



# Central States VHF Society

## E-Newsletter

Quarter ending December 31st, 2004

*Check out NEW VUCC/r Reverse VUCC Award Program and 2004 States Above Program Wrap-Up in this issue!*

### **Toronto Conference Success!**

It seems hard to believe now that it has been three month's since the conference! What a time we had! From all the reports, your 2004 Conference team put together a huge success, enjoyed by all those who made the trip to the Delta Meadowvale in Mississauga.

146 hams attended the conference. Of the hams attending, 117 attended the banquet along with 49 family members for a total banquet attendance of 166. Participation in the family program was up from previous years with 41 attending the Stage West Dinner Theatre with the musical show "British Invasion II – America Strikes Back", 34 attending the Niagara Falls area bus tour, and 42 attending the City of Toronto bus tour. Of those on the Toronto tour, 36 braved the 1100' CN Tower observation deck, and I have it on good authority that almost everyone ventured onto the glass floor! We had to add an extra bus on each of the tours due to their popularity. The boat tour of Toronto harbor, courtesy of the Ontario VHF Association, was well received, thanks in part to the perfect weather.

The hospitality suite was a blast! As one of the last leaving the banquet hall on Saturday night, I expected to find a few tired souls at the suite, but I was amazed to find the room packed once again with 50 or 60 people, despite late night socializing to 4 and 5 in the morning on the two previous nights! Without a doubt this is one tradition that must be maintained. It is absolutely one of the best opportunities to get together with your friends from all over and "catch up a bit". Once again, our thanks go out to Paris Truck Caps (Steve Land, VE3TFU), and the Rochester VHF Group for sponsoring our suite.

A big thank you goes out to our speakers! Although I gave up trying to attend the presentations due to my "chairman commitments", it was obvious that attendance at the tech talks remained high throughout Friday and Saturday. At times it was hard to find a seat! First and foremost this is a technical conference and I truly believe Bob Morton, VE3BFM, with big help from your volunteer speakers, put together a top-notch program for all.

Bob also arranged the Antenna Test Range and the Preamp Measuring/Tweaking clinic. Not including the reference antennas, 78 different antennas were tested up through 10 Ghz, and 35 different preamps were measured. There were so many antennas that the test team was busy until mid-afternoon Friday! Some of you may not know that Bob put together a complete new system for antenna testing, a huge effort, to avoid border issues with the equipment. The added benefit is that we now have a system available to those of us in southern Ontario, which we will put to good use at local conferences.

The top three entries of the "States Above 50 Mhz" this year were Bob Matthews, K8TQK with 197, Tony Emanuele, WA8RJF with 169, followed by some lid who can't seem to break 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Congratulations to Bob for making it to the top, and to Tony for breaking into the "top three" for the first time.

Congratulations to this year's Wilson Award winner Emil Pocock, W3EP, for his many years as editor of QST's "World Above 50 Mhz" and his many articles on VHF/UHF propagation, and to Chambers Award winner Gerald Youngblood, AC5OG, for his technical development work on software defined radio.

Our guest speaker at the banquet was Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV/1, who gave us an interesting human perspective on DXpeditions with his talk on the "Timor Lorosae DXpedition, 4W/K7BV, Memories Beyond the Pile-ups". Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, won first crack at the fantastic prize table and walked away with a new FlexRadio SDR-1000. Barry should have been

buying lottery tickets that night – he also won the raffle for a portable generator, graciously donated by Ted (W4VHF) and Itice (K4LVV) Goldthorpe.

As tired as we were on Sunday, Heather and I hosted about 30 people back at our farm for an impromptu Bar-b-que and “shack tour”. While the sunshine disappeared, the weather remained warm and dry, the beer was cold, and the burgers were delicious. I had to work extra hard to arrange the Sunday afternoon aurora so Bob Magnani, K6QXY, could work some real 6m buzz, but we pulled it off! A perfect end to a perfect conference!

