



Central States VHF Society E-Newsletter

Quarter ending Dec 31, 2003

Tulsa Conference—Success!

This year the 37th annual Central States VHF Society conference was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on July 24, through July 27 2003.

140 registered for the conference and 185 attended the banquet. We were treated to VERY reasonable temperatures for July in Oklahoma. The hotel was OUTSTANDING! Charlie and his team put on a FINE conference that was enjoyed by all how attended.

A small website of pictures is at:

www.w9fz.com/tulsa2003/csvhf03.html

2004 Conference in Toronto

Greetings to all CSVHFS Members:

On behalf of the Ontario VHF Association, VE3VHF, and the Toronto VHF Society, VE3ONT, I would like to invite you and your family to attend the 38th annual Central States VHF Society conference being held July 22-25, 2004 at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Center in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

We are very honored to be hosting this year's conference, only the second time it has been held outside of the USA, and are looking forward to bringing you a top-notch technical conference, and a memorable experience for your families.

The Delta Meadowvale is one of Mississauga's premier conference centers and is located just south of Ontario's main east-west highway, the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway (Hwy 401). Those traveling in from Detroit, Buffalo, or eastern Lake Ontario will easily spot the hotel at Mississauga's Erin Mills Parkway/Mississauga Rd. exit. A shuttle service is available for about \$13 Cdn from the Pearson airport, only 15 minutes away. Travel time from Detroit is about 3 hours, and from Buffalo is about 70 minutes.

While there will be a mailing with more information issued to CSVHFS members later on, you can find out more about the Delta Meadowvale now at:

www.deltameadowvale.com/

We have reserved a block of rooms at Cdn \$115/night (currently about \$87US), a rate which can be applied

three days before and after the conference dates of July 22-23-24, 2004 should you wish to extend your visit to the area. Please support the CSVHFS by booking your room under this banner - just quote the CSVHFS when booking your reservation.

You can reach the Delta Meadowvale directly at 1-800-422-8238 Monday -Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Calls outside that time frame will go to Delta's national reservation centre but they also have the details and should be able to book you just as easily.

Our family program is not yet finalized but we are planning an excursion to the Niagara Falls area on Friday July 23rd and to the Toronto core on Saturday July 24th. More details will be available at a later date.

More information on the 2004 CSVHFS conference, including a registration form, will be available shortly at: www.csvhfs.org/ and at www.ovhfa.com/

We would welcome anyone interested in presenting a technical paper. A formal call for papers will be issued shortly. For further information please contact Bob Morton, VE3BFM, at ve3bfm@csvhfs.org

We look forward to seeing you!

73,

Peter Shilton, VE3AX

2004 CSVHFS Conference Chmn.

ve3ax@csvhfs.org

Plus this most recent word from the Toronto team:

CSVHFSer's:

We have issued the formal Call for Papers and will include that in the mailing too. Others should feel free to pass that info on to local reflectors. Please let Bob Morton, VE3BFM, know if you are interested in giving a presentation. Bob can be reached at VE3BFM@csvhfs.org

There was a problem with the reservation procedure at the Delta that came up when one of our members tried to reserve his room. That problem should be fixed now and the 1-800 # on the CSVHFS web site should work fine now. As in past years, reservations are to be made by the members directly with the hotel, quoting the CSVHFS rate in the process. If they refer you back to me, let me know and we'll "fix" it again!

Dana Shtun, VE3DSS, 2004 Prize Chmn is already working hard to ensure this year's prize table at the banquet will be the hit it always is. If you plan on donating a prize to either the men's or ladies' table please let Dana know at ve3dss-1@rogers.com

Several people have asked me about border crossing issues. It is usually not a problem but does tend to be more tedious when the US upgrades the terror alert status. Let's hope that will not be the case in July. It tends to affect your travel time returning to the US, rather than into Canada. I will be posting more info on the "do's and don'ts" of crossing the border on the CSVHFS web site later on. Bottom line is - it is not something to be afraid of. Thousands do it all the time - including me!

