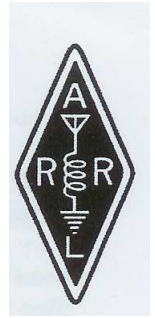




# W4CALOG



**Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club – since 1932**

Roanoke, Virginia

January/February 2008

Volume 5

Issue 1

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

<http://home.earthlink.net/~w4ca/>

**Officers**

President: Ron Ramsey AB4A  
Vice President: Charlie Draper AB4SK  
Secretary: Karen Anderson KI4GOT  
Treasurer: Floyd Ponton KB4WYW

**Board of Directors**

Phil Roark K4WFO  
David L Kinsey KS4BO  
David R Jones, Jr N4JED  
Ray Pillow KK4HR  
Jerry D Haislip K1SO

**Appointed Positions**

Net Manager: John Anderson K4JKA  
Honorary RVARC Chef:  
Bob Anderson K4UMK  
Membership: Fred Krack K4HVB  
Club Call Trustee: Ray Crampton AB4YZ  
Log Editors: Charlie Draper AB4SK

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

**Our 75th  
Year**

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club celebrated it's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the evening of January 25. 78 members plus guests attended.

This topped off a month of celebration. The Club received proclamations from Roanoke County and City. The proclamations declared January the 21st through the 27th as "*Amateur Radio Appreciation Week*", and congratulated the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club on their "*75th Anniversary of Service*". See the club web site for photos of the proclamations. ◇



Our President, AB4A, kicks off the festivities



Great food thanks to Linda, N4LCL, and her helpers



More pictures from the January 25 Celebration

Photos by Pat Draper KD4SZH

**Club History**

By Doug Moore K4WVS

The RVARC first met at the Colonial Presbyterian Church in October, 1973. We had the privilege of using that facility for 25 years until we started meeting at the American Red Cross in January of 1998.

Here a list of the presidents of the club while we were at Colonial Presbyterian:

- 1973 - Bob Anderson, K4UMK
- 1974 - Dick Bishop, K4SR
- 1976 - Bill Bowles, WB4HNG
- 1977 - Ben Booth, W4LBS, AG4I
- 1978 - Tom Shupe, WA4YJF
- 1979 - Dave Oxley, WD4NZP
- 1980 - Mark Witt, N4CIR

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**VE/CE Test Session Reports**

By Ray Pillow, KK4HR

**November 18, 2007**

- Stephen Hayward, KJ4AUX of Fancy Gap VA, earned his General license.
- Winston Corbett, KI4RKG of Roanoke, upgraded to General.
- Hannah Bennett, KJ4AMX of Axton VA, upgraded to General.
- Josiah Bennett, KJ4AMV of Axton VA, upgraded to General.
- Deannah Bennett, KJ4AUW of Axton VA, earned her Technician license.

Charlie Draper, AB4SK of Salem passed the level I Emergency Communications Exam.

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- 1983 - Jack Waddell, WA4V
- 1984 - Bill Johnson, W4NLC
- 1985 - Rich Adamy, KA4GFY
- 1988 - Tom Brownlee, AF2D
- 1991 - Danny Pendleton, N4NPD
- 1998 - Claude Slumschesky, KE4UVO

The Club participated in the March Of Dimes Walkathon for the first time in April of 1972.

The Club sponsored the Virginia State Convention at the National Guard Armory in Roanoke in 1978. The guest speaker at the convention was Vic Clark, W4KFC, then Vice President of the ARRL.

Two meters was the band most on our minds during the period we were at the church. The two meter band was first opened for amateur use by the FCC in November, 1945. The club had struggled along with old and outdated repeater equipment for several years.

In 1990, at the direction of Ronnie Bratton, KA4YUY, the Club started a drive for donations to purchase a new and modern repeater. The drive lasted about two years with donations coming in amounts of \$100, \$300, \$1000, and just about any thing anyone could afford. As a result of this effort, in 1992 the Club purchased a new Motorola MSR 2000 repeater, a new repeater controller, Station Master Antenna, and DB Products DB-4062/6 cavity set. The total raised and the final cost for all this equipment was over \$12,000 dollars. That MSR2000 Repeater has been on the air 24 hours a day 7 days a week for over 15 years without a transmitter failure.

Another repeater with a long history in the area was the 146.28/88 machine put on the air in Salem in 1973 by Al Dyson, W4PDL. ◇



On the Blue Ridge Parkway

Thanks to Linda Lucas N4LCL, Phil Sweeney W4VPI, Floyd Ponton KB4WYW and Rick Crutchfield K4TFC for their help with VE testing. Thanks also to John Anderson K4JKA and Ken Wieringo N4LYO for handling the Emcom tests.

**January 20, 2008**

Charles Bruington, WB4FLM of Rocky Mount VA upgraded to Extra Class.

Randall Glover, KJ4BPL (formerly KA5WMU) has rejoined Amateur Radio after a few years away. He earned his General license missing only one question between the Tech and General tests. Congratulations and welcome back.

