

PVRC Newsletter

October 2017

President's Letter – Bud W3LL

Hello, PVRC .

The 2016/2017 running of the six inning NAQP game ended with SMC claiming the Club Cup Challenge. SMC rightfully won the game with a sixth inning SSB surge that dominated the competition by achieving the highest turnout ever in a NAQP event. The cup is now on its way to the rightful winner.

I found the following in the latest edition of the ARRL newsletter about our three-club NAQP competition: "In any size of contest or radio club, it's important to have members that are active during contests. To encourage activity, some clubs participate in inter-club competitions. One such competition is the "[NAQP Challenge](#)" between the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC), Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), and Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC). In 2017, the SMC won! According to Craig, K9CT, "It was a tough battle. Other clubs could shamelessly borrow the rules from this *friendly competition*, pick some competitors, and do the same thing."

The PVRC 20 For 20 competition, created to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 5M program, ended with 26 members having earned a "20 for 20" certificate for their on-the-air contesting efforts in the past year. Congratulations to all who contributed to the 5M contests.

The follow on to the 20 FOR 20 program is the Olympics Award. It began a few months ago with the start of the 2017/2018 5M program. The PVRC Olympics is an annual program running concurrently with the PVRC 5M program, throughout our contest year. Each year, all PVRC members start with a clean slate and a chance to earn a PVRC Olympic Medal Award.

Annual PVRC Olympic Medal Award Qualification Requirements:

Gold Medal Award:

- Submit logs in both modes of Sweepstakes, with at least 200 QSO's in each mode
- Submit logs with at least 50 QSO's each in an additional thirteen 5M contests
- Attend at least three PVRC chapter or event meetings
- Do three or more of the following:
 - Sponsor a new member
 - Submit an article or pictures for the PVRC Newsletter
 - Enter at least one 5M contest in RTTY mode
 - Submit a score in the PVRC reunion
 - Contribute at least \$30 to PVRC

Silver Medal Award:

- Submit logs in both modes of Sweepstakes with at least 150 QSO's in each mode
- Submit logs with at least 50 QSO's each in an additional eight 5M contests
- Attend at least two PVRC chapter or event meetings
- Do two or more of the following:
 - Sponsor a new member
 - Submit an article or pictures for the PVRC Newsletter
 - Enter at least one 5M contest in RTTY mode
 - Submit a score in the PVRC reunion
 - Contribute at least \$20 to PVRC

Bronze Medal Award:

- Submit logs in both modes of Sweepstakes with at least 100 QSO's in each mode
- Submit logs with at least 50 QSO's each in an additional three 5M contests
- Attend at least one PVRC chapter or event meeting
- Do one or more of the following:
 - Sponsor a new member
 - Submit an article or pictures for the PVRC Newsletter
 - Enter at least one 5M contest in RTTY mode
 - Submit a score in the PVRC reunion
 - Contribute at least \$10 to PVRC

Rules and Definitions

1. Contest Term: The PVRC contest year is concurrent with the PVRC 5M program – July 1st to June 30th each year. All eligibility requirements are annual requirements to be met during the contest year.
2. Multiop: Operating at a multiop whose scores are credited to PVRC will count as a "score" toward the 5M contest participation requirement without counting how many QSO's the member actually made, for each PVRC member participating in the multiop. The total number of QSO's divided by the number of operators must equal at least 200 for SS Gold, 150 for SS Silver, 100 for SS Bronze and 50 for

all other 5M contests. To Encourage station owners to host PVRC operators, Matching Award Points will be awarded to any station owner who hosts a PVRC operator who generates an eligible score. The Matching Award Points will be equal to that of the operator's Award Points. If the host was also an operator, his score will be doubled. The host/operator of a multi-op effort will be capped at twice Max Points.

3. Outside the Circle: Special rules for members residing outside of the PVRC circles:
 - a. The Sweepstakes requirements are still in place, even if they do not count toward PVRC totals.
 - b. 5M contest log submission goals are reduced in view of the number of 5M contests with no circle residency requirement:
 - i. Gold level: 10
 - ii. Silver level: 7
 - iii. Bronze level: 4
 - c. The meeting or event attendance requirement is waived.
 - d. Should a member move into or out of the circle during the contest year, the qualifying requirements will be those coinciding with their QTH as of the last day of the contest year.
 - e. Should a member operate from multiple QTHs both in and out of the circle during the contest year, he or she must qualify as an "in-the-circle" member.
4. Log Eligibility: Submitted logs must be compliant with the contest sponsor's rules, and provide scoring credit (of at least the minimum number of QSO's) to PVRC. Check logs and disqualifications will not count toward PVRC Olympic Medal awards.
5. Mode Requirements: The requirement to submit a log in each mode (RTTY/CW/SSB) may be spread across multiple contests; for instance, SSB and CW might be in Sweepstakes, while RTTY might be CQWW. All three modes need not be in the same contest.
6. Attendance: To meet the requirement to attend chapter meetings or events, members must ensure their attendance is reported via the online Meeting Attendance Report .
7. New Members: To meet the requirement for sponsoring a new member, that new member must be voted into PVRC before June 30. If the new member is introduced in June but voted-in after June 30, credit for this element will be given in the next year, the year in which they were voted-in.

Award Process

1. Track your contest participation progress throughout the year by viewing updates to the 5M program. Raise any questions or concerns throughout the year as they happen.
2. No application is necessary!! As your scores are credited in the 5M program, they make you eligible for these annual awards.
3. June 30th is the final day to qualify for awards. All qualifying activity should be completed by then, although log submissions for contests held before June 30th may extend beyond this date. Activities like meeting attendance or sponsoring a new member cannot be rolled forward or backward into other years.
4. Following June 30th, PVRC officials will tally the results and announce that year's PVRC Olympic Medalists.

