



PVRC Newsletter

January 2018

President's Letter – Bud W3LL

Hello, PVRC - Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year on behalf of myself and your PVRC officers. I'm writing this column before Christmas Eve to keep the printing presses on schedule.

Congratulations to two PVRC members, Rich NN3W, and Will AA4NC who were selected as referees to the WRTC2018 championships next July in Germany. And let's not forget PVRC has five players in this world wide contesting event: KE3X, KD4D; N4YDU, N3KS and KU1CW.

Among the many other PVRC Christmas/Holiday celebration dinners, the PVRC NOVA, DC and MD Area Christmas and Holiday Dinner was held at Topolino's on the MD side of the Potomac. Thanks goes to Tom K3AJ for a masterful job organizing the event. The setting provided the perfect opportunity to honor two PVRC members. The K3MM Top Gun Award was presented to Mark KD4D for outstanding performance in both modes of Sweepstakes. I also had the privilege to present the President's Leadership Award to Jim AB3CV "For outstanding effort helping other members with technical and on-site support".

We're getting closer to the PVRC-wide Center of the Circle all member inclusive Galactic Event held right after the Richmond Frostfest. The event will take place on Saturday, February 3rd. See our website www.pvrc.org for the latest information.

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Let's not lose sight of the requirements to earn the PVRC Olympics Award. Details are [here](#).

Looking in the forward direction this month we have RTTY Round Up on Saturday 06 January followed by both legs of NAQP Cup Challenge. CW on the 13th and SSB on the 20th. Later in the month is CQ 160 CW on 26 January.

Regarding the NAQP Cup Challenge, the consortium of clubs is considering allowing additional clubs to participate, as well as adding a 25-Member Limited category having a separate trophy. All scores will count for the 'Unlimited' NAQP Cup Trophy. The Unlimited category remains our primary focus since as a large club Participation Multipliers go a long way to help us win. Stand by for more information on the PVRC reflector as the month progresses forward. If we don't get better at RTTY as a club, we won't win either the Unlimited or Limited-25 categories in 2018. We lost the trophy based on less than stellar RTTY performance.

As I write this, the PVRC 70th Anniversary On-The-Air Special Event Stations Celebration is about to begin. I'm looking forward to it. I signed up to operate a shift each as N4P, N4V, N4R and N4C. Also a shift each as W3GRF and W3AU. All thanks to the hard work of VP elect Jay W3MMM. Let's not forget QSL Manager K3LU Ullis. Everyone will be Working the Sweep to get those special QSL cards. You'll see detailed information on QRZ.COM for any of the Special Event [callsigns](#).

Potomac Valley Radio Club

70th Anniversary Celebration



GET THE
SWEEP!
WORK ALL SIX CALLSIGNS
QSL ALL via K3LU



PVRC celebrates 70 years by closing out 2017 with an on-the-air celebration! Look for the following six callsigns on the air from December 24 to December 31 2017:

N4P, N4V, N4R, N4C, W3GRF and W3AU



W3GRF, SK (ex-W4KXN) Len Chertof: As a post-war Pentagon employee, Len helped organize PVRC in its early years. In the 1950's, the W3GRF super station outside Washington DC won many contests and helped develop many PVRC members. You can read more about Len, his station and his involvement in PVRC here: <http://www.pvrc.org/W3GRF/W4KFC-on-W3GRF-CQ-Magazine-03-1961-hires.pdf>



W3AU, SK (ex-W3MSK) Ed Bissell: In the 1960s and 1970s, Ed ran one of the finest multi-multi contest stations on the banks of the Potomac River, just south of Washington, DC. Many top contesters in the US got their start in serious contesting at W3MSK/W3AU, and Ed is credited as developing the concept of multi-multi contesting.

These men influenced and inspired many.
They made contesting, indeed ham radio, better.

On our 70th anniversary, we close out the year by activating these callsigns in their memory, and of the others who helped create the PVRC legacy.

Now let's visit the Sports Page and see what you did last month in the competitive sport of contesting:

CQ WW CW was, as always, popular among the PVRC faithful, albeit with somewhat uneven conditions. 10M was certainly difficult and the low bands were quite productive, as you might expect at this point in the sunspot cycle. 15M featured productive openings to EU during periods of common daylight. But this is radio, and you never know what is going to happen. 20M closed early after dark on Friday, but opened again for a while around 2 AM local Sunday. 15M opened well before daylight on Saturday, but not again on Sunday. That's why we keep coming back.

Congratulations to team W3LPL for eking out a very close win over K3LR. Frank stated that this was W3LPL's 39th consecutive CQ WW CW M/M entry, and his 47th entry overall. Team W3LPL welcomed K3CT and K3TEJ from FRC who did a great job on 160M. Team NR4M put in the #3 US score in M/M with only 9 operators – pretty impressive. Team W4RM in M/2 made their first CQ WW CW effort, easily making the top 10 US despite some station problems and a limited team – well done! K4QPL and AA4NC operated LP M/S from VP5 and took the #2 spot world - great job with only two ops. With the amplifier at W3LL still in the shop, a team there put in a top 10 finish in M/S LP.

