



# *PVRC Newsletter*

## *September 2019*

**Newsletter Editor:** John K3TN [jpescatore@aol.com](mailto:jpescatore@aol.com)

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

**Meeting Info:** <http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/>

### **President's Letter – Tom K3AJ**

In May we announced the formation of a team under the leadership of Mark KD4D to consider revision of the PVRC bylaws. That team has been working diligently on this most important and difficult initiative. The team has decided to offer possible revisions that address one issue at a time rather than proposing a multifaceted, overall revision. They have proposed a revision to Article IV of the bylaws dealing with the Board of Trustees. That proposal has been studied by the Officers and the Trustees and has been fine-tuned in accordance with the advice received during that review. The Officers have decided that this proposal will move forward. That process will involve:

- A 30-day review and comment period by the general membership as specified in the existing bylaws
- Consideration of the input received by the Bylaws Team and Officers
- Finalizing the proposal considering input received and a final review by the Trustees
- Submission of the proposed bylaws revision for membership vote. A two-thirds majority of votes received are required for approval as specified in the existing bylaws

The 30-day comment period will commence on September 1. The key document is the "Frequently Asked Questions – PVRC 2019 By-Laws Update" prepared by the team. It contains some background information and rationale for the proposal, along with a draft of the revised Article IV. Access to that document will be provided through a link published on the home page of the PVRC web site on September 1.

Please take the time to study this important matter.

We strongly encourage discussion at upcoming chapter meetings. You are welcome to submit your comments via e-mail to: [PVRCByLawsComments@gmail.com](mailto:PVRCByLawsComments@gmail.com). All comments received will be carefully considered. In addition, we will be holding a Town Hall Webinar to discuss the proposal and member comments on Thursday, September 19. Details on that webinar will be provided via the reflector and PVRC web site as the date approaches.

The vote on the proposed bylaws revision will be taken along with the 2019 election of Officers and Trustees. Voting will occur during the months of November and December. In accordance with the provisions of the existing bylaws, the President will call for nominations for Officers and Trustees sometime during the month of September. Nominations will remain open until October 31. Please note that this election schedule is in accordance with the existing by-laws, Article II, Section 2.

If the proposed bylaws revisions are approved, they will go into effect on January 1, 2020. Therefore, the 2019 elections for Trustee will be conducted under the existing bylaws.

We owe a debt of gratitude for the thoughtful, professional and difficult work that the Bylaws Team has undertaken. I would like to recognize all those team members:

**Team Leader:** KD4D, Mark Bailey: PVRC Past President, 2010 and 2011

**Members** (in callsign order):

- AA3S, Doug Hart: PVRC Chapter Head, Laurel
- K4ZW, Ken Claerbout: PVRC President, 2008 and 2009
- KE3X, Ken Low: PVRC President, 2014 and PVRC Trustee 2015
- N4KN, Kay Craigie: ARRL President, 2010-2016
- N4YDU, Nate Moreschi: North Carolina East Chapter Chair 2016-2018
- W4YE, Buddy Smith: PVRC President, 1973 and 1974

