



W4CALOG



Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club – since 1932

Roanoke, Virginia

May/June 2008

Volume 5

Issue 3

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: Russ Abbey KG4MAV
Honorary RVARC Chef:
Bob Anderson K4UMK
Membership: Fred Krack K4HVB
Club Call Trustee: Ray Crampton AB4YZ
Log Editors: Charlie Draper AB4SK
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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 its 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.com

Amateur Radio Field Day 2008

Charlie Draper, AB4SK & Ron Ramsey, AB4A

The last weekend in June means **Field Day**. Field Day is the largest annual on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. Thousands of stations all over the US and Canada will be competing for the most contacts. It gives all of us, the old timer and the newcomer, the chance to share and learn the broad range of modes and technologies we find in our hobby.

We will be running 3A this year. This means we will have three HF stations plus a GOTA (get-on-the-air) station and a VHF/UHF/Satellite station in operation.

The GOTA station provides the opportunity for new hams, hams that have not been on the air for at least a year, or non-hams to experience HF. It's a great way to be introduced to the hobby. We have invited students from the radio clubs in the three schools the RVARC supports to attend. We also want all of our Technicians to operate. We hope you will keep the GOTA station busy. Contact Ron Ramsey, AB4A, and let him know you want to operate (or it's ok if you just show up).

Where: *See map Page 2.*

When: **Friday, June 27**, arrive anytime to set up campers

Friday, June 27 2:00pm, start setting up field day site

- Put up the 80 meter and 40 meter dipoles
- Put up the tower and beam
- Run the power cables
- Run the computer network cables
- Check out the radios

Friday, June 27, 7:00pm dinner and short program meeting

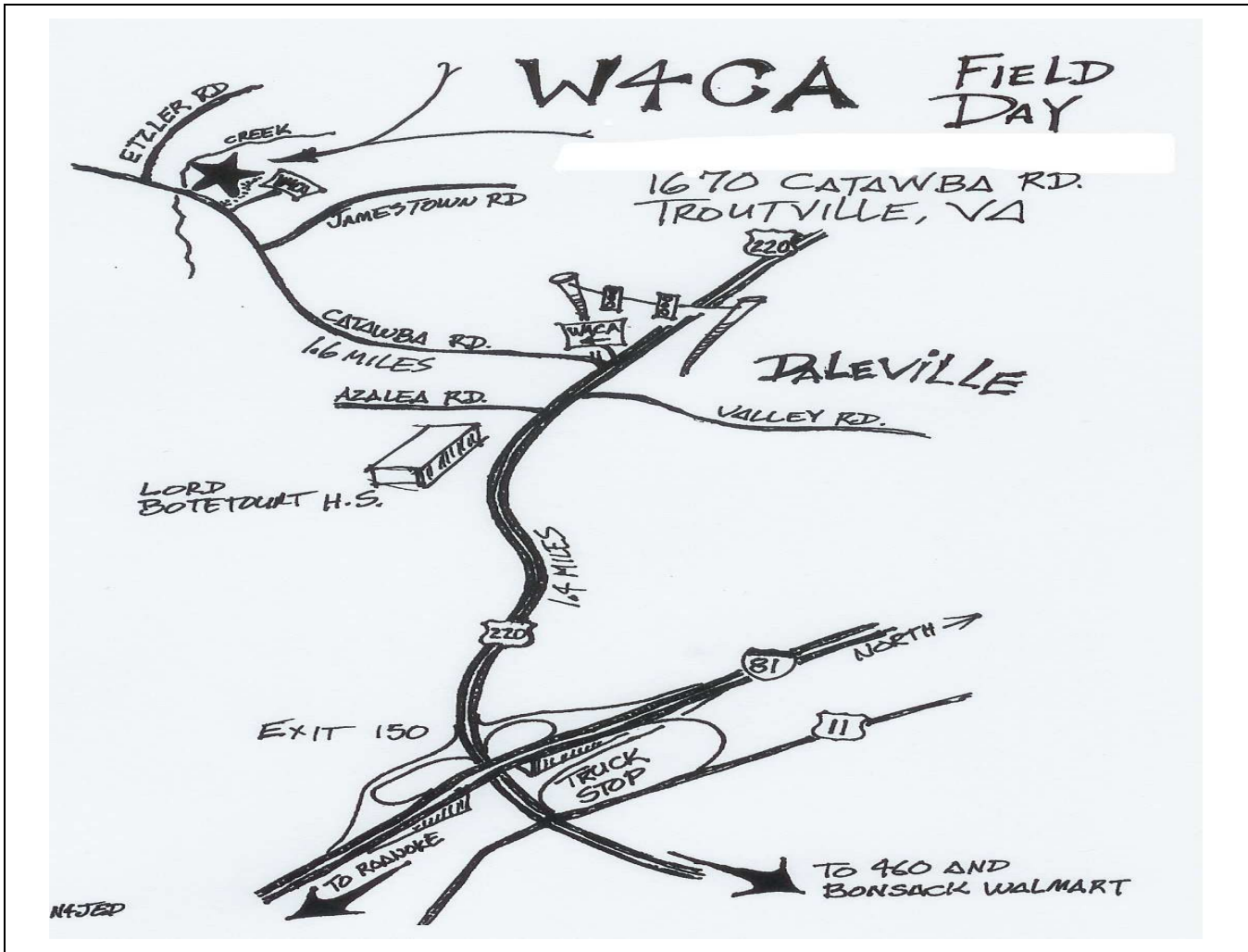
Saturday, June 28, 2 PM until Sunday June 29, 2PM - ON THE AIR.