There are a myriad of categories in this one. Top 10 US finishes were made in SOAB HP by N4YDU (as NR3X) – second in the US – and N4AF, in SOAB LP by NS3T, SOAB (A) LP by N9NB in his first ever SO2R try (#4), SOAB Classic HP by W4CB (W2RU) - #2 – and in SOAB Classic LP by N8II (#2). Perusing the single band efforts shows two PVRC entries of note: N3UA in SOSB 15 LP made “DXCC in a weekend” with exactly 100 countries and K3RV (@N4RV) put up one of the higher US scores in any single band category with almost 440K in SOSB 15 HP. Among interesting stories were N4UEZ, AC6WI and K4FTO going at it with only attic antennas. Some ops reported being able to do most or all via assisted S&P, such as N3AM who made 1163 QSO that way with a remote operation and W4MYA, N3QE and N3JT also went mostly S&P for some big scores. W4FS is emulating his mentor, N4YDU, with a remote operation of one of the big stations (W2/Blueberry) for 2.4M.

Next up were two contests at the extremes of HF – the ARRL 160M and 10M contests. Not surprisingly for this part of the sunspot cycle, the 160M contest was a lot more productive. Conditions were very good to EU both nights, maybe a little more so on Friday. At times, many PVRC ops reported EU callers breaking through the little pileups of US callers. Propagation to the west didn't seem to be quite as good. And there were a few sections that proved to be very difficult to non-existent. ND, KL7 and PR come to mind. The 10M contest? To say that it was like a VHF contest would be insulting to that fine sport of VHF contesting. At least you can move stations from band to band up there. But I digress. There was epic suffering on the part of those who stuck it out for a serious effort. There was a little bit of SA prop on Saturday and even less on Sunday. The e-skip to the Midwest was weak and, well, sporadic. There was great deal more CW activity than SSB, so those few that went all SSB really paid the price. Thank goodness for CQ repeat.

Big PVRC turnout in 160, with 80 scores on 3830. Several PVRC teams played in M/S, with N1LN taking #3 overall 1542 QSO for 467K, only 120 QSO and 6 mults behind #1. K000 (at WA3EKL) and KC4D were pretty close to each other with good scores and K3CCR made an appearance here as well. In SOHP, perennial powerhouse K3ZM took

#1 with 1543 for 524K and W4CB (W2RU) was at #5 with 1449/437K. There were a lot of PVRC entries in SO U HP, with NR4M making the top ten and leading the PVRC scores with 1331/403K. Imagine what Steve would have done if he had stayed up later! The next tranche (look that word up in your Funk and Wagnalls if you still have one) of scores in places 11-20 were dominated by PVRC with W4MYA, K2AV, N3QE, K4XL, KA4RRU and K3AJ in a row from 13th through 18th place – all with more than 1,000 QSO. N3HEE, further down, still made over 1,000 QSO. Notable LP efforts were by K7SV in SO LP with 850/183K for a top 10 finish and N8II just missing the top 10 with 667/138K – but contest weary (his words) N8II only played for less than 6 hours. K4ORD also did well in LP with 570/102K. With the amp still in the shop, W3LL (with ND3D at the key – OK, keyboard) took #2 in SO U LP with 970/222K. Team WQ4RP did a M/S in QRP with 441 QSO for 66K. i60 QRP? Not for the faint of heart, for sure. Among the human-interest stories for this contest, it was noted that W3IP was seen almost 50 Mhz below his normal lowest frequency, K3YDX was using “what started out as an inverted-L; it’s a long story” (sounds ominous) and W3GVX made his first ever appearance on 160 from his home station (and that goes back to the Eisenhower administration).

Among the stalwarts in the 10M contest that persevered, the ops at K3CCR put up a good M/S score with 177 QSO for 24K. In SO CW HP, out of circle PVRC’ers XK2K (CX1EK) took #1 in the category with 277/72K and WJ9B was #4 with 298/58K.

Meanwhile, back in PVRC land, KD4D in another of his classic 2S2Q operations took #7 with 294/48K. NR4M also broke the 100 QSO barrier with 142/15.4K. N8II took #1 in SO Mixed LP with 244/41.9K. three PVRC’ers made the top 10 in SO Mixed U HP: K3ZU #4 with 346/41.9K, N4RV #7 with 336/59K and W4MYA #9 with 274/55K. Can you believe some of these guys broke 300 QSO? W3IP (well below his normal frequencies, but not by as much as he was the previous weekend) put up a good score in this category with 260/34K. Others who broke 100 QSO in various CW or Mixed categories included N1LN, W4PK, N4YDU and WA4JUK. Finally, we offer our condolences to the following, who operated in the SSB only categories where the activity level was truly abysmal: N4MM, N3DUE, N4RA, K4TMC, AI1W, N3ALN, K3VOP and W3LL. The fact that none of these made 100 QSO’s tells quite a tale of just how bad it was. Finally, a special shout out to N3ZU who faced the pitiless ionosphere alone with only 5W in SO Mixed QRP and made 41 QSO.

