



PVRC Newsletter

December 2012

President's Letter – Rich NN3W

Greetings to all in PVRC land.

Before getting to my discussion of this holiday season's events, I just want to extend a **huge** thanks to all of those out there in the Potomac Valley Radio Club that got on for the past month's worth of fall contests. Once again, PVRC put on a tour de force (I hate that phrase, by the way) in the latest running of the November Sweepstakes. PVRC put in nearly 130 logs in the CW leg with over 10,000,000 points in claimed score. This tally is nearly double that of our nearest competitor! On SSB, while logs are still coming in, over 120 logs have come in, which is well above any other club. Well done all – especially after some rather tough curveballs were tossed our way (i.e., Super Storm Sandy).

In addition to the November Sweepstakes, the Mother of all Contests – the CQWW – brought in gobs of DX to the deserving and it is clear that the bands were humming with activity...inside the PVRC circle and out.

While November will soon be in the history books, be aware that several great single band events are right around the corner – the ARRL 160 meter contest which runs this coming weekend (Nov. 30 – Dec. 2), and the ARRL 10 meter contest which follows just one week later. These are great PVRC 5M point opportunities and should be great events.

Now for other not “on the air” events.....

The PVRC Central Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Monday, December 3, at P. J. Skidoos, at 9906 Lee Highway, in Fairfax, VA, 703-591-4516, located about 3.6 miles outside the Beltway on Route 50. Our meeting room accommodates 90+. Reservations are required. Menu choices are Chicken Breast Teriyaki with Rice and Green Beans, Broiled Salmon with a Honey Dijon Glaze accompanied by Oven Brown Potatoes and Vegetables, or Prime Roast of Beef with Baked Potato and Green Beans. The price, including tax and gratuity, is only \$32.00! Meals include salad, bread and butter, tea or coffee, and Chocolate Mousse desert.

The highlights of our evening will be David Collingham, K3LP, noted contester and DXpeditioner. In addition, we will be handing out numerous awards to the membership – including 5M award plaques and endorsements, as well as Club Competition awards.

Please email me (richnn3w@pvrc.org) for a reservation and listing your menu choice. Payment is by cash or check written to PVRC to Dave-WR3L at the dinner. No-show will require payment.

Please notify me if you reserve but can't attend so that someone else may have your

chair. Our dining room with cash bar will be ready by 5:45 PM. Dinner will be served during 6:45 to 7PM and we start the program about 7:45, finishing about 9:15 or so.

I know there are other dinners including the Rappackers Christmas Dinner held at Sakura's Japanese Steakhouse, on Plank Rd (Route 3) in Fredericksburg on December 6 at 7:00 pm. Please contact Steve NR4M regarding that event.

73 and Happy Holidays,

Rich NN3W

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PVRC Website: <http://www.pvrc.org>

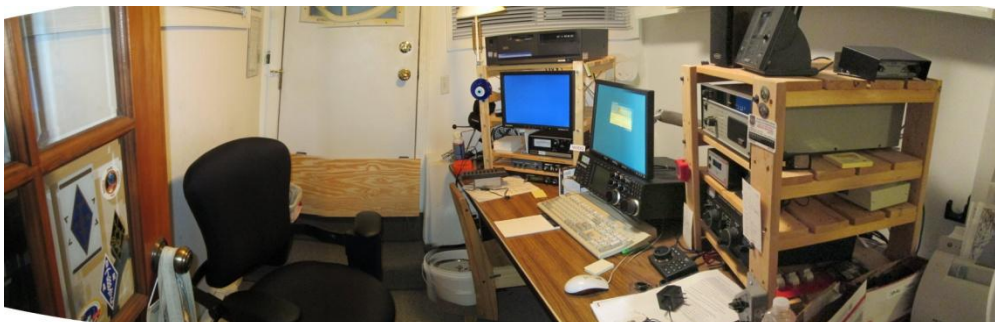
Shackstyles of the Loud and Contestifful – PVRC Operating Positions

I don't know about you, but right after pictures of beams and towers I love pictures of operating positions. The best thing about sites like QRZ.com and K8ND's [SO2R site](#) has been being able to see what the other guy's set up looks like.

