PVRC Newsletter
February

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN jpescatore@aol.com
Website: http://www.pvrc.org
Meeting Info: http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/

President's Letter – Doug AA3S

General and Galactic PVRC Meeting - No Circle!

Those of you following the PVRC Reflector for at least several months have noticed that the monthly Newsletter is available before the start of the month for which it is named. For you and other 'early adopters', this February Newsletter will be a reminder that your PVRC VP, Jerome K8LF, has organized another all-PVRC get-together, the Galactic Lunch, via zoom for Saturday Feb 3, 2024 01:00 PM Eastern Time featuring a PVRC speaker and an ARRL speaker.

A significant every-fourth-year contest event (although not a PVRC 5M contest since it has no club competition) is the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) It has many teams of two qualified operators who compete against the other 2-person teams on an approximately level radio playing field to determine who is the best contest team in the world.

I say "qualified" because you don't just walk up to the starting gate on game day and join this team competition; there is a long qualification period of establishing high and qualifying performance in the standard yearly contests. Over the years many PVRC members have qualified and participated. Some of you heard two of those (Rich NN3W and Mark KD4D) recount their interesting experiences July last year at a PVRC Laurel Chapter meeting. Every experience at WRTC is different for sure, so even if you attended last year, the story Tim N3QE tells will be new (no doubt he will mention that their Team's operating position was in a hot airplane hanger, a very active hanger at one point as it turned out...).

The second presentation is of particular interest to me so I can learn whether this ARRL Teachers Institute initiative to increase Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) capability in youth by "teaching the Teacher" has the potential for 'moving the needle' that I think it might: one teacher can influence hundreds of students over his/her teaching career! Big bang for the buck and a force multiplier. Especially under the relatively recent leadership of our speaker, Steve Goodgame K5ATA, from ARRL Teachers Institute.

Follow the PVRC Reflector for the meeting link and other PVRC news and interesting info.

Go PVRC!

73, Doug --- AA3S

PVRC Officers:

President:	AA3S	Doug Hart
Vice President:	K3WA	Bill Axelrod
Vice President:	K8LF	Jerome Svinicki
Secretary:	N3QE	Tim Shoppa
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PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT. W4RQR, W4MKM, W4BFO, W4CC, W4IA

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PVRCer House/Land for Sale – Carl WB4ZNH

If anyone is looking for a location for contesting or DXing. I'm selling 10 acres with **no** restrictive covenants in Prince William County Virginia. Big house, secluded, concrete base for Rohn 45 and guy anchors. Tower was approved by Prince William County zoning and engineering drawings were accepted and approved. Former QTH of WB4ZNH and WN4FVU (SK). Going on the market in March. Contact me at wb4znh@gmail.com

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QSL CARDS By LZ1JZ

What Zone Was That? Rol K3RA/Sid K3SX from the PVRC Reflector

Exhaustive list of zones/callsigns here.

Who the Heck Was Who? – Rol K3RA/Art K3KU via the PVRC Reflector

From: <roland.anders@comcast.net>
Subject: [PVRC] K3IXD on 20 meter phone!!

Young Timur is on operating from Louisiana using remote in Maine. He was not aware of the connection to Ed Steeble when he got the vanity call. I think he is getting a little tired of hearing about it 😊 Anyway, it was a strange experience for me to work him!

From:artboyars@gmail.com
To: Roland Anders

Back in my early days in PVRC -- around 1967 or '68 -- at one regular "Second Monday" monthly meeting at Red Cross's then HQ, across the street from the Army Base at Arlington Hall Station, there was a lot of talk about "Don Miller." After several minutes of "Don Miller this..." and "Don Miller that...", newbie K3OAE asked, "Who is Don Miller?" Great laughter. As Gene Zimmerman (then W3BQV, later, W3ZZ, now SK) put it "Art didn't know a G from a DL." Gene was almost right, and I do miss him. And now, coming on to 55 years later, even after several years at W4BVV (SK) and then at W3LPL I've developed enough self-awareness to know that I have great fun in domestic contests, but DX 'Tests are just practice for SS.