That’s it for another month.

73, Bud W3LL

<u>PVRC Officers:</u>		<u>Trustees:</u>	
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PVRC Website: http://www.pvrc.org			

VP5M: Harbour Rock after Irma and CQWW CW 2017– Jim K4QPL

Jim, K4QPL, and his family own a vacation rental villa in VP5 which doubles as a DXpedition destination. This is the report he gave to the PVRC-NC chapter meeting last month.

Hurricane Irma hit the Turks and Caicos Islands very hard but with far less damage on the island of Providenciales (“Provo”) than others. Many roofs were damaged, including ours, and low-lying areas suffered flooding from storm surge. Harbour Rock, being high on a ridge overlooking Turtle Cove, of course had no flooding. Our property fared far better than others with no glass breakage and no significant leaks or rainwater damage. The island has recovered quickly. The airport, most all restaurants and tourism businesses have reopened and are operating normally.



The SteppIR antenna, mounted on an AB-577 mast, was severely damaged. The force of the wind wrenched the poles out of their mounts destroying the EHU's although most of the poles themselves were usable.



Fortunately, insurance settlement was prompt and adequate. The folks at SteppIR were very helpful and shipped what we needed along with an upgraded 40-6M driver/loop to give us forty meter coverage as well. It has played well in both the 2017 CQ WW SSB and CQ WW CW contests.

With all the parts on hand we put everything together and reassembled the SteppIR on its original boom. Was then raised to its proud position overlooking Grace Bay and the Caribbean Sea facing North towards both North America and Europe. South America is also available with the exclusive 180 degree pushbutton on the controller. Frandy, who has worked with Jody, VP5JM for several years is very helpful with antenna work.



Prior contests had shown us that having nothing more than a wire antenna for the multiplier radio was a severe disadvantage and some form of gain antenna for the high bands was necessary. Fortunately, I had been collecting with this in mind whenever something came up from one of our Potomac Valley Radio Club members or at hamfests. When the hurricane struck I had already purchased a Cushcraft A3S, a Ham-IV rotator, a salvage control box and a 2" military mast kit. We used the customs moratorium and good airfreight rates to get the antenna and mast down to VP5 along with the SteppIR parts. We were under a deadline to be operational for the VP5W group arriving for CQ WW SSB so the tribander went up without the rotator which I brought down as extra baggage later. I've gotten used to the strange looks and guaranteed inspections by TSA and of course this was no exception! Explaining to local customs officials what these strange items were used for was also fun.



This antenna is temporary and must be erected by each ham group and removed. Non-ham guests somehow don't appreciate the beauty of a tri-bander in the driveway ☺. Erecting and dismantling it in this mode is a tough job manhandling and guying the mast with a 25 pound unwieldy antenna up top. Will, AA4NC, and I, when faced with this daunting task for CQWW CW, considered it carefully over a couple Turk's Head "I AIN GA LIE" local lagers, decided that some kind of fixture was needed to push up the mast sections. Will said, "Something like that ladder over there." EUREKA! That ladder over there was soon modified by enlarging the hole at the top, adding a bored out temporary cross-member, and securely guying it to some nearby trees. The beam was assembled, the rotator mounted on its base, a guy ring inserted as the mast sections were pushed up, top guys tied off, and we had another antenna. Looks kinda' kluge but it worked perfectly for the contest, has good SWR both SSB and CW and is easily dismantled.





Assemble the beam and mount it on the mast:



Push up more sections, connect the rotator and you're in business.



Reverse the process for take down. The beam is only partially disassembled for storage. Color coded tape for the elements makes parts ID easy. Next time just slide in the elements to the blue lines and tighten the clamps. This method may also be an idea for Field Day.



The SteppIR uses an “Armstrong” rotator but it seldom needs to be turned and then only a few degrees from NA West Coast to EU. Under normal conditions due North is where it stays.

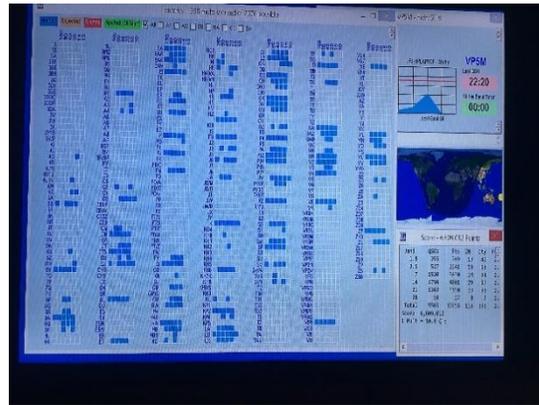


By Scott KA9FOX

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Time for contesting! Will runs 'em at a high rate while Jim shoots mults on the second radio while keeping track of worked and available on the "Magic Wall", aka the wall mounted flat screen TV in the bedroom pushed into service as a second monitor for the laptop.