I received many contributions, showing the wide diversity of PVRC members:



Mark N2QT - RTTY SO3R, or "Single Chair Multi-multi"



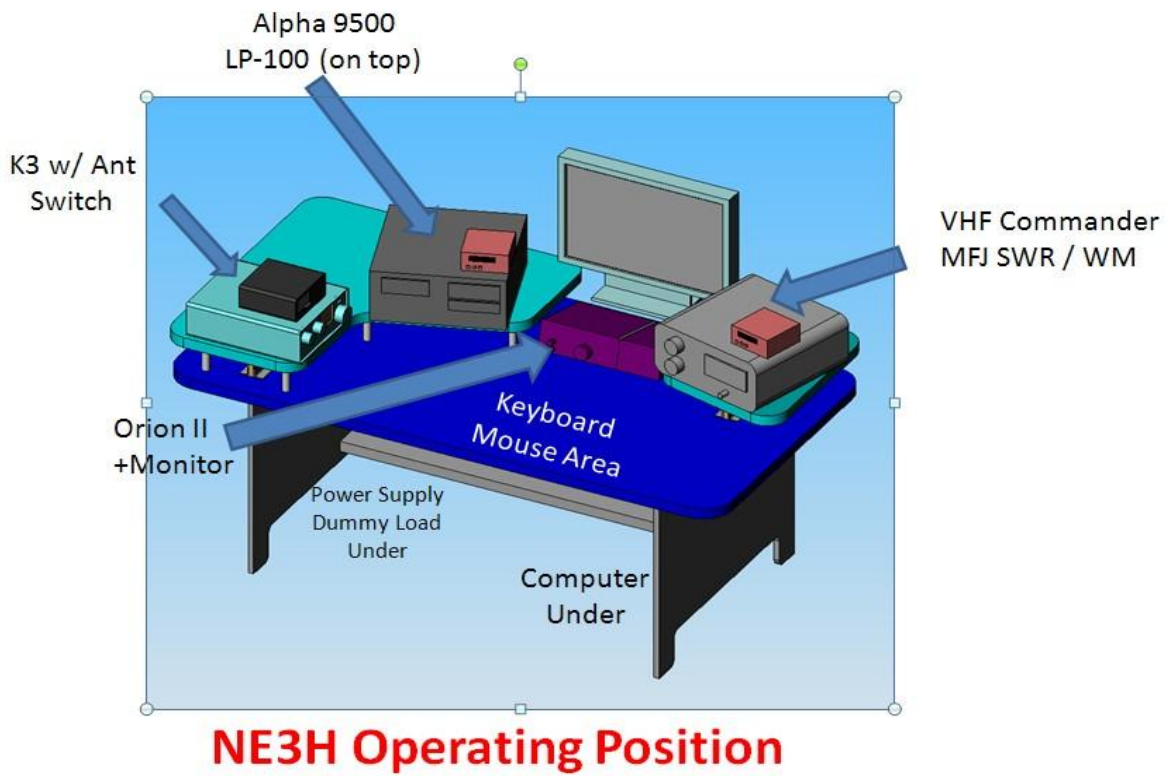
Eric W3DQ – Panoramic View of the Rare DC Mult



Jim W4TMO and father-in-law Bert N4CW at P40V/AI6V as P40G



Paul K5RT – Shack Symmetry



Joe NE3H – An Amateur Station Avatar



1/3 of the W3LPL Multi (WX3B & K3WI making 3375 15m Qs on left, 10m on right)



Dick W3GNQ – Who needs a PC when you have that rack with a steering wheel?



Russ WA2VQV – Who needs a PC when you have a D104?



Alan N3ALN – DC to light contesting



John K3TN – SO2R1W (1 wire)



Tom N4NW – With levitating middle monitor



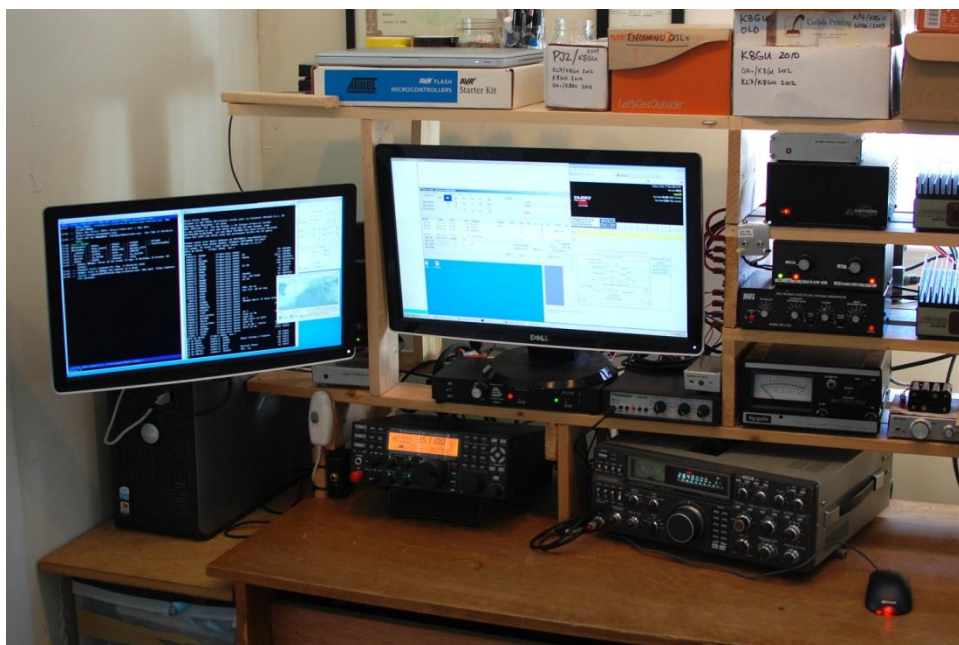
Tony K4QE – The “K Line”



