



W4CA Log  
The news of the Roanoke Valley  
Amateur Radio Club  
Roanoke, Virginia.

September/October 2009



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

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

**Officers:**

**President: Ron Ramsey AB4A**  
**Vice President: Mike Hevener KF4PHW**  
**Secretary: Karen Anderson KI4GOT**  
**Treasurer: Ray Pillow KK4HR**

**Board of Directors:**

**Phil Roark K4WFO**  
**David L Kinsey KS4BO**  
**Ray Crampton AB4YZ**  
**Jerry D Haislip K1SO**

**Appointed Positions:**

**Net Manager: Russ Abbey KG4MAV**  
**Honorary Chef: Bob Anderson K4UMK**  
**Membership:**  
**Club Call Trustee: Ray Crampton AB4YZ**

**Log Editors:**

**Russ Abbey KG4MAV [kq4mav@arrrl.net](mailto:kq4mav@arrrl.net)**  
**Charlie Draper AB4SK technical annalist**  
**Karen Anderson KI4GOT Assistant Editor**

The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Club also sponsors a V.E. test session every 3rd Sunday at 2pm at the Red Cross, contact Ray Pillow KK4HR at [kk4hr@arrrl.net](mailto:kk4hr@arrrl.net)

The RVARC owns and maintains the following open repeaters:

146.985- tone 107.2  
442.50+ tone 107.2

<http://www.w4ca.us/>

## **Wide Area Simulated Emergency Test Planned**

### **Glen Sage, W4GHS**

There is a wide area emergency communications exercise planned for the National Set weekend. This will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The scenario is a replication of Hurricane Hazel that hit NC as a category 4 hurricane on October 15<sup>th</sup> 1954. It marched through Virginia with devastating results. Over 1,000 people were killed by this hurricane in the Caribbean, the US and Canada. This simulation will have the size and intensity of the original but will follow a little different track through Virginia.

Emergency communications groups, clubs Skywarn groups or individual can register and participate in this drill. Skywarn will be extremely active in this exercise. So much so, that we want to have Skywarn reports collected on local voice nets and then forwarded periodically as a group report via Winlink to the National Weather service office in Blacksburg. Use the address of [WX4RNK@Winlink.org](mailto:WX4RNK@Winlink.org) for Skywarn traffic.

To register, go to <http://www.w4ghs.org/Hazel.html> and fill out the registration form. Each individual from a group will need to complete a registration form. This website will also give you addition information on the exercise. Agencies currently registered include the National Weather Service, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management VEOC in Richmond, Pulaski County Emergency Management, Carroll County Emergency Management, the Pulaski Hospital, Carillon Franklin Memorial Hospital, Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance Hospitals, Carroll County Sheriff and EOC, Carroll County EMS, Carroll County SAR, Woods River Chapter of the American Red Cross, Franklin County Department of Public Service and Franklin County American Red Cross. A number of other agencies have decisions pending.

Those registering from the Roanoke area will have plenty of communications activity. Hazel produced over twice the rainfall in Virginia that preceded the "Flood of 85" in Roanoke.

# The Presiden'ts Corner

By Ron Ramsey AB4A

The intention of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club is to make amateur radio a FUN hobby, while maintaining a pool of trained Amateur Radio hobbyist to respond when there's an emergency. We need volunteers to run this organization, head up activities, give programs, man the club station during special events and contests, teach and help new hams. There are opportunities just waiting for you and RVARC desperately needs your help and our success depends on YOUR participation! Michael Hevener KF4PHW is chairing the nominations committee, if you're willing to serve as an officer please let him or someone on his committee know. Unfortunately, it gets tougher each year to find members to lead us into the next year. Our fall classes are being taught but we have more teachers than students. Our instructors put a lot of time and effort in teaching these classes and it is not fair to waste their time when the club cannot produce at least five students for three classes. I realize things have been like this before. Here's a quote from the LOG when I was young enough to need a ride to club meeting, "There are Wishbones, who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do something about this, or something about that. There are the Jawbones, who do all the talking, but very little of anything else. Next comes the Knucklebones, who knock everything that others are trying to do. Finally, there are the Backbones, who get under the load and do the work."