(l) Mel W4MEL (r) Ed K3IXD as NU4SC in 2007

Save the Date: PVRC Galactic Lunch: Feb 3 2024 1300 ET – Jerome K8LF

The PVRC chapter wide yearly event with President & Treasurer comments and guest speakers. We have two great main presentations:

- HF World Championship 2023 Experience - Tim N3QE
- ARRL Teachers Institute (TI) - Steve K5ATA

A Zoom invite has been sent via the PVRC reflector and will be repeated closer to the event on Feb 3rd.

Annapolis Chapter Celebrates K3LU's Birthday – Dan K2YWE

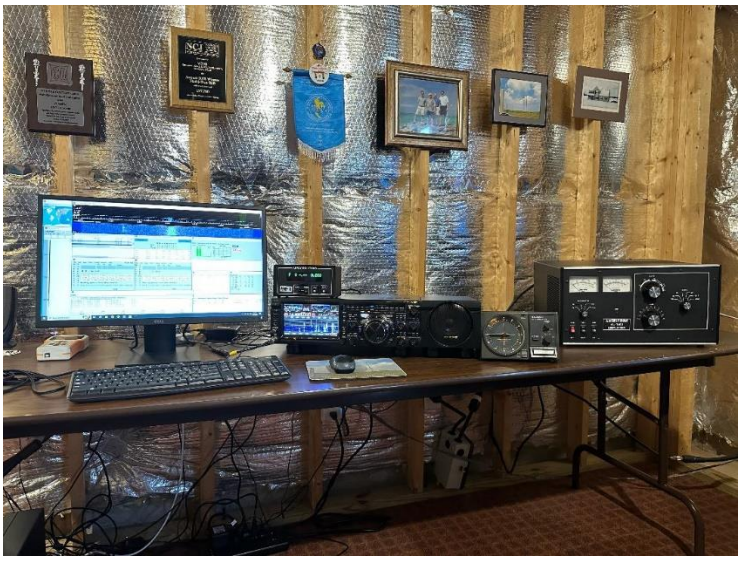
L to R: K3LU, WK3A, WA3EKL, N3DPB, W3ICM, W3OU, N3BTM, K3RA (K2YWE missing - taking the picture)

PVRC Operating Position Potpourri

K1BZ in Augusta, ME

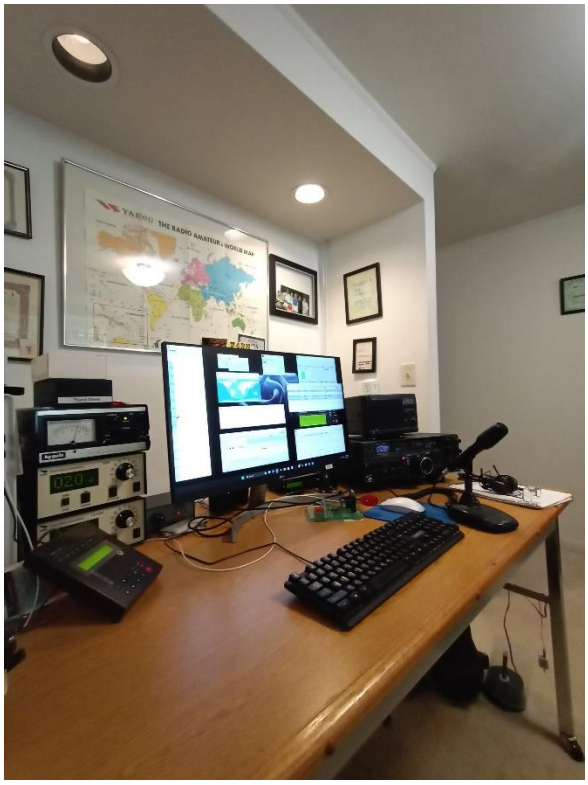
Left to right:

- 10 MHZ WSPR dedicated laptop to Yeasu FT817 to 10 MHz GP
- Upper K3s HF watch ops to a Windom
- Lower K3 contest and search ops w/ KPA500 to 160 G5RV
- 475.7 kHz (630 Meters) WSPR laptop to KX3 driving a Monitor Sensors transverter to base loaded 160 inverted L.
- Plus scope and spectrum analyzer for signal measurement.