1M-4M Awards - Tim N3QE mailed certificates to the 75 "active" award winners.

Administering the PVRC awards program is no easy task. Appreciation goes out to Alan AA4FU for the 5M program and to the PVRC officers who turn suggestions from the membership into an award by creating the rules, designing the award certificate or plaque, producing and distributing all to the winners

Treasurer Tom K3AJ just ordered all the plaques for the 5M program, endorsement plates, Presidents Leadership Awards and Top Gun Award. Tim created artwork, produced and mailed the parchment awards. Thanks go out to all our volunteers. Without them we could not do what we do. Also, please remember to thank your chapter chairman. His tasks are not trivial.

Jay W3MMM is hard at work producing the PVRC 70th Anniversary on the air Special Event program. Jay reports:

"We will celebrate 70 years of PVRC excellence with our PVRC on-the-air special event, to be held Dec 28, 29, 30, through 23:59z on Dec 31, 2017. As an operator, you will get a special callsign; N4P, N4V, N4R, N4C, plus W3GRF and W3AU, for 6 total callsigns in the event. You'll operate from your own (or someone else's) station, for as long or as little as you'd like. All US-based PVRC members are welcome to participate as operators - particularly those of us with smaller stations! All hams (PVRC members and not) will attempt to work all six callsigns over the four days to earn a clean sweep! K3LU will handle all QSLing.

I've already submitted to ARRL/QST and we will be listed as 'near the 47s' as in the reunion. QST will list us 6 times, once under each call we're going to use. And I had the choice if I wanted this info to be in the QST mailing in early November (Dec issue) or December (Jan issue), I chose December mailing (Jan issue) simply as it would be more immediate to the event. Of course, the risk is that some people don't flip to that page by the time our event starts... My hope is that the on-the-air activity is the real impetus for people to jump in.

As we get closer and begin to promote this to other folks, particularly YCCC and FRC, we may want to point out how we supported their efforts. And fortunately, I sense the coming FRC event will be more of a harbinger of our own.

Each morning during the event I will be sending a "today in the party" report to the reflector. This will note available calls / bands / modes / times each day and encourage members to just jump in. All they have to do is just check the skimmer to see if anyone else is on right then, spot themselves to show the call is in use, and keep/submit a log as they operate.

N4P, N4V, N4R and N4C are available to all. On-air times are December 24, 1700z to Jan 1, 2359z- over one full week

This is an all-you-eat buffet, take as much as you'd like, the more the merrier. People may work different callsigns at different times; choose multiple days or long stretches, whatever they think they can work. Big guns and little pistols encouraged.

Members may also request W3GRF and W3AU; however, use of these callsigns will be subject to approval by the call trustees. While I can't predict who they will approve or not, my understanding is that they are looking for ops who had some personal connection to the original call holders.

QSL cards will be a collage of the historic callsigns and will be printed into 6 different QSL cards. The PVRC logo and a few sentences will go on the back of each card - loud and proud!!! This was pretty fun to do. I hope you like it! For some chasers, this will be the 'carrot' - the chance to collect and form a single picture collage. For the operators, particularly the OT's, it will be an incentive to honor the people pictured herein." Ullis K3LU volunteered to be our QSL manager.

[Jay Horman](#) added a photo in [Potomac Valley Radio Club \(PVRC\) -- Amateur \(ham\) Radio Contesting](#).



Jay Horman

September 2 at 7:47am

PVRC wants YOU!

Our 70th Anniversary On-Air party needs operators! Held the last week of Dec, you operate your own station using one of our special calls.

ARE YOU IN??

PM me to sign up now! Join the 20+ PVRC members who will make this historic event a success.

de W3MMM



We all appreciate the hard work that Jay puts into creating and managing our upcoming 70th anniversary on the Special Event program! Please email Jay W3MMM if you'd like to operate a special callsign during the last few days of 2017 - any member can participate!

Up next is the NR4M PVRC-wide event on Saturday 30 September at noon time. I've been missing it each year because it's right in the middle of our cruise date. Last year I remembered to shift the date to not miss this great event again. Hope to see everyone there.

It's now time to look back at last month and see how all of us fared out in the world of contesting.

SPORTS PAGE

WAE SSB 2017? Are you kidding? An epic solar flare and the attendant disturbances made this an epically difficult contest. It looks like a lot of PVRC'ers appear to have blown this one off. Just 12 PVRC scores representing about 2,650 QSO's were reported this year vs. 32 entrants with just shy of 12,000 QSO's last year! Team KD4D (K3RA, KD4D, N3QE, N8IVN, W2CDO) truly did prove that they were "2S2Q" ("Too Stupid To Quit") and were rewarded with a top US finish in M/S HP with 861 QSO/501K. Another notable exercise in perseverance was scored by W3LL, with 418 QSO's, good enough for the #2 spot in the US at 162K. And PVRC member EA5DFV (competing from the other side) achieved the #4 spot worldwide in SO HP. Another notable effort was by team WA3EKL with a M/S HP entry for 250/74K. No other PVRC'er managed to break the 100 QSO barrier!