Everything's in the log, the rigs and antennas are packed up and it's time to head home, wait for the official results, and plan for the next one!



Hear What You Sound Like on the Other End via QSORDER – John K3TN

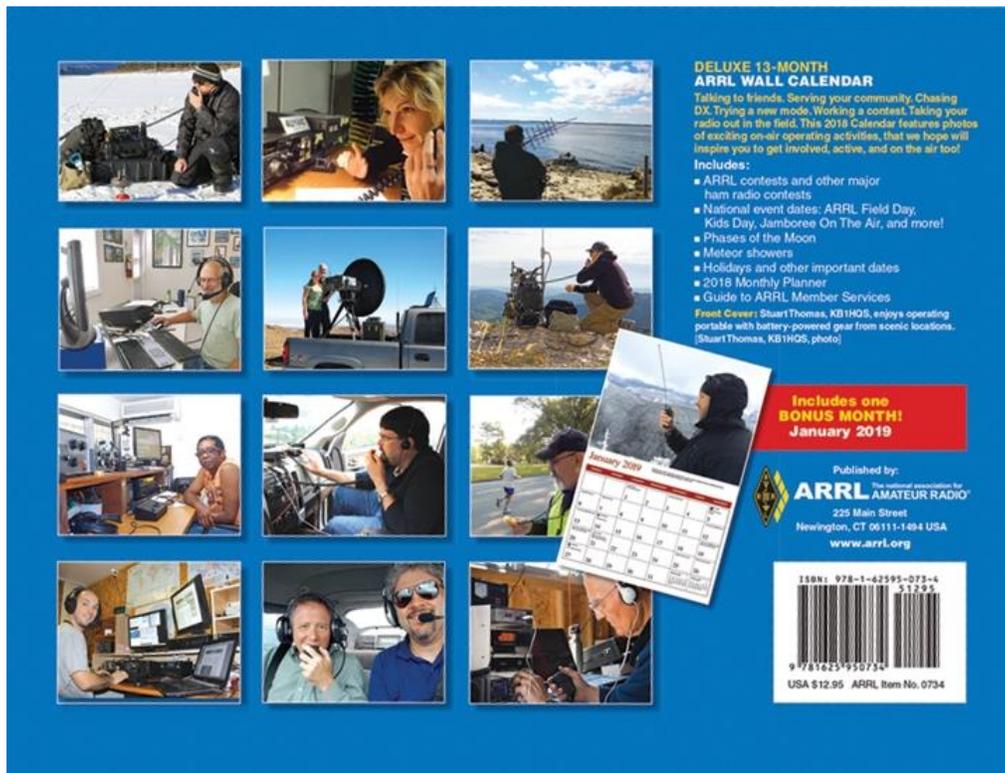
[152409 recordings, 29579 unique DX calls indexed as
of 2017-12-12 11:01:00 UTC]

73! K3IT 2017

K3IT has set a neat online service, QSORDER, where you can enter your call and find recordings of your QSO with other contest stations who have uploaded to QSORDER. If you record contest audio via N1MM and want to upload your logs and audio files, he gives information on how to do that – **warning**: it involves using Dropbox!

Info on QSORDER can be found [here](#).

PVRC Pinup: Tucker W4FS is Mr. March – via Tom N4TL



**DELUXE 13-MONTH
ARRL WALL CALENDAR**

Talking to friends. Serving your community. Chasing DX. Trying a new mode. Working a contest. Taking your radio out in the field. This 2018 Calendar features photos of exciting on-air operating activities, that we hope will inspire you to get involved, active, and on the air too!

Includes:

- ARRL contests and other major ham radio contests
- National event dates: ARRL Field Day, Kids Day, Jamboree On The Air, and more!
- Phases of the Moon
- Meteor showers
- Holidays and other important dates
- 2018 Monthly Planner
- Guide to ARRL Member Services

Free Cover: Stuart Thomas, KB1HQ5, enjoys operating portable with battery-powered gear from scenic locations. (Stuart Thomas, KB1HQ5, photo)

**Includes one BONUS MONTH!
January 2019**

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Tucker, W4FS's picture is on the March page (upper left above) of the [2018 ARRL calendar](#). He is shown working Fuji-OSCAR-29.

Masa JO2SLZ Visits PVRC-land – Ken KE3X

On November 28, we received a visit from Masa Hiramatsu, JO2SLZ, in DC attending a law enforcement cyber conference. Masa had represented Japan at the 2011 High Speed Telegraphy World Championships in Bielefeld, Germany. A small PVRC dinner party was arranged at KE3X's house to introduce Masa to some local contesters.