By the time you read this the Blue Ridge Bonanza special event will be history. This is turned into a special event that hundreds of people around the country look forward to and gives us as radio clubs a chance to work together. Last year we had one open station, this year we may have multiple stations open, which reflects badly on Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. This is by and large the best operating opportunity for our club members. It really feels good to be the one that multiple stations are hunting for. Sadly our club members are not taking advantage of the opportunity and local people cannot work the contest so I feel this will be the last year for this endeavor. What activity would the club like to replace it with? In the past we have activated an Island (which W4CA will be on forever) and activated a Light House. What can we do new and different as an activity involving ham radio?

Likewise we need to work on our operating procedure when using the repeaters. The repeaters are there for mobile and handheld stations to extend their range, to relay messages during emergencies including road conditions or accidents. We need to watch our language and monopolizing the repeater. I would love to see the repeater in use 24 / 7 but remember to let breaking stations in at the courtesy tone in case they need to use the machine. If you hear a new KJ4 call or someone traveling through our area take time to answer their call, explain that we have a remote receiver, make them feel welcome and help their first experience on our repeaters be a good one. Please remember we are ham radio

operators not what we hear on the chicken band. I'm not advocating running anyone off of the repeater but we need to set a better level and operating procedure as an example for everyone using our repeater. I know of at least one student that got out of ham radio from her experience on the repeater and three or four hams that have moved to other repeaters. I feel the best way to remedy this is to flood the repeater with great operators with professional operating procedures on 24-hours a day, seven days a week. When someone hears inappropriate trash talking on our repeaters please e-mail one of the officers.

Hidden Valley High School Amateur Radio Club one of the three school clubs we sponsor received their "Big Project" equipment. It included a FT-450AT Yaesu and a Astron-35 power supply, a five band HF vertical with the coax and connectors. One of the first contacts will be a contest on the third week in October in which all of the youth clubs try to contact each other during school hours. They are allowed up to six hours a day but only 24 hours for the week. But if you can not help at the schools please call them on 2m, 20m or 40m. By the end of the contest each contact will be worth 256 points to the school (remember we have a national champion defending their record).

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club will be participating in a SET (simulated emergency training) October 3 Saturday ([www.w4ghs.org/Hazel.html](http://www.w4ghs.org/Hazel.html)) at Roanoke Regional Red Cross EOC and Roanoke City EOC. This exercise will start at 7:30 a.m. and involve 2 m voice FM, Winlink 2000, HF and WeatherSpots. Please contact Phil K4WFO if you can help with this exercise. We are also looking for people to help with Big Lick Triathlon and Poor Mountain Hill Climb, please contact Mike KF4PHW.

C U on the AIR, best 73 Ron AB4A

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## Short note:

Russ Abbey KG4MAV

The last SET or Simulated Emergency Test was also set up by Glen Sage W4GHS; he has continued to work tirelessly for the betterment of Amateur Radio and public service in South West Virginia. I look forward to his drills and learn a lot each time he has them. I hope that you can join us on the air or by digital on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.

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**ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?**

**WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.**

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## The Log

By Russ Abbey

KG4MAV

It is with great sadness that I am giving up the Editor position on the Log, while it's only been three issues; it's been a lot of fun. Not to mention the hair pulling that occurred during this whole thing due to not knowing how to use the programs on my computer! So I would like to thank the following people who always came through in getting me articles; Pat Lewis N3AYW, whose Fat Morgania series was wonderful. He also wrote other articles and does an awful lot for the Club and helping other Amateurs. Charlie Draper AB4SK for his continued support to me and the schools; he also was the editor of the Log before me and did a wonderful job. Karen Anderson KI4GOT who put this all together and got it out to everyone else. She has been a tireless help with my questions and problems with MS Word and Publisher.

So who will take over this paper? Well after my announcement on the net that I needed someone to take the Log over, Kennie Harris KJ4GWO has volunteered to be the editor!! This is wonderful news too, he will have a younger outlook on Amateur Radio and also will know the programs a lot better than me. ☺ So everyone needs to support Kennie and help with anything he needs help with.

