

PVRC Newsletter

July 2017

President's Letter – Bud W3LL

Hello, PVRC

Field Day just ended. Early reports are the joint effort between CARA and PVRC netted W3AO a record breaking score of approximately 13,500 QSOs. If correct this is about 1,300 more than ever made before. For the past few years I operated the overnight RTTY/PSK-31 position but this year grew anxious to again operate from home. The generator fired right up after those years of neglect and we we're off to the races.

Although I did miss a helluva time at W3AO I had a helluva time here at home with fantastic conditions and participation. I couldn't hear many for the roar of stations calling me - with an occasional letter a little louder than the roar. The freight train roar was very well behaved. When calling for a partial callsign you could hear a pin drop. Amazing. I was pushing over 200 Q's per hour and up to 230/hr at times on phone. The N1MM rate meter was reading a sustainable 150/hr + rate for hours on 20M, 15M and even 10M. 10M was open to at least the 24-hour ending and 20M open to the 27 hour end. I lost time on RTTY with poor results. Phone was incredible. It was interesting to see the spectrum drop at the 24-hour mark and to almost nothing at the 27 hour mark. Almost 2,000 Q's in 16 hours discounting three of the 16 hours wasted on RTTY. Averaging 150/hr over the course of FD. Terrific conditions and participation!

The prior Saturday was the W3LPL Open House. The highlight was the induction of nine year old Mason KC3IZX into PVRC. The Baltimore Sun had an inspirational photo of Mason taken during Field Day. Look for it elsewhere in the newsletter. Additionally, I saw at least seven "youngsters" all with callsigns and residing within the circle, each making their first meeting. I'm looking for another blip up in new generation membership.

Stand by for the Olympics Award announcement on 01 July. Look for it on the PVRC Reflector, the PVRC Homepage and the PVRC Newsletter. This is the successor to the 20 FOR 20 Award which runs concurrently with the 5M program year 01 July to 30 June. Each PVRC award or event has a creative originator. The Olympics Award is the brain child of our Treasurer Tom K3AJ. A team consisting of Jay W3MMM, Jim W3NRJ and Mike N4CF completed a peer review adding worthwhile tweaks and making it ready for prime time.

Also in the hopper is the PVRC 70th anniversary Special Event Station(s). The idea for this event comes from our Secretary Tim N3QE. We asked for volunteers to spearhead the project. Jay W3MMM volunteered and was appointed the Project manager. Nick KK4ODQ volunteered to help Jay. Also, Jeff N8II stepped up to be one of the station operators. Ullis K3LU volunteered to be the QSL Manager for the project. I've had the privilege to look over Jay's shoulder and see the idea gelling quite well. The plan is to utilize PVRC historic callsigns W3GRF, W3AU and W3KFC. Pete, N4KW agreed to let us use W3AU and mentioned he was moving back into the PVRC circle in September. Stand by for further updates.

Looking forward to this weekend July 01-02. It's the DL-DX RTTY Contest which will be held from 1100 Z to 1059 Z (24 hours). This Contest does have club competition. Please list Potomac Valley Radio Club as the name of the club when you submit your log. It is an excellent opportunity to tune up your RTTY skills and station for the start of the Olympics award.

Don't forget next month on 26 August is Fowlfest at Seneca Creek State Park from 11:30 AM.to 3:00 PM. Seneca Creek State Park is located at 11950 Clopper Road in Gaithersburg. Stand by for announcements on the PVRC reflector.

The NAQP Club Cup Trophy completed its journey to all PVRC chapters. The second round of NAQP contests begins next month. With your continued support, we'll get to keep the cup for another year.

Now that the rainy season ended and major league contesting is in a lull it's time to focus on tower and antenna building – or is that better done in January/February. It's also time for VHF DXing. After the WPX CW contest each year I lower one of my 80M 4-SQ towers and put the M2 6M7JVH 6 meter antenna on top to supplement the MonstIR. But oh no, times are changing and technology keeps moving forward. We now hear the acronyms WSJT-X, JT65 and MSK144 along with PSKReporter and ON4KST Chat and see all those worldwide spots on 50.276 MHz. Time to get up to speed and learn or be left behind. Gotta go figure this thing out.