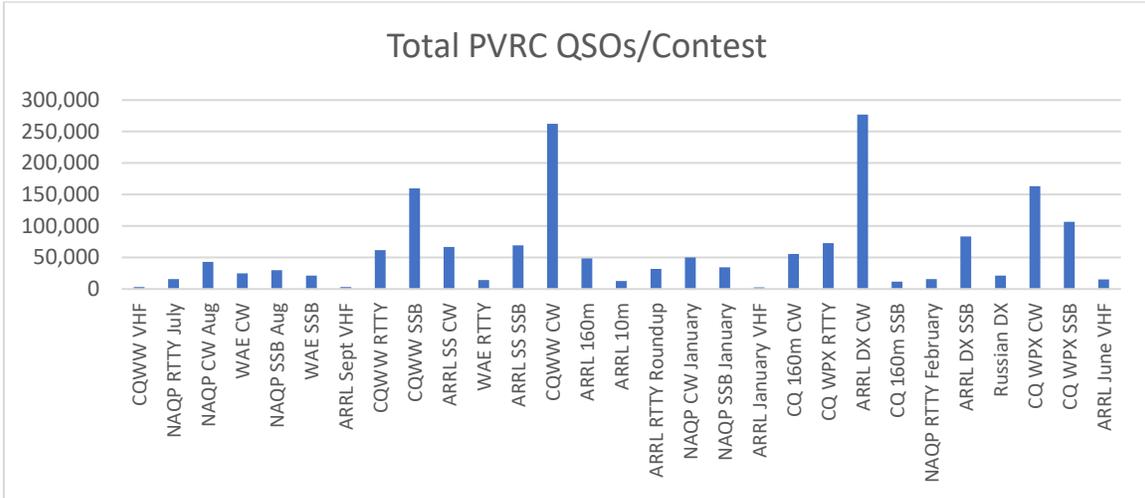
73,

Tom K3AJ

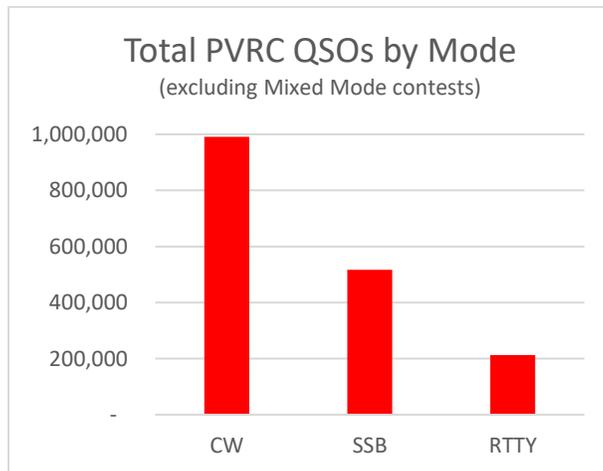
<b><u>PVRC Officers:</u></b>		<b><u>Trustees:</u></b>
President:	K3AJ Tom Valenti	K3MM, N3OC, WX3B, W4ZYT, N4NW, K2AV, K4ZA, W3TB, K3ZO, K2PLF, W3LPL, N4MM, N4ZR, W3MSH, N4NQY, W2RU, K3WRY
Vice President:	N4GU Mike Barts	
Vice President:	W3MMM Jay Horman	
Secretary:	N3QE Tim Shoppa	
Treasurer:	K2YWE Dan Zeitlin	
		<b><u>PVRC Charter Members (all SK):</u></b>
		W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT
Newsletter Editor: John K3TN <a href="mailto:jpecatore@aol.com">jpecatore@aol.com</a>		
PVRC Website: <a href="http://www.pvrc.org">http://www.pvrc.org</a>		
PVRC Meeting Info: <a href="http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm">http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm</a>		
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**2018-2019 PVRC Olympics Results – Mike N4GU**

The 2018-2019 contest season is over, as of June 30, 2019. The “season” included 29 contests in the 5 Mil/Olympics program with club competitions. During those 29 contests, PVRC members made 1.7 million QSOs. We’re still waiting to see how many of those contests we won.



The Olympics program is a yearly award program whose goal remains the same: “... to encourage, broaden, and reward participation in PVRC contests and other club activities.” Thus, the Olympics recognizes not just contributions to contest scores, but wider participation in the club in the form of meetings, new member recruitment, participation in VHF and RTTY contests, newsletter contributions, and financial contributions (which help pay for the awards programs). Sweepstakes is a big part of the Olympics program, as PVRC tries to retain its SS title from year to year. Keep in mind, going forward, that SS performance is the key to the new season’s Olympics program. This is intentional. There will be no changes to the Olympics rules for the 2019-2020 season.



This year was the third year of the Olympics program and a record number of members earned medals. During the 2017-2018 season a total of 60 medals were earned: 19 Gold, 15 Silver and 26 Bronze. For the 2018-2019 contest season there were a total of 98 metals earned, an increase of 60%: 29 Gold, 20 Silver and 49 Bronze.

**Gold Medal Winners**

AA3S AC3BU K00O K2YWE K3AJ K4XL K5VIP K7SV KB3VQC KE3X KE4S  
 N3DPB N3QE N4CF N4GU N4MM N4YDU ND3D NR4O W2CDO W2GPS  
 W3GVX W3LL W3OU W3UL W3YY W4JAM W4VIC WA3EKL

**Silver Medal Winners**

AB3CV K4GMH K4MI K4ORD K4QPL KK4R N3HBX N3HEE N3JT N4CW N4ZR  
 N6DW NR4M W3EKT W3FA W3IP W4AAW W4PK WA3AER WM3T

**Bronze Medal Winners**

AJ3M K2AV K2WK K3MM K3NDM K3RA K3TD K3TN K3YDX K4HQB K4QS  
 K8LF KA4RRU KC4D KD4D KG3V KQ4LA N1RM N2YO N3AM N3CW N3DUE  
 N3KN N3OC N3UA N3UM N3WD N4PD N4UA N8AID NC3Y NN3W NR4C NX3Z  
 W3CB W3GB W3IDT W3LPL W3MMM W3YOZ W4BBT W4KAZ W4WWQ W4YE  
 W8LYJ WB4FDT WR3R WR3Z WX3B

