

W4GA LOG

JULY 2011

HAMFEST 2011

Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio News



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Scott Fisher AK4DV

It is hard to believe that it is now July! This hobby has allowed me to have such a great time over the past 7 months; the time has seemed to fly by! I have tremendously enjoyed the events that the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club (RVARC) has completed this year and are still planning on doing. Field Day was a blast! We saw some of the best weather we've ever had in the area for this event. It was only a little chilly Saturday night. All and all it was fun for everyone involved.

Upcoming events for the RVARC:

We have Hamfest on August 6th at 8:00 a.m., at William Byrd High School in Vinton, VA. Yes, it will be air conditioned. This year's main and hourly door prizes total over \$1000, and consist of ARRL gift certificates as well as Yaesu and Wouxun radios.

On Friday, August 26th we **will not** be having our regularly scheduled meeting at the American Red Cross building. Instead, we will be at our first Annual "Friends & Family Social Night", at Lewis-Gale Baseball Field in Salem. We will be watching the Salem Red Sox take on Wilmington Blue Rocks at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are only \$6; but we will need to know if you'd like to attend. You are welcome to bring yourself, kids, grandkids, parents, spouse or anyone else of your choosing. There will be a fireworks display after the game. Again, please let me know if you plan on going and how many tickets you will need. Payment is required by the 12th of August. You may pay at the meeting or contact me for alternative arrangements.

On Saturday, September 10th we will have an Antenna Building Party. We will be building 2 meter copper J-Pole antennas. The cost for this activity will be \$25 and you take home your own ready-to-use antenna. This will be a fun

event and a great educational experience for amateur radio operators of all license classes.

The weekend of September 17th and 18th is the Blue Ridge Bonanza. This is a special event that RVARC and the Forsythe Amateur Radio Club puts on annually with 13 stations along the Blue Ridge Parkway, from Mile Post 0 in Virginia to Mile Post 408 in North Carolina. This is an exciting event that is considered to be a very low pressure “contest”, where you’re lucky enough to be surrounded by nature’s beauty.

Classes:

If you are looking to take classes or know someone interested in taking classes, whether it be to obtain their first ham license or to upgrade to General or Extra, we will be offering classes at the Roanoke American Red Cross building in downtown Roanoke. The classes will begin Saturday, November 5th and will be each Saturday thereafter until November 19th. We will also be offering a special test session on November 19th, or you can attend the regularly scheduled test session on Sunday, November 20th, at 2 p.m.

All of these events are open to RVARC members, as well as non-members, amateur operators, and non-amateur operators. Feel free to join us for any of these events or attend a meeting on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month (except for 4th Friday in November and both Fridays in December). Additionally, you should always feel free to join us on the W4CA Wednesday Night Net on the 146.985 –600/PL 107.2 repeater at 8 p.m.

If you would like to become a member, your dues will help support all of our activities as well as the maintenance on the W4CA repeaters. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to send me an email at AK4DV@yahoo.com.

AMATEUR NEWS ITEMS

Newsletter For You — Jerry K1SO

This newsletter (W4CA Log) is being sent to you compliments of the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club. If you are already a member this is the new and improved issue of the W4CA Log. If you are not a current member we would like to encourage you to submit your name, address and callsign and a check for \$35.00 (mail to RVARC – PO Box 2002, Roanoke, Virginia 24009) for an annual membership and help this club become the best in the local area. By becoming a member of the RVARC you are helping to keep up the two repeaters we currently operate and keep open for all emergency traffic in the Roanoke Valley.

Division Convention

The Roanoke Division Convention will be hosted at the Virginia Beach Hamfest on 09/17/2011. The location is the Virginia Beach Convention Center at 1000 19th Street in Virginia Beach, VA. The talk-in frequency is 146.970. Check their web site at <http://www.vbhamfest.com>.

Upcoming Contests

If you are interested in contesting, check out these popular events. Three local schools always participate in the School Club Roundup. The Roanoke Valley Club will participate in the November Phone Sweepstakes.