73
Peter Shilton
VE3AX

2004 Papers and Presentations

Our proceedings and conference presentations come from you—our members. If you find a Proceedings light on the content you like—contribute! Your fellow members are hungry for papers and presentations about what YOU are doing now. So put together one, two, three, or more pages of the project you've been working on. With this in mind:

Greetings,
The 38th annual Central States VHF Society Conference will be held July 22-25, 2004 at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre in Mississauga(Toronto), Ontario, Canada.

The technical talks and published proceedings are an important part of the conference. I would like to invite those of you wishing to share your knowledge and experiences to be a valued speaker at this year's conference.

I also encourage you to seek out other people who could contribute to this year's talks. For those not wanting to present a paper, please consider submitting something for publication in the proceedings.

Mini talks of 10-15 minutes are a great way of sharing a special projector event in which you are involved. Antennas are of particular interest (especially to me). Anyone up for discussing the pro's and cons of some of these new weak signal digital modes? Longer talks are also welcomed.

The deadline for submitting final papers will be May 1, 2004. Submit your proposal as soon as possible to me in case there are similar talks in the works.

A speaker application form will soon be available, so contact me with your proposed paper or any related questions.

Bob Morton, Technical Chairman and V.P.
VE3BFM@csvhfs.org

2003 CSVHFS Chambers Award

Each year the society recognizes a person who has contributed to the state-of-the-art on VHF. For 2003, the Central States VHF Society presents the Chambers Award to David Robinson, WW2R for hundreds of articles published about VHF/UHF/SHF technology and active operation on the bands. Dave holds one end of the US continental 24 GHz distance record.

2003 CSVHFS Wilson Award

Each year, the society recognizes a person for outstanding and continuing service to the Society or to VHF/UHF in general. For 2003, the Central States VHF Society presents the Wilson Award to Sam Whitley, K5SW for years of service to the society. Sam has been President, Vice-President, and Treasurer many times in the early years of the society. The CSVHFS would not be where it is today if not for his efforts.

VHF FM Sprint Contest Feb 8th

By KB9Q

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club is sponsoring an FM sprint on February 8, 2004, from 1:45 PM to 4:00 PM local time. Goals are to spur activity, spur regional club competition, and to provide a taste of vhf contesting to new technicians. It will expand the scope of their VHF/UHF operation and encourage them to think beyond the rubber duck.

Each of four bands above 50 MHz are scheduled for 30-45 minute segments starting with 2 meters, then 70 centimeters, 6 meters and 1.25 meters. We felt that this order and format would concentrate activity and would let those with out equipment for the less popular FM bands get in and get out!

All the rules, including frequencies, are available at The MRAC website <http://www.qsl.net/mrac/index.html>. There are also links to downloadable forms. Give this is a try and you've got a few weeks to talk it up in your area!

6-Meter WSJT Contest

By W9FS

I would like to remind everyone of the contest this January. The WSJT Six Meter Mileage Marathon sponsored by the Six Meter World Wide DX Club ...runs 0000 UTC January 31 through 0000 February 9, 2004.

Information can be found at: www.6mt.com/contest.htm

The idea is to get everyone to have fun with WSJT, for those who don't know WSJT will make contacts when the band isn't open. A fantastic program, Joe did a great job.

So here is the deal, you have just one month to get ready for it. To start you can download the program (and find some information) from this site: <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/>

Again this year the Six Club is offering prizes from Skycrafters, PAR, QHtenna, and more may be added.

73,
Jerry W9FS
Six Club Director
www.6mt.com/

2002 and 2003 Proceedings Still Available

2002 and 2003 Proceedings are available for \$20.00, each which includes shipping. Get one of each issue combined in one box for \$37.50. A check or MO made out to Central States VHF Society and mailed to Bruce Richardson, W9FZ, 2330 Lexington Ave S. #312 Mendota Hts, MN 55120 will get a copy whisked to you in a padded envelope. The ARRL is selling these as well, but their cover price is \$20 and shipping is on top of that.

Roles CSVHFS Can Play

The Central States VHF Society *can* make the VHF+ world a better place in a number of ways. Surely, the conferences and proceedings share the technical art as well as friendship and fellowship. But the CSVHFS can also continue to work on preserving exclusive bandwidth, recruiting new members to ham radio, AND raise the level of operating ability and courtesy within and without our society.