**Meteor Scatter Operating Hints from the Perseid Shower - Rich K1HTV**

As I write this report, 2 days after its peak, the Perseid meteor shower is still producing plenty of short-lived ionized trails capable of reflecting HF and VHF radio signals. These meteorites are remnants of the Swift-Tuttle comet and appear to originate in the Perseus constellation. Perseid meteors had been streaking across the sky starting around July 17 but I didn't start this year's meteor scatter QSO attempts until about a week before the predicted August 13 peak. CY9C was on from St. Paul and after working him on 6M FT8 and later on MSK144 I asked if we could run on 2 meters using MSK144. As luck would have it (good luck this time), I was able to catch enough Perseid meteor burns to work CY9C about 20 minutes before they started to break down their VHF station.

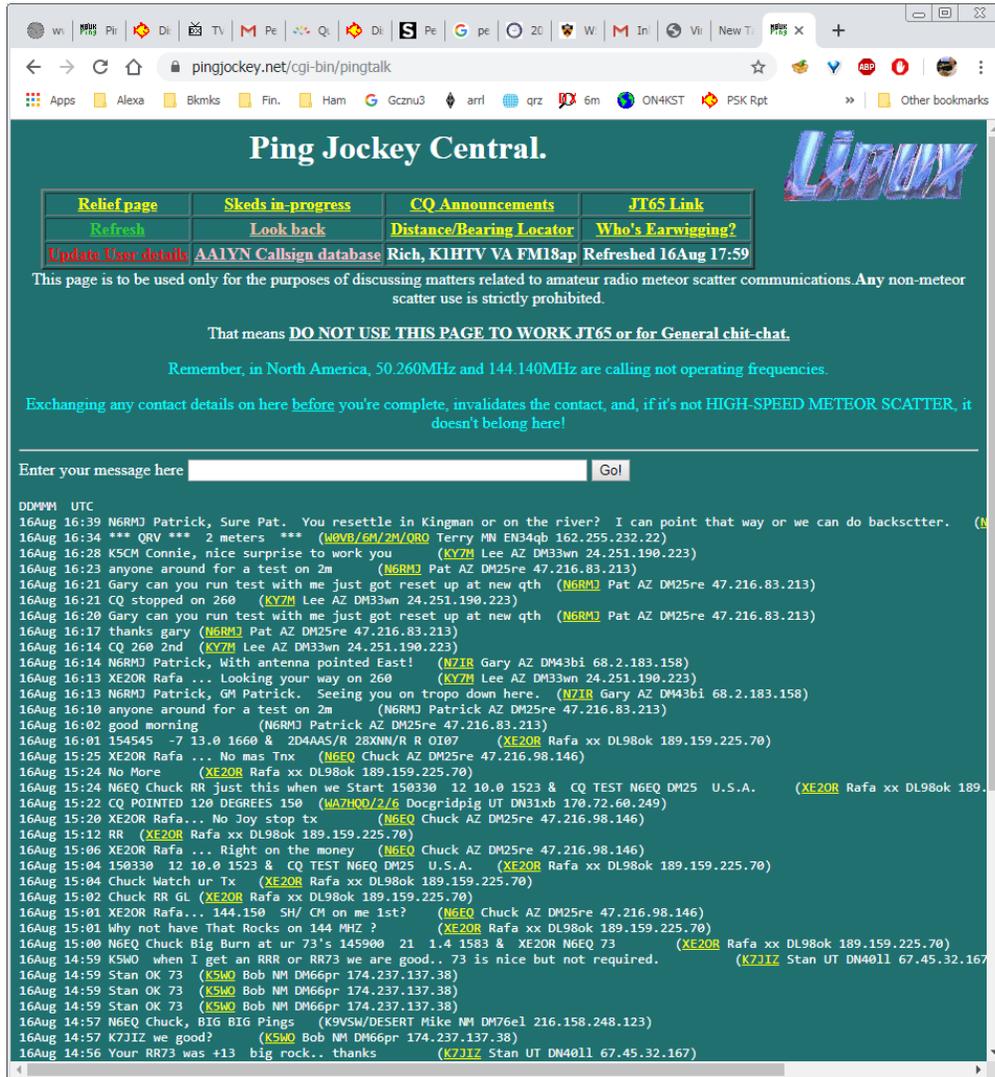
In the days to follow, as the E-skip season trailed off, I operated primarily on the 50.260 MHz MSK144 calling frequency. MSK144 is one of nine digital modes available in the latest version of WSJT-X (version 2.1.0) available for download [here](#).

