

# W4CA LOG

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club - Roanoke, Virginia

September / October 2006

Volume 3 Issue 5

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](http://www.w4ca.net)

## RVARC Hamfest Another Big Success



Front row of the outside flea market – a little something for everyone.  
photos: N4JED

With attendance meeting last year's number and more dealers attending than in a while, the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club's W4CA Hamfest proved to be another hit. The wet weather held off and the parking lot re-pavement was completed in time for all the antenna studded cars to find places to park.



By 8 am traffic was backing up at the entrance ticket tent while good deals were being negotiated around the hamfest site. Inside, dealers offered everything from vhf/uhf transceivers to antennas and custom hats. And parts and parts and parts. Every connector you could think of plus some really odd plugs.



Several surrounding area clubs made their presence felt with club tables selling equipment and passing out info on their groups. The RVARC club table kept busy passing out copies of the W4CA Log and info on the club and how to join.



The ARRL was aptly represented by Virginia Section Manager Glen Sage – W4GHS and several assistants. They held a well attended forum on Virginia Section activities and several small group meetings covering ARES issues.

Bingo was a big hit again for wives and family who needed a break from the fest. Special thanks to K4WFO's wife Marion for arranging the bingo prizes and for the P. Buckley Moss limited edition print for the special hamfest prize.



The RVARC put together an order for new club nametags with the vendor. If you would like to order one, contact the club president to set up a new order.

A final report of the fest was not received by press time. Hopefully we can have a listing of prize winners for the next issue.

## Nominating Committee Recommends Officers for 2007

The RVARC's nominating committee has prepared a slate of officers for the upcoming year. Committee member Phil – K4WFO presented the list to the club at the August meeting. Proposed officers are:

President – KB4WYW, Floyd Ponton  
 Vice President – AB4SK, Charlie Draper  
 Secretary – KI4GOT, Karen Anderson  
 Treasurer – AG4RW, Leroy Maxey

A vote of the general membership will be held at the October 13 club meeting at the Roanoke Red Cross Building. Be sure to come and vote, welcome in our new officers and congratulate our outgoing team for such an outstanding year of programs and events.

## Blue Ridge Bonanza Special Event This Month

by, K1SO and N4JED

Your chance to travel the "All-American Road" from the comforts of your home are almost upon us. The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club in conjunction with the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club are preparing a one-of-a-kind special event to activate the entire 469 mile Blue Ridge Parkway as it winds along the ridge lines and mountaintops of Virginia and North Carolina's scenic Appalachian Mountains.

On September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, members of the Roanoke and Forsyth clubs supported by the Lexington Amateur Radio Club, Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club and many individual hams will activate stations along the Parkway on 20 meters and 40 meters. Fourteen different locations along the national parkway will be activated both days. 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. 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. With elevations along the mountain range from 600 feet to over 4,000 feet and, with hopefully good band conditions, everyone should be able to make contact on the HF bands.

Traveling along the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the National Park Service web map, you will see numbered mileposts starting with zero at Rockfish Gap, Virginia (mile post 0) and ending in Cherokee, North Carolina (mile post 455.7). Each station will give the name of their location along with the milepost number and county. Virginia stations will use the call **W4CA/(location)** and North Carolina stations **W4NC/(location)**. A special card has been prepared that contains all 14 locations and a special certificate prepared for those who work the entire route. Send all requests for

qsl cards for both calls, along with an SASE, to the W4CA address listed on QRZ.com or to RVARC, 1670 Catawba Road, Troutville, VA 24175.

Join in the Blue Ridge Bonanza this September 2006, Watch for more information on the RVARC web site or web listings around the internet 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 these or additional locations.

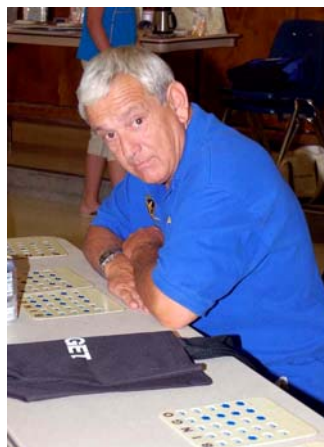
### Virginia

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 Pisgah	MP 409

## The President's Corner



President Ray – AB4YZ's final column was not received in time for publication. Possibly he was too busy ducking out for bingo, but the editor suspects preparations for the upcoming Blue Ridge Bonanza is keeping him busy.

