1300, 1900, and 2100 *local time*.
- The SCCP uses two bands: At 1300 and 1900, use 20 and 40 meters. At 2100 use 40 and 80/75 meters.
- The recognized call will be "CQ scout camps." Transmit on the higher-frequency band starting at 5 minutes before the hour and on the lower-frequency band on the hour until 5 minutes past.
- Scout camps, scouts and scouters are encouraged to monitor according to the plan from 1700 to 2000 *UTC* and from 2300 to 0400 *UTC* to support Scout camps with traffic or for talking with other scouts.

Band	SSB	CW
80 meters	3.740/3.940 MHz	3.590 MHz
40 meters	7.270 MHz	7.030 MHz
20 meters	14.290 MHz	14.070 MHz

Books Online

From The ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet-- Here's an interesting site that with over 1 GB of old books of interest for hams for which the copyright has expired. Included are several Radio Amateur's Handbooks, Radio Handbooks, etc., all in PDF format. Most are from the pre-solid state era. When you log on to the site at http://www.pmillett.com/technical_books_online.htm note the misspelling of "technical". (Thanks, Bob N7XY)

Calendar of Events

JULY

- 8 FISTS Summer Sprint
- 8-9 IARU HF World Championship
- 14 **Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building**
- 15-16 CQ WW VHF Contest
- 16 **Ham Radio Exams, 2pm at Roanoke Red Cross Building**
- 28 **Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building, Program Winlink will be presented by Dave Potter – W4RPI**

AUGUST

- 5 **RVARC Hamfest @ William Byrd High School Vinton, Virginia**
- 5-6 10-10 International Summer Contest PHONE
- 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 **O. Winston Link Museum Special Event by W4CA**

New Technician Class Exams Now in Effect

As of July 1, the new technician class question pool is in effect for amateur radio exams. New study guides available include Gordon West's Technician Class 2006-2010 Study Guide, the ARRL's Ham Radio License Manual Level 1 Technician which presents study information in a textbook fashion similar to the old Now You're Talking, and the ARRL's Tech Q&A, 4th edition,

that uses the question pool questions followed by the answer and a brief explanation of each. Check with Phil K4WFO before ordering ARRL manuals.

Getting Started with Ham Radio

In addition to the new study guides, the ARRL is coming out with a new book for getting on the air with your first amateur radio station. The book – due out mid July for about \$20 – covers the following areas of operation

- Selecting first radios and antennas.
- Exploring operating modes: voice, Morse code, digital and more.
- Assemble your station.
- Propagation
- How to make that first contact
- Chasing wallpaper.

Be sure to check it out at the upcoming hamfest.

Virginia Section News

Open Virginia Section Positions;

We continue to need qualified hams to fill the following positions. Section Public Information Coordinator. A description can be found at <http://www.arrrl.org/FandES/field/org/pic.html>

We are creating a new position in the Section to support Scouting and Youth activities. This will be an Assistant Section Managers position. If you are interest in either of these two positions please contact the Section Manager at w4ghs@arrrl.org Please list your experience and qualifications. Thanks, Glen W4GHS

Errata

Next log will be out the beginning of September. Please submit any photos, stories or ideas to me at n4jed@aol.com by August 31st. Thanks, N4JED and KI4EVA. We hope to see everyone at the Hamfest.

The Following sheets of photos are just a few of the many that will be placed on the W4CA Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club website at www.w4ca.net and go to Club Log in the menu block on the left of the first page.