Picture (L-R): Ann Low, Masa Hiramatsu JO2SLZ, Ken Low KE3X, Tim Shoppa N3QE, Carol Evans, John Evans N3HBX

What Decline in Contesting Activity? – via Dave K3ZJ

It is deserving of note that while CQ WW logs are continuing to trickle in - more so for the CW weekend than for the SSB weekend at this writing – the number of entries for the 2017 CQWW SSB and CW weekends each **exceed** the previous all-time record! As of mid-December, the phone weekend record of 8482 logs, set in 2013, was broken with 8579 logs received. Similarly, for the CW leg, the 2016 record of 8341 logs received was broken with 8421 logs already received. Thank goodness for computer checking!

The number of logs submitted for each mode is more than triple the number received in 1978. In 40 years - 1978 to 2017 - CQWW SSB entries increased by 331 percent, while CW increased by 350 percent. During this time publication of the final results was cut from 9 months to 5 months. Interestingly enough, during this period the CW requirement for licensing was deleted, yet the percentage of CW to SSB entries **increased** from 93 percent to 98 percent!

Congratulations to all the participants, and especially to the Committee members present and past.

The Benefits of Memory - Art VE4VTR/K3KU

(Previously published in the Winnipeg ARC Newscaster)

I've been flailing around trying to fix HF RF-in-the-shack problems in my Maryland home station. The major manifestation is RF-in-the-mic, especially when I try to use computer-recorded messages for contesting. The problem is not surprising, as I'm playing the hand I was dealt. My only antenna is a 200-foot dipole, fed with ladder line and matched – fortuitously – by my transceiver's internal tuner. My basement shack does not have a good RF ground system.

A friend suggested that a choke balun might help. He loaned me one he had built: 16 turns of RG-58 on 4-inch diameter PVC pipe. It worked, sort-of. I think. Maybe. The RF-in-the-mic seemed lower on some bands, but the antenna matching fell apart. I couldn't get a match at all on one band. Technical note: a simple dipole fed with high-Z transmission line and an antenna tuner looks like a good approach for a multi-band antenna, but you can get some weird impedances at the bottom end of the feedline, and it can vary wildly with feedline length.

Taking a non-scientific approach, I decided to try a longer coil and see what happened. (Actually, this was a good systems approach. It would take me much less time to build the new coil and try it than to learn how to do the analysis.) I had 40 feet or so of 50-year old RG-58 and the needed connectors. I set myself to getting out to the home supply store to get a couple of feet of 4-inch PVC pipe.

As I was readying breakfast the next morning I was prompted to remember what I had written about VE4YU (SK) for the Discover the HF Experience presentation in Winnipeg in April 2016. (See Cary VE4EA's write-up of the presentation and my Remembrance of Ed Henderson, VE4YU in the Winnipeg ARC [Newscaster](#) for May 2016)

Of course! I don't need any PVC pipe. Just finish off the oatmeal, and I'm all set.

And so I did. Here's the finished product. The antenna matching still works on all bands; it's even a little improved. Unfortunately, the RF-in-the-mic is still there. I'll bet VE4YU could have told me what to do.



Membership News – Tim N3QE

PVRC did not add any new members in the latest reporting period.

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

- Jan 1 - SARTG RTTY
- Jan 7 - ARRL RTTY Roundup
- Jan 14 – **NAQP CW**
- Jan 21 – **NAQP SSB**
- Jan 27 – CQ WW 160 CW
- Jan 28 – REF CW

Logs Due This Month

- Jan 14 – Stew Perry TBDC
- Jan 19 – NAQP CW
- Jan 21 - NAQP SSB
- Jan 31 – RAC Winter

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!

Now a Word From Our Sponsors

PVRC doesn't ask for dues, but the Club does have expenses. You can also support the Club by buying from the firms listed who advertise in the newsletter!



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W2FU
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116° 20' W



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Make a serious upgrade to your shack with ACOM's new state-of-the-art amplifiers. The 2100 is ACOM's most user-friendly amplifier to date, featuring intuitive controls, OLED display and straightforward operation. It delivers virtually silent QSK and withstands up to 400 watts of reflected power—a good selection for EMCOMM and home stations. ACOM's 1200S is a solid state RF 1,000 watt amplifier with full HF and 6 meter coverage. The compact and easy-to-operate 1200S will make a smart choice for DXpeditions. It's compatible with virtually all modern radios, requiring less than 50 watts of drive power.

AOM-2100 \$4,199.95 AOM-1200S \$3,449.95



Outstanding HF Power Products

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OptiBeam Antennas**

DX Engineering is excited to announce that it is now the exclusive North American retailer of HF directional antennas from OptiBeam—a company widely recognized for its high-performance, handcrafted antennas used by Hams around the globe. OptiBeam antennas are designed and built by devoted Hams for discerning customers who understand the value of investing in elite-class performance, German engineering, mechanical quality, visual appeal, ease of installation, and unrivaled customer support. Extensively tested and proven in real-world operation, OptiBeam directional mono-band and multiband Yagi and Log Cell Yagi antennas deliver the highest possible gain, cleanest radiation patterns, optimum band coverage, efficiency and power handling without compromise. DX Engineering is offering all OptiBeam Amateur Radio antenna models. Popular OptiBeam models will be in stock and ready for fast shipment in the first quarter of 2018. Place your orders today!