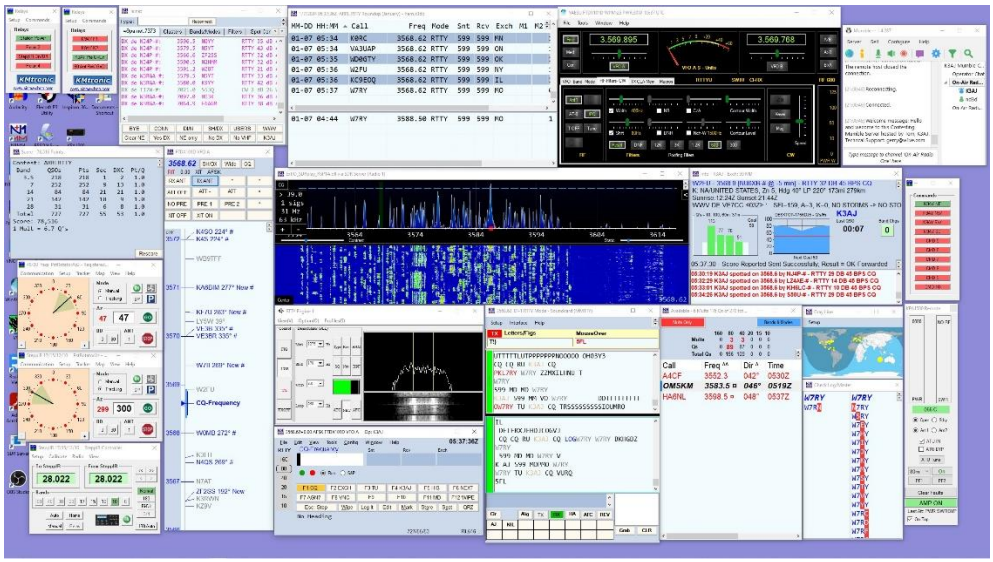
WX3B: I added a small window at the top my my PC display for a native Spectral display. This is especially useful when operating remote.

Dana, N6DW



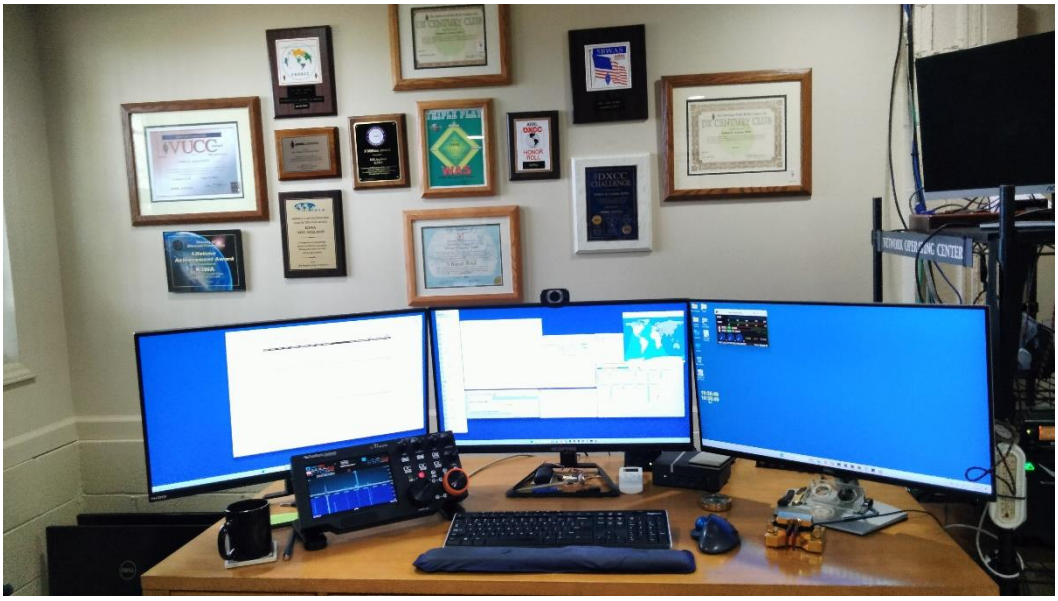
Mike W4RN – One of three operating positions to six antennas with lockouts.