This conference, like all the others, was the result of a lot of hard work by your 2004 conference team. I want to extend my sincere thanks to Bob Morton, VE3BFM, Dana Shtun, VE3DSS, Tom Richmond, VE3IEY, Al Bonner, VE3FY, Norm Friedin, VE3CZI, and last but, definitely not least, Heather Shilton, VE3EMS. In addition, I want to thank Gerald Handley, W5DBY, and Bruce Richardson, W9FZ your all your support and guidance.

See you all next year in Colorado Springs!

73,

Peter Shilton  
VE3AX  
2004 CSVHFS Conference Chairman

## **2005 Conference Heads-up**

Preparations are underway for the '05 Conference in Colorado Springs on July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The Sheraton Hotel will be the location. The hotel is located on south Circle Drive and has an airport shuttle. The negotiated room price is \$92 per night with no limit on people in the rooms. The hotel has undergone a remodel in the last couple of years and is a self contained family hotel with an indoor pool.

In meeting with the hotel management, they have made great concessions for the conference and really want us to come be with the facility. This is the most professional staff I have worked with in the twenty years I have been putting on events.

We are going to need someone to volunteer to do the noise figure measurements this year as W5LUA has gone into retirement from this activity.

If you would like to volunteer please contact WØLD.

Colorado, in the summertime, is beautiful. Evenings are cool, humidity is low, and the conference will be held in the shadow of Pikes Peak. Come, bring the family, the kids, grandkids, and enjoy Colorado at it's best.

Lauren Libby, WØLD  
2005 CSVHFS President (Conference Chair)

Nationwide emailing and announcement will go out in February. Mail-out and downloadable registration packets will go out in late-April/early-May.

## **A Founding Member of CSVHFS now Silent Key—W4FJ**

From an ARRL News Release: “Virginia ham radio pioneer Ted Mathewson, W4FJ, of Richmond died January 31. He was 100. An ARRL member, Mathews founded the Richmond Amateur Radio Club and served for many years as Virginia Army MARS director. He also was well-known within the amateur satellite and VHF/UHF communities and was a member and former officer of the Central States VHF Society.”

John Fox, WØLER, (also a founding member) recently shared with me: “Ted was one of the original founders of the CSVHF Society serving as Sect/Treasurer for many of the early years of the Society. Ted was a great gentleman and will be missed by all of us.”

## **CSVHFS Initiates New Award Program Recognizing Rovers/Portables—Reverse VUCC = VUCC/r**

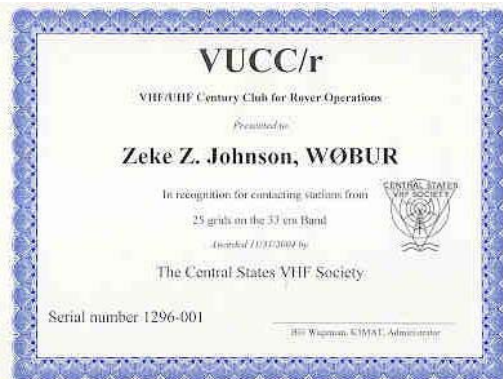
Fixed station operators have long appreciated the efforts to which Rovers go to activate rare grids--both in contests and outside of contests. While the fixed station operator is collecting grids usable for earning the ARRL's VUCC award, the rover or portable station, until now, has been unable to put his work towards a similar award.

The award is called the Reverse VUCC Award. The abbreviation is VUCC/r. It is not an easy award to earn. Those who can meet it's stringent rules will have earned a cherished honor. For

instance, imagine a fixed station collecting grids on 10GHz. If one Rover is the station who activates the appropriate number of grids for him, each operator made identical contacts but who worked harder? The Rover--it is that effort which the CSVHFS wants to recognize and honor.

