



Roanoke, Virginia

W4CA LOG

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club – since 1932

March / April 2007

Volume 4 Issue 2

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

Officers

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

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 107.2. Check in five times and receive a net 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 107.2
442.50+ tone 107.2

Packet Digipeaters:

145.050 Rke5 – 1200 baud
145.710 Mill – 1200 baud

Internet Homepage:

www.w4ca.net

Red Cross station open before meetings

Now that CW has gone as a license requirement and some of our newer ham members have gained new HF privileges, the RVARC has begun opening up the Red Cross ham station an hour before club meetings to help teach the principles and practices of HF operation.



Ron-AB4A and Charlie-AB4SK operate the Red Cross station and demonstrate HF radio before the Feb 23 club meeting. photo N4JED

Headed up by club vice president Charlie-AB4SK, several groups of hams have come early to the normally 8pm meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Everyone is invited who is interested in learning more about HF operation. Now is your chance to actually get on the air and use those new privileges.

Element 1 no more

In case you missed the news, effective February 23 the Element 1 morse code requirement is no more. Passing of written exams are now the only requirement to upgrade. There were no automatic license upgrades with this change. People with current CSCEs for

**Our 75th
Year**

General and Extra but lacking credit for Element 1 still need to attend a test session and reapply for their upgrade (along with paying an additional \$14.00 fee).

Technician operators without the Tech Plus HF privileges were granted automatic access to the HF bands same as held by the Tech Plus. They received the only automatic upgrade.

Be sure to get out there and explore your new frequency allocations.

The President's Corner



Hello Everyone,
I received a note the other day from Dave, our Log Editor (N4JED) that read as follows: "This year marks an historic event for the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. Our predecessor club the Roanoke Amateur Radio Club was founded as an ARRL club in August

of 1932 with W3CA (later W4CA) as vice president. That was **75 YEARS AGO** this year and represents the near continuous association of the W3CA/W4CA call with our club". This is, indeed, an historic event.

Just take a few moments to think about it! To be a member of a club that has been going strong for 75 years is quite an achievement. Just take a few moments to consider *how* this was achieved. It won't take long to realize that it was achieved through the hard work and dedication of our members, past and present, who have, and continue to "go the extra mile" to promote the hobby of amateur radio, in service to our community, education of our present and future Radio Amateurs, and last but certainly not least, fellowship.

As many of us know, it hasn't always been easy. I, who have been a member only since 1991, have myself experienced a few "ups and downs". As I look back at these times, I think that those times have served only to make us a stronger and a better club.

Wow, in another 25 years, this club will be celebrating 100 years! This will be accomplished the very same way that our club accomplished 75, as our founding officers and member have "passed the torch" to us, we too will pass the responsibilities and achievements on to those willing to "carry the torch" into the upcoming years.

As I have stated before, each of us, as RVARC members, is responsible for our success, and our success depends on YOUR participation and dedication! Will you be carrying the torch?

Oh, by the way, we always need interesting articles for the Log. Contact Dave, N4JED. He and Co-Editor Catherine, KI4EVA, are doing a fantastic job!

Celebrating 75 Years in 2007!

Floyd, KB4WYW

School Club Roundup Wraps

The William Byrd High School and William Byrd Middle School radio clubs wrapped up their latest participation in the School Club Roundup February 16. The two schools competed in the week long competition among schools in the United States to see how many contacts they could make. The middle school's station K4WBM placed second in the nation last contest among middle schools nationwide while the high school's WB4HS placed third among all high schools entering.

This latest competition was filled with gremlins and road blocks for the two club stations beginning a computer glitch losing Monday's contacts for K4WBM. Then came a snow day in the middle of the week closing down both stations for a day. Even with the problems, both stations were able to achieve higher scores than the year before.



Ron-AB4A (pictured) and Phil-K4WFO assist students at WBHS participating in the Roundup. photo N4JED

Many RVARC club members assisted with the week long event and the schools thank all for their time and efforts. Special mention go to club members K4WFO and AB4A at WB4HS and AB4SK and K4WVS at K4WBM.