It's now time to read about what all of you have been doing on the air during the past month – on to the Sports Pages.

After a lull with no major contest, the end of May saw the long anticipated WPX CW. Although it was worth the wait, there was the challenge of disturbed conditions due to a CME and associated aurora on Saturday night. A big PVRC turnout, as expected, with about 65 entries, including a number of multiops, bringing the total of PVRC players into the 80's. PVRC had its own "battle of the titans" in M/M HP with the Goat Farm team at NR4M putting up a commanding score of 16.6M, leading in the US. The Goat Farm team featured some international guests and the maiden contesting effort of new ham (but

veteran military CW op) KN4DEB who was last seen running stations at 30 WPM while listening to two radios. Team W4AAW (operating as KU1CW) also made over 3,000 QSO for 7.6M in M/M. The W3AAW remote station did have some technical problems to work out in real time. Among the other multiops, Team W3LL (M/S) put up a score of 4.9M, followed closely by the part time M/M of WX3B at 4.3M. N4CW (M/S) put in a notable score at 1.6M followed by team WA3EKL (as AC3U) at 760K. VP5M scored a very impressive 6M in M/S LP.

Top SO score in PVRC was by KT3Y at KP2M with a score of 13M. The big boys in SOAB HP included N4YDU (as NR4X but using a remote station outside of the 250-mile circle) at 8.8M and KD4D at 5.6M. K3ZO and AA3S both put up more than 1M in this category as well. In SOAB LP WJ9B (out of the 250-mile circle in this one) scored 2M. In SOSB40 HP N3KS (at T15W) made 1820 QSO for 7.5M. And N3QE's 3.7M in SO (A) AB (TS) HP is notable and looks like the top US score in that category. In SO (A) AB HP the top PVRC score was by W4FS (as WU4NC) with 2.6M. Other scores in this category over 1M were by W4ML (at 2.4M – he “ran some”), K3ZU and K2PLF.

In the limited antenna “category” K4FTO made 320 QSO's using his attic dipoles, N4CF and his dipole made 443 QSO and W4GDG made 65 QSO with his attic dipole. N4ZR has returned to contest activity with 100W and a dipole from his new QTH in his first contest since 2015.

Then came the last 5M contest of the 2016-17 5M year – the ARRL June VHF contest. Six meters has been open almost every day this season, but on Saturday the openings from the northern end of the PVRC circle, at least, were limited. But on Sunday there were several good openings. It seems like the PVRC NC contingent was especially blessed. Participation was good, with 47 scores reported to 3830, compared to last year's participation of 35 last year. The W3SO team made 799 QSO in 234 grids for 231K. Some of the six meter openings were just a bit misplaced for them. Team WA3EKL made their first foray into a VHF contest. Top PVRC single op scores were by W3IP (90K), N3MK (71K), and K3ZO (62K). Other players in various categories with more than 200 QSO's were K3DNE, K3AJ, N3XF, N4YDU (top PVRC LP score at 30K), W3EKT (very close to N4YDU in LP with 29K), W3LL (with 300 QSO and top PVRC score in 3-band LP) and N3ALN.

If you saw the report on the reflector, then you already know that 18 PVRC'ers (including ND3D's late entry) made 1,162 QSO's using minimal 6M antennas (defined as homebrew moxons, dipoles or HF antennas) to compete for the “PVRC Pipe” award. Top gun and winner in the 6M dipole category was K3YDX operating from the Outer Banks of NC (we had no circle for the PVRC Pipe award) who made 135 QSO's in 77 grids. Not far behind was W4MYA with 136 QSO in 68 grids using an 80M loop, winning the HF antenna class. W4FS won the moxon class with 103 QSO in 58 grids. Runners up were N3HEE in moxon class, W4VIC in 6M dipole class, and N4RV in HF antenna class.