We don't always report on the sprints, but the September NA CW Sprint saw a pretty good turnout from PVRC. Let's let Lar, K7SV tell the story in his own words: "Nice to work a few PVRCers beyond the usual suspects in the CW Sprint yesterday. It was nice to hear N4ZR in the throw of things since Pete's move from WV to MD. Pete you had quite a good signal with the simple setup there! It was also nice to hear K4ZW. I think Ken has a few dipoles in the air in addition to the arrays on 80 and 160. Also, nice to hear KE3X back in there. You did well from the home station Ken! I managed to work Tom KG3V on 80 and 40. Ted N9NB is hard at work making his station down near Blacksburg VA super competitive. I think you need to think high power Ted! Last but not least, KT3Y was very active in this one. Hope Phil's property on VI hasn't suffered much damage from IRMA! Well, I may as well mention the PVRC regulars that I worked as well. N3QE helped N4ZR to ensure MD was in my log. Likewise, N4AF and N1LN assured NC. WJ9B was my only ID and K1IMI was my only ME! Thanks to all."

N3QE, K4GMH, K7SV and KS0CW all made a showing in the September NA RTTY Sprint. N3QE with 142/33/4,686 edged out K4GMH by 2 QSO and 66 points! K7SV also made a good score with 125/30/3,750.

There weren't too many fireworks in the September VHF contests, with 6M propagation being especially poor. There were some good tropo openings available on the higher bands at times. Proof of that is Bob, W3IDT's report from W3SO: "We knew it was going to happen, sooner or later. What is 'it'? Look at the summary of our results...432 has more grids than 50, and 220 has only one fewer than 50!" And, of course, 2M at W3SO led in grids with 52. W3SO is showing as the top Limited Multi-Op HP score on 3830 with 538/162/117K. In Multi-op HP, W3RFC put up a nice score with 150/58/14K. W3IP put up the top PVRC score in SO HP with 342/133/71K for third place overall in that category. N3HBX also made the top ten in that category with 285/83/31K and N3MK finished at 177/66/12K. In SO LP W3EKT took third place with 220/73/29K. K3AJ with 119/44/5K and WA7TOF/4 with 100/32/3K both broke the 100 QSO level in SO LP.

K5VIP put up the top PVRC score in SO 3Band LP with 45/22/1K. And yes, FT8 QSO's on 6M were a salvation for many.

Not quite having had their VHF fill, K3ZO, K3AJ, W3EKT and W3LL all put in some time in the September 2M Sprint.

And before we move on, let's recognize N2YO (at NR4M) for a big score in the YO DX HF contest with 735 QSO/681K for the top US score in SO Mixed HP. N4AF made the top 10 in SO CW HP with 254/174K. W2CDO also made over 100 QSO's in this one. In the Russian RTTY WW Contest WA3EKL has a score of 104K in Multi-op HP and W4PK broke 100 QSO in SOAB HP. The SAC CW was almost impossible due to very disturbed conditions, but W2CDO and W3GVX tried anyway and made a few QSO's.

That's it for me this month. See you on the bands.

73, Bud W3LL

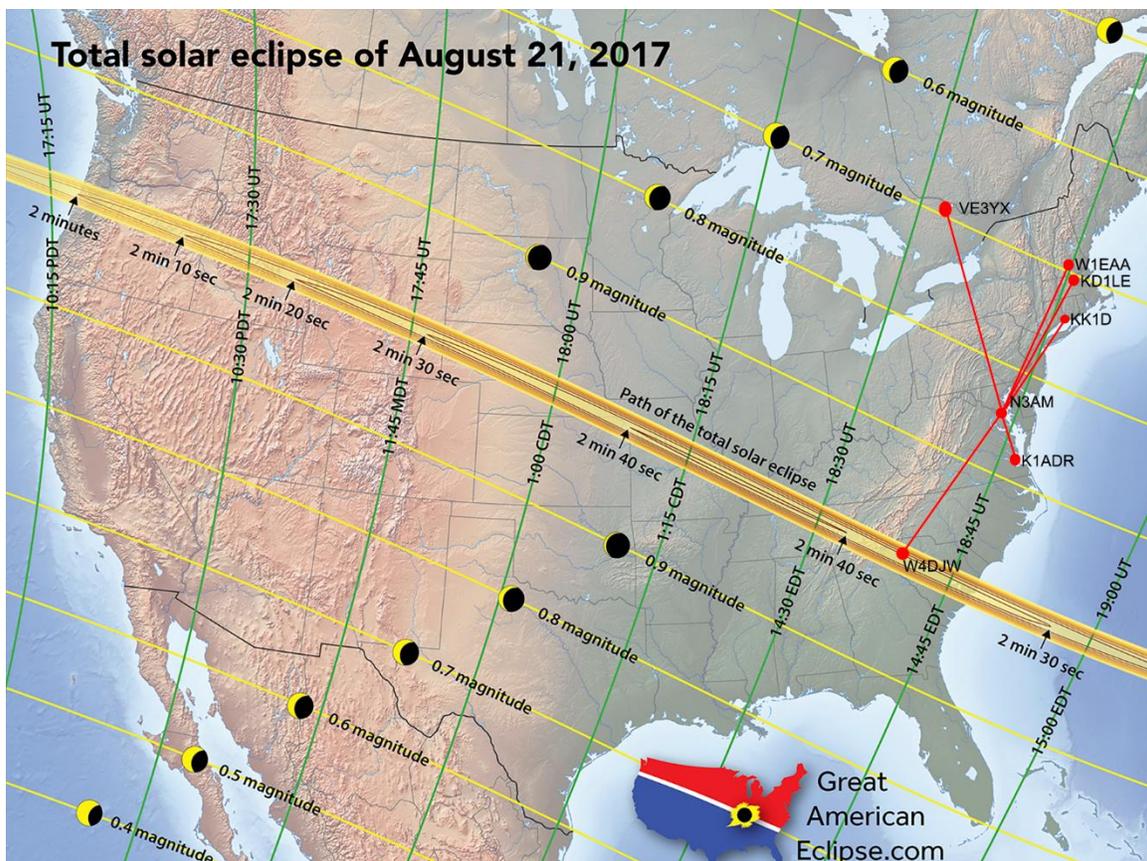
<u>PVRC Officers:</u>		<u>Trustees:</u>
President:	W3LL Bud Governale	K3MM, N3OC, WX3B, W4ZYT, N4NW, K2AV, KE3X,
Vice President:	K2YWE Dan Zeitlin	K4ZA, K3WRY
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Treasurer:	K3AJ Tom Valenti	W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS,
		VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT
PVRC Website: http://www.pvrc.org		