The rules follow below. Briefly, the award is very similar to the ARRL's VUCC, but rather than contact a set number of grids on a frequency band, the goal is to make contacts FROM a set number of grids per band. The number of grids coincides with the ARRL award. Certificates will be awarded as well as endorsement stickers. QSL cards are required and will be verified by the program administrator. Awards will be presented with a unique serial number. There is no fee except return postage must be included (for the QSL cards).

The award comes into fruition due to the vision and efforts of Bill Wageman, K5MAT, who is the program administrator. Rules and contact information will always be available on the CSVHFS website at [www.csvhfs.org](http://www.csvhfs.org). Rovers and portables, take a look at the rules, initiate cards from all those QSO's from your past, and submit entries for this significant award.



### VUCC/r Rules:

The Central States VHF Society is sponsoring a new VUCC/r(over) award. Its purpose is to recognize the contribution of rover station operators to the world of grid hunting. Rovers are folks operating while mobile in motion or temporarily parked to give out grids to fixed stations. Contacts made on January 1, 1983 or later qualify. The rules that govern ARRL's VUCC (ref <http://www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/>) are also applicable to VUCC/r with the following exceptions and qualifications:

1. All contacts must be made operating while away from the home station location.

2. The applicant must work and confirm contacts made while activating different grids. Which grid or grids the rover contacts is not relevant except for contacts above 1.3 GHz per Rule 3. Confirmation can be QSL cards, QSO listings, or log extracts.

2a. Required information: QSL Cards, QSO listings, and log extracts must include both calls, both grids, mode, date, time, and band/frequency. The QSLing stations fixed info such as call sign and grid need not be on every line of a QSO listing, or log extract but must be indicated somewhere on the page. Required information may be in any order on a QSO listing or log extract. Cards, listings, and extracts should additionally have the name of the licensee (person or club); mailing address; operating location information if different from mailing address (address, GPS coordinates, 6-digit grid, or Lat/Lon); and have a written signature (minimum of first name) of the licensee, trustee, operator, QSL Manager or appropriate person confirming the specifics of the listed contacts. If a QSL card does not natively indicate the grid in which the rover was operating, it should be added in pencil.

2b. QSL cards, QSO listings, or log extracts may be submitted indicating contacts beyond the number required for an award or endorsement level. The program administrator will maintain record of these additional QSOs. Subsequent submissions should refer to QSOs on file when applying for an endorsement.

3. At frequencies below 1.3 GHz (and Satellite) any number of stations in any number of grids may be worked. Above that frequency target stations worked must all be within the 300 meter circle that is specified by VUCC rules. The location of the target stations must be indicated on their cards by at least the four digit grid, or preferably their lat/lon or some other indication that they were inside the same circle. The rover, of course, is obviously required to move around.

4. Endorsements above the basic award may be submitted just as in VUCC.

5. The only report form needed is a readable alphabetized list of the grids from which operation was done with the calls of the station worked. The applicants call and name must be clearly stated.

6. All cards and forms, along with appropriate self-addressed packaging with sufficient postage for the return of the cards plus a business size envelope (if folding the certificate is OK) or 9" by 12" or larger SASE should be sent to Bill Wageman K5MAT, CSVHFS VUCC/r Award, 7309 Avenida La Costa, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3900. Program contact via: `vucc-r (at) comcast (dot) net`

Good hunting to those rovers out there!

## **Content! Content! Content!**

2005 Conference Program and Proceedings always needs good content. Content comes from YOU—the membership. We need all the content you are willing to submit, from one-page notes, to full technical papers. Don't trust that content will always be forthcoming from our frequent contributors—contribute your own content! All contributions need not be technical—they can be interesting presentations of operating activities or local organizational/activity efforts. Show off what you and your local VHF/UHF/SHF weak-signal friends are doing.

The 2005 Conference team will call for presenters in the February time frame. Papers will need to be in during April or early May. Make deadlines for yourself and submit content for the 2005 Conference and Proceedings

## **States Above 50 MHz Award Program 2003-2004 Wrap-up**

Thanks to each of you for participating this year! 35 entries—slightly up from last year!