Henry K4TMC at Atlantic Beach NC



K3AJ - a screenshot of what the remote operators see at K3AJ. Not exactly a shack picture - a virtual shack picture! This is all spread over a 27" monitor in the shack. The remote operators use remote desktop software (VNC Server/Viewer) to see and control this display from their computers. This is from a RTTY contest (RTTY RU), so it is especially busy.

Bill K3WA



Mark K4SO Ergonomic layout with antenna selection centrally located. SixPak driven (both sides) by decoders on each K3. Easy to do the right parts.

Small monitor on YCCC box with LP-Pan and NaP3 as panadapter. I like it better than P3 on Rig #2. Both have LP-Pan, but only one little monitor.

Bud W3LL

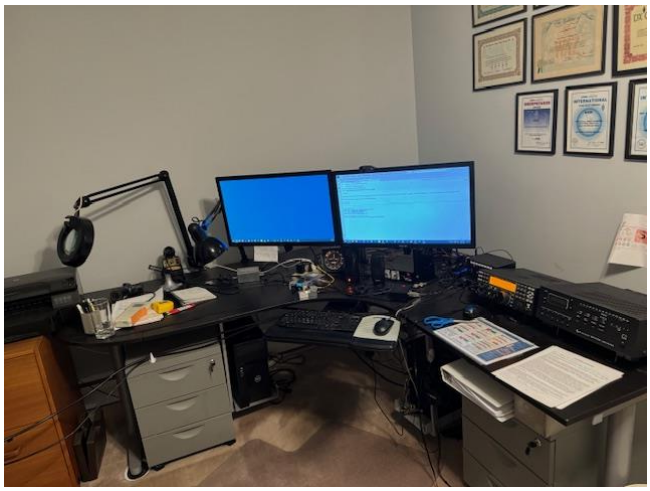
Mike N4CF It shares space with my home office on a 10-foot homemade walnut desk. On the right is an Elecraft K4D transceiver, and in the left hutch bay a KPA500 amp sits on a KAT500 tuner. To the left of the hutch are the main DC power supply, a dummy load, antenna switch, a label printer, and the office computer.

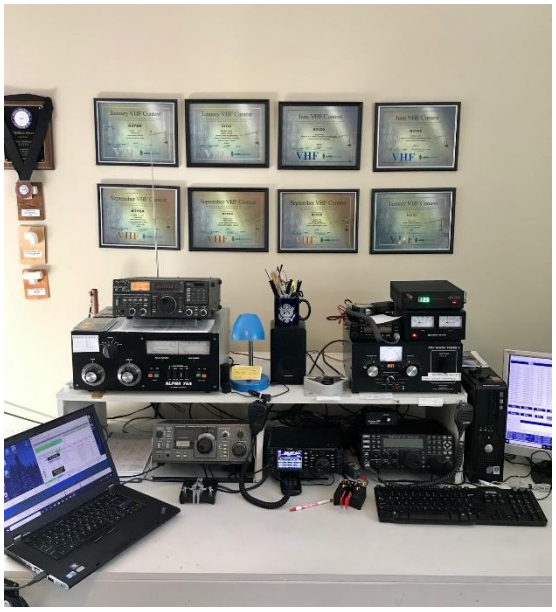
Dave N4IW – My little pistol operating position. All wire antennas and no amplifier but I still have a lot of fun!

Jamie NS3T -I use a three monitor setup for contesting (you can only see the bottom of each monitor in the picture). I have a pair of TS-590SG rigs; I set the radios so that each one has a different color background. Each one has ICE-419A filters for SO2R operations. I also have remote antenna boxes for various bands on the shack table.

What you don't see in the photo is a microphone or CW key. I don't use either for contests. All of my CW is generated by the shack PC and I only use recorded voice files (plus the contest software Writelog) for SSB contesting.

Pete N4ZR - My shack in shambles as usual. corner desk unit from Ikea, set about a foot from the walls. Ground bus is 1" copper tubing, with very short ground jumpers to each piece of powered gear.





K3YDX – before he sold his K3.