That's it for another month. See you all next at Fowlfest.

73, Bud W3LL

Pictures From Xenia Hamvention 2017

The ARRL reports that over 29,000 hams attended the Dayton Hamvention at its first year in Xenia, second highest level of attendance ever, and 15% higher than the final year at Hara Arena in 2016. PVRCers were out in force:



Dave K3ZJ, CQ Magazine Contesting editor, presents CQ Contest Hall of Fame award to Bob, N6TV. Ed W0YK on the right. (photo by Tom K8CX)



Bud W3LL receiving a Certificate of Appreciation certificate acknowledging PVRC's donations in support of the WRTC from WRTC2018 President Christian DL1MGB. (Picture by Sandy DL1QQ)



K2YWE on the hay wagon from the bus.



Bill W2RQ at the CW Ops booth, from Pip WB4FDT



Jack W3KX and Frank W3LPL at the ARRL Donor Appreciation Dinner at the Packard museum – from Dan K2YWE



Wayne N4FP, Hank W6SX and Pip WB4FDT



Jim N3JT teaching proper squeeze keying technique to the YL at the Gutter Guard booth across from the CW Ops booth.



John N3AM, Rob K6RB and Dov 4Z4DX at the CW Ops Spaghetti Warehouse Dinner.



John K3TN, K3TN XYL Carole and Rick WA3UOO on a 30 mile bike ride around Xenia before the Hamfest. On Saturday WA3UOO and K3TN biked into the Hamvention.



Larry WA3KOK and Brian N3OC try to get the 162.55 weather forecast for when the flea market area will turn into a mud pit. (W3MSH photo)

PVRC's Youngest Contester – Bud W3LL



KARL MERTON FERRON/BALTIMORE SUN

Mason Braithwaite, 9, communicates Saturday with other ham radio operators under the supervision of Wendy Saudageot during an event in Ellicott City.

The photo is of PVRC's youngest contester nine year old Mason KC3IZX who was voted into PVRC at the W3LPL Open House. Article [here](#), video [here](#).

PVRC Officers:

President:	W3LL	Bud Governale
Vice President:	K2YWE	Dan Zeitlin
Vice President:	W3TB	Tom Edwards
Secretary:	N3QE	Tim Shoppa
Treasurer:	K3AJ	Tom Valenti

Trustees:

