

PVRC Newsletter

September 2012

President's Letter – Rich NN3W

On behalf of the PVRC officers and Trustees, let me be the first to welcome you all back to another Fall contest season. I know that it's still 85 degrees outside and there are thunderstorms rumbling about, but that is soon about to change. The kids will be back to school; the leaves will begin to turn color; the autumnal equinox will return, and with it, a return of fall HF propagation. And with it, the busiest season in amateur radio contesting – both on and off the air.

The month of September gives us all the chance to make repairs that have become painfully necessary from all those summer storms, to begin major operating desk upgrades, and to remove the cobwebs from your VFO knobs. A slew of PVRC 5M qualifying events arrive this month with the ARRL September VHF QSO Party, the WAE SSB, and the CQWW RTTY contests all taking place. These events represent great opportunities for you all to test out your repairs, make needed adjustments,

and score lots of 5M points in our revamped 5M program – all in anticipation of the major contesting push that begins in early October (including the major CQWW tests and, dare I say it, **November Sweepstakes**).

September will also start the kick-off for PVRC as it relates to the candidacy and election of officers and trustees for the 2013 annual cycle. You see, an even more important election than the one taking place between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney is happening: that of the election of officers and leaders for the club. We'll promise that there will be no robo-calls, no requests for surveys, no PAC attack ads, and no requests for voter ID. So, if you're in the mood to take the reins of the club or to have a major say in the day to day operations of the club, please consider running for a position.

I'm Rich DiDonna, NN3W, President of the Potomac Valley Radio Club, and I have approved this message.

“Beat PVRC ... But Not Too Badly” John Troster, W6ISQ

(Reprinted with permission from November 1971 QST; copyright ARRL.)

“HEY, MR. PRESIDENT, I wanna make-a-motion”

“Ya can’t make-a-motion 'cause I ain’t called the meeting to order yet.”

“Call it.”

“The meeting will please come to ord . . .”

“Mr. President. I make-a-motion that our club beat Potomac Valley Radio Club in the Sweepstakes this year.”

“Huzzah . . . hear. hear . . . 'bout time. . . yeeaaaabhh . . .”

“Every year we get beat. We never even come close. It’s humiliatln.”

“And how do you think you’re gonna beat the champs? They got all these ionospheric sounders that tells ‘em when to change bands and what antennas to use. And they got computers that keep their logs . . . and band scanner receivers that lock onto Sections they ain’t worked yet. . All comes over their automatic two-meter RTTY link. How ya gonna beat that kind a operation?”

“It’s easy. All we gotta do is score more points than they do.”

“Hmmm . . . and how you figure to score more points?”

“More members, that’s all. All we gotta do is recruit us a thousand members and overpower them.”

“Maybe we could fake a call for an emergency ARRL Board Meeting over Sweepstakes weekend. At least that would get W4KFC outa there.”

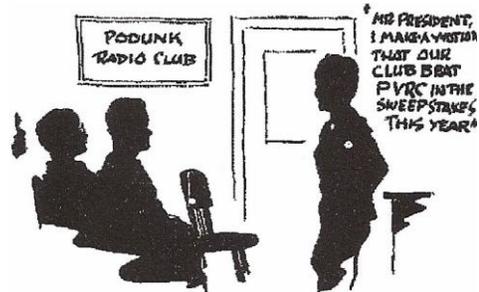
“Mr. President, I got a better idea. How about us to recruit fellas from the Southern California Club to help out”

“That’s against the rules.”

“Hoolldd on . . . wait a minute . . . maybe ya gut something there. If we add our two scores together . . . might help . . . hmmm. All we gotta do is figure how to make them Southern California fellas Bony Fidie members.”

“We could charge ‘em all a dollar . . . aww . . . naw.”

“How about we make ‘em free Honorary Members so we don’t have to charge em.”



"Hey, that's it. Hoorraayy, we make 'em Honorary Members."

"Don't sound legal,"

"Sure it's legal! Show me where in the rules it says that specifically and absolutely a Honorary Member ain't allowed."

"Yeeeahh ... watch out PVRCs . . . We're a comin' . . . ahhh ... maybe."

"You bet. Maybe. You add our two club scores together from last year and you won't even have enough points to heat Murphy's Manglers . . . let alone the PVRCs ."

"Who's Murphy's . . . ahhh . . . what?"