Shack Happens

Chasing DXCC the Mobile Way – Bill N3WD

The DXCC Mobile award is available from the ARRL. No QSL cards or confirmations are required. The requirements are that all contacts must be made from a vehicle and that the setup must be able to be driven legally on the roads. All of the QSOs I used were made as part of a POTA (Parks on the Air), activation. Also, all the contacts were confirmed in LOTW.

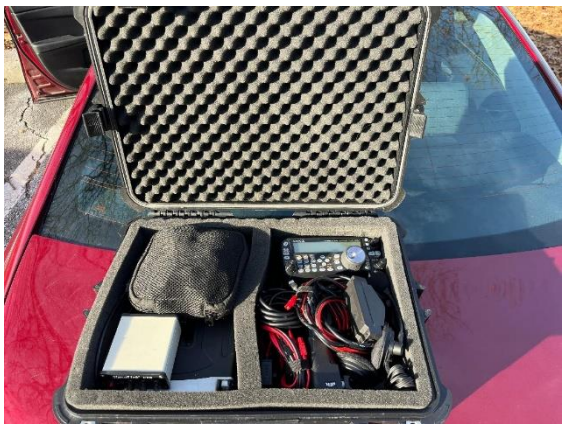
Here is my set up -

- **Vehicle** - 2017 Toyota Camry
- **Radio** - Kenwood TS-480 HX for SSB or Kenwood TS-480 SAT for digital.
- **Antenna for SSB** - Little Tarheel II mounted on the roof with a tri-mount. I use a 5ft whip on the top.
- **Antenna for Digital** - Hustler High Power Resonators or Tarheel HP-40A mounted on roof with tri-mount.

All the set-ups are street legal (below 13' 6") in total height and the vehicle can be driven with the set up operational. I have also used this type of set-up on multiple vehicles. Over time I have operated from 42 states, and 3 Canadian provinces. These operations were mainly on the 3.905 Century Club and OMISS nets.

While my setup will not break any DX pileups, I know it works. In the 25 months I have been participating in POTA I have achieved:

- 53 Awards with 147 endorsements.
- Contacting 2,140 unique parks worldwide including W8S.
- Activating parks 713 times in 286 unique parks in 8 different states and 1 Canadian province.
- Total QSO's 30,447.



The case on the right is a faux Pelican case that I purchased from Harbor Freight. On the left side is the TS-480 body. The small box is a Signa-Link that I use for digital, I mainly run FT-8 or FT-4. The mesh bag was from a long ago used headset I had for work. That contains all the non-power cables. The right side of the case contains the TS-480 head. On the bottom is a LDG 200 wat auto tuner. I also have the two power

cables for the TS-480. The TS-480HX requires two cables. Also, pictured is the up/down switch for the Tarheel antenna.

PVRC MD Metro Chapter Bling – Ed N1EK

PVRC MD Metro members received PVRC Olympics medals at the January 2024 meeting. (L-R) Ed, N1EK; Peter, W2CDO; Art, K3KU and John, N3AM. Tom, W3IDT and Tim, N3QE, in attendance, had received Olympics medals earlier."

George K6ETM Silent Key – Dave W4JVN

Here is a photo I took of George Sinclair, K6ETM who passed away in Sept 2023.

PVRC RTTY/Digital DXCC Standings – Frank W3LPL

Below are the RTTY/Digital DXCC totals for PVRC members, transcribed from the ARRL DXCC data as of the 20th of each month or so. Thanks to Frank for the data each month to make this a regular feature. Please report any omissions or errors to Frank.

Call	DXCC	Call	DXCC	Call	DXCC
K3WC	353	WS6X	274	K3IXD	114
K4FJ	349	W3IP	273	K4FTO	112
W4PK	348	K3JT	265	N3COB	112
N2QT	345	W8AKS	265	W3MAM	107
K3SWZ	343	K0GD	261	N4ZH	100
W3UR	342	K1AR	258		
W4DR	341	N3RC	256		
W3OA	337	N3QE	252		
W3LL	331	N4JQQ	251		
N3NT	330	N3KN	250		
K2PLF	327	K3TN	247		
K4CIA	327	W3US	241		
K5EK	327	W3DF	238		
K1HTV	326	W3MR	235		
N3KK	323	W3FOX	232		
WX4G	323	K5RT	228		
K3WA	322	N4NW	221		
K4SO	319	AA4NC	219		
K3RA	316	KU1T	210		
N4DB	316	WB3AVN	209		
W3KX	315	W3DM	197		
K3SX	315	N3ND	190		
K6ND	315	K3WI	188		
W0YVA	314	NR4M	186		
K5VIP	309	KE4S	186		
K1GG	308	W3LPL	174		
N3MN	305	N4XYZ	174		
N4MM	305	K3KY	172		
N4TL	300	K3PU	171		
W4VIC	300	KG7H	168		
KA4RRU	295	N4GU	163		
K4WNW	295	NA1DX	162		
KG4W	294	KF7NN	161		
W3GG	293	N6DW	159		
W2GG	292	N3AIU	143		
W3BW	289	K4HQK	142		
W2YE	277	NE3K	120		

