

W4CALOG



Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club – since 1932

Roanoke, Virginia

July/August 2008

Volume 3

Issue 4

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
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 the 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

W4CA Field Day, 2008

By Charlie Draper, AB4SK

The last full weekend in June! What is there for a ham to do but take his or her gear out to a grassy field, fire up generators, swat mosquitoes, dodge poison ivy, eat well, and make contacts? That is the ARRL Field Day. That is what 61 members and guests of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club did on June 28 and 29. W4CA operated from *Crampton State Park*, i.e., Ray, AB4YZ, and Diane, KG4HOA's beautiful home in Troutville.



Preparation started on Friday which coincided with our normal meeting time. We had a short business meeting, put up antennas, and had a wonderful fried chicken dinner in the field. Much remained to be done for Saturday morning: Generator installation, power runs, logging computer network, etc. All was done in time to get on the air at 2PM.

We ran 3A this year. We had three HF stations plus a GOTA (get-on-the-air) station and a VHF/UHF/Satellite station up and running. We had dipole antennas for 80 and 40 meters, a tri-band beam used for 20 and 10, beams for 6 and 2 and a multi-band vertical for the GOTA station.

We didn't break any records this year. We made a total of 1701 contacts, only 87 on CW. (We get a 2X multiplier for CW contacts.) I feel though that it was one of the better Field Days I've attended. Most people I spoke with said they had a fine time.

LOG SUMMARY											TOTAL
BAND	80	40	20	15	10	6	2	Sat.	GOTA	QSOs	POINTS
CW QSOs	26		61							87	174
PHONE QSOs	156	497	567	67	30	34	3	1	259	1614	1614
CLAIMED SCORE											3576
BONUS POINTS											1390

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ron Ramsey AB4A



Ron Ramsey, AB4A, coached the GOTA station. Nine operators made a total of 259 contacts. Eight of these operators were unlicensed. We hope this inspires them to get

involved in the hobby.

One of the high points of the affair was the food. In addition to the Friday evening chicken dinner, Marion Roark served two full breakfasts with biscuits, sausage gravy, bacon and eggs, and the works. Saturday lunch featured sub sandwiches. John and Karen Anderson cooked hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings for Saturday dinner. Several cakes and cookies appeared on the table and were well received. In total, 168 meals were served over the weekend. We worked hard but I don't think anyone lost any weight.

Publicity was good this year. Our leader, Ron, was interviewed on-camera by Channel 10. The interview was broadcast Sunday evening. Ron, as usual, represented the hobby well. Articles about the Field Day appeared in the Vinton Messenger, the Roanoke Star Sentinel, and the Botetourt News.◊

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club participates in many different activities. Some are mainly for our club members, while others are for the amateur radio community and the general public.

Festival in the Park gave many of our club members a great chance to operate the club station in a low-pressure environment. We also presented amateur radio to the public.

We participated in Field Day in June. While our score was still low, the number of club members helping increased by 325% over last year. The camaraderie of the group was really great. We kept the transmitters on the air almost the whole event, more importantly, reviewing the pictures of Field Day, everyone was smiling and having a good time. The kids were all running around and enjoying themselves. It didn't hurt that the food was great.

We just finished doing the Roanoke Valley Hamfest August 2nd. The number of club members again increased, as did our attendance through the gate. This is a very strong plus considering all the other hamfests have been down because of the price of gas. Many of the area hams complimented us on the hamfest.



John, K4JKA Operates 80 meters at Field Day

The Blue Ridge Bonanza will be our next event. It is quite different from our other activities, which were on our own territory. It involves setting up 13 stations from mile post 0 in Virginia to mile post 406 in North Carolina along the Blue Ridge Parkway. This one will involve some travel time and help from numerous other radio clubs. It still is a great operating opportunity for our members, and I hope many of you will visit the stations and help operate.

Let's switch frequencies! Summer has been busy for all of us. We have entertained our children or grandchildren most of the summer. I am just returning from Texas, (that is why I wasn't at the hamfest), and had a ball playing with my grandbabies. In a few weeks they will return to school and we will settle in for another year of ham radio activities. By the time you receive this, the YLs will have met for their first meeting on August 22nd, to try to bolster female interest in our club. I hope this turns out to be an asset for the club. This meeting was for all young ladies, whether licensed or not, to try to make them more comfortable when associating with amateur radio activity.