Participation was still active this year because three groups—in Minnesota, Oklahoma, and South Texas—utilized the program as an impetus for increased activity in their local areas. Keep it up! Other areas of the country, please consider using this program to spur activity in your areas. How about it Mid-Iowa, and North Texas?

Please recall that this is a "program" for all participants in order to spur increased activity. This program only becomes a contest for our top finishers. For the rest of you, I hope you enjoyed noting year-to-year variation in propagation, station capabilities, and operating effort.

As you look over the results, note which operators worked over 50 states and provinces on 6 meters. Also, we've had a few Rover entries in the past, but this year, VE3OIL/R and KFØQ/portable submitted two entries each, as well as VE3NPB/R, and W0AMT/R. In each of their cases, their entry represents one weekend of activity—Impressive! Rovers, you may combine your weekends if you wish or keep them separate—whatever suits you.

Notice that three of the top five scores are from Ohio. Sure, at least Ohio doesn't have an ocean on one side of it such as on the east coast. But the scores these gents turned in required consistent effort.

Peter Shilton, VE3AX, turned in an impressive 165 score for 3<sup>rd</sup> place while serving as CSVHFS President and preparing for the Toronto conference. I don't know where he found the time. Tony Emanuel, WA8RJF, cranked out a 169 band-states (provinces, too) for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Tony's call is in many of the other entries representing Ohio this year. This year's winner—Bob Mathews, K8TQK—with 197 band-states is well deserved. Bob has turned in entries four years in a row now, each very impressive. Look at his fine performance on all bands through 10GHz!

As I look through the results, I note a few things I want to point out to you. Don Ross, NL7CO, is a single band specialist on 2m and always turns in fine efforts on that band. Note the fine score that Bill Davis, KØAWU turned in from EN37 in northern Minnesota. Being that far north, he is unfortunately missed by many tropo events that benefit ops just 100 miles to his south. Bill has had to work harder and more patiently—but he's done it! He's now using rainscatter for nice 10GHz shots throughout the region. He has used WSJT Meteor Scatter to increase his grid and state total. Eric Shook, K8TO, accomplished his solid 95 entry all from a 3-story apartment building in Minneapolis. Yes, he had access to the roof, but no tower. He used fine operating skill and persistence to achieve his accomplishment.

The entries above 24GHz were for laser contacts in each case—but that won't always be so! W5UWB makes good use of Meteor Scatter—both traditional and WSJT. KMØT just dabbled in the program this year. He now has three harmonics limiting his operating time. Art Jackson, KA5DWI reports that although his scores are down this year, he had two highlights. One, working state

number 49 on 6m via Au induced backscatter. Second, setting the continental "tropo over land" distance record on 2m with K1WHS.

This year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> year of the program. Participation over the years went like this: 47, 12, 12, 13, 17, 28, 38, 31, and 35. Please keep participating in the program if you are already and if you haven't yet, give it a shot!

If you have computer skills to help create web-based entry forms, please step forward and help make this program more accessible to participants. There is a good chance the program will be handed off to a new volunteer administrator during the next year. The program will continue and only improve with a program administrator whose only CSVHF function is the program. I apologize for the even later than last year wrap-up on the program.

The 2004-2005 Program year is now in progress—please participate!

### **Submit Stuff!**

Send along material!  
Bruce Richardson, W9FZ      w9fz at csvhfs.org  
2330 Lexington Ave S. #312  
Mendota Hts, MN 55120

### **-- Tidbits --**

If you're within range of Wisconsin, look for the Badger Contesters 2m net on Wednesday nights at 2100 Central Time on 144.250. Net Control varies from week to week. Check-ins from Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota have been heard.

Interesting maps of VHF contest activity may be viewed at:

<http://lists.contesting.com/archives/html/VHFcontesting/2004-06/msg00066.html>