This final project for Ray as President is largest Special Event the RVARC has ever attempted. It has involved coordination with

multiple clubs in two states along with the National Park Service (when was the last time you successfully coordinated with a federal agency?).

Thus, we will grant "the first two and the last two a reprieve from the report and extend a big thanks for all his great works the last year.

## Sun Says Its So !!! New Solar Cycle Begins

from science@NASA

August 15, 2006: On July 31st, a tiny sunspot was born. It popped up from the sun's interior, floated around a bit, and vanished again in a few hours. On the sun this sort of thing happens all the time and, ordinarily, it wouldn't be worth mentioning. But this sunspot was special: It was backward. "We've been waiting for this," says David Hathaway, a solar physicist at the Marshall Space Flight in Huntsville, Alabama. "A backward sunspot is a sign that the next solar cycle is beginning."

"Backward" means magnetically backward. Hathaway explains:

Sunspots are planet-sized magnets created by the sun's inner magnetic dynamo. Like all magnets in the Universe, sunspots have north (N) and south (S) magnetic poles. The sunspot of July 31st popped up at solar longitude 65o W, latitude 13o S. Sunspots in that area are normally oriented N-S. The newcomer, however, was S-N, opposite the norm. This tiny spot of backwardness matters because of what it might foretell: A really big solar cycle.

Solar activity rises and falls in 11-year cycles, swinging back and forth between times of quiet and storminess. Right now the sun is quiet. "We're near the end of Solar Cycle 23, which peaked way back in 2001," explains Hathaway. The next cycle,

Solar Cycle 24, should begin "any time now," returning the sun to a stormy state.

Satellite operators and NASA mission planners are bracing for this next solar cycle because it is expected to be exceptionally stormy, perhaps the stormiest in decades. Sunspots and solar flares will return in abundance, producing bright auroras on Earth and dangerous proton storms in space.

But when will Solar Cycle 24 begin?

"Maybe it already did--on July 31st," says Hathaway. The first spot of a new solar cycle is always backwards. Solar physicists have long known that sunspot magnetic fields reverse polarity from cycle to cycle. N-S becomes S-N and vice versa. "The backward sunspot may be the first sunspot of Cycle 24."

(Less than a week after this sighting, a much larger longer lasting "backwards" sunspot has appeared on the sun leading scientists to say the new cycle is beginning. editor).

## RVARC Star Award

With the relighting of the Mill Mountain Star, it is probably a good time to mention the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club's Star Award.

The certificate award is offered to any licensed ham who can demonstrate successful two-way radio contact with five of the many W4CA special events held by the RVARC. Rules are simple and as follows.

1. Operator must submit 5 (Five) Special Event QSL cards of contacts made with Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club while club was using callsign W4CA or the special W200CA bicentennial call.
2. One QSL card per event (any band or mode, any year) will be accepted as

contact made with W4CA.

3. The QSL cards must be submitted to the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club in person or via mail for consideration for the award.

Submit via mail to:

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club  
Attn: Star Award  
P. O. Box 2002  
Roanoke, Virginia 24009  
U.S.A.



Once verification of the contacts are made the award will be presented, either in person or via return mail. All QSL cards submitted will be returned to the Radio Amateur. A self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) would help to expedite return of your QSL cards.

Certificates are numbered and dated the day of approval of the submitted QSL cards. To date, 22 certificates have been issued.