Membership News – Tim N3QE

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the Meeting Attendance Report.
Members can check and update their roster details via the Roster Lookup.

Upcoming Contests – from WA7BNM

February 2024	
+ European Union DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 3 to 1200Z, Feb 4
+ **North American Sprint, CW**	**0000Z-0359Z, Feb 4**
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 10 to 2359Z, Feb 11
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 17 to 2400Z, Feb 18
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 23 to 2200Z, Feb 25
+ UBA DX Contest, CW	1300Z, Feb 24 to 1300Z, Feb 25
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 24 to 0559Z, Feb 25

RED – scores count towards PVRC 5M Awards or Challenge Program

Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to WB4ZNH, K3RA, K3SX, K3KU, K8LF, K1BZ, WX3B, N6DW, W4RN, K4TMC, K3AJ, K3WA, K4SO, W3LL, N4CF, N4IW, NS3T, N4ZR, K3YDX, N3WD, N1EK, W4JVN and W3LPL for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter.

The quality and usefulness of the PVRC newsletter depends on contributions from members. If you have photos from club meetings, screenshots of new contest software, or writeups on station improvements or contest war stories, send them in any format to jpescatore at aol dot com.

From the PVRC Treasurer – Ted WA3AER

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all our club members to finance our annual budget. In addition, active PVRC members are expected to participate and submit logs for at least two PVRC Club Competition contests per year.

When contemplating your donation to PVRC, each member should consider the benefit you are receiving from PVRC and its many opportunities for your personal growth in our wonderful hobby, then donate accordingly.

Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:

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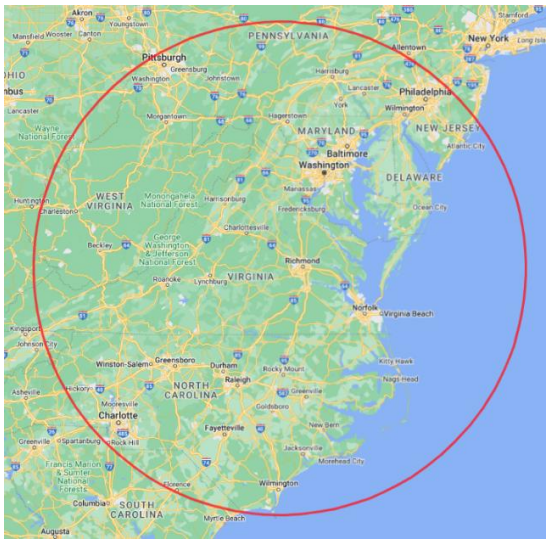
Eyeball QSO Directions

The latest info on local club meetings and get togethers will always be sent out on the PVRC reflector and posted on the PVRC web site.



