



W4CALOG



Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club – since 1932

Roanoke, Virginia

March/April 2008

Volume 5

Issue 2

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club
W4CA
P.O. Box 2002
Roanoke, Virginia 24009-2002

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
540.387.9824
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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

ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club

Annual Club Auction Fundraiser

When: Saturday, April 26, 2008

Where: Roanoke Valley Red Cross Chapter Building

352 Church Avenue

Roanoke, Virginia 24016

Time: Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and Auction starts at 9:00 a.m.

Admission is Free and anyone can bring Ham Radio items for consignment sale and should be there at 8:00 a.m. to check in their items for sale. All items sold on consignment will be subject to 10% of the sale price going to the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. All Donations are very much appreciated and welcome. Anything that is brought to sell that is not sold must be carried home. Nothing can be left at the Red Cross Building. As always, thank you for your help in raising funds for the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club.

If you looking for a good deal on an HF or VHF rig, on an antenna, or other ham gear, this is the place to be. The equipment from two or more estates will be offered for sale.

Food will be available at reasonable prices and again, Admission is Free. For more information contact Ron Ramsey at 540-774-9474 or e-mail at AB4A@arrl.net, Come join the fun at the W4CA/Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club Auction on April 26, 2008. ◇

By Jerry Haislip, K1SO



The President's Corner

Ron Ramsey, AB4A, President, Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club

Calling all club members, we need radio operators.

The VA QSO party is now history and a fun time was had by all. Some stations operated from home, and some were mobile stations, but the main thrust of our entry was the club station at Douthat State Park. We had the largest turnout ever at the park, but we were hard-pressed to have enough operators to keep the station on the air for the QSO party. A lot of planning and work went in to this event and I want to thank everyone involved.

The club's FT-990 and two different antenna systems were installed and tested prior to the event in one of the most beautiful rustic locations in the state. Along with a computer system to log the event, so all that was needed was to sit down in front of the station. Why didn't we have people standing in line to operate? For the ones who did not want to spend the night, the park is located a short drive up 220 North. As a club, we chose Bath County, because it's fairly rare. From this point of view, we as a Virginia club feel obligated to keep it on the air for the whole event. This is a very low pressure, fun event with a very easy QSO exchange. It is an ideal first event for anyone starting out operating the HF bands with a bunch of great operators to get you started with first-class equipment. Out of 137 families, we need to find out how to get them in front of the station, so some the operators will not have to operate three or four hours straight. There are a lot of techs and hams without access to HF equipment to operate special events. This is the reason the club participates in special events for our club members to be able to operate the equipment. Some of these events take a large amount of timing and planning but all rely on the assistance of club members to make them a success.

The following special events are coming up: IIT Scout Day May 10, Festival in the Park May 24-25 and the biggie, Field Day June 28-29. We need radio operators for all of these events.

IIT Scout Day located at IIT Plant located just off of Plantation Road in Hollins. We operate from 8:30am to 2:30pm, teaching Radio merit badge to Boy and Girl Scouts. They need to make a contact on HF and the repeater as one of their requirements.

Festival in the Park is our best opportunity to present amateur radio to the public. We operate the club station under a pop-up tent at the base of the flagpole, which we use as an antenna support. We operate as a special event station Saturday and Sunday, and explain how ham radio works.

Field Day again will be at Crampton State Park (AB4YZ QTH) in Botetourt County. We need every club member's participation. We have a special need for CW operators.

We are going to have to cancel New England QSO Party / 7th Area QSO Party on May the third and fourth, because Ray is going to be out of town and there is a lack of operators.

See you on the air, 73 Ron ◊

School Club Roundup, Feb. 2008

By Charlie Draper, AB4SK

Members of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club now support the ham clubs of three schools in the valley. The original two were the William Byrd High School, WB4HS, and William Byrd Middle School, K4WBM. They are now joined by Hidden Valley High School, N4HVH. All three schools participated in the School Club Roundup contest February 11 through 15.

As things seem to go with any amateur radio activity, Murphy was lurking in the corner. Participants only had four days to operate because schools closed on Friday that week. Propagation was poor to awful. A severe wind storm the prior weekend disabled one WB4HS's antennas. WB4HS also had equipment trouble. The tuning knob encoder on the IC-746 failed on Monday. The antennas were fixed, a backup radio was used, and the WB4HS members made a good showing. Phil Roark, K4WFO, Dave Kinsey, KS4BO, Ron Ramsey, AB4A, David Jones, N4JED, Woody Thompson, W4TU, and Linda Lucas, N4LCL, assisted the students.

A total of 10 students operated the WB4HS station. Three have their own amateur licensee; Catherine Jones, KI4EVA, Tyler Shell, KI4VQV, and Taylor Thurston, KI4UBA. The Principle, Richard Turner holds KZ4VT and one teacher, Pat Smith holds KI4ICW.

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WB4HS summary:

Operating Hours: 23.97
Voice Contacts: 306
Digital Contacts: 11
Score: 56,416
39 States Contacted:
23 School Clubs Contacted

Things went relatively smooth at K4WBM (unlike last time). We couldn't do anything about the propagation or the missing Friday but we still were able to make a very respectable score. Twenty-seven students were exposed to ham radio. All but one made a contact. We used PSK31 this contest. It helped our score a lot. Six RVARC club members coached the kids: John and Karen Anderson, K4JKA and KI4GOT; Dave Miller, KS4JB; Doug Moore, K4WVS; Coy Weaver, W4GMX; and Charlie Draper, AB4SK.