"Err . . . Murphy's .. ahhh .. Manglers?? Naw, it's Murphy's Marauders, .. nooo it's Murphy's Maulers . . . Manhandlers. . . You're right the first time . . . it's Manglers! Who . . . what are they?"

"They're back up in the Vermont hills somewhere . . . nooo, in Connecticut . . . naw, they're all over W1 and W2 . . . they got strong ties around Hartford, I think . . . oooohhhh . . . real top secret group, I hear . . . somebody was sayin' it's some rich fella named Murphy . . . he buys 'em all their QRO gear if they sign their scores over to him . . . they gotta call him 'Mr.' Murphy too . . . they was nothin' a couple a years ago and now they're scarin' old PVRC himself."

"Them Manglers could give us real trouble. Maybe we oughta go back to recruiting lots more Honorary W6s and . . . and . . . maybe Washington and Oregon . . . and Nevada . . . and VE6 and VE7 . . . like the whole west Coast. Ya think we could scare old PVRC with . . . ahhh . . . with . . .?"

"Wouldn't even scare the Murphs."

"Wait a minute . . . QRX men. Maybe if we start joining up too many Honorary Membership fellas, old PVRC might get mad and join up with the Manglers . . . then we'd be finished for sure."

"Naw, they wouldn't do that. it's against the rules to . . . ahhh . . . besides old Murph's boys is comin' on fast and strong and they'd like to beat the PVRCs all alone."

"In that case maybe we oughta join the PVRCs and try to beat the Manglers . . . haw . . ."

"Aw, come on fellas, them two clubs would never join . . . never . . . ahhh . . . well, I don't think . . . but they might get together if they was to find out we was scanuviatin" around out here . . . hmmm. Just in case, maybe we'd better plan for the worst. We gotta get us a wedge in there somewhere to keep them two clubs apart so they won't join up and whup us good. We need a wedge in there . . . between . . . the wedge . . ."

"THAT'S IT . . . the wedge . . . like a *keystone* . . . we recruit them fellas with the keystone QSL, . . . Frankford Radio Club!"

"Hooray . . we'll automatically make all the Frankford Radio Club fellas our free Honorary Members for the Sweeps weekend . . .Hooray."

"Whhooopiiiee . . . That oughta do it this year. We finally shorted out old PVRC's coax."

"Ahhhh. Mr. President. I wanna make another motion,"

"Make it."

"I make-a-motion that we don't beat the PVRCs too bad this year and get 'em mad at us . . . because next year maybe we'll want to make them free Honorary Members to join up with us to beat Mr. Murphy's Manglers."

"Yeah, let's be good sports about it . . . all in favor that we should take it easy on the PYRCs this year. . ."

(Ed. Note – I remember reading this in QST as a 14 year old Johnny Novice! It is kinda amazing how prescient W6ISQ was about coming technology in contesting.)

It's Never too Early to Think About Sweepstakes...

From Ken WM5R:

A while back, I began researching some of the changes made over the years in the ARRL and Canadian sections used in the Sweepstakes (mostly using the online QST archive at <http://www.arrl.org/gst/>). I learned quite a lot, but I still have some gaps in my timeline about when certain changes were made.

The first "All-Section Sweepstakes" was held in 1930 and there were 68 sections. In addition to the sections we know today, there were some interesting differences. Minnesota was originally two sections - Northern Minnesota and Southern Minnesota. Utah and Wyoming were originally one section. The Philippines were a section (part of the Pacific Division). But the most interesting section was probably Georgia-South Carolina-Isle of Pines. The Isle of Pines is an island off the coast of Cuba (today known as Isla de la Juventud or Isle of Youth). After the Spanish-American War was concluded in 1898, the sovereignty of the island remained in dispute, claimed by both the United States and independent Cuba. The U.S. Senate ratified a treaty recognizing Cuban sovereignty over the island in 1925. I have no idea why the Isle of Pines was still being used in the section name as of 1930.