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Antenna Tuners

DX Engineering now offers a great selection of manual and automatic desktop antenna tuners from HA8DU. Solidly built and featuring exceptional-quality switches, capacitors, inductors and other components, HA8DU L- and T-type tuners deliver 1.8 MHz to 30 MHz coverage and smooth tuning in a rugged, reliable unit that will make a long-lasting addition to your station.

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and Midi Loop Antennas**

Founded in Verona, Italy, **Ciro Mazzone Radiocomunicazioni** has been a trusted global supplier of professional-quality radio communications equipment for more than 40 years. DX Engineering is pleased to announce that it is now offering **Ciro Mazzone's** popular magnetic Baby Loop and Midi Loop antennas. Compact, quiet and easy to install, the sturdy Baby Loop (6.6-29.8 MHz) and Midi Loop (3.5-14.5 MHz) are designed and manufactured to meet the highest standards for performance and reliability. Look for them at DXEngineering.com.

MZZ-BABY \$2,097.99 MZZ-MIDI \$2,479.99

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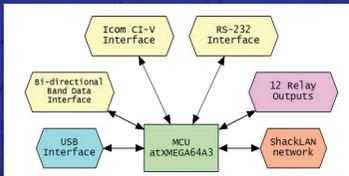
Announcing the new BM-5 BandMaster V

The next generation of the popular BM-3 with direct USB support for FLEX Radios

NEW!



The BM-5 BandMaster V is a full featured unit that contains a universal band decoder and antenna switch controller. It features five communication channels. All channels are active simultaneously and provide data translation for your station accessories. In other words, if you are using an Icom radio on the CI/V interface the BandMaster V will output 4-bit band data as well as RS-232 data in Yaesu or Kenwood format. In reverse, when using a radio on the RS-232 interface the BandMaster V will output 4-bit band data as well as an Icom CI/V data stream. The USB interface may be connected to your PC for radio control. **The USB interface may be connected directly to a Flex SDR with no additional cables or interfaces required.**



RatPack Remote Antenna Switch

Six antenna remote switch with rotary switch controller. Push button controllers available. HF and 50 MHz. Power rating is 5 kW CW.



StackMatch

The original, not the imitations. For phasing 2, 3, 4 and even 6 antennas. Also it can be used to combine vertical and horizontal polarized antennas to diminish fading.



TwoPak

Two antenna switch, 12V DC via wires or optional via coax cable. DC to 150 MHz. HF 5 kW rating. Metal box.

Off-Center Fed Dipole Antenna

AS-OCF-2K, AS-OCF-5K Seven bands antenna (80 to 6 m). Heavy duty materials. 4:1 balun included. Ratings: 2 or 5 kW or higher available.



PowerMaster II



RF Power and SWR meter. Couplers for 3 kW, 10 kW or higher available for HF/6 m. VHF and UHF couplers for 1.5 kW. You can connect up to 5 couplers to the display to monitor RF power on different TX lines.



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OM4000HF	Manual 160-10 m 4 kW
OM4000A	Automatic 160-10 m 4 kW
OM2500HF	Manual 160-10 m 2.5 kW
OM2500A	Automatic 160-10 m 2.5 kW
OM2000+	Manual 160-6 m 2 kW
OM2000A+	Automatic 160-6 m 2 kW

OM Power was founded in 2004 as an initiative of two enthusiastic Slovak ham operators. Since that time OM Power has become a successful and well established company in the production of amplifiers. OM Power amplifiers can be found on all continents and in almost every country of the world. All of the amplifiers have state of the art design, and are solidly built.

The automatic amps can drive an antenna switch of up to 10 antennas and select up to ten bandpass filters applies to all automatic models

OM4000A - OM4000HF OM2500A - OM2500HF

The A-series are automatic band change amplifiers.

The HF-series are manual band change and tuning amplifiers.

OM4000: 4 kW SSB and CW, 3 kW RTTY, AM and FM

OM2500: 2.5 kW SSB and CW, 2 kW RTTY, AM and FM

OM2000A+ - OM2000+

The **OM2000A+** is the lightest and smallest 2000 W fully automatic HF/6 m power amplifier in the market. Its manual tuning version, the **OM2000+**, is our affordable unmatched best-seller.