Sunday afternoon, June 29 – NEED EVERYONE FOR TEAR-DOWN.

We need lots of operators, both phone and, especially CW, to keep the stations on the air around the clock. Come out and help.

Field Day means **food**. See the menu and prices on **Page 2**. We need to know how many plan to eat so let us know. Get your tickets from Floyd, KB4WYW, Friday afternoon during setup. Come and share in the fun. ◇

Editors note: See Jerry Haislip article on Page 3 for more Field Day information



RVARC 2008 Field Day Menu – on site Submitted by Phil & Marion Roark

The W4CA Field Day site is the Crampton's home, Ray, AB4YZ, and Diane, KG4HOA. We jokingly call it the "Crampton State Park". It's a beautiful property and we are grateful that Ray and Diane allow us use it year after year.

Thanks to Dave Jones, N4JED, for the map

Friday Dinner - \$5

Fried chicken
Green beans
Potatoes
Tossed salad
Deviled eggs
Watermelon
Rolls
Cakes and cookies
Iced tea and sodas

Saturday/Sunday Breakfast - \$3

Bacon
Sausage gravy
Biscuits
Scrambled eggs
Cantaloupe
Tomatoes
Assorted Jellies
Assorted Juices
Coffee

Saturday Lunch - \$3

Sub sandwich
Potato chips
Watermelon
Cakes and cookies
Iced tea and sodas

Saturday Dinner - \$5

Hamburgers and hotdogs
Potato salad
Baked beans
Macaroni salad, etc
Drinks

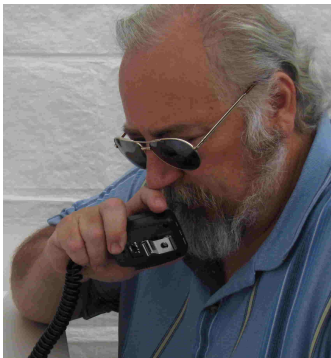
Sunday Lunch - \$3

Surprise!

One \$12 ticket covers all. See Floyd, KB4WYW, Friday night.

The President's Corner

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



Ham radio clubs operate to meet the needs and interests of the amateur radio community. *How do we do this? We do this by listening to the members of the community.*

Our recent club auction was attended by many hams, both RVARC members and other hams from the area. We heard the following comments:

- RVARC is a clique that prevents some from being included or accepted.
- We behaved coldly towards them to the point that they felt shunned.
- We take an attitude that we are superior to other hams.