80m WSPR Signal Enhancements During the Solar Eclipse - John N3AM

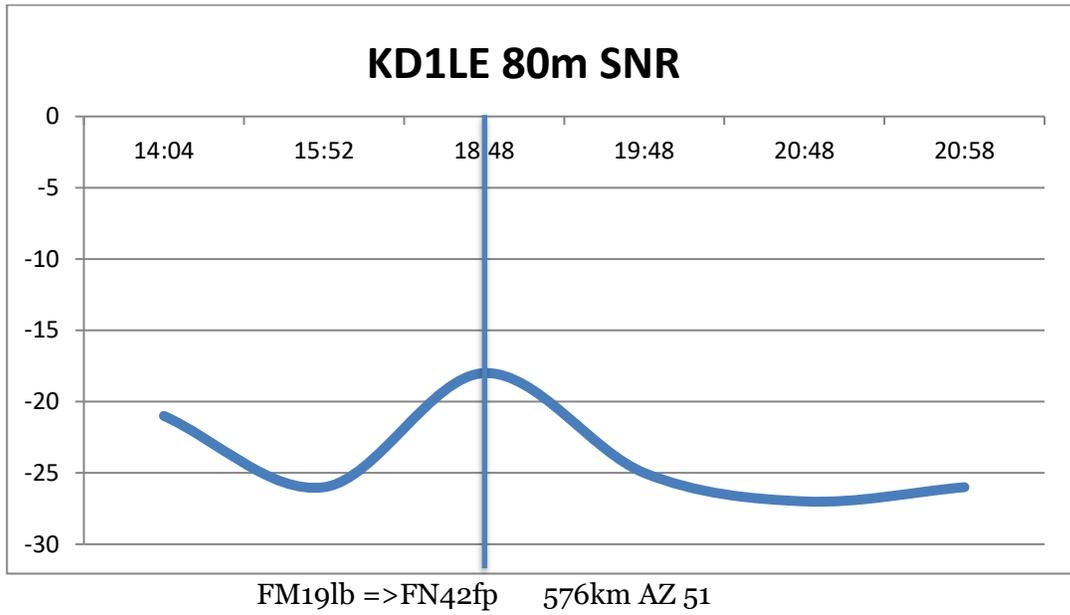
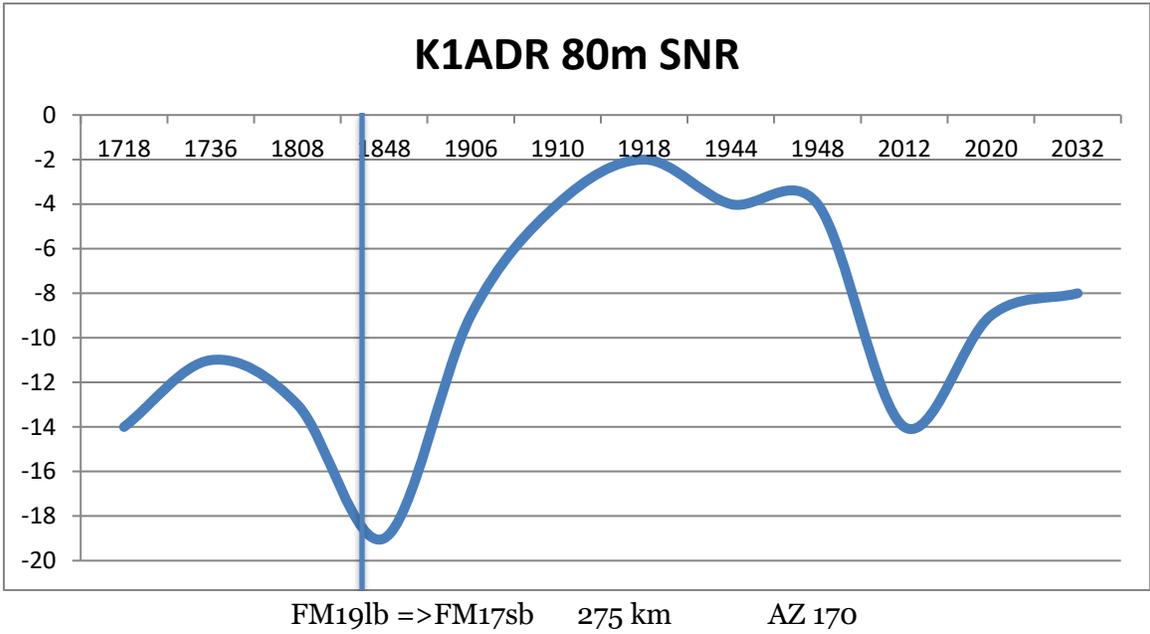
I ran my 200mW WSPRLite beacon on 80 meters before, during and after the solar eclipse to see what effect could be reported at various reception sites. My antenna is an inverted vee suspended from my tower, with the apex at 65 feet and legs running south and WNW.