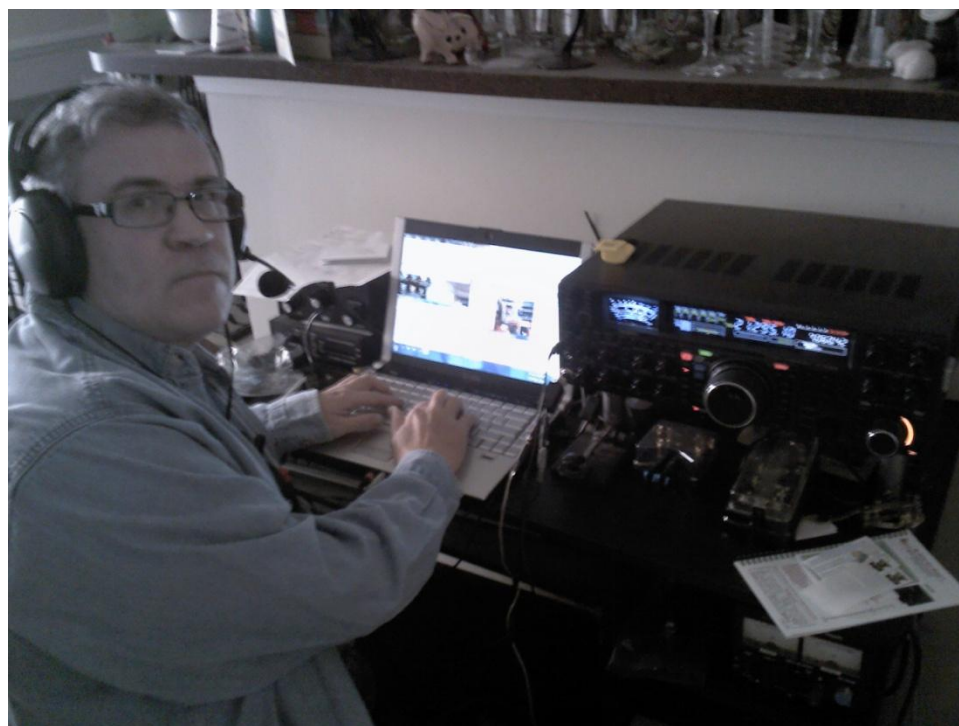
Fred K3ZO – No Packet, No high res video



Marty W8AKS – “Gets the Job Done”



Ethan K8GU – compact SO2R



Jeff K3OQ – Apartment Superstation



Ed KN4KL/KG4KL – The Classic Panel Mount Station



Ken KE3X – SO2R2B (2 Birds)

Membership News – Bud W3LL

PVRC added several new members since the last newsletter. Please welcome:

- Dick W4EA and Dave KK4XX in the Southwest VA Chapter.
- Amos N3NYC in the Northwest Chapter.
- Doug AA3S in the Central Region.

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the [Meeting Attendance Report](#).

Line Launch Aid Tip for PVRC – Art K3KU

Looking around for a "spinning reel" to use with archery gear for launching lines over trees, I found this at Sports Authority in Rockville:

http://www.sportsauthority.com/product/index.jsp?productId=11533405&clickid=body_rv_txt.



Wow! Only eight bucks! And the one in the store came loaded with line (10-lb, I think). When you push the thumb lock button in all the way, it stays unlocked -- the line plays out freely. An extra advantage of this reel is the hole in its mounting foot. By filing down a hose clamp a little I attached it to a home-store 3-ft garden steel stake as shown in the photo.