As you can imagine, 50.260 MHz was very busy at times. Lots of meteor scatter newbies joined us old timers, waiting for decoded signals from hundreds of miles to as far as 1500 miles away to appear on the WSJT-X screen. To get away from the 50.260 QRM I often called "CQ 267 K1HTV FM18" indicating that I was listening on 50.267, where QSOs would be completed.

Between August 8 and August 15, over 6700 lines of MSK144 meteor scatter signals were decoded on 50.260 MHz at K1HTV. Of the exactly 100 grids that were decoded, stations in 54 of those grids in 29 States were worked via meteor scatter. Of the 29

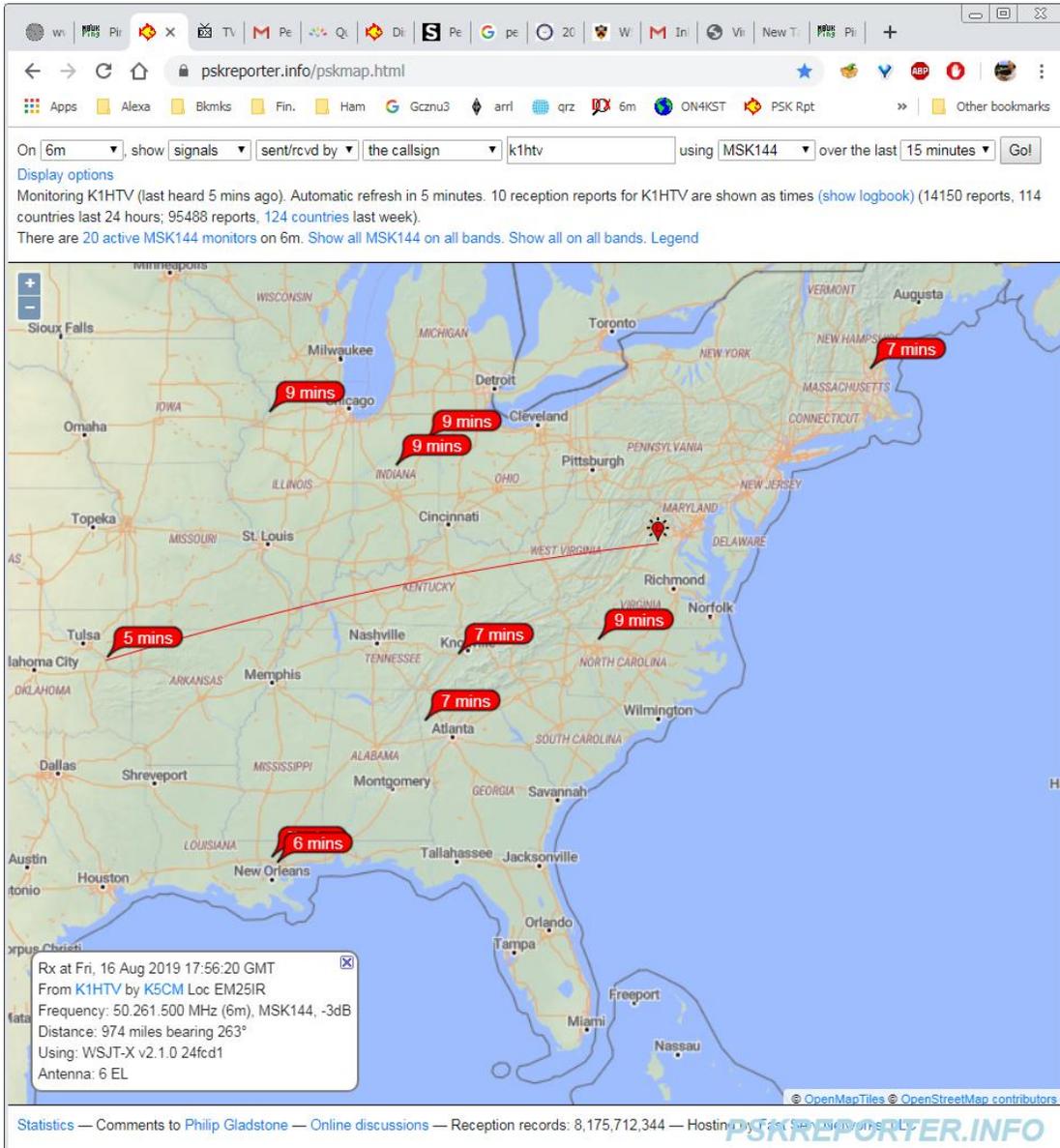
states the ones worked most frequently were MO (11), GA (10), IN (8), AL (7), IL (5) & LA (4).