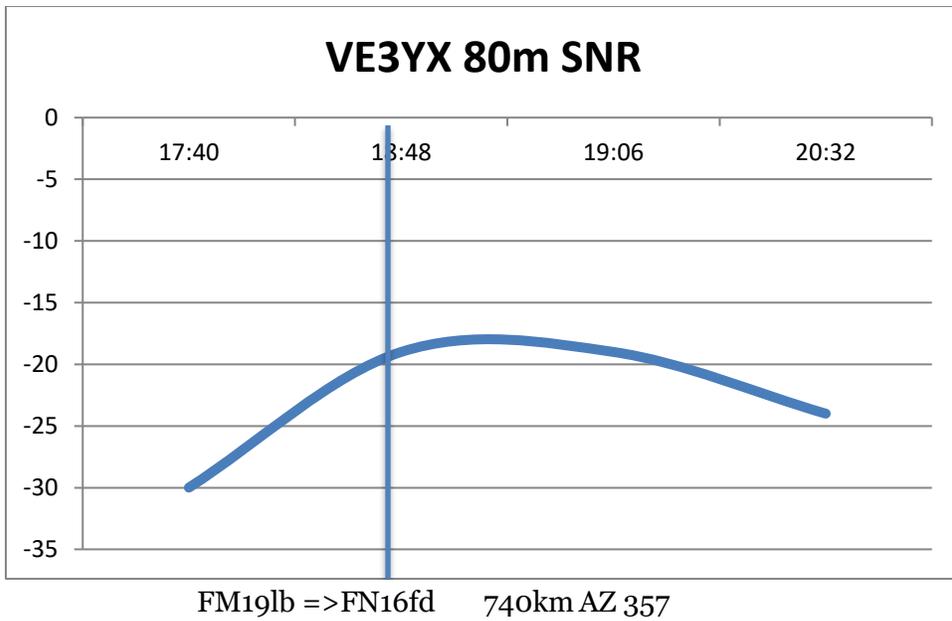
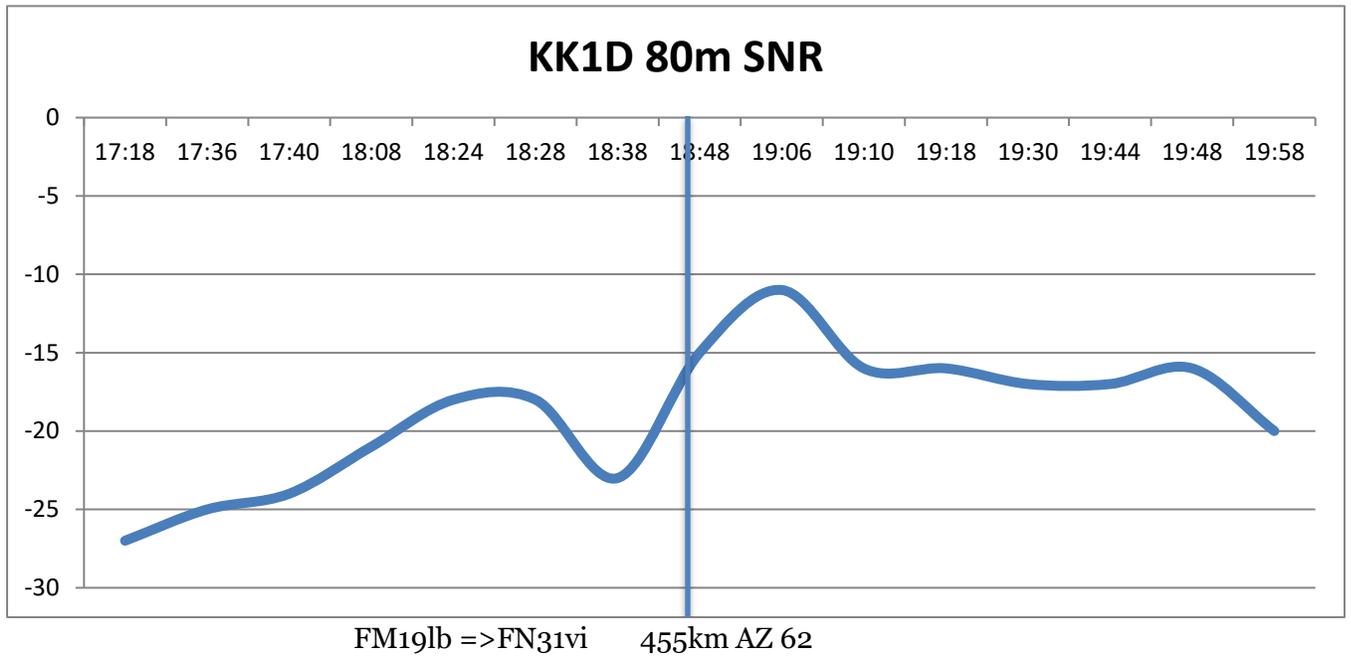
I downloaded data from DXplorer.net to make plots of signal strength versus time. Even though I used the recommended settings that limit WSPRLite transmissions to 6 per hour, sent at random intervals, there was a clear signal enhancement around 1842Z, the time of maximum eclipse (81% coverage) in the DC area.