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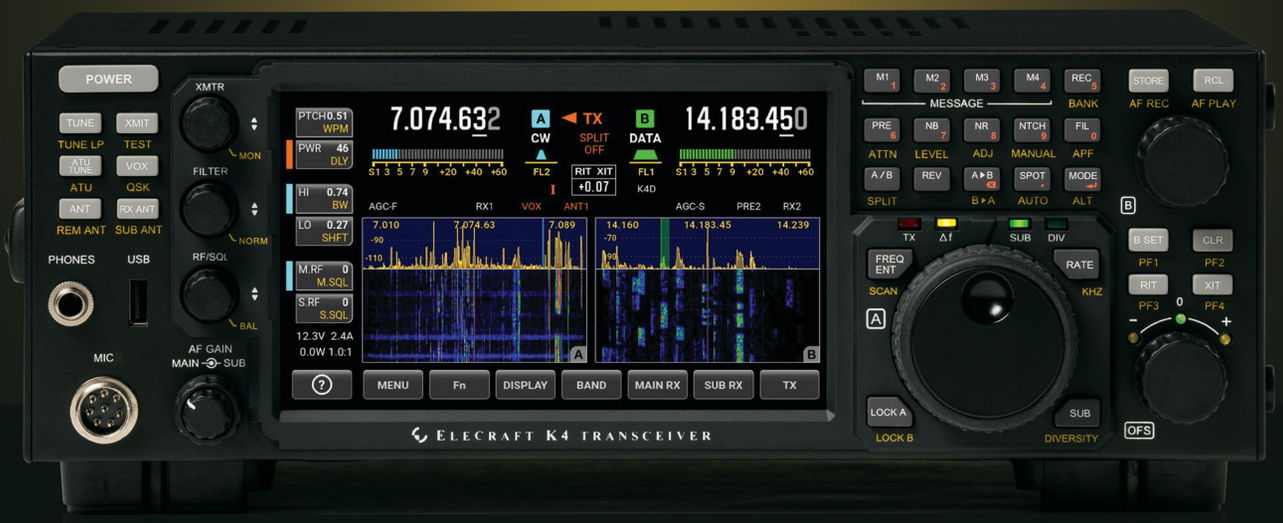

A direct-sampling SDR you'll love to use

Our new K4 transceiver harnesses advanced signal processing while retaining the best aspects of the K3S and P3. It features a 7" touch display, plus a rich set of dedicated controls. Per-VFO transmit metering makes split mode foolproof. Band-stacking registers and per-receiver settings are versatile and intuitive. Control usage information is just one tap away thanks to a built-in help system.

Modular, hybrid architecture adapts to your needs

The basic K4 covers 160-6 m, with dual receive on the same or different bands. The K4D adds diversity receive, with a full set of band-pass filters for the second receiver. (Thanks to direct RF sampling, there's no need for crystal filters in either the K4 or K4D.) The K4HD adds a dual superhet module for extreme-signal environments. Any K4 model can be upgraded to the next level, and future enhancements–such as a planned internal VHF/UHF module–can be added as needed.

Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

The main panadapter can be set up as single or dual. Separate from the main panadapter is our per-receiver *mini-pan* tuning aid, with a resampled bandwidth as narrow as +/- 1 kHz. You can turn it on by tapping either receiver's S-meter or by tapping on a signal of interest, then easily auto-spot or fine tune to the signal.

Comprehensive I/O, plus full remote control

The K4's rear panel includes all the analog and digital I/O you'll ever need. All K-line accessories are supported, including amps, ATUs, and our K-Pod controller. The USB display output supports its own user-specified format. Via Ethernet, the K4 can be 100% remote controlled from a PC, notebook, tablet, or even another K4, with panadapter data included in all remote displays. Work the world from anywhere–in style!

K4 KEY FEATURES

- Optimized for ease of use
- Modular, upgradeable design
- 7" color screen with touch and mouse control
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IC-7100 | *All Mode Transceiver*

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FTDX101MP | *200W HF/50MHz Transceiver*

• Hybrid SDR Configuration • Unparalleled 70 dB Max. Attenuation VC-Tune • New Generation Scope Display 3DSS • ABI (Active Band Indicator) & MPVD (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dial) • PC Remote Control Software to Expand the Operating Range • Includes External Power With Matching Front Speaker

FTDX10 | *HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver*

• Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor • 5" Full-Color Touch Panel w/3D Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SCU-LAN10)

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Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO

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FTM-500DR | *C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xcvr*

• Front Firing Acoustically Enhanced Speaker System • True Dual Band Operation, C4FM/C4FM Digital D-D Dual Receive • 2.4" High-Resolution Full-Color Touch Panel Display • Built-in High Precision GPS Receiver • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Headset

FT-70DR *C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr*

• System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging

FT-5DR *C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band*

• High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth© Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot

FT-65R | *144/430 MHz Transceiver*

Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access

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