I hammered the stake a ways into the ground (at an appropriate angle), and had hands free to do the archery. It worked great, and my dipole -- strung from neighbors' trees at each end -- is now about 50 or 60 feet up on the high end. I did leave several arrows hanging in the trees, but they were cheap, too.

The Zebco reel might be available at other local stores. People are welcome to borrow my reel/stake rig, and I have a roll of 10-lb test line in case the stuff on the reel gets cut short and needs replacement.

The Science and Art of Listening – Eric W3DQ



The New York Times had an interesting piece by [Seth S. Horowitz](#), an auditory neuroscientist at Brown University, on why listening is much more than hearing. You can read it [here](#).

Webinar - "Tower Work: Tips & Techniques & Some Tools" - Ken K4ZW

A presentation outlining things we've learned from almost 100 years of combined experience, focusing on safety, cost-savings, & problem-solving.

John Crovelli W2GD and Don Daso K4ZA

Date: Wednesday, December 12

Time: 9 PM EST (Thursday, December 13 - 02:00 UTC)

Registration (free): <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/761813138>

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

Dec 2 – 10M RTTY
Dec 9 – ARRL 10M
Dec 15 – Croatian CW
Dec 16 – Rookie Roundup CW
Dec 29 – RAC Winter
Dec 29 – Stew Perry TopBand

Logs Due This Month

Dec 1 – OK/OM CW
Dec 4 – Ukrainian DX

See WA7BNM's [Contest Calendar](#) for more detail and the latest information.

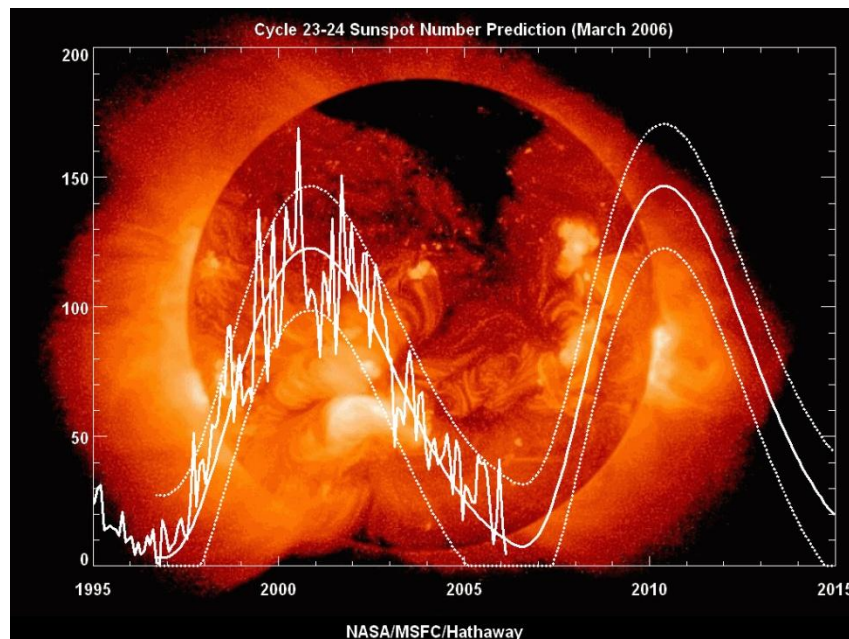
The Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

December brings contesting “at the edges”: the ARRL 10M and the Stew Perry Top Band events. I really only got on 160 a few years ago, when Cycle 24 (the solar cycle, not our advertiser...) was still late in getting here. I took a G5RV, shorted out the ladder line feed, got out my slingshot and fishing reel (much like Art K3KU's setup) and got a rope over a limb about 55 feet up in the air. I added about 17' of copper wire to the bottom of the shorted ladder line and I had a 51' T or Marconi vertical. As I added radials, the impedance dropped and my signal got better – just like all the antenna books say. Not a killer signal but sure made 160 contesting a lot of fun – especially in the Stew Perry where the points are distance based.

In 2009, 10 meters was basically a VHF band and the 10m contest was not that much different from the ARRL VHF test. Boy, did Cycle 24 change that! And what a contrast to 160 meter contesting – wide open spaces, “quiet” pileups, no QRN and signals often coming in from 360 degrees. As a wire-only station, my signal is pitiful on 10 but I did buy K3WI's MA-5 so there is a chance I might have something pointable up by the 10 meter test...

I'm looking for contributions for the January issue – especially pictures. Did Santa bring you any new gear? Any winter shack projects? Whatever ya got, send to jpescatore at aol dot com.