We are the fourth oldest club in the state of Virginia (Richmond, Shenandoah Valley, Rappahannock, and RVARC). We have every right to be proud of our club and its rich history. But *it's extremely important that we make everyone feel welcome*, whether a brand-new individual seeking a radio licensing class or one of our older distinguished hams who is returning after a long absence.

RVARC is once again listed as a Special Service Club. These are clubs that go the extra mile to provide on-going training and support for the benefit of the amateur radio community. We have done this by actively pursuing all aspects of Amateur Radio: Hamfest, maintaining and financing the repeater systems, emergency communication programs, sponsoring ham radio classes for new and upgrading hams, VE Testing, School Club Support, Public Relations and the most important Operating Activities. There are 270 club licenses listed for Virginia of these about 100 are active clubs, 53 are ARRL clubs and only three are Special Service Clubs (Rappahannock Valley, Woodbridge Wireless & Roanoke Valley).

Most of us do this because it is fun. We need to make sure our club meetings and activities are a fun place for hams to go and they will return to them again and again.

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Ham Radio Operators Test for Emergency

By Jerry Haislip, K1SO

The fourth full weekend in June yearly brings local and United States wide Ham Radio operators together to test communication skills and use their training to contact, pass messages and information under simulated emergency conditions. Beginning in 1933 as an event to test field preparedness it has become an annual operation each year. The purpose remains the same, "To demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergency situations."

Emergency communication is part of the Licensed Amateur Radio Service that keeps the hobby alive and well. Whether it is a major hurricanes, a tornado in eastern Virginia, earthquakes in China or a tsunami, the Ham Radio community worldwide gets information out of remote isolated areas. In some cases these areas can be New York City, where cell phones fail because of overload. The example of Hams in Action was during the recent hurricane season 2005, where major damage to property and loss of lives, caused local, State and Federal communication issues. The recent tornadoes throughout the mid west and even in the Virginia area Amateur Radio was there doing a special job. If there is a need for communication, Ham Radio will be there!

On June 28 and 29, 2008, local radio operators from the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club will gather in Botetourt County, just off Catawba Road (1670 Catawba Road) to test their skills during a 24 hour event. The public is welcome and demonstrations of the many types of radio communications will be featured for viewing. Local citizens and members of local governments are also invited to learn more about the Amateur Radio Service and will be allowed to make a contact with other emergency stations located within in the United States. The exercise is referred to as "**Field Day**" and takes place annually in June. Sponsorship of the local event is by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. ◊

2008 DAYTON HAMVENTION

By Phil Roark, K4WFO

The Dayton HamVention is attended by amateur radio operators from around the world. Many from the Roanoke area attended this year. Eight of us joined the group on the NC4BL Express. Bill Lundy NC4BL is a professional charter coach driver. Each year he takes a busload of hams to Dayton, Ohio for the annual hamfest. Bill makes all the arrangements for travel, lodging, local transportation, and restaurants. The 2008 group included 25 hams from North Carolina and Virginia.

Cont. Page 4

The meetings are kept short and to the point with informative and fun things on the program. Some business must be conducted during the meeting, but the E-board and officers do most of the planning and detail work.

The members must do everything and these volunteers are responsible for every club activity and are extremely important. The ability of a club to tackle a wide variety of programs and projects depends upon having enough volunteers. Field Day will be here before we know it. Friday 6/27 at 2 p.m. we will start setting up the antennas and have a meeting about 7 p.m. with dinner. We need everyone's participation. Saturday 6/28 at 2 p.m. we will start operating three stations on CW & phone for 24 hours solid. There will be a GOTA station (get on the air) for all the new operators and technicians. We need operators all night, and especially CW. ◇

Annual Club Auction

Charlie Draper, AB4SK

The RVARC Club Auction was held on April 26, 2008 at the Red Cross on Church Avenue. If you missed it, you missed a great event.