K3MM, N3OC, WX3B, W4ZYT, N4NW, K2AV, KE3X, K4ZA, K3WRY

PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT

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

NSS Radio Transmitter Facility Patch - Frank W3LPL

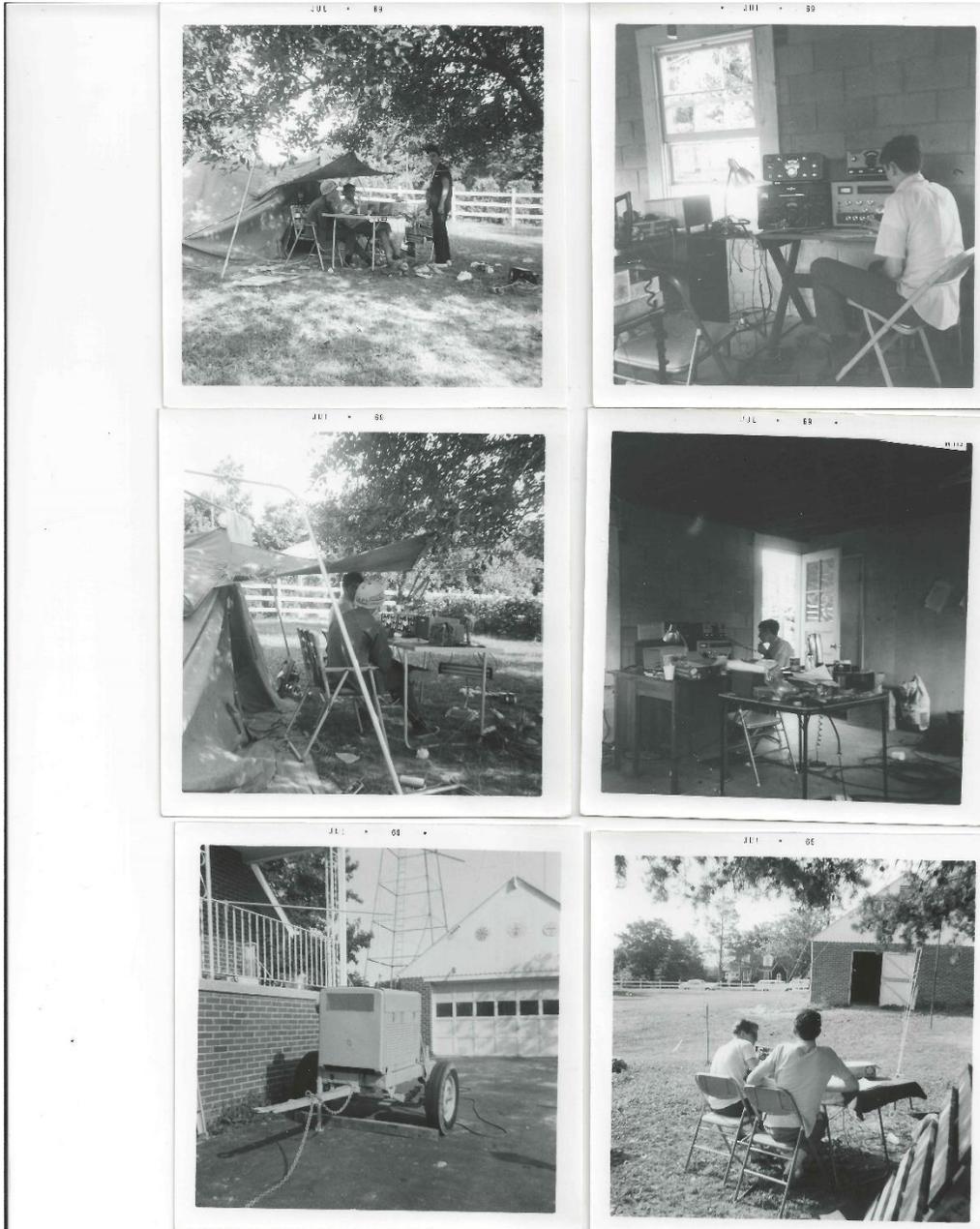


Southwest VA Chapter Photos – Mark N2QT



(L) Ed N3CW (seated) signing his book "Compendium of Automatic Morse Code" for Clint KK4CB (*editor's note: I'll have a review of Ed's book in the September newsletter*)
(R) Dave KK4XX and George N4UA admiring Herman N4CH's Gonset and keyer.

Field Day 1969 at W3IN – Ed N3CW



Don, W3IN, graciously hosted many of the younger PVRC and local high school hams in 1969 for a Field Day operation at his Beltsville, MD QTH. The folks shown are:

Top left – WA3LRS, WA3IYS (now W3RQ), and WA3GJD (now W3MSH)

Top right – WA3GUI (now NC3Y)

Middle left – WA3IYS, WA3LRS

Middle right – WA3GUI

Bottom right – WA3JXJ, WA3HQW

Membership News – Tim N3QE

PVRC added several members in the last month – please welcome:

- Kyle KC3FMP in the Northwest Chapter.
- Todd WT2F and Mason KC3IZX in the Laurel Chapter.
- Dana N6DW in the Roanoke-Blacksburg Chapter
- Sandra KF4EKA and Gary K4GJF in the Purcellville Blue Ridge Chapter.