Future issues of this E-newsletter would be a fine forum in which to advance GOOD operating practices. If you have some thoughts or an article in you about good

operating practice, please send it along. If you know of DX hogging, or improper use of DX sub-band behavior going on, try to change the world in a gentlemanly way at the time and give us a short article on how and why there is a better way to operate. Opinion pieces are welcome also.

-- Tidbits --

Jeff, KGØVL and Justin, K9MU have spent the first three weeks of January in Northern Manitoba conducting Auroral Research. Some of you have contacted them via ham radio. Their websites are fascinating.

www.kg0vl.com/

www.qsl.net/k9mu/ArcticGridExpedition.html

N7CFO has put up a page about Anderson Powerpole hints and tricks at: pw1.netcom.com/~n7cfo/pp/pp.htm

Joe Taylor K1JT will be banquet speaker at SETI League Banquet. Info at:

www.setileague.org/press/pres0401.htm

The Northern Lights Radio Society had 18 members make an expedition to shores of Lake Superior for the August weekend of the 10GHz contest. Pictures and article can be found at www.w9fz.com/superior/

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Submit Stuff!

Send along material!

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

Content, Content Content!

Help the Central States VHF Society Conference Proceedings be the best and most content rich in the land by contributing content. Increasingly, our content has appeared in other proceedings or magazines. While non-exclusive content is not desired, it's difficult to be too picky when we are not paying for articles. If you have a major paper, sometimes there is some compensatory gesture by the conference team. Check with them. But in the meantime—write up what you are doing and submit it to the CSVHFS exclusively and make the Proceedings a better document. Also, we prefer to not have “just Powerpoint slides” but again, to avoid that, we need you—the member—to take the time to contribute good material. Make the proceedings coordinator actually have to exert editorial control over what he will or won't include ☺

Need Email Addresses:

K0MQS K1RQG K5MAT KB0EMR
N2CEI
W2AXUW4LNGW8HOM WA7EPU
WD6BXE

States Above 50 MHz Award Program

Thanks to each of you for participating this year! 31 entries—slightly down from last year!

Participation was still active this year because two groups—in Minnesota and Oklahoma—utilized the program as an impetus for increased activity in their local areas. Keep it up! Other areas of the country, consider using this program to spur activity in your areas. How about it Roadrunners, 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.

Our 3rd place finisher, Gary Flynn, KE8FD, returns with another strong showing. Gary has “won” (placed 1st) in two previous years. He tied his 2000 win of 154 band-states.

For three years in a row now, our 1st and 2nd place finishers, Mike King, KMØT and Bob Mathews, K8TQK, repeat in each position. Each really used the program as a spur to their activity. Both Mike and Bob worked each other many times throughout the year and gave each other a few unique band-states. So now there is a new record to best—199 band-states. Both Mike and Bob were aggressive about watching propagation conditions. Look at both of their numbers in the table and just marvel at each of their accomplishments on each of the bands. It's symbolic of some fine operating skill and of refining their stations to yield the best coverage their geographic locations will support. I'm awed by their numbers but rather than just repeat them in text, take a look at the table. Both of these guys practiced “being there”. Mike, KMØT, reports that the arrival of a third harmonic will only allow him to dabble with this program for the next few years. Mike has an excellent article on his webpage about his 2002 quest. He is trying to find the time to write a similar article about his 2003 effort. There is a good chance it will end up as a Proceedings article.

It's fun to peruse the entries and see familiar calls. Many entries had W7XU, K8GP, KE8FD, K8TQK, and KMØT in them. A few qso's of interest: KB9TLV picked up CO and KS via AI3Z/m. Both TLV and K0KFC picked up VT and NY from W1MAD/mm—must have been on Lake Champlain. W8PAT worked K1JT on several bands. WSJT is an excellent way to pick up tough states throughout the year. If you need tips just

track down some of the callsigns that participated this year.

Items of note: KFØQ/Ø's entry was all from one weekend during the June Contest and portable at that! Nobody worked all 50 states this year—but that is not surprising now that the solar peak is past. Hawaii and Alaska were needed by many.