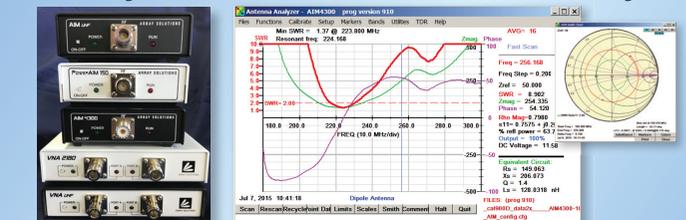
Frequency coverage:

Amateur bands 1.8 - 29.7 MHz including WARC + 50 MHz

Power output: 2000+ W in SSB/CW on HF bands, 1500 W in RTTY
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- HF/50MHz 144/43vuv0 (440) MHz and 1200MHz*1 coverage
- 100W on HF/50/144MHz, 75W on 430 (440) MHz, 10W on 1200MHz*1 • Double superheterodyne with image rejection mixer



IC-7200 | HF Transceiver

- 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP • AGC Loop Management • Digital IF Filter • Digital Twin PBT • Digital Noise Reduction • Digital Noise Blanker • USB Port for PC Control



IC-PW1 | HF/50 MHz Amplifier

- Wide freq. coverage - 1 kW from 1.8 MHz to 50 MHz (amateur bands only) • Wide ALC adjustable range • Full duty cycle • Auto antenna tuner built-in • Auto AC input voltage selector is employed



IC-7851 | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- 1.2kHz "Optimum" roofing filter • New local oscillator design • Improved phase noise • Improved spectrum scope • Dual scope function • Enhanced mouse operation for spectrum scope



IC-7100 | All Mode Transceiver

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ID-5100A Deluxe

VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

- Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch



IC-7700 | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- The Contesters' Rig • HF + 6m operation • +40dBm ultra high intercept point • IF DSP, user defined filters • 200W output power full duty cycle • Digital voice recorder



IC-718 | HF Transceiver

- 160-10M** • 100W • 12V operation • Simple to use • CW Keyer Built-in • One touch band switching • Direct frequency input • VOX Built-in • Band stacking register • IF shift • 101 memories



ID-4100A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Xcvr

- Compact, Detachable Controller for Flexible Installation • DV/FM Near Repeater Search Function • Apps for iOS™ and Android™ devices • Wireless Operation with VS-3 & UT-137 Bluetooth® Headset & Module • MicroSD Card Slot



IC-7610 | HF/50 MHz All Mode Transceiver

- Large 7-inch color display with high resolution real-time spectrum scope and waterfall • Independent direct sampling receivers capable of receiving two bands/two modes simultaneously



IC-2300H | VHF FM Transceiver

- 65W RF Output Power • 4.5W Audio Output • MIL-STD 810 G Specifications • 207 alphanumeric Memory Channels • Built-in CTCSS/DTCS Encode/Decode • DMS



IC-V80 | HD 2 Meter FM Transceiver

- Tough construction • 750mW loud audio • Powerful 5.5W of output power • IP54 and MIL-STD-810 rugged construction • Built-in CTCSS/DTCS • WX channel & weather alert function



IC-7300 | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- RF Direct Sampling System • New "IP+" Function • Class Leading RMDR and Phase Noise Characteristics • 15 Discrete Band-Pass Filters • Built-In Automatic Antenna Tuner



IC-2730A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver

- VHF/VHF, UHF/UHF simultaneous receive • 50 watts of output on VHF and UHF • Optional VS-3 Bluetooth® headset • Easy-to-See large white backlight LCD • Controller attachment to the main Unit

ID-51A PLUS2

VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable

- RS-MS1A, free download Android™ application • New modes for extended D-STAR coverage • Terminal Mode & Access Point Mode allow D-STAR operation through Internet • DV & FM repeater search function • Dplus reflector link commands



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- Internal Power Supply • Two Totally Independent Receivers
- Super Sharp "Roofing" Filters • High Performance Yaesu Custom- designed 32-bit Floating Point DSP • True Analog Meter Precision



FTDX3000 | 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- 100 Watt HF/6 Meters • Large and wide color LCD display • High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in • 32 bit high speed DSP /Down Conversion 1st IF



FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

- 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



FTDX1200 | 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

- Triple Conversion Receiver With 32-bit Floating Point DSP • 40 MHz 1st IF with selectable 3 kHz, 6kHz & 15 kHz Roofing Filters • Optional FFT-1 Supports AF-FFT Scope, RTTY/PSK31 Encode/Decode, CW Decode/Auto Zero-In • Full Color 4.3" TFT Display



FT-891 | HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

- Rugged Construction in an Ultra Compact Body • Stable 100 Watt Output with Efficient Dual Internal Fans • 32-Bit IF DSP Provides Effective and Optimized QRM Rejection • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable • CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control



FT-857D | Ultra Compact HF/VHF/UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50W 2M, 20W UHF • DSP included • 32 color display • 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)



FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver

- Massive heatsink guarantees 80 watts of solid RF power • Loud 3 watts of audio output for noisy environments • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users



FTM-100DR | C4FM FDMA/FM 144/430 MHz Xcvr

- Power Packed System Fusion Transceiver • High Audio Output Power • Rugged Powerful Transmitter • Integrated 66ch High Sensitivity GPS • 1200/9600 APRS Data Communications



FTM-400XD | 2M/440 Mobile

- Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bd ready • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band



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-2DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Xcvr

- Analog/C4FM Dual Monitor (V+V/U+U/V+U) • System Fusion compatible • 1200/9600 APRS Data Communications • Integrated 66ch High Sensitivity GPS • Wide Band Receiver • Snapshot Picture Taking Capability With Optional MH-85A11U



NEW

FT-65R | 144 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 Flash-light, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



FT-60R | 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



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Call For Special Price!