Russ Abbey KG4MAV 73 everyone.

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## Youth Corner

Hi all, I would like to see a young person do an article for the Log a few times a year, I feel that this is very important not only for the younger of the hams but for the community at large. Lets face it, if we don't get them involved with the Club then we will lose them.

I need some one to do a report about the school clubs, their equipment and antennas, their radio rooms and also the students.

Thanks

Russ

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## From the Hamfest Committee:

Phil R. K4WFO

**1st Prize** Yaesu FT-8800

Won by Doug Slate KF4ABM Pulaski, VA

**2nd Prize** Yaesu FT-2800

Won by Van Knight II KI4HFH Gretna, VA

**3rd Prize** Yaesu VX-3R

Won by JT Flannery KF4ONR Roanoke, VA

Slate will pick up his radio at my shop.

I shipped the FT-2800 to Gretna this afternoon.

The final tabulation is done!

Total admission tickets sold for the 2009 Hamfest is 323. (Note that one person purchased 25 tickets)

Geographic distribution

Roanoke County - 95 - includes Salem, Roanoke and Vinton

Surrounding Counties - 76 - includes Craig, Montgomery, Floyd, Franklin, Bedford, Botetourt

Rest of Virginia - 103

Out of state - 49 - FL, PA, WV, TX, NC, SC, TN

I pulled some data from the old files as follows.

**Year #Tickets**

1999 - 421

2000 - 406

2001 - 311

2002 - ?

2003 - 246

2004 - 304

2005 - ?

2006 - 253

2007 - 260

2008 - 300

2009 - 323

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## Ham Fest

Russ Abbey KG4MAV

Well I don't know about anyone else, but I had a very good time at the ham fest and while I didn't get a lot I enjoyed it. The inside Vendors seemed to be doing a brisk business, the outside tailgaters were in fine form. I haven't seen that many in a long time and they seemed to be doing a good business. I know a few of our hams got some stuff, John K4JKA bought 40 feet of Rohn 25, and I got a Signalink USB and some connectors.

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## VE Session Results - By Ray KK4HR July 19, 2009

Congratulations are in order for new and upgraded amateurs as follows.

- Sterling Ellsworth KJ4NUI of Roanoke earned his Technician license. (Doc has since upgraded to Extra).
- Barry McDaniel KJ4NUH of Tallahassee passed his Technician Exam,
- Ben Corbett KJ4NUG of Roanoke earned his Technician license.
- Robert Folden, III KG4ZPN of Salem upgraded to General.

Thanks to Bob KJ3Y, Phil W4VPI, John K4JKA, Karen KI4GOT, Ken N4LYO, Willie N4XE, Bill W4PLS, Lee WA4AJG, Wally W5WMD, Leroy AG4RW and Charlie AB4SK for a fine test session.

## August 1, 2009 – Hamfest Session

Congratulations are in order for the following achievements.

- Alan Hoover AJ4RZ, of Roanoke passed the Technician, General and Extra tests to walk out with his Amateur Extra ticket.
- Charles Minucie KJ4OAR, of Salem earned his Technician license.
- Edward Varner KJ4OAS, of Stuarts Draft passed the Technician and General tests to exit with his General ticket.
- James Lugar KD4GMU, of Forest upgraded to General.

- Benny Mullins KF4CPK, of Christiansburg upgraded to general.
- John Oliver KJ4OAO, of Blacksburg earned his Technician license.
- Kevin Sterne KJ4OAP, also of Blacksburg passed his Technician license.
- Robert Adams KJ4EIW, of Natural Bridge Station upgraded to General.
- Robert Folden KG4ZPN, of Salem upgraded to Amateur Extra.

Many thanks to the following VE's who not only took time from the Hamfest to help with the session but also had to suffer for two hours in the band room without A/C!

Bob KJ3Y, Lee WA4AJG, Leroy AG4RW, Bill W4PLS, Karen KI4GOT, Bob KQ4DW, Wally W5WMD, Charlie AB4SK, Phil W4VPI, Ken N4LYO, Floyd KB4WYW and David N4JED. Thanks again Guys.