August 6 -7	August UHF Contest
August 21	Rookie Roundup – RTTY
September 10-12	September VHF QSO Party
October 17-21	School Club Roundup
November 19-21	November Sweepstakes, Phone
December 2-4	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
December 10-11	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

July

22 RVARC Club meeting at Red Cross

August

6 Roanoke Hamfest at William Byrd HS

12 RVARC Club Meeting

26 Friends & Family at Lewis Gale Field

September

9 RVARC Club Meeting

10 Antenna Building Party

17-18 Blue Ridge Bonanza Special Event

23 RVARC Club Meeting

October

14 RVARC Club Meeting

28 RVARC Club meeting

November

5 Amateur License Classes begin

11 RVARC Club Meeting

25 NO MEETING

December

3 RVARC Christmas Dinner

23 NO MEETING

From the Editor

Be a reporter for the W4CA LOG! Submit articles or news items related to amateur radio in and around the Roanoke Valley. Items for the newsletter should be sent by email to k4wfo@arrl.net or by regular mail to Phil Roark K4WFO , 405 Yorkshire St., Salem, VA 24153. Format can be any version of M/S Word, Wordpad, Notepad, or Word Perfect. Typed paper copies are also acceptable if they are suitable for scanning. Pictures should be kept separate from text Ads in FOR SALE/WANTED are free for amateur radio related items. Please include callsign, name , and phone number with ad.

2011 RAFFLE

#12



#13



#14



The annual drawing for the raffle of a P. Buckley Moss print will be held at the 2011 Roanoke Hamfest after the main door prize drawing. This raffle is a fund raiser that provides some of the hourly door prizes and all of the bingo game prizes at the hamfest. This year the print is a group of three, #12 “Bruton Parish Church”, #13 “The Governor’s Palace”, and #14 “The Capitol”. The prints are matted and unframed and include a gift certificate for part of the framing costs. The tickets are available from several club members for \$1 each. A book of 6 tickets cost only \$5. For info, contact Marion KJ4EGX at mroark@rev.net

ROANOKE HAMFEST

The 2011 Roanoke Hamfest will be held at William Byrd High School on Saturday, August 6. We are returning to WBHS after a two year absence. The school has been remodeled and expanded. After the school expansion project, we have 50% more air conditioned space to use for the inside flea market and vendor space. All hallways are now air conditioned.

The rear parking lot that we use for outside flea market and tailgate area has been expanded. All of the classroom trailers have been removed. The VE test sessions have been moved to inside classrooms near the cafeteria.

As always, the parking at the Roanoke Hamfest is free and convenient. Handicap parking area is at rear of the school, adjacent to the outside flea market.

Hourly door prizes will be awarded and you will have to be present to win. Some of the hourly prizes will be gift certificates for ARRL products. The main door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the hamfest and you do not have to be present to win. This year, the main prizes will be a Yaesu FT-7900 dual band mobile transceiver, a Yaesu FT-2900 2m mobile transceiver, a Yaesu VX-3R tri-band handheld radio, a Wouxun 2m/70cm handheld radio, and a Wouxun 2m/1.25m handheld radio.

Admission at the door on the day of the hamfest will be \$6, tickets may be purchased in advance for \$5. All attendees must purchase an admission ticket.

Tailgate/outside flea market vendors will be charged \$5 per space. Inside flea market vendors will pay \$8 for a 5 foot table.

The ARRL VE team led by Ray KK4HR will conduct an

exam session at 11am. Walk-ins are welcome.

Charlie AB4SK is the vendor contact and indicates that several commercial vendors will be present. The known vendors at this time are Cedar City, Quicksilver, and DBJ Electronics.

Marion KJ4EGX has been busy organizing the prizes for the Free Bingo session. This is an enjoyable entertainment game with prizes to winners. The Bingo games start at 10am in the WBHS band room near the cafeteria. An admission ticket is required to play.

Liz is the food vendor again this year (mother of Michael KF4PHW). She will be serving breakfast items from 8am until 10am and then switch to a lunch item menu. You must try the chicken salad!

For more info check the club website <http://www.w4ca.us>

2011 ROANOKE HAMFEST

**William Byrd High School
2902 East Washington Ave., Vinton , VA.**

**Saturday August 6,2011
8am until 1pm
Vendor setup 6-8am**

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Scout Day at ITT— Ron AB4A

The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club has an activity in which we operate our ham radio equipment each month. One of these activities is the ITT Scout Day in the Blue Ridge Mountains Council. We have participated in this event since it was started, presenting the Radio merit badge. This makes our 14th year and we are one of the favorite merit badges. The first year we had 16 scouts and we worked all Saturday to get them their merit badge. The following year we had three times as many sign up for our program and we had to quickly improve upon it. A year or two later the Girl Scouts were added to the program also. Presently we have a very good program for presenting ham radio to scout age young adults. A merit badge introduces Scouts to a hobby or craft. It does not go into as much depth as the Technicians class which is the introduction to your ham radio license, though two or three scouts usually