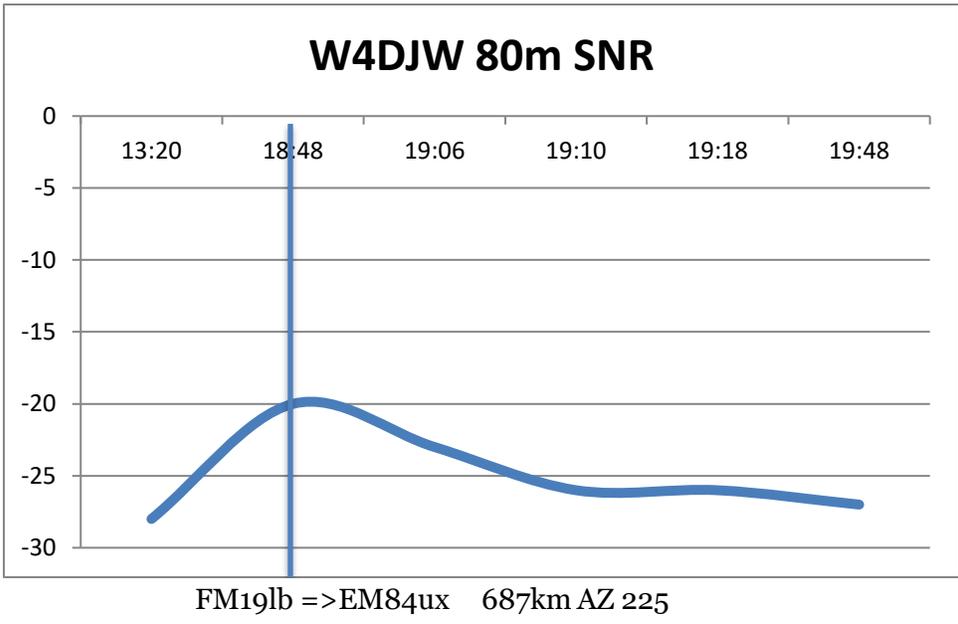
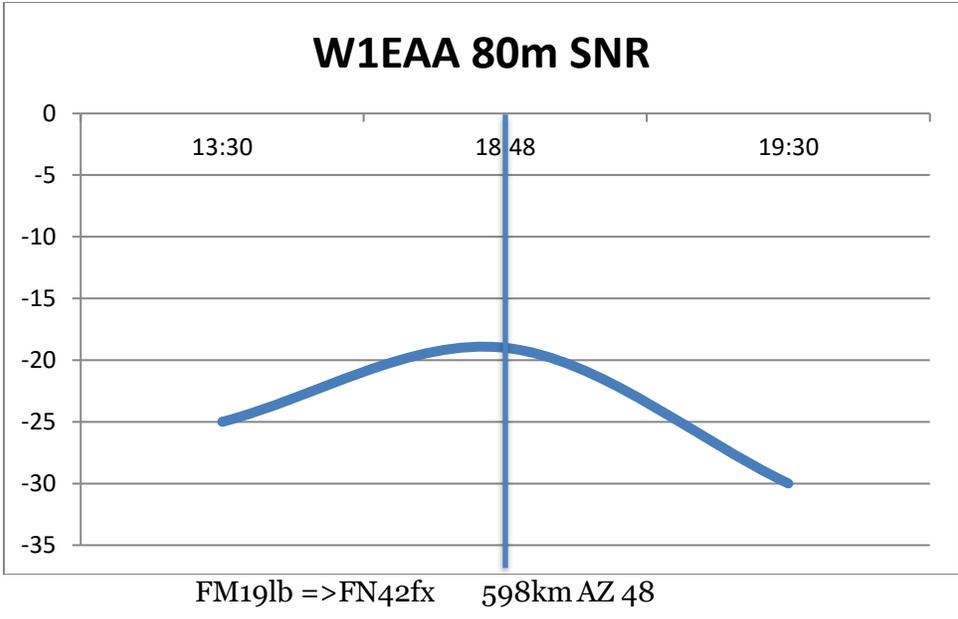
Reception sites are plotted on the map below.



As noted in the following charts, signal peaks ranged from very close to maximum eclipse time at N3AM (1842 UTC marked with vertical line) to approximately 30 minutes later. K1ADR was the closest reporting station and exhibited the longest delay in peak response, possibly due to some NVIS path. KK1D at 455km from my QTH also showed a peak delay. W4DJW was in the path of totality and showed a marked peak just past max eclipse time, but so did most of the stations 600km or more distant from my QTH. The rise and fall of the received signals clearly indicate the impact on D-level absorption as the eclipse progressed.







WSJT-X FT8 Operating Hints – Rich K1HTV

Unless you have been sleeping for the past few months, you probably already have heard that the new FT8 digital mode is catching on like wildfire. There are designated 2 KHz wide segments of FT8 on all bands from 160 through 6 Meters. If you tune in 20 Meters, don't be surprised to see dozens of FT8 users at 14.074 MHz. At this writing, after 8 weeks of operating the new mode and running 75 Watts or less, 133 DXCC countries (105 confirmed) are now in the K1HTV log. In the process of making these Q's, I've gain a little insight and would like to share what I have learned on how to be successful in making FT8 QSOs and how to improve the chances of your FT8 signal being copied.

Since the original early June Release Candidate (1.8.0 RC-1) of the WSJT-X digital software, a number of improvements have been made and operational features added. After months of work, The WSJT-X Development Team has now released WSJT-X version 1.8.0 RC-2.

Getting Started with WSJT-X and specifically, the FT8 mode

First, in order to understand the workings of WSJT-X and its various sub-modes, download the latest PDF version of the WSJT-X User Guide from [here](#).

Next, download the WSJT-X software. It is available for a number of operating systems including Windows (runs on Win XP, Vista, Win 7, Win 8, Win10, both 32- and 64-bit), Linux and Macintosh OS X. You can download the latest Release Candidate, **WSJT-X Version 1.8.0-rc2** from [here](#).