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KI4EVA Receives Scholarship

By Jerry Haislip, K1SO

Catherine Jones, KI4EVA, daughter of David Jones, N4JED, received the QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarship of \$1000. She will be attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk in the fall of 2008.



Catherine earned her Technician License while a member of the William Byrd Middle School Amateur Radio Club. At William Byrd High School, she was active in WB4HS ham club and, in her senior year, was the club President.

We, her fellow RVARC members, congratulate Catherine and wish her continued academic success. ♦

VE Test Results

By Ray Pillow, KK4HR

The July 17 test session attracted only one applicant who was unsuccessful. The session at the Roanoke Valley Hamfest on August 2, 2008 was another matter. Fourteen applicants came out of the test session with a new or upgraded license:

- Shaun Bennett, KJ4FTQ of Hardy passed Technician Exam.
- James Dearing Jr., KJ4FTR from Boones Mill passed Technician.
- Robert Bryden, N4VSI of Moneta upgraded to Extra Class.
- Our esteemed Net Manager, Russ Abbey, KG4MAV of Check, Virginia upgraded to General.
- Thomas Witten III, KD4CXN from Roanoke came away a General.
- Thomas Witten IV, KI4ZAD of Roanoke left a General.
- Stephanie Via, KJ4FTS of Roanoke earned her Technician License.

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September 12th will be an Open House, showcasing Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. It will be held at Red Cross, from 7pm to 9pm. We will need our members to bring some light refreshments. The only business will be Va. State Senator Ralph Smith presenting our state proclamation, if his schedule allows. The legislature was in session when we had our 75th celebration. This is scheduled to be a social event.

73 and hope to meet you on the air. ♦

Roanoke Valley Hamfest, 2008

By Phil Roark, K4WFO, Hamfest Chairman, and your editor

The annual Roanoke Valley Hamfest was held on August 2 at the William Byrd High School in Vinton. Our Hamfest Chairman, Phil Roark, reports that all attending deemed it very successful. Some of us were worried that high gas prices would restrict attendance but Phil thought differently. Several days before the hamfest, he told your editor that he suspected that high gas prices would work in our favor. Hams that might, in the past, skip our event and travel to larger events, would stay closer to home. Phil was right. The ticket sales were up 10% over last year!

Preliminary results show we sold 300 admission tickets (+10% from 2007), 33 inside table tickets, and 23 tailgate tickets. Phil estimates that the club will net +/- \$450 profit from the event, again better than last year. The final number awaits our treasurer, Floyd, KB4WYW, getting all of the expenses in and tallied.

We had attendees from six states. Your editor's son, Jim Draper, N8MPQ, was the sole representative from Kentucky. (Jim and Charlie, AB4SK, could only stop in for a few minutes early in the morning as we had to go to a family reunion.) 267 tickets were sold to Virginia hams with a smattering from other states.

Our attendees had the choice of two general amateur radio suppliers inside, Cedar City Sales and Quick Silver and Ingle's Amateur Radio Supply outside. They reported to Phil that they had a very satisfactory hamfest. A dealer selling non-ham items also reported doing well and would return next year.

Two forums were held. Ron Sokol, K4KHZ, presented ARES and F. D. Singleton, K4FDS, gave an interesting presentation on APRS. Both were well attended.

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- Teresa Via, KC4EPL of Roanoke earned her General License.
- Matthew Via, KI4GSX of Roanoke upgraded to General.
- Joshua Cease, KD4ZDQ of Glen Allen, Virginia upgraded to General.
- Mark Woolwine, KJ4FTT of Roanoke passed his Technician Exam.
- Cynthia Creamer, KJ4FTU of Roanoke earned a Technician license.
- Roger Bohon, KJ4FTV from Roanoke passed his Technician exam.
- Floyd Singleton, K4FDS of Roanoke upgraded to Amateur Extra Class.

If you see these folks or hear them on the bands make sure to give them a shout. Congratulations to all of the above.