William Byrd Middle scored the following:
 Operating Hours: 23.38
 Voice Contacts: 337
 Digital Contacts: 0
 Current Score: 78,521
 47 States, 2 Canadian provinces, 7 countries,
 11 radio clubs and 31 school clubs.



WBHS's two oldest seniors prepare the club station for operation before the students arrive. photo N4JED

William Byrd High School's scores were as follows:

Operating Hours: 23.29
 Voice Contacts: 401
 Digital Contacts: 0
 Current Score: 103,859
 50 States, 6 Canadian provinces, 7 countries,
 13 radio clubs and 34 school clubs.

RVARC club member and student Catherine KI4EVA made the last high school contact and the 50th. state with the help of AB4A when they found Wyoming on the bands. Way to go guys.

By any other Name

from the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet

In a conversation with a professional radio astronomer, Paul NA5N said that "he described a weird phenomenon where the amplitude of the signals would increase and decrease in a

random fashion. Of course, every ham knows this is called fading or QSB. However, I thought you might be interested to know what astronomers call this phenomenon: "**Ionospheric induced amplitude scintillation with aperiodic variability.**" Somehow, QSB just rolls off the tongue a bit better.

RVARC Fox Hunts to Resume

The famed RVARC fox hunts are slated to resume in April with the inaugural event kicking off Saturday April 21. Start will be in the parking lot in front of Advance Auto at Crossroads Mall at 9am. Check in on 985 if you need directions. The fox hunt is open to all who wish to participate.

This is not a race, and speed has no bearing on the winner. First place is awarded to the team with the least mileage on their odometer.

Club members have been tuning up the fox which operates on two meters simplex. Ten RVARC teams will gather March 3rd at Charlie-AB4SK's house to build 2 meter quad antennas for use in fox hunting. The hunt should prove to be an exciting event.

You do not have to be licensed to participate in the fox hunt. Any good scanner and beam can be used and no transmitting is required. Anyone with room in their car to take along additional people, please contact Ray-AB4YZ.

What You Missed

If you were not at the second meetings of January and February, you missed good programs. January found the team of Harold Thompson-W8PHB and his son

Steve Thompson discussing software defined radios. Harold gave a talk covering operating SDRs and what he has accomplished setting up his station. Steve followed with a discussion on the software design and application – a field he currently is employed in.



Harold-W8PHB and his son Steve Thompson prepare their program on software defined radios at the January 26 meeting. photo N4JED



Then, on February 23, Gordon Miller-NQ4K with the Sterling Park radio club joined us to give a presentation on the upcoming Virginia QSO Party. This year's event is scheduled for March 17-19. Copies of the rules were passed out and discussed along

with results of the past couple years. Every entrant receives a nice certificate and there are something like 22 plaques for winners in different categories. Some categories have been won with as few as 3 contacts making them prime for local attempts. Rules and application forms can be found at the SPARC web site www.qsl.net/sterling

New Hams in the Area

VE TEST SESSION FEB 18, 2007

The last session before the CW requirement was dropped netted a "know code" General. Laura Floss KI4AXY of Amherst VA took both the cw test and General to upgrade from Tech to General.

William Hedge KI4NHH of Roanoke upgraded from General to Extra.

Listen for three new Technicians on the air soon. Sherry Roberson KI4TWF, Crystal Rhodes KI4TWD and Tracy Rhodes KI4TWE all of Radford easily passed their Tech exams.

Everyone please join me in congratulating everyone above and listen for them on the bands. I would also thank all the VEs who give up their Sunday afternoons to administer tests.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Pillow KK4HR
VE Liaison

Ring Tones

from the CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET

To really impress your friends, and keep CW alive in the bargain, you need Morse Code ring tones for your phone! You can even get the phone to send the call of the person calling with a little trickery. For the Motorola Q phones and possibly others, try <http://tinyurl.com/yjnlqk>. (Thanks, Lynn N7CFO)

Don't Forget to Identify!

from the ARRL Letter, Vol 26, No. 1

FCC cites Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to ID: The FCC's Philadelphia Field Office has issued a formal Notice of

Violation (NoV) to a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to identify in a timely manner. The Commission released the NoV on December 20. The notice says that on September 12 and 13, 2006, an agent of the FCC's Philadelphia office monitored the ham's transmissions on 439.850 MHz and observed that the operator failed to identify for nearly one hour in one instance and for more than 20 minutes in the second. §97.119(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication." The FCC has advised the ham that he must submit within 20 days a written statement addressing the alleged violations and action taken to preclude recurrence. The issuance of an NoV appears to be a departure from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's typical practice of addressing such alleged infractions with an advisory letter.