73 John K3TN



Eyeball QSO Directions

The latest info on local club meetings and get together will always be sent out on the [PVRC reflector](#) and posted on the PVRC [web site](#).

NW Region: Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month at the City Buffet, 1306 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD. (301) 360-9666. It's in a small shopping center. Most arrive about 6 PM for dinner and informal discussions. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

From W. Patrick Street, turn up McCain Dr. (the Mountain View Diner is on the corner), then turn right into the shopping center, then turn left and search for a parking place. The City Buffet is tucked back in the left corner of the shopping center behind the Mountain View Diner. You can't see the City Buffet from W. Patrick Street. Contact: Jim [WX3B](#)

Central Region: Meets monthly the second Monday of each month, except June, July & August). The location alternates between the below MD and VA locations. Pre-meeting dinners start at 6:00 pm and meetings start at 7:30 pm.

VA LOCATION: Anita's, 521 E. Maple Ave, Vienna, VA. Tel: 703-255-1001. Meets at this location during the months of February, April and October.
Contact: Rich [NN3W](#)

MD LOCATION: Max's Café. 2319 University Blvd W, Wheaton MD 20902. Tel: 301-949-6297 People usually begin arriving at the restaurant around 6:30. Meets at this location during the months of January, March, May, September and November. Contact: Art [K3KU](#)

The Laurel, MD Region: Bill N3XL The PVRC get-together is held at the first [LARC](#) meeting each quarter at the clubhouse.

The Annapolis Crew: Dan K2YWE Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Broadneck Grill in Annapolis. We gather at about 5:30 PM and order dinner about 6. We break up usually before 8 PM. E-Mail [K2YWE](#) to be put on the e-mail reminder list.

PVRC-NC: The PVRC NC-East chapter meetings are held at [Manchester's Bar and Grill](#) on the 9100 block of Leesville Rd. in North Raleigh, with "QRM" beginning at 6:00pm and the dinner meeting following shortly thereafter. The meeting is held monthly on the 1st Thursday of most months, cancellations or changes usually announced on the [PVRC-NC website](#). [The PVRC NC-West Chapter](#) holds its meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at [the Mellow Mushroom](#), 314 W. 4th St., Winston-Salem, NC. Ragchew at 7:00pm, dinner meeting starts at 7:30pm. All contesters and interested guests are invited!

Central Virginia Contest Club: Ed NW4V Meets the first Tuesday of the month at St. Martins Church, 9000 St. Martin Lane, Richmond VA, (between W. Broad St. and N. Parham Road). Our meeting begins at 7PM.

Over the Hill Bunch: The group meets for lunch at noon alternately in Maryland at the College Park Holiday Hotel Route 1 and the Beltway or in Virginia at the Parkview Marriot near route 50 and the Beltway. Meetings generally are held on the last Wednesday of the month and are subject to change. Meetings are announced by E-Mail. All PVRC members, non-members interested in membership and guests are welcome. For information contact Roger Stephens, K5VRX, 703-658-3991 for Virginia meetings; or Cliff Bedore W3CB or get on 147.00 for Maryland meetings.

Downtown Lunch Group: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday or Thursday of the month in the downtown area of Washington, DC. Locations occasionally change, but are always Metro accessible. Details are sent out on the PVRC reflector. Feel free to contact Eric W3DQ or Brian WV4V for details and directions.

Southwest VA Chapter: The Southwest VA group meets each Wednesday at about 8:30 AM at Hardees at 20265 Timberlake Road in Lynchburg, VA. This is an informal gathering, but normally has about 10-12 attendees..Contact Mark Sihlanick N2QT, Tel: 434-525-2921

SOMD Region Meeting: The Southern Maryland Chapter meets at 6:30PM on the first Tuesday of even numbered months. We meet in the vicinity of Charlotte Hall, MD, with the specific location (usually a local restaurant) to be announced several weeks prior to the meeting (keep an eye on the reflector). These meetings are open to all PVRCers, guests, and those interested in joining PVRC. Contact Tom AB3IC for information: e-mail: GL1800Winger@verizon.net - cell: 240-434-3811

If you'd like to add or correct a listing, contact K3TN for inclusion in the Newsletter!

Now a Word From Our Sponsors

PVRC doesn't ask for dues, but the Club does have expenses. Please send PayPal donations via DAVE@WR3L.NET or by snail mail to Dave's address at QRZ.com. You can also support the Club by buying from the firms listed who advertise in the newsletter, or by getting your company to sponsor the newsletter!

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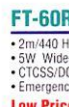
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