Many thanks to the following VEs (in no particular order) who made the hamfest session possible:
 Ken N4LYO, Karen KI4GOT, Bill W4PLS, Lee WA4AJG, David AJ4FM, Leroy AG4RW, Don KG4OMJ, Bob KJ3Y, John K4JKA, Phil W4VPI, Floyd KB4WYW, Darian WA4DQ, Dave KS4JB and Fred K4HVB. ♦

Ladies Meeting

By Linda Lucas, N4LCL

The ladies of the RVARC held their first informal social meeting at 7 PM on August 23rd at Red Cross prior to the regular club meeting. There were ten ladies in attendance. Eight were hams and two were non-hams. We enjoyed a time of fellowship and had an open discussion on ways we would like to improve the club. Six concerns were noted. They will be brought before the board for action. If necessary, they will be brought before the membership. We also feel the need for some training so we can become better operators.

We decided we would like to meet quarterly before the regular meeting on the 4th Friday of the month at 7:00pm at the Red Cross. Next meeting is tentatively set for January 23, 2009.

The door prize winner was Marion Roark.

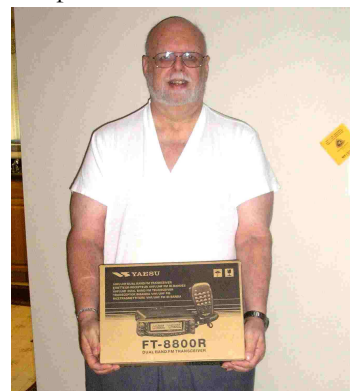
Out of sixteen applicants, fourteen came out of the VE test session with a new or upgraded license:

- Technician 6
- General 6
- Extra 2

See Ray Pillow, KK4HR's, report on Page 3 for the details.

As at every hamfest, Marion Roark, KJ4EGX, conducted the bingo game. Marion also put together all of the bingo prizes and the prizes for the hourly drawings. All told, approximately 100 prizes were given out. She reported that 28 people played bingo and everyone won a prize. Eight of the players were men.

We had great door prizes:



- The Yaesu FT-8800R dual-band transceiver was won by our club member, Bob Hearn, KQ4DW, of Roanoke. Congratulations Bob.



- ICOM IC-2200H 2 meter transceiver was won by Perry Spangler of Vinton. Perry doesn't have his ham license yet but says this will sure spur him on.

Thanks to all that helped with the refreshments. They were delicious and greatly appreciated! We took the leftovers to the regular meeting. This included a piece of cake with a candle to help celebrate Ray Pillow, KK4HR's, birthday. (He wouldn't disclose his age!)

The ladies of the RVARC would like to invite all lady hams, friends of hams and any lady interested in becoming a ham to attend the next YL meeting. ◇

COMING UP

- **Blue Ridge Bonanza** - September 27/28
- **VE/CE Test Sessions** – 3rd Sunday of each month except June and December
- **Net** – Wednesday, 8 PM
- **Next Club Meetings:**
 - **September 12 - Open House. See Presidents column**
 - September 26
 - October 10
 - October 24
 - November 14
- **Christmas Dinner** – January 3, 2009 at the Coach and Four

- Greg Motley, KI4KAM, of Chatham, Virginia won the FT-2800 2 meter rig.



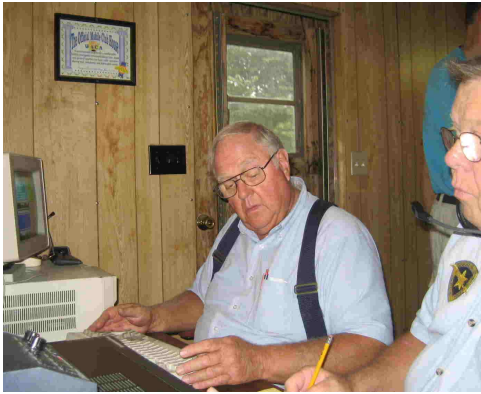
- The print, "Colonial Winter" by P. Buckley Moss was won by Sarah Maxey, XYL of AG4RW. Congratulations to Sarah.



Tom Lawrence, N4ATV, of Christiansburg sent Phil an email saying "Thanks again for another nice hamfest. Hats off to all the folks in the canteen for some great BBQ and hot dogs." This comment reflects the widely held opinion the food was great. Kudos to Liz Hevener. ◇

Hamfest 2008 by Dave Jones, N4JED





40 Meters



20 Meters



VHF/UHF



Phil checks to log



We eat

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