Installation and Setup of WSJT

- Install the Windows version of WSJT-X software by running “wsjtx-1.7.0-win32.exe”
- After the installation is complete, click on the **WSJT-X** icon to start the program.
- Tap the **F2** key to bring up the **Settings** tabs.
- Under the “**General**” tab, enter your **Call, your Grid** and for **IARU Region**: Select **Region 2** from the pull down menu.
- Tap the **Radio** tab.
- From the **Rig**: pull down menu, select your transceiver.
- Do the same for **Serial Port**: and **Baud Rate**: and **PTT Method**.
- Tap the **Test CAT** to verify that the radio and software are communication.
- Tap the **Test PTT** to see if the radio keys. Tap again take it out of transmit.

- Under the **Audio** tab, select the **Input:** and **Output:** soundcard from the pull down menus.
- Click OK to exit **Settings**.
- *****IMPORTANT NOTE***** Make sure that Windows sounds are turned off and are NOT feeding the sound card being used for WSJT-X.
- On the lower left side of the main screen, there is a pull down menu to select bands. When you click on it, you should see a frequency for each band. If the frequency is not displayed, it will be necessary to do a one-time reset of the default list of suggested operating frequencies.
- At the toolbar, go to **File->Settings->Frequencies**. **Right click** on the table and select **Reset**.
- When you are finished click **OK** to exit settings.
- Before you run **FT8**, it is important to make sure that your computer time is correct. If your PC clock time is off by more than a second or two, **decodes may not occur**.
- ***Dimension 4*** or ***Meinberg NTP*** can be used to synchronize your computer's clock, if you're running a Windows-based operating system. An internet search with your browser should find them.

Getting Started

- There are a number of WSJT-X digital modes. This info will only address the **FT8** mode.
- With your transceiver turned on, from the band pull down menu, select 20 Meters. Your radio should switch to 14.074 MHz. You should hear **FT8** signals.
- The vertical dB meter (lower left corner) should be green. If the receive level is too high or too low it will turn red. Adjust your sound card's *Recording Device* level control if necessary.
- For transmit, adjust the sound card's "*Playback Device*" control to the proper level to.
- When you start WSJT-X, the main window will appear.
- In that window, at the top toolbar, click on the "**Mode**" pull down menu. Select **FT8**.
- In addition to the main WSJT window if you **DO NOT** see the ***Wide Graph*** waterfall display, go to the top tool bar, click on **View**, then select **Waterfall**.
- If your transceiver has the feature, **lock your transceiver's VFO dial** so it doesn't get bumped.
- Unlike CW & SSB, select your transceiver's **WIDEST RECEIVE FILTER**, as the entire 2 KHz+ passband is decoded by the WSJT-X

software. If you limit your receiver bandwidth, you may miss decoding stations that answer your CQs.

- In order to decode **FT8** signals, the “**Monitor**” box (above the **black** frequency box) must be **GREEN**. If the **Monitor** box is gray, click on it. When it is green, you should start to start to decode signals. **FT8** signals during the last few seconds of every full 15 second receive cycle.
- With the **Auto Seq** box checked, once you receive a response directed to you, every 15 seconds, depending on the message that is decoded, the WSJT-X software will automatically step through the next appropriate message until the contact is completed.
- You can manually end your transmissions at any time by hitting either the **Halt Tx** or **Enable Tx** buttons.
- The simplest way to answer a station is to double click on the line containing the call in the **Band Activity** column. If the **Enable Tx** is on, you should start transmitting at your next 15 second TX cycle.
- Leave the **Rx=Tx** box **UNCHECKED**. However, even with the **Lock Tx=Rx** box unchecked, if you simply double click on a station to want to call, both the red (TX) and green (RX) brackets are moved to that frequency. This results in your transmitting on the other station’s TX frequency.
- A **GREEN** Rx marker will appear over that station’s frequency. (**NOTE** The position of the green Rx bracket has no effect on which part of the FT8 passband is decoded....The **entire FT8 passband** is decoded. The green marker useful to check the activity on the frequency of the station that you called.
- **Important Note** - When multiple stations call on the same frequency, very often **none** are decoded.
- If a station that you called has the green marker over it and comes back to someone else, your **Enable Tx** will change from red to gray and will inhibit your further transmissions until you enable it again.
- NOTE - If your TX frequency is more than 60 Hz away from the station you are calling and he comes back to another station, your further transmissions will NOT be inhibited.
- **SPLIT - A more effect way to answer a CQ:** First, use your mouse to hover the cursor over a quiet spot on the waterfall. Then while holding down the **SHIFT** key, **Left-Click** the **mouse**. The **RED** TX marker will appear over your hopefully quiet transmit frequency.
- When you see a station in the **Band Activity** column that you want to work, hold down the **ALT key** then **double click** on the line containing

that station's call. You now have set up for split operation and have improved your chances of being decoded by that station.

- **Remember, to run split, you must first UNCHECK the “Lock Tx=Rx” box.**
- Don't change your TX frequency while transmitting. Your signal will NOT be decoded.
- If the station you answered continues to call CQ, there may be others also using your TX frequency. Hold down your **SHIFT** key and **Left mouse click** as you point to another, hopefully quieter, frequency.
- If you start transmitting more than a few seconds late into your 15 second TX sequence, your signal probably will **not** be decoded.