1	David Jones	N4JED
2	Fred Krack	K4HVB
3	Rex Sharr	KB4CQW
4	Douglas Kabler	KR4XE
5	David Miller	KS4JB
6	Richard Anderson	K4JCY
7	Leroy Maxey	AG4RW
8	Raymond Crampton	AB4YZ
9	Don Aldridge	K4PK
10	Jerry Haislip	K1SO
11	Frank Gaver	KF4HOA
12	Doug Moore	K4WVS
13	Juan Barr	KS4UW

14	Dave Kinsey	KS4BO
15	Glenn Paxton	KE4JKI
16	John Garrett	WD6FLL
17	John Boran	W9MVP
18	Harry Fasick	K3EYL
19	Terry Moorby	VE3DIJ
20	Clemens T. Mazzotti	K3VED
21	Albert. A. Cassano	N3NH
22	Maurice Brimer	K4YVX

Keep in mind, we have at least two more special events this year with the **Blue Ridge Bonanza** and the **O. Winston Link Museum** special events. So look through that box of QSL cards for W4CA special events and be sure to turn in five for the Star Award Certificate.

## New Hams in the Valley

by Ray – KK4HR

Congratulations to the following new amateur radio operators who have recently passed locally offered exams. Be sure to offer them any assistance they may need to get started in our wonderful hobby. The following list includes those beginning with the hamfest through August.

Lisa Davis, KI4QMH of Buena Vista earned her Technician license.

John Canellas, KI4QMG of Lexington earned his Technician license.

Joyce Reid, KI4QMF of Lexington earned her Technician license.

Donald Reid, KI4QME of Lexington earned his Technician license.

These folks were ready, with two perfect tests and two with one error each!

Marvin Carter, KI4QXX of Martinsville earned his Technician license.

David Guynn, KI4QXW of Roanoke earned his Technician license.

Anna Wallace, KI4QXV of Fincastle earned her Tech license at 14 years old!

VE testing would not be possible without the help of faithful VEs. My thanks go out to (in no particular order) LeRoy AG4RW, Tom

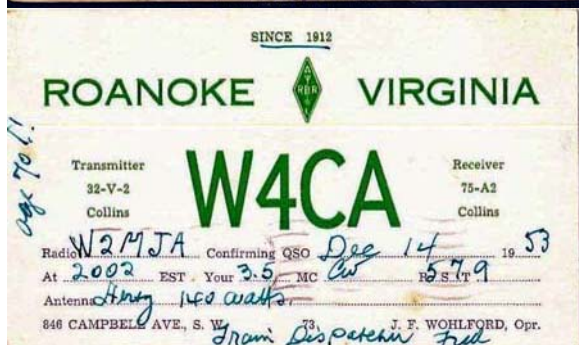
N4VGL, Don KG4OMJ, Fred K4HVB, Phil W4VPI, Floyd KB4WYW, Charlie AB4SK, Dave KS4BO, Phil K4WFO, Heyward W4TU, Dave KS4JB, Barry KI4ILV, Jack KS4FK, Ray K4MAR, Rich K4TFC and Ray AB4YZ. Thanks guys and if I missed anyone, I apologize.

If you would like to help with the testing program or become a Volunteer Examiner, please contact Ray – KK4HR at a club meeting.

## Club History Project

The newsletter editor has decided to take on a history project. N4JED wants to scan and record to dvd as much of the history of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club as can be found. Do you have any?

N4JED would like to begin with old newsletters anyone may have in their collections. I will take them, unstaple and copy into PDF format and assemble them into years. After they are copied, I will restaple and return the originals to you.



QSL cards of club founder and first Vice President back in 1932, Fred Wohlford.

I can use anything from before this year and the first couple newsletters from before I started editing again. The older the documents, the better.

Please bring your info to a club meeting, but please please don't everyone bring it at once. This will be a long term project I need to fit around work schedules. After it starts to come together, the club will sell copies as a fund raiser.

David, N4JED

## Is Your License Address Correct?

From the Virginia SM Newsletter: NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 18, 2006--The FCC has suspended two Amateur Radio licenses because the holders had failed to maintain correct mailing addresses in the Commission's licensee database. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth wrote Larry L. Smith, KC7LJR, of Middleton, Idaho, and Larry J. Maniag, KD7JTG, of Payson, Arizona, on June 28 to inform them the FCC was suspending their Technician tickets for the remainder of their license terms or until each licensee provides a valid mailing address.