Here are my notes for the last 40 years:

1 Jan 1973	Eastern Florida (EFL) deleted Western Florida (WFL) deleted Northern Florida (NFL) created Southern Florida (SFL) created	76
1 Oct 1979	Canal Zone (KZ5) deleted	76
1 Jan 1987	West Texas (WTX) created from counties previously assigned to North Texas (NTX) and South Texas (STX)	75

Aug(?) 1988 West Indies (WI) deleted Puerto Rico (PR) section created Virgin Islands (VI) section created Guantanamo Bay assigned to Virgin Islands section	76
6 Feb 1989 Washington (WA) deleted Eastern Washington (EWA) created Western Washington (WWA) created	77
1 Jan 1996 Northern New York (NNY) created from counties previously assigned to Western New York (WNY)	78
1 Apr 1996 Two counties (Herkimer and Otsego) assigned to the newly-created Northern New York (NNY) section are returned to the Western New York (WNY) section	78
1 Jan 1998 Newfoundland-Labrador section (NL) created, removing that province from the Maritimes (MAR) section	79
15 Jan 2000 West Central Florida (WCF) created from counties previously assigned to Northern Florida (NFL) and Southern Florida (SFL)	80
12 Sep 2012 Ontario (ON) deleted Greater Toronto Area (GTA) created Ontario East (ONE) created Ontario North (ONN) created Ontario South (ONS) created	83

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<p>PVRC Officers:</p> <p>President: NN3W Rich Didonna Vice President: W9GE Bob Finger Vice President: K8GU Ethan Miller Secretary: W3LL Bud Governale Treasurer: WR3L Dave Baugher</p>	<p>Trustees:</p> <p>K3MM, N3OC, N4ZR, W4ZYT, NW4V, K2AV, K4ZA</p> <p><u>PVRC Charter Members (all SK):</u></p> <p>W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT</p>
<p>PVRC Website: http://www.pvrc.org</p>	

Contesting Can Get You A Free Trip to the Azores – John K3TN

Are You Ready to Fly to Azores for Free by Making Nine QSOs?

from DX-World.net

Yes indeed, those of you willing to spend 24 hours or less on the radio are eligible to participate in an Azores lottery for two all-paid packages to the beautiful Azores Islands in the Atlantic, completely free of charge. The project is organized by the Azores-Finland Friendship Consortium in partnership with the Amateur Radio Associations of the Azores Islands and supported by the Azores Promotion Agency (ATA) and Azorean Airlines (SATA).

Not many people know that the Azores consist of nine populated islands, stretching over a distance of 602 km (305mi) from East to West, next to USA and Europe. And it is not widely known that the Azores have their own airline (SATA) flying to each island, in addition to many destinations in Europe and North America. Each island has its own characteristics and its own blend and alone qualifies for your visit there. While these islands count for a single DXCC entity, they offer three (3) IOTA groupings.

With this unique AZORES 9 ISLANDS HUNT, an invited international group of amateur radio operators together with resident Azores amateurs will be activating the nine islands, offering an opportunity to the world to contact these islands all at once over one weekend.

Activity Weekend

Saturday, September 29, 1200 UTC to September 30, 1200 UTC (24 hours). These stations will be active starting Friday, September 28 as soon as they become operational.

Frequency Windows

CW: 7000-7015, 18080-18090 and 14050-14065 kHz
SSB: 7175-7195, 18120-18135 and 14250-14275 kHz

Nine Islands and their Stations

Santa Maria, CU1ARM; San Miguel, CU2ARA; Terceira, CU3URA; Graciosa, CU4ARG; Sao Jorge, CU5AM; Pico, CU6GRP; Faial, CU7CRA; Flores, CU8ARF; Corvo, CU9AC.

Operators and Island Hosts

Sergio, CU1AAD; Jose, CU2CE; Francisco, CU2DX; Guilherme, CU2IF; Domingo, CU3CS; Guilherme, CU4AB; Jose, CU5AM; Jorge, CU6AB; Manuel, CU7CA; Claudio, CU8AAE; Joao, CU9AC; Franz, DJ9ZB; Richard, DF9TF; Nigel, G3TXF; Michael, G7VJR; Diane, K2DO; Rich, KE3Q; Mike, KI1U; Marius, LB3HC; George, N2GA; Martti, OH2BH; Juha, OH8NC; Ghis, ON5NT; Carine, ON7LX; Claude, ON7TK; Alex, OZ7AM; Kenneth, OZ1IKY; Yuri, VE3DZ and Ed, VE3FWA.

Two Hunt Awards

Those making a QSO with at least 5 different islands will have a corresponding number of tickets placed into a lottery for a free trip to the Azores (e.g. if you have QSOs with 7 islands, you will get 7 lottery tickets). Additionally, the first 25 operators making QSOs

with all 9 islands will be eligible for a second lottery. The free trips are from the closest airport served by SATA; including flight, accommodation and transfers.. During or immediately after the weekend, the logs will be posted on Club Log to display your band/mode slots. The lottery will be drawn on October 15, 2012.