## August 16, 2009

- Sterling (Doc) Ellsworth AJ4SJ, of Roanoke upgraded to Extra. He obtained his Tech and General license at the July session as KJ4NUI. Doc also passed the Emcom level I exam.
- David Rettig KJ4OOE, of Blacksburg passed his Technician exam.
- Walter Marsden KJ4OOF, of New Castle earned his Technician license.
- Thomas Wilcox KJ4OOG, of Roanoke Passed his Technician test.
- Jamie Poorman KJ4OOH, of Rocky Mount passed his Technician test.
- Kennie Harris KJ4GWO, of Roanoke upgraded to General.
- Jimmy Carroll KJ4OOD, Of Roanoke passed the Technician exam.

Many thanks go to Ken N4LYO, Wally W5WMD, Bill W4PLS, Bob KQ4DW, Lee WA4AJG, Willie N4XE, Phil W4VPI, Darian WA4DQ, Dave KS4JB and Karen KI4GOT for grading exams and supporting amateur radio.

Please remember to listen for these folks on the bands and congratulate their achievement

## Shelby Hamfest 2009

Russ Abbey KG4MAV

Wow!!! John K4JKA, Karen KI4GOT, Bill W4PLS and I went down to Shelby to visit. So I loaded my wheel chair and the older handy cap cart into the truck and we met at the Walgreens in Christiansburg. We were to meet about 4:45 hours, well like all good plans we didn't get out of there till about 5:15am and had a good breakfast at Sheetz on the way. I guess it took us about 3 hours to get there and we arrived about 8:20am.

Well if you've never been to Shelby, you really need to go. There was a tail gate section that was very long and it was very wide, not to mention the inside vendors. Icom and Yaesu were there with all of their radios and stuff so I got to get a look and feel for the radio I would like to have. The Yaesu FT-2000D is a very nice looking and smooth operating radio and now I need to sell a couple of radios to get that one. ☺ I picked up some literature on 4 of Yaesu's radios and Icom had 1 brochure for all of theirs.

I noticed that a lot of the vendors were there that come to our Hamfest and said hi to them, that is where I got the some barrel connectors for Tom King W4VZH in Floyd. The one thing I forgot to get was a couple of Power Pole accessories that I needed for a project I have going. Oh well, I'll just order them later next week or so.

We had fun at the Hamfest and I hope you get to go in the future. My next project is going to be Dayton Hamfest, but that will also depend on the cash flow, and getting out of the dog house. I really had no intention of buying anything, but I bit the dust and got a Tarheel 200HP screwdriver for the truck, the whip that I had on there just was not doing the trick. I am interested in doing some more HF mobile but with out a good antenna it's a lot hard. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

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**For Sale:** Icom 706 MK2G with separation kit, \$700.00; Also Icom AH4 Antenna tuner with all cables, \$225.00; Icom AH2B antenna and mount 80-6 meters, \$275. contact Russ Abbey KG4MAV [russ.abbey@gmail.com](mailto:russ.abbey@gmail.com) or 540-651-4072

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## Ten Codes

Russ Abbey

KG4MAV

Ah, Ten-Code! Interesting you bring that one up.

First, let me say that I'm not advocating that we start using ten-code in amateur radio. *No way!* But I must point out some observations about ten-code.

I spent sixteen years in the Navy before getting hurt and being "Retired".

I think where amateur radio got the bad taste from ten-code, was during the CB craze of the mid to late 70's, where any jaw ratcheting, bucket mouth with 100 bucks, (or less,) could get on the air and start yakking away with impunity. CB came up with its own jargon that tried to imitate other radio services, with a blend of conversation from the truck stop café tossed in, all the while disregarding FCC Regulation, law, decorum, and order. Rightly so, Ham Radio felt it held a higher level of professionalism, and looked down on all things CB, including ten-code, with disdain. Not to mention that the FCC had taken the 11 meter band from us and given it to the CB'ers

All that being said, one has to admit that ham radio also has its codes and jargon specific to amateur radio. One case in point is the Q-Code. I would assume that its intended use was for log keeping, especially when put in the context of CW traffic. There are not as many dits and dahs in a three letter Q-Code. Then there's terms like "*destinated*" which is used in place of "*on scene*", "*I've arrived*", or (dare I mention,) "*10-97*".