In his letter to Smith, Hollingsworth noted that on three occasions in late 2005, the FCC had been unable to deliver warning notices alleging deliberate interference to a 2-meter repeater system.

He told Maniag that the US Postal Service earlier this year returned as undeliverable two warning notices alleging deliberate interference with several repeaters.

Hollingsworth cited §97.23 of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules that requires each license grant to show the licensee's correct name and mailing address. The rule provides that "revocation of the station license or suspension of the

operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct mailing address."

## AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY IS SEPTEMBER 16

September is US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Month, and Saturday, September 16, is Amateur Radio Awareness Day. For the third straight year, the ARRL and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) groups across the US will join a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations taking part in Preparedness Month activities.

ARES is a partner with DHS through the Citizen Corps program. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says local ARES groups and clubs will be making presentations to civic organizations, at schools and at regional fairs to showcase Amateur Radio.

## Jamboree On The Air October 21-22

(ARRL) When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than 400,000 Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home.

JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held,

millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years.

JOTA is coming up October 21 – 22. It begins Saturday at 0001 hours local time and ends Sunday at 2359 hours local time.

### Scout Frequencies for JOTA 2006

band	phone (MHz)	cw (MHz)
80m	3.740 & 3.940	3.590
40m	7.270	7.030
20m	14.290	14.070
17m	18.140	18.080
15m	21.360	21.140
12m	24.960	24.910
10m	28.390	28.190

The ARRL suggests using 7.270 as the US JOTA frequency.

Virginia has a newly appointed Assistant Section Manager with responsibility over Scouting and Youth. Our new ASM is Rudy Stuteville Jr., KA4PLH. Rudy has been in the scouting movement since 1949, earning the Eagle Scout award in 1954. Please be sure to contact him to coordinate events. And, if you have a moment, be sure to look for scouts on the band calling for anyone to talk with.

## William Byrd Middle and High Schools Place Nationally in School Club Roundup

The scores are in and bragging can now begin. With the week of February 13-17

now in the record books, the final scores are available.

At the Middle School, K4WBM made a serious effort and more than doubled their last year's score. The 69,167 points put William Byrd Middle in second place nationally among all Middle and Junior High schools (the first place team out of Oregon actually went down in score from last year so watch for a possible K4WBM victory in the near future).

William Byrd High School Station WB4HS took the 3rd. place position nationally among high schools with a score of 86,618. With their ideal locations in the southwest US, the first two positions went to teams who beat Byrd out in school multipliers worked. The bands are going to get better so they better watch out in the coming years.



**WBHS Principal Richard Turner – KZ4VT takes a turn at the mike of WB4HS while school club members Chris Kevorkian – KI4EUZ and Catherine Jones – KI4EVA watch. photo N4JED**

A special thanks is extended to all the RVARC club members who assisted with the two school stations during the Roundup and throughout the school year. Without your help, these activities for the students would not be possible.

## Schedule of Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

- 8 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building
- 9-11 ARRL September VHF QSO Party
- 16-17 Blue Ridge Bonanza Special Event by W4CA**
- 22 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building  
Program will be The Fine Art of County Hunting by Ray – AB4YZ
- 23 W4CA communications support for the Big Lick Triathlon, Smith Mountain Lake.**
- 24 Artie Levin Century Rides three bicycle loop courses of 45, 70 and 100 miles communications support, Buchanan, Virginia.**

### OCTOBER

- 13 Club meeting and **Election of Officers @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building**
- 21 O. Winston Link Museum Special Event by W4CA**
- 21-22 Jamboree on the Air
- 27 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building

### NOVEMBER

- 4-6 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW
- 10 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building
- 18-20 ARRL November Sweepstakes PHONE by W4CA**

### DECEMBER

- 1-3 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- 8 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building
- 9 RVARC Christmas Dinner at Hollins University**
- 9-10 ARRL 10 Meter Contest



## More Hamfest Photos

Following are more photos from the RVARC hamfest.