QSL Cards

All QSOs will be confirmed through the bureau network with special full-color cards. Direct QSL requests via Jose Melo, CU2CE.

Membership News – Bud W3LL

PVRC added several new members since the last newsletter:

- Steve W3SFG in the Northwest Chapter.
- Billy W3EL and Jim N4XYZ in the Tidewater chapter.
- Hugh W3FUO in the Over the Hill Lunch Bunch.
- Don KR3A in the Southern Maryland chapter.
- Ullis K3LU in the Annapolis chapter.

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

'Radio Man' keeps history alive – Eric W3DQ

A fat and sassy black cat purrs in John Allen's lap. Relaxing in his favorite chair, Allen's fingers vanished into the silky fur as he stroked his cat while listening to the Big Band sounds coming through a 1930s radio. With its warm wood finish and the soft yellow glow of light from the dial, the vintage radio is as soothing as the thin shadows in the room. There's just enough static in the broadcast to be convincing.

Truth is, Allen, an industrial physicist, listens to an authentic 1930s broadcast on a tape transmitted to his antique radio from a small unit just around the corner in his kitchen. As for the transmitter, it was a clearance item that came from Toys R Us. Sure enough, the scientist found a bargain in the toy store.

Stacked neatly in his living room are a dozen or so radios from the past. The sets are piled several deep. Other are stored in his shop, tucked tightly on shelves...

Full article [here](#).

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

Sept 1 – All Asian SSB
Sept 8 – WAE SSB
Sept 9 – Sprint CW
Sept 15 – Scandinavian CW
Sept 16 – Sprint SSB
Sept 30 – CQ WW RTTY

Logs Due This Month

Sept 1 – CQ WW VHF
Sept 4 – ARRL UHF

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

The Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

My introduction to serious contesting was back in the mid-1980's, operating at Frank W3LPL's multi-multi: lock yourself in Phyllis and Frank's basement for 48 hours, logging on paper, using paper dupe sheets and listening to voice multiplier spots on 147.42. PVRicers communicated on the 147.00 repeater and "f2f" at the local meetings and hamfests – or not at all! I did the newsletter back then and had to get my girlfriend (now wife) and Andy W3XE and Larry W3GN (now SKs) to help fold, staple, stamp and mail the printed copy.

The change in technology 25 years later is pretty impressive – we communicate constantly through the PVRC reflector, Facebook, texting, various RSS feeds and newsgroups, etc. During the contest, the logging software and feeds like the RBN are constantly feeding us information.

All this technology has greatly impacted contesting, for better or worse – but I think mostly for better. I was reminded of this last week when WA3SEE and I hiked up the Appalachian Trail to Compton Peak in Shenandoah National Park to throw a 20m dipole up in the trees and use his K1 to activate the site as part of the "[Summits on the Air](#)" program. Reaching the peak at 2900 feet, we could see thousands of acres of land – and not a single cell tower. We had no connectivity, which meant we could not announce our operation on the [SOTA Watch](#) "cluster" (self-spotting is not verboten there). We had to CQ and CQ (with 4 watts and a dipole at 20 feet in the trees...) for a long time until someone heard us and worked us – and, thankfully **spotted** us on SOTA Watch. Finally some rate kicked in – hooray for technology! Of course, we were logging on paper but I am looking at an Android or iPad tablet for future electronic logging...

One thing that hasn't changed over the years is that the value of the newsletter is based on the contributions from the members. Thanks to W3DQ and WM5R for submissions this month. If you have anything, send it to me [here](#). If you don't like to write, or don't have the time to write, send in a photo or a link of anything you've found interesting

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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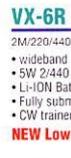
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- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 required)

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FT-7800R 2M/440 Mobile

- 50w 2m, 40w on 440mhz
- Weather Alert
- 1000+ Mems
- WIRES Capability
- Wideband Receiver (Cell Blocked)

Call Now For Your Low Price!



FT-2000 HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner • built-in Power supply
- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ • 3 IF roofing filters

Call Now For Low Pricing!



FT-8900R Quadband Transceiver

- 10M/6M/2M/70CM • Wires capable
- 800+ memories • Built-in CTCSS/DCS
- Remotable w/optional YSK-8900

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