Calling CQ yourself:

- Before you call CQ, make sure there is a red **Enable Tx** box and not a grey **Enable Tx** box.
- Make sure that you have checked both the **Auto Seq** and the **Call 1st** boxes.
- Normally, call CQ with the **Tx even/1st** box **UNCHECKED**.
- Before calling CQ, wait a few sequences so you can identify what appears to be a quiet frequency on the waterfall.
- Don't be afraid to send CQ very low (**>200** Hz) or very high (**<2400** Hz) on what appears to be a quiet frequency on the *Wide Graph* waterfall. Usually, both ends are often less crowded than the middle of the 200-2400 Hz frequency range.
- If you get no answer after 5 minutes of CQs, try another frequency.

Additional tips:

- The maximum number of minutes that you can send your 15 second sequence transmissions is determined by the Watch Dog timer. (File/Settings/General/Behavior/Tx watchdog).
- The bottom right corner of the main WSJT screen shows how many minutes remain in the Watch Dog timer. The default is 6 minutes, i.e. “WD:6m”
- You can find **Mouse Commands** and **Keyboard Shortcuts** in the ‘**Help**’ pull down menu.
- You can access the **On Line User Guide** and **Local User Guide** in the ‘**Help**’ pull down menu.
- If a station you are working continues sending you the same message multiple times and is not progressing to the next message, there may be

QRM on your frequency. Try doing a **Shift-Click** with your mouse, while pointing to a clearer frequency on the waterfall display.

- To see who, around the world, is copying your FT8 signals, check out the PSKreporter website: <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>
- Another place to check FT8 spots is at the HamSpots website: <http://hamspots.net/ft8/>

I hope that this info will be of some help to you in setting up the WSJT-X software and using the FT8 mode more effectively.

Editor's note: if you want to interface WSJT-X with N1MM+ for contest operating, you will need to do three things:

1. Use N1MM+ version 1.0.6731 or later.
2. Load and run JTAlert which can be found [here](#).
3. Have a way to allow both programs to talk to your rig, ie share the same COM port. LP Bridge is software that is widely used to do that, look [here](#). The N1MM+ instructions for making setting this up can be found [here](#).

Also, note that October QST has a big article on the digital modes with much additional information.



Rich K1HTV (center) giving the Blue Ridge Chapter of PVRC a lunchtime briefing on FT8, while Tom WA2BCK (l) and Dick W2YE listen attentively. (W4AAW photo)

Fowlfest Fotos– Ullis K3LU



Todd WB2ZAB burning up the bands grill



The gang chowing down



Nice shot of Seneca Lake

Resources for Getting Contest Smart – John K3TN

Sponsored by the [World Wide Radio Operators Foundation](#), Ken K4ZW announced two upcoming webinars aimed at contesters:

Wednesday, October 4, 9 PM EDT (Thursday, October 5 - 01:00 UTC)
A Look at Propagation for the 2017/2018 Contest Season
Registration: [link](#)

K9LA will review the status of Cycle 24 for the next half-year, and will discuss how the contest bands will be affected. Bonus - He'll also tell host K4ZW whether the lowbands will open this year during his XW4ZW lowband DXpedition or whether to bring extra beer money and a deck of cards.

Wednesday, October 11, 9 PM EDT (Thursday, October 12 - 01:00 UTC)
Contesting! It's a fun game. Let's do it the right way.
Registration: [link](#)

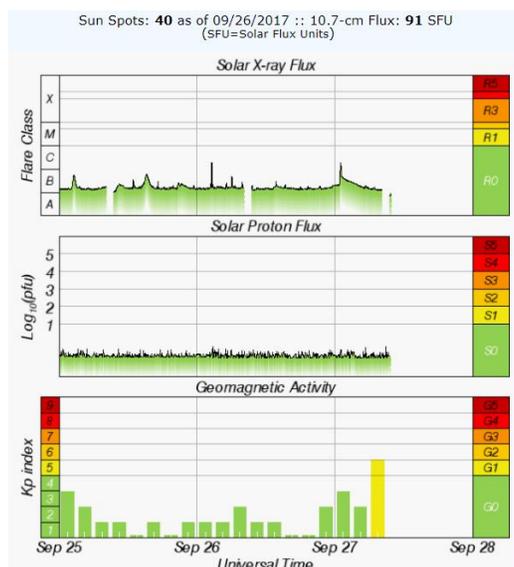
W5ZN discusses the ethics of radiosport and why following the rules matters!

Tim K3LR also announced that four years of presentation slides and five years of videos from Contest University sessions at the Dayton Hamvention are available at the [Contesting University website](#). Among the presenters you'll find PVRCers Frank W3LPL and Dan K2YWE.

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

- Oct 7 – Oceania DX SSB
- Oct 7 – CA QSO Party
- Oct 14 – Oceania DX CW
- Oct 21 – Worked All Germany
- Oct 28 – CQ WW SSB

Logs Due This Month

- Oct 4 – All Asian DX SSB
- Oct 12 – SARTG RTTY
- Oct 16 – ARRL UHF

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

Editors Final Word – John K3TN

Easy to tell the “real™” contest season is nearing – I got the call from Frank W3LPL for volunteers to help get his vertical receiving array back up in his neighbor’s field and spent the morning tromping around in the high grass with several others. The CA QSO Party is the other indicator – that always serves as a fun domestic “get the juices running” event.

Thanks to John N3AM and Rich K1HTV for great submissions this month. You can now get points to PVRC awards for Newsletter submissions! Send ‘em to jpescatore at aol dot com.

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

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We've also expanded the NCC-2's versatility with internal slots for the new plug-in versions of our Receiver Guard 5000HD and RPA-2 Preamplifier.



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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



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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 • Large Touch Screen Color TFT LCD



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- Non-Contaminating-UV Resistant-Direct Burial-Black Jacket.



233/2-G4-(length).

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- Stocked in 1.5', 3', 5', and 10' foot lengths.



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