Thanks to Bob Yates KJ3Y, Rick Crutchfield K4TFC, Leroy Maxey AG4RW, Linda Lucas N4LCL, John Anderson K4JKA, Dave Miller KS4JB, Charlie Draper AB4SK, Ken Wieringo N4LYO, and Phil Sweeney W4VPI for helping with this Exam Session. ◇

**Blue Ridge Bonanza**

*By Editor*

The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club sponsored the Blue Ridge Bonanza on September 21 and 22, 2007. Five other clubs including Lynchburg, Covington, Franklin County, put 13 stations in operation along the parkway in Virginia and North Carolina. Locations included, Apple Orchard Mountain, Peaks of Otter, Explore Park, Groundhog Mountain, Fancy Gap, Blue Ridge Music Center, and Cumberland Knob. ◇

## **RVARC and RARC (Rockbridge) Support the 2007 Artie Levin Memorial Bike Ride.**

*By Gordon Stobbelaar K8KIS*

On September 23, 2007 the following six mobile stations supported the annual BRBC (Blue Ridge Bike Club) 2007 Artie Levin Memorial Ride.:

KE4AAR,	Skip
AG4RW,	Leroy
KB4KOC,	George
KI4QMF,	Joyce
KI4QME,	Don
K8KIS,	Gordon

The stations acted as SAG (Support and Gear) vehicles. SAG support was given to three course routes: the 100-mile loop (Buchanan – Goshen - Lexington-Buchanan), the 70-mile loop (Buchanan – Effinger – Denmark – Lexington - Buchanan), and the 50-mile loop (Buchanan-Effinger-Plank Road-Buchanan). 240 bikers were supported as they left the starting gate at 8:00am. The final bikers returned at 6:00pm.

The amateur-radio support is particularly important. There are many cell phone dead spots along the route. The Rockbridge repeater, 147.33 MHz, is the only dependable source of emergency communications during the event.

In addition to emergency communications, the SAG vehicles carried water, first aid supplies, tire tubes and pumps. This year, temperatures rose into the 90's and SAG services were needed even more than in past years.

Leroy, AG4RW, rescued one damsel in distress after her bike left the road and into a ditch. There were many instances of assistance recorded and many "thank you's" from the bikers for our quick and efficient support. We already have requests for our participation next year.

Money raised from the event is always returned to our local community. This year \$1000 was donated to the West End Center for Youth in Roanoke. ♦



The Bennetts – see VE Report



Marion Roark and "Colonial Winter" by P. Buckley Moss



Ray, AB4YZ, shares some "war stories"

**More 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photos**

## Vinton School Radio Clubs Recognized by School Board

By David R. Jones, Jr.

The William Byrd High School and the William Byrd Middle School Amateur Radio Clubs, their members and volunteer advisors were recognized by the Roanoke County, Virginia School Board at the Board's October 24, 2007 meeting. The two Clubs were acknowledged for their successful programs in educating students about radio, electronics and communications and for their two First Place wins in the October 2006 School Club Roundup and second place finishes in the February 2007 Roundup. The High School operates as WB4HS and the Middle School as K4WBM. Both schools are recipients of ARRL Big Project grants.

School Board Chairman Marion Roark welcomed the volunteers and student representative to the meeting. Michael Stovall, board member from the schools' district, presented the first place certificates. Present representing the Middle School were Principal Janet Womack and club advisors Doug Moore - K4WVS and Charlie Draper - AB4SK. From the High School were Principal Dr. Richard Turner - KZ4VT, advisors Ron Ramsey - AB4A and Phil Roark - K4WFO along with student club president Catherine Jones - KI4EVA. Jones, a High School senior, was among the first group of students in the Middle School program to get their licenses while in Middle School. ♦



Roanoke County School Board Chairman Marion Roark acknowledges the ham radio programs at William Byrd High School and Middle School and how they promote experience in communications, electronics and world geography. Being recognized for their volunteer service are HS Advisor Phil Roark - K4WFO, HS Senior and Club President Catherine Jones - KI4EVA, HS Advisor Ron Ramsey - AB4A, MS Advisors Doug Moore - K4WVS and Charlie Draper - AB4SK, Michael Stovall - School Board Representative for William Byrd district, Janet Womack - Principal at the Middle School and Richard Turner - KZ4VT principal at the High School.

*Photo by David Jones-N4JED*



## **RVARC Christmas Dinner**

*By Editor*

We met at the Roanoker Restaurant on Saturday night, December 1<sup>st</sup> for our annual Christmas Dinner. Twenty-eight members and guests attended.

Outgoing President, Floyd Ponton, KB4WYW, passed out awards recognizing contributions to the club in 2007 and years past.

A fine time was had by all. ◇

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- School Club Roundup Feb. 11 thru 15
- Virginia QSO Party Mar. 15 – 16
- Kite Festival Mar. 19
- RVARC Auction Apr. 26

**CU at the club meetings at 8 PM on:**

**February 8**

**February 22**

**March 14**

**March 28**

**And on the net every Wednesday evening at 8 PM, 146.985 – , 107.2 Hz tone.**

**RVARC – W4CALOG  
P.O. Box 2002  
Roanoke, VA 24009**