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

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

- July 1 – RAC Canada Day
- July 1 – DL DX RTTY
- July 8 – IARU HF
- **July 15 – NAQP RTTY**
- July 15 – CQ WW VHF

Logs Due This Month

- July 4 – SEANET
- July 12 – ARRL VHF
- July 19 – All Asian CW

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

From the PVRC Treasurer – Tom K3AJ

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual Dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all of 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:



Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible

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: [Chef Lin](#), 417 S Jefferson St. Frederick, MD 21701 Phone #: 301-620-0664(2675)
The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Contact: Jim [WX3B](#)

DC Metro: 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 6:00. 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 meets the 3rd Monday of each month (except December) at about 7:00 PM at Hams Restaurant, 414 S. Stratford Rd., Winston-Salem on the south end of the Thruway Shopping Center. We meet in the front meeting room of the restaurant. A wide variety of cold 801s and Sports bar menu available. Contact Henry Heidtmann [W2DZO](#), full info at <http://www.w4nc.com>

Over the Hill Bunch: The group meets for lunch at noon alternately in Maryland at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn 6323 Greenbelt Rd, Berwyn Heights, MD or in Virginia at Anthony's restaurant in Falls Church. Meetings generally are held on the last Wednesday of the month and are subject to change. Meetings are announced by email.

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: At 12 o'clock noon on the first Wednesday of every month in Downtown DC.

Location: R.F.D. Washington, 810 7th St., N.W. Washington - Metro (Green Line) at Gallery Place Station

Meeting since April 2005, PVRC'ers, contesters, DX'ers, and others coming through this area have been meeting for lunch in the Metro Center area of downtown Washington, DC. If you give him enough notice, regular attendee Fred, K3ZO, may bring you your 3-land QSL bureau cards! We invite and encourage you to join us every month for good food, good company, and good conversation. If you have any questions feel free to email or call W3DQ or our co-convenor, Rich NN3W. Hope you can join us!

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

Eastern Shore Chapter: Meets every three months, on the second Saturday of April, July, October and January at noon. In keeping with the tradition established by SK Dallas W3PP we will also meet at the contest station of Eric WG3J one hour before the start of most major contests. Contact Eric Hudson [WG3J](#)

Location: Delmar Pizza, north west corner of the intersection of highways 13 and 54 in Delmar, DE

Southern Maryland Chapter: Currently on hiatus, if interested in meeting contact the Chapter Chair, Tom Shelton, [ND3N](#) via email or (240) 434-3811

Colonial Capital Chapter: Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:30 am
Location: Hot Stacks Restaurant, 6495 Richmond Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188
757-565-1105 Contact: Bill Conkling [NR4C](#)

The Tidewater Chapter meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Frankie's Place for Ribs located in the Fairfield Shopping Center on the corner of Kempsville Road and Providence Road in Virginia Beach. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. All amateurs are invited.

Contact either Chapter Chair: Don Lynch, [W4YZT](#), or Ron Young, [W8RJL](#)

Blue Ridge Chapter of PVRC will welcome members and visitors. Always 1st Thursday at noon.

Place: Smokin Willy BBQ, 201 N. Maple Avenue, Purcellville, VA

Contact: Mike [W4AAW](#) - [571-510-2535](#)

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

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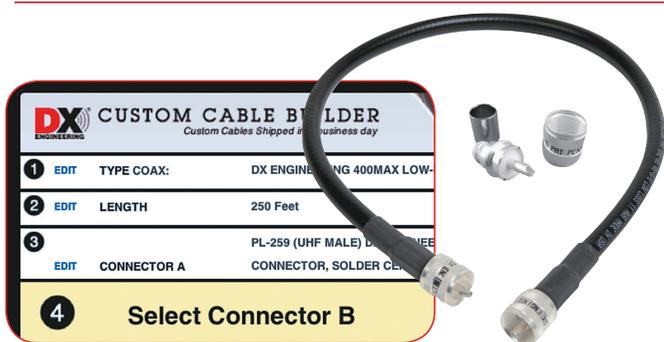
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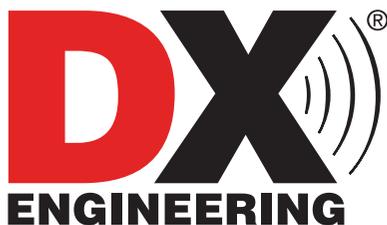


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