Winston W4IXC and Karen KI4GOT assist scouts making contacts



Phil K4WFO presents merit badge class

get their license after attending. Quite a few of our current hams were introduced to ham radio through Scouting. As one of the requirements the scouts attend a PowerPoint presentation and do some required homework. Next they are required to make 2 radio contacts and log them. Our current numbers average around 75 scouts per year, 68 being the low when we only had one operating station and 108 when some extra scouts snuck in the evening session. This activity is supported well by our membership. It takes approximately 8 to 10 hams on site and an equal number on their radios at their homes. We teach in large circus sized tents approximately 15 feet by 35 feet with an extra 12 by 12 set up at the front corner. We set up 2 complete radio stations, each having an HF radio and 2m radio. One station is in the front of the tent. It is an example of different operating radios. It consists of a base station (FT-990), Mobil station (FT-2600) and a handheld. A second complete station is set up in the smaller tent and a complete HF and

2m mobile station is set up behind the cook tent. By being able to divide the group into three parts, there's plenty of time for the scouts to have a good contact on one of our repeaters and call CQ on HF. The first HF station operates the club's vertical while the second station operates on a push up portable trailer hitch tower supporting a G5RV wire antenna. This makes it possible for us to operate 20 and 40 m simultaneously. The portable tower always generates a lot of interest with the Scoutmasters, which really pleased our hams until they found out the scouts wanted it for a flagpole. Likewise, we have the use of two different repeaters to operate 2m FM. The rear of the tent has a screen, projector and laptop for teaching the classroom portion of the radio merit badge.

Some years when the bands are not open, most of the contacts are ground wave local. One year the scouts talked for 40 minutes to a big rig (tractor-trailer) on 40 m or talked to Japan on 20 m. We always have a key on the base station, and the scouts have fun learning to spell their name. We have two laptops with the technician test for the scouts to try sample tests. Likewise, we have had numerous Scout leaders take our technician class mainly for the auto-patch use on 2m (no cell phone coverage at the Scout Reservation 16,000 acres). We always have one of our club members registered as a merit badge counselor to sign the blue cards (Robert E. Lee Council still uses) and a merit badge packet consisting of their homework (frequency chart, symbols etc.) and a short log form for their 2 contacts.

Most important improvement to this activity would be more club equipment in the form of radios, so people would not have to break down their personal ham shacks to have the equipment for the scouts to operate. Also, more hand keys and bugs with oscillators, there is always a line to use them.

Festival In The Park — Ron AB4A

RVARC operated W4CA May 28-29 during Roanoke's Festival in the Park. A total of 143 contacts were made using a G5RV antenna hung from the flagpole in Elmwood Park. Club members worked 34 states, three Canadian provinces and three countries.

School Club Stations

Another school year has been completed. The students at Hidden Valley High School, William Byrd High School and William Byrd Middle School participated in the annual School Club Roundup sponsored by ARRL. The callsigns at the schools are N4HVH, WB4HS, and K4WBM. Last year in the School Club Roundup, WB4HS placed first and N4HVH placed third in the high school division. K4WBM placed third in the middle school division. Alex Thompson, a senior at WBHS passed the Technician License Exam in June and received call sign KK4AVD. Dan Webb and Dan Wright , WBMS students, also passed the Technician Exam and received callsigns KK4CNQ and KK4CNR.



Wally W5WMD and Morgan operate the WB4HS station

Field Day

RVARC operated W4CA as 4A VA from the Field Day site located on property of Ray AB4YZ. The QSO count was 1855 including the GOTA station. The total raw score was 5592 points with bonus points yet to be tallied and added.

STATION SUMMARY (BY BAND/MODE)

DATE - 06-26-2011

TIME - 1818 UTC

BAND	CW	DIG	PHONE	TOTAL
160 meter	0	0	0	0
80 meter	39	0	2	41
40 meter	366	0	660	1026
20 meter	470	0	20	490
15 meter	54	0	82	136
10 meter	0	0	0	0
6 meter	0	0	0	0
2 meter	0	0	0	0
SATELLITE	0	0	0	0
GOTA	0	12	150	162
TOT QSOs	929	12	914	1855

CLAIMED RAW QSO SCORE = 5592



John AE4CJ operating 80/15 meter station at W4CA Field Day

ROANOKE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Club call sign W4CA

Meetings 2nd and 4th Friday 8PM
Roanoke Red Cross
305 Church Ave.
Roanoke, VA

Officers:

President	Scott Fisher AK4DV
Vice President	Tim Ferrell KJ4NPB
Secretary	Mike Hevener KF4PHW
Treasurer	Ray Pillow KK4HR

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FOR SALE

SWAN Mark II Linear Amplifier 3-500Z finals \$300
SWAN 500 Transceiver \$300
Manuals and power supplies for both
Phil Roark K4WFO 387-4487

Astron Power Supply 12 volt, 12 amp \$45
Phil Roark K4WFO 387-4487

**Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club
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