Rule updates and clarifications:

Canadian provinces: The response has been positive! But they sure are tough to collect! CYØ and CY9, Sable and St. Paul Islands, can be used to count for Nova Scotia. Concerning “location”, while ARRL WAS allows 50 miles to still count as one location, we will borrow a VUCC rule of 300m/1000ft to count as one location. You may combine your states from multiple locations and submit your states as a “Rover” entry.

The 2003-2004 Program is in progress. Please continue to take the program as a challenge to your day-to-day operating and encourage your friends to participate. Even if you are a single-band specialist—log your states each year and send them in. It's a great way to look at year-to-year variation in propagation, activity level, and station condition. Remember, all your contacts from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004 count for this award. It's not too tough to go back into your logs and see what you've worked.

The primary form is a downloadable .pdf. But I've also created an Excel spreadsheet that will be on the webpage within a month. I also hope to make an editable .pdf over the coming year. I'm soliciting those with web/computer/database strengths to make an online entry facility.

Rules and forms are available on web-page www.csvhfs.org or by email from w9fz@csvhfs.org or by snail mail from Bruce Richardson W9FZ, 2330 Lexington Ave. S. #312, Mendota Hts, MN 55120. This year's results and the all-time records should be on the web-page shortly.

Thanks for participating and go to it again! (Sorry for the slow write-up and certificates—I was not better this year—rather worse! I'm changing the certificates for next year to only need one signature—mine ☺)

Name	Call	Location	Yr	SCORE	50	144	222	432	902	1.2	2.3	3.4	5.7	10	24	>24
Mike King	KMØT	Iowa	03	199	55	47	15	16	11	12	10	10	9	9	4	1
Bob Mathews	K8TQK	Ohio	03	190	45	36	24	22	15	14	12	8	7	7		
Gary Flynn	KE8FD	S Carolina	03	154	52	31	19	20	11	14	7					
Bill Davis	KØAWU	Minnesota	03	134	57	44	15	12		6						
Tony Emanuele	WA8RJF	Ohio	03	132	47	27	20	13	7	8	4	4	1	1		
Gary Mohrlant	WØGHZ	Minnesota	03	121	50	23	10	10	6	6	4	5	3	3		1
John Fridenstine	W8PAT	Ohio	03	116	53	29	16	15		3						
Marshall Pochay	W9RVG	Illinois	03	101	46	19	18	14	1	3						
Jon Platt	WØZQ	Minnesota	03	97	45	18	10	9	5	5	4			1		
Eric Shook	KT8O	Minnesota	03	91	50	24	4	9	1	3						
John McDonald	KB9TLV	Wisconsin	03	79	53	18		8								
John Butrovich	W5UWB	Texas	03	78	34	29	7	4		2	2					
Chris Cox	NØUK	Minnesota	03	76	29	35	5	3	2	1				1		
Ed Fitch	WØOHU	Minnesota	03	75	15	35	2	16		7						
Charlie Betz	NØAKC	Wisconsin	03	72	42	12	5	5	4	4						
Art Jackson	KA5DWI	Texas	03	68	44	19	5									
Lenny Klosinski	KØSHF	Minnesota	03	64	42	8	3	3	2	3	1	1		1		
John Kanode	N4MM	Virginia	03	58	46	12										
Tommy Henderson	WD5AGO	Oklahoma	03	54	22	9	11	6		5			1			
Jon Fox	WØAMT	Minnesota	03	54	35	12	4	3								
Ray Johnson	W9RAY	Wisconsin	03	51	37	8	4	2								
Pierre Jolin	VE2PIJ	Quebec	03	45	14	9	7	6	3	2		2		2		
Ron Ochu	KOØZ	Missouri	03	41	22	12		4		3						
Jim Hermanek	KØKFC	Minnesota	03	41	34	3	2	2								
Jim Fisk	KCØHEW	Minnesota	03	41	39	2										
Matt Burt	KFØQ/Ø	Minnesota	03	37	16	5	4	4	4	4						
Dale Rohwer	WØDMR	Minnesota	03	36	24	8	1	2		1						
Mike Wood	WØ7GI	Oklahoma	03	30	18	5	2	4		1						
Russ Lane	KCØLMS	Minnesota	03	28	23	4	1									
Arliss Thompson	W7XU	S Dakota	03	25	25											
Clare Jarvis	KØNY	Minnesota	03	18	11	3		3		1						