There were three estates for sale plus many more items. One was the estate of Mike Marsh, K4MAR. Mike passed away in July of last year and his widow, Helen, donated all of Mike's gear to the club. We deeply appreciate the gift.

I don't have a count on the number of attendees but the room was very crowded. The breakfast and lunch were great, as usual.

RVARC's share of the proceeds was approximately \$2400. Thanks to all those who worked the auction and all those who attended and made it a success. ◇



The trip started on Thursday when we met the coach in Ft. Chiswell, VA at the McDonald's. This year we departed the McDonald's at 10:30am, stopped in Hurricane, WV for lunch, stopped again at WV/OH border, and arrived at the University of Dayton apartments at 5:30pm.

The Roanoke group included Dave KS4BO, Phil K4WFO, Marion KJ4EGX, Ray KK4HR, Ron KG4KRB, Brian KG4NIQ, John W4IP, and Fred K4QXS. The accommodations this year were three bedroom suites for six people with large bathroom, kitchen and common dining/sitting area.

After getting checked in and unpacked, the group traveled to the local pizza restaurant for dinner. Included in the trip was a stop at a local Quick-Mart for those last minute items. By 8:30pm we were back at the apartment.

Now is the time to double-check the list. A handheld radio, snacks, water, money, backpack, comfortable shoes, rainwear, hat, admission ticket with necklace holder, and a plan are all necessary items.

On Friday we get transportation to the campus dining hall for breakfast, then on to the Hara Arena for the hamfest. For those people that desire a quick visit to the Air Force Museum, the bus goes first to Hara, then to the Museum until lunch and then back to the hamfest by 1pm.

The bus drops us at the main entrance to the Hara Arena and then sits in the nearby bus parking lot. Bill is available to open the bus any time you need to load goodies into the luggage bay. While we wait for the 9 am opening there is a chance to peruse the lobby and pick up information booklets such as the Dayton Hamvention guide. The guidebook is necessary as there are 500 vendor booths, 3000 flea market spaces, and simultaneous forums in 4 rooms all day.

Tables in the food court provide a meeting place for our suite-mates at lunchtime. Taking our own lunch and drink saves both time and money. The deli sandwiches carried from the U of Dayton dining hall cost only \$3.

At 5pm, we meet at the bus for trip back to apartment, stopping for dinner on the way. By 8:30pm we are back at the apartment.

On Saturday, we do it all again. This is the last night however, and now comes the packing. On Sunday morning following breakfast at the UD dining hall again, we board the bus for the return trip to Ft. Chiswell. Along the way we stop at Tamarack near Beckley, WV for lunch. The bus arrives in Ft. Chiswell at 2:30 pm. We retrieve our cars and head to Roanoke. What a great trip!

Comments from members of the Roanoke group follow:

- Phil K4WFO: This is my fifth trip to Dayton on the coach. This year I concentrated on talking with technical people at the different vendor booths. I bought three new radios to for door prizes at the Roanoke hamfest in August. The forums on lightning protection and ICOM DSTAR were informative and useful. I had a close look at Flex Radio model 5000 software defined radio, TenTec Orion VII, the Elecraft K3, the Yaesu FT-DX9000 and the Icom IC-7700. Each is an impressive radio.
- Marion KJ4EGX: Secretly passed the Technician test on first try.
- Dave KS4BO: Bought another HP counter.
- Ray KK4HR: Found the perfect antenna
- Ron KG4KRB: Bought a gift for his wife and several new antennas.
- Brian KG4NIQ:: Claims to have covered the entire flea market twice!
- John W4IP, Fred K4QXS, and I visited the Air Force Museum; my third visit. I have yet to see it all. See every plane the Air Force has ever developed. Go through all of the Air Force Ones from Roosevelt's. ◇



Doc and Phil discuss their purchases



LeRoy and Floyd work the register



Lot's of Goodies

ITT Scout Day

By Ron Ramsey, AB4A

ITT Scout Day was the best yet. Over 600 scouts attended. RVARC presented radio merit badge to 108 Boy Scouts. Our club participated in ITT Scout Day since it began. We are the only sponsor there every year. Radio merit badge is one of the most popular merit badges offered at the ITT Scout Day. 20% of the scouts attended our presentation.