After many years with a military hand set or HT in my hand, I'll admit that it's difficult not to drop into the speech patterns that were trained and drilled into me after many years. As far as I know, I don't believe I've used military or the 10-code while on ham radio. What has been more difficult to transition, has been the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet versus the American Navy Alphabet.(You know, the right way the wrong way and the Navy way.) You know, when I ID myself as *Kilo Gulf 4 Mike Alpha Victor*, which is right or reverted to military lingo of zebra, yoke, dog or something else like that. I'm not as bad as some but worse then others, but I am working on it.

Don't use the CB slang on Amateur Radio, save it for the CB.

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## Great meetings

By Doug Moore

K4WVS

Some years ago, I wandered on down to the shack to see what was happening on 20 meters. As was my usual habit I began to call CQ twenty meters and signed K4WVS in Virginia. I had a call from YV4MV in Caracas, Venezuela. I went back to him and gave him a 5 by 9 and my name.

He came back with 5 by 9 and the name of Al. He then asked if I was anywhere near Salem, Virginia.

I replied that I was in Vinton, Virginia just about 5 miles from Salem.

He stated that he was a graduate of Virginia Tech now living in Venezuela. He asked if it would be possible for me to make a phone call to Salem. I said I would be glad to. He asked if I would call the Godwin Motel in Salem and inquire about his wife. He went on to explain that his wife's Father was seriously ill in the VA Hospital there and that she had come up to check on him.

I called the motel and talked to the manager who then rang the room of his wife with no answer.

I tried several times with no answer. Al at this point Al became very concerned as he knew she should be there. I replied that I would drive to the motel and check on his wife. We made a sked for four o'clock that afternoon.

I went to the motel, got the manager and we went to her room. We rang the bell several times and he stated that he knew she was in the room. He used his pass key and opened the door. She was lying on the bed unconscious for the most part. He called a doctor who came out and said she had taken a prescription drug and followed it with a good shot or two of whiskey which put her out.

I returned home to keep the sked with Al in Venezuela. After making contact I told Al what I had found. He again became quite concerned and stated that he was taking the next plane to Roanoke.

He thanked me and we signed.

About a week went by and I had about forgotten about the incident. On a Sunday afternoon Nellie and I were enjoying some of her delicious strawberry shortcake when the front door bell rang.

I went to the door and opened it and there stood a familiar looking lady and beside her stood a rather short fellow with a black mustache who looked very Latin. He said Hi Doug; I am Al from Caracas, Venezuela.

We had a nice afternoon eating strawberry shortcake and talking about ham radio. He said that he owned two cement plants in Caracas and had been there since graduating from VA Tech.

As they were about to leave, Al reached in his pocket and pulled out a little box. He handed it to Nellie and said, "This is for the wife of a nice fellow." It was a solid gold brooch in the form a flower with a pearl set in the middle. Ham radio has brought me many interesting contacts over the years. What a great way to meet people all over the world. And in amateur radio you never know what is next.

DE, K4WVS, Doug Moore

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**Here are some more web sites that are good for both new and seasoned operators!**

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/antennas.htm> This has some great ideas for antennas.

Speaking of antennas, try Antennex web site <http://www.antennex.com/> This has a paid and also a free section for you to brose at your leisure.

Then a site that I like is the Raytown Amateur Radio Club's site, <http://k0gg.com/technet.htm> It has a lot to offer all of us. The main thing is the downloadable past and future club presentations.

I hope you enjoy these sites; look around the web, there is a lot to offer.

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**Don't forget, club members can advertise radio equipment they are looking for or have for sale for FREE in the log. If you would like to place an ad in the next log please get in touch with Kennie Harris, KJ4GWO**

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