TM-D710G | 2M/440 Dualband

- V+V/V+U/U+U operation • Built-in GPS • Built-in TNC for APRS & DX-Cluster operation • 50W 2M & UHF • 1,000 memories • Dual receive • Green or amber backlight colors • Latest APRS firmware w/new features • Sky Command II remote functions

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TS-480SAT/HX | HF + 6M Transceiver

- 480HX 200W HF & 100W 6M (no tuner) • 480SAT 100W HF & 6M w/AT • Remotable w/front panel/speaker • DSP built-in

Call Now For Low Price!



TS-590SG | HF/50MHz Transceiver

- Equipped with 500 Hz/2.7 kHz roofing filter as standard • ALC derived from TS-990S eliminating spike issues • Antenna output function (shared with DRV connector) • CW - morse code decoder function • Improved 1st mixer • New PFB key with multi-function knob • New split function enabling quick setting • LED backlight with selectable color tone



TM-V71A | 2M/440 DualBand

- High RF output (50W) • Multiple Scan • Dual receive on same band (VxV, UxU) • Echolink® memory (auto dialer) • Echolink® Sysop mode for node terminal ops • Invertible front panel • Choice of green/amber for LCD panel • 104 code digital code squelch • "Five in One" programmable memory • 1000 multifunction memory

Call Now For Your Low Price!



TH-D72A 2M/440 HT w/extended RX

- 5W TX, RX 118-524 MHz, VxU, VxV, UxU
- APRS w/built-in 1200/9600 TNC • Built-in GPS, Built-in USB, digipeater • Echolink® compatible, • Mil-Spec STD810

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TS-2000/2000X | HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver

- 100W HF, 6M, 2M • 50W 70CM • TS-2000X 10W 1.2GHz
- Built-in TNC, DX packet cluster • IF Stage DSP • Backlit front key panel

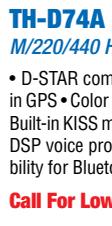
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TM-281A | 2 Mtr Mobile

- 65 Watt • 200 Memories • CTCSS/DCS • Mil-Std specs • Hi-quality audio

Call For Special Low Price!



TH-D74A M/220/440 HT w/D-STAR!

- D-STAR compatible • APRS ready w/built in GPS • Color weather station information • Built-in KISS mode TNC • High-performance DSP voice processing • Standard compatibility for Bluetooth

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TH-K20A | 2M Handheld

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- 40' Tubular Tower

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MA-550

- 55' Tubular Tower • Handles 10 sq. ft. at 50 mph • Pleases neighbors with tubular streamlined look

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All US Towers shipped by truck; freight charges additional.



TX-455

- 55' freestanding crank-up • Handles 18 sq. ft. @ 50 mph • No guying required • Extra-strength construction • Can add raising and motor drive accessory • Towers rated to EIA specifications • Other models available at great prices!



218XATC-PL-(length) RG8x (240UF) w/PL259 Connectors Each End.

Weather-Proof Heat Shrink Tubing.

- Stranded Center Conductor.
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- Very Flexible, Light Weight, and Smaller than RG8 sizes.
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233/2-G4-(length).

- Unique design (Nickel Grommets 4" Spacing) allows for easy attachment to a vehicle's body or truck bed to create a "ground-plane".
- Good option as a "buss-bar" in the shack.
- 1/2" wide tinned copper 38x48x8/384 10ga 53 Amps.
- Stocked in 1.5', 3', 5', and 10' foot lengths.

REMOTE RIG



RRC-1258 MkII-S-Set

This set of interfaces allows remote control of your Amateur Radio Station via Internet in a user-friendly and cost effective way! RemoteRig gives you control of the radio coupled with crystal clear TX & RX audio and sending CW with your own Paddle!

New! Now Stereo Version for Dual Receiver radios.

Works with all Computer-controllable radios from: **Alinco - Elecraft - ICOM - Kenwood - Yaesu**

For radios with detachable front panels no PC is required for: TS-480HX/SAT; TS-2000 (RC-2000 req'd); IC-703/Plus; IC-706 series; DX-SR8T; IC-2820H; IC-R2500

Just simply insert your control box in place of your front panel interconnect cable, place the body of the radio on the remote end and you are on the air as if you are there! Extra Controller and Remote interface units sold individually for multiple sites/users.

Now includes 12V power supply, \$12.95 value!

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