We would like to thank; Linda N4LCL, Ron AB4A, Fletch K4DCF, Karen KI4GOT, John K4JKA, Phil K4WFO, Ray AB4YZ and Winston W4IXC for their hard work and to thank all club members that helped us by making contacts with the scouts. Scout Day requires two class sessions, and two on-the-air contacts. Two separate class areas had to be established and two complete VHF/HF stations had to be set up in the field. The club vertical was mounted to the chain link fence. John, K4JKA's, free standing trailer hitch mount both drew a lot of attention from scout masters. In the future we may have to limit this activity to 100 scouts. We were hard-pressed to present a quality program.

VE/CE Test Session Report

Ray Pillow, KK4HR

William Byrd HS, 5/27/08 & Hidden Valley HS, 6/2/08

Bill Reed, W4PLS of Roanoke upgraded to Amateur Extra. Ryan Letchford, KJ4EMQ of Roanoke earned his Technician license.

Thanks to Bob KJ3Y, Dave KS4BO, Charlie AB4SK and Phil K4WFO for running this special test session at William Byrd High School.

Joshua Whitlow KI4HDI of Salem upgraded to General.

Thanks to Bob KJ3Y, Linda N4LCL and Karen KI4GOT for taking care of this special test session at Hidden Valley High School. ◇

Festival in the Park

By *Charlie Draper*

The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club activated our traditional Memorial Day Special Event from Elmwood Park in Roanoke. The weather was absolutely beautiful, plenty warm but not hot and no rain.

Ron, AB4A, and Linda, N4LCL, set up the station on Saturday morning. We all owe them a vote of thanks for their effort to make the event a success.

We used the club's FT-990 and G5RV antenna. The G5RV was hung on the flagpole as usual. Most operation was on 40 meter SSB. John, K4JKA, set up his digital station on 20 meters using the Hustler antenna. More than a dozen RVARC members participated during the two-day event.

We were sorry that Fred, K4HVB, couldn't attend. He had to work both days. He'll be saddened to learn that the llamas were close by.

A major goal of the event is to expose the public to Amateur Radio. People stopped by the station and asked questions. A few were hams, most were not. We passed out all of the club flyers the first day, Saturday. Next year we need to bring more.

We worked 260 stations in 37 states and a Canadian province on phone. John worked about 30 stations on PSK. Ray, AB4YZ, should have plenty of QSLs to respond to. A fine time was had by all. ◇

Scouts from page 5

While this activity does not give us any members, it demonstrates and introduces amateur radio to a large active group of youth. Ron, AB4A, and Ray, AB4YZ, got their start in ham radio through the scouts. At the end of the day, Phil and Ron's voices were both gone. Linda had 84 HF & 2M contacts in her log. This is a great opportunity for our club, but we are going to need even more support from club members in the future. ◇

COMING UP

- **FIELD DAY** - June 27/29 See Page 1
- **Mill Mountain Star Picnic** – July 12
- **RVARC Hamfest** - August 2
- **Blue Ridge Bonanza** - September 27/28
- **VE/CE Test Sessions** – 3rd Sunday of each month except June and December
- **Next Club Meetings:**
 - June 27 at Field Day site.
 - July 11
 - July 25
 - August 8
 - August 22
 - September 12

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. ◇

Festival in the Park 2008





MOSS RAFFLE

In order to fund door prizes and bingo prizes for the Hamfest on August 2nd, we are raffling "**Colonial Winter**" by P. Buckley Moss. The print is a very rare #13. The print was the 2006 Williamsburg Convention print.

The print has been generously donated and all proceeds are applied to the Hamfest. Tickets are \$1.00 per ticket or a

book of six tickets for \$5.00. We will draw the winning ticket at the Hamfest on August 2nd.

By Marion Roark, KJ4EGX

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