Faculty leaders of the club are teachers Steve Sizemore, KI4DKH and Jenny Recchtman. Jenny is not yet licensed.

K4WBM summary:

Operating Hours: 22.54
Voice Contacts: 287
Digital Contacts: 37
Score: 74,005
40 States Contacted:
26 School Clubs Contacted:

N4HVH only operated one day. They worked 17 states. Ron, AB4A and two other hams assisted the kids. Wait 'till next year when they get their permanent setup. ◇



Photo by David Jones, N4JED

School club president Catherine Jones (KI4EVA) operates WB4HS while club member Brice Aker logs contacts for the William Byrd High School Amateur Radio Club during the February 2008 School Club Roundup.



The K4WBM station ready for the School Club Roundup



Timmy Ransom runs a contact from K4WBM while Josh Parks logs. Charlie and Doug look on.



K4WBM "Brag Board"
Photos by Coy Weaver, W4GMX

VE/CE TEST SESSION REPORT

By Ray Pillow KK4HR

February 17, 2008: Twelve applicants took 25 tests resulting in three upgrades and nine new Hams.

Claudio DA Silva KJ4BKW of Blacksburg upgraded to General.

Dennis Hartman KJ4CGQ from Elliston passed two tests to come away a General.

Gwendolyn Bruington KA4USI of Rocky Mount upgraded to General.

Paul Williamson KJ4CGP of Troutville earned his Technician license.

Myra Roach KJ4CGR of Buchanan passed two tests to become a General.

Philip Roach KJ4CGO also from Buchanan earned his Technician license.

John Walke KJ4CGN of Rocky Mount came away a Technician.

John Snyder KJ4CGM also of Rocky Mount earned his Technician license.

Harry Farley KJ4CGL from Vinton left with his Technician license.

Brian Brindle KG4NIQ of Roanoke upgraded to General.

Joseph Shaw KJ4CGJ of Blacksburg earned his Technician license.

Lloyd Bible KJ2CGK of Bedford earned his Technician license.

Congratulations to all and thanks again to all the VEs who made this a great test session: Bob KJ3Y, Leroy AG4RW, John K4JKA, Charlie AB4SK, Ken N4LYO, Phil W4VPI, Floyd KB4WYW and Fred K4HVB.

March 16, 2008: Thanks to Leroy AG4RW, Ken N4LYO, Bob KJ3Y, Dave KS4JB and Phil W4VPI for helping with the March test session. It was small but netted three upgrades. Congratulations to all

Gary Yohe AJ4GL (formerly WA3WVY) of Roanoke upgraded to Amateur Extra class.

Theron Flannery KF4ONR of Roanoke upgraded to General.

David Deel KF4WWY of Blue Ridge upgraded to General.
◇

Virginia QSO Party

Charlie Draper, AB4SK

Over a dozen club members met at Douthat State Park on March 15 and 16. They rented cabins, put up antennas and put Bath County on the air in the Virginia QSO Party. Ray, AB4YZ, reports that W4CA made over 600 contacts and scored 103,000 points with the club's Yaesu FT-990. The main station was in the Ponton/Crampton cabin

Dave, KS4BO, and Phil, K4WFO put W4CA on digital mode, PSK31, from Douthat. I also tried digital from my home station in Salem. I think we all concluded that the PSK31 crowd is not State QSO Party literate.

Others put portable stations on the air at Douthat. John, K4JKA erected his portable G5RV and operated 20M for a bit on Saturday morning with his Kenwood TS-50S before the contest started. John reports that Fred, K4HVB, and Brian, KG4NIQ also set up stations.

Terry, KI4HDJ, tells me that W4CA operated until the contest closed at 10 PM Sunday. She said they took a break, though, for a steak cookout Sunday evening. Boy, am I sorry I missed that.

Ron, AB4A and Linda, N4LCL operated rover. They each had 482 contacts and scored over 31,000 points.

I was not able to attend but I operated the party from my home station in Salem. I didn't do as well as the Douthat group, probably because I didn't work as hard. I did make a little over 250 contacts, including W4CA. I scored about 21,000 points.

A great event! I look forward to next year. ◇





Douthat, March 2008

Photos by Leroy Maxey, AG4RW

Have you noticed the date on your mailing label? It shows the date your annual dues should be paid. Remember, your dues support the many activities of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. Every month our Treasurer pays the tower rental and phone bills on our 2 meter and 70 cm repeaters. Your dues pay the costs of repair and insurance on those repeaters and our other equipment. The dues support the many club activities you enjoy. Please keep your dues current.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Kite Festival Apr. 19
- RVARC Auction Apr. 26
- ITT Scout Day May 10
- Festival in the Park May 24-25
- Field Day June 28 & 29



CU at the Club Meetings, 8:00 PM on:

- April 25 (Note: Come early and help set up for the auction)
- May 9
- May 23
- June 14

Don't forget the net, Wednesdays at 8 PM.

RVARC – W4CLOG
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