RVARC Auction April 28

Mark your calendars and clean out the shack in preparation for the RVARC's annual Auction Saturday April 28 at the Roanoke Red Cross Building. Doors open at 8am with the auction beginning at 9am.

As in previous auctions, items can be donated to the club and all proceeds going to the club. Or, your items can be placed on consignment with the club receiving 10%. Be sure to indicate a minimum bid where applicable. As usual, we will have a catered breakfast and lunch available at the site for a nominal price.

There are always great deals and the one that got away at the auction. Lots of good gear and occasionally estate gear is brought to this event. Expect to see everything from HF transceivers to antennas and antique CW keys. Come hungry and come ready to bid.

At the Roanoke American Red Cross building, 352 Church Ave SW, Roanoke.

Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 3 Antenna building party at AB4SK**
- 3-4 ARRL International DX Contest - SSB
- 9 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross**
- 17-19 Virginia QSO Party, a W4CA event**
- 18 Radio Exams, 2pm at Roanoke Red Cross
- 23 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building plus a Program on message handling and emergency communications**
- 24-25 CQ Worldwide WPX Contest - SSB

APRIL

- 1 Raleigh, NC RARSFest, NC State Fairgrounds
- 13 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross**
- 15 Radio Exams, 2pm at Roanoke Red Cross
- 21 RVARC Fox Hunt @ 9am starts at Crossroads Mall**
- 27 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross and Program get together with other clubs in the area.**
- 28 RVARC Auction @ 8am Roanoke Red Cross Building**

MAY

- 11 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross Building**
- 20 Radio Exams, 2pm at Roanoke Red Cross
- 25 Club meeting @ 8pm, Roanoke Red Cross**
- 26-27 Festival in the Park W4CA Special Event**

Roanoke Valley Hamfest

Start planning now for the world renowned Roanoke Valley Hamfest Saturday August 4, 2007. Come help the RVARC celebrate it's 75 anniversary and shop for some great new parts and radios.

Once again, the hamfest will be held at William Byrd High School with doors

opening for general public at 8am. Free parking available on site. Breakfast and lunch available on site. Admission is \$5 per person.



2006 RVARC Hamfest photo N4JED

There is a vendor set-up Friday evening from 5pm to 7pm and again in the morning of the fest from 6am to 8am. Vendors traveling from out of town often find the Saturday event a good profit stop before going to the Sunday Mannasses Hamfest just a couple hours down the interstate. Vendors please contact Charlie Draper – AB4SK at 540-387-9824 or email at ab4sk@arrl.net to reserve space and for pricing info.



K4UK works a deal. photo N4JED

Clubs and groups are welcome to come and set up displays or sale club member items. Come promote your club to other hams in the area.

Arrl VE exams are offered at 11am. Walk-in registration only. Spouses are welcome to come play Bingo from 10-11:30am. Great prizes and

no cost beyond your admissions ticket. Virginia Section ARRL meeting and other programs will be scheduled as we get closer.

Flea market spaces are available inside and out. Outside spaces are \$5 plus admission and inside at \$10 a table plus admission.



Some of the flea market space at the 2006 hamfest. photo N4JED

Hourly door prizes are offered along with a grand prize. For general information, please contact Phil – K4WFO at 540-387-4487 or k4wfo@arrl.net.

**RVARC
Celebrating
75 years**



Recent club attendance for the RVARC meetings at the Roanoke Red Cross Building the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month starting at 8pm.. Be sure to add your smiling face to this great gathering. photos N4JED