Most meteor scatter QSOs were made calling CQ, but I kept an eye on [Ping Jockey Central](#) website, looking for stations wanting to run M/S schedules.



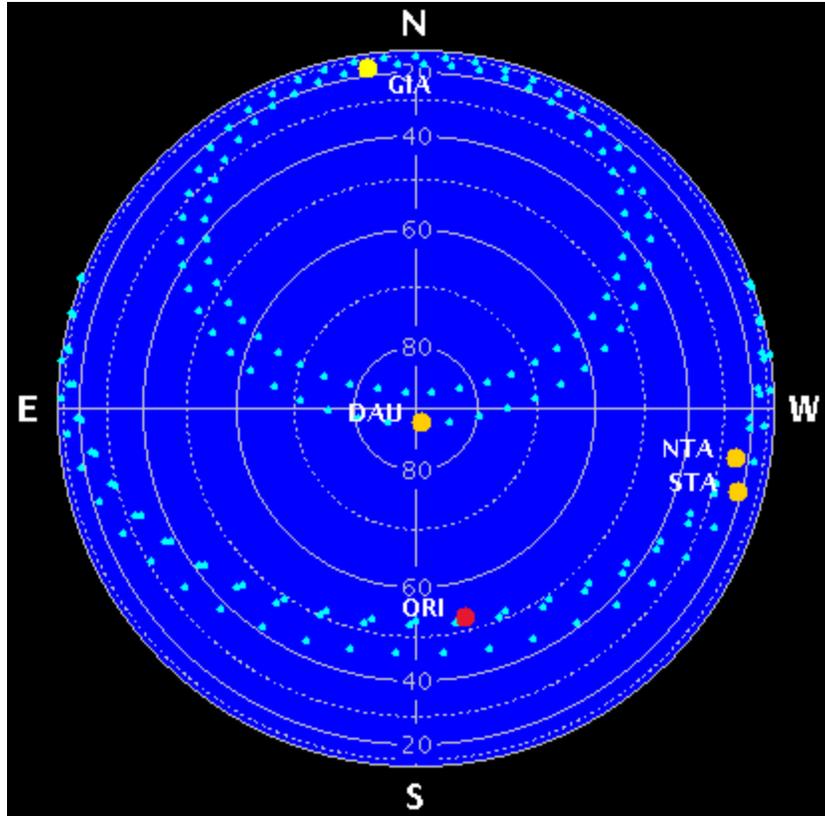
Even though calling CQ at times produced few callers, I found it interesting to view the map on [PSKReporter](#) to see how many flags were on the map indicating my being MSK144 signal being decoded.

Here is how it looked 3 days after the peak of the Perseids shower as I called CQ for 15 minutes.

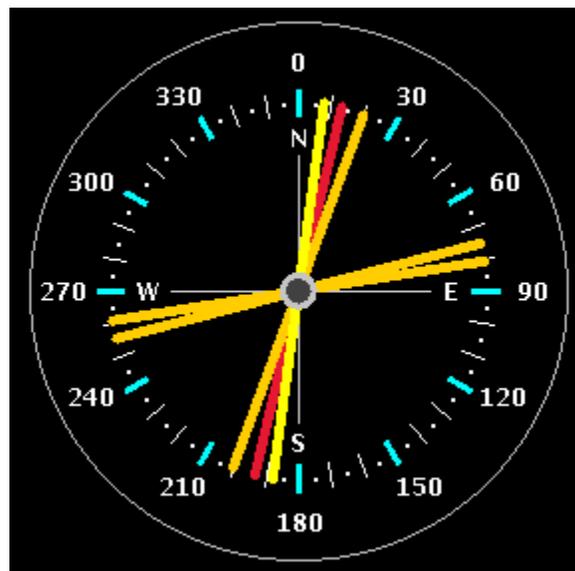


I used an app called VIRGO.EXE written by DL1DBC to help determine the optimum path for current meteor showers for various times of the day. Best reflections occur when stations are beaming in a direction which is perpendicular to the radian (path) of a meteor burnout. Virgo shows a projection of the sky visible at your location.

You can read more about VIRGO.EXE and can download the executable program [here](#).



It can be easily configured to show either the path of the meteors or the best azimuth settings for your beam. With multiple showers on certain dates, using different colors, the azimuth indicator will show you the preferred direction or the path orientation of meteors dipping into the atmosphere. There is an option to only display the major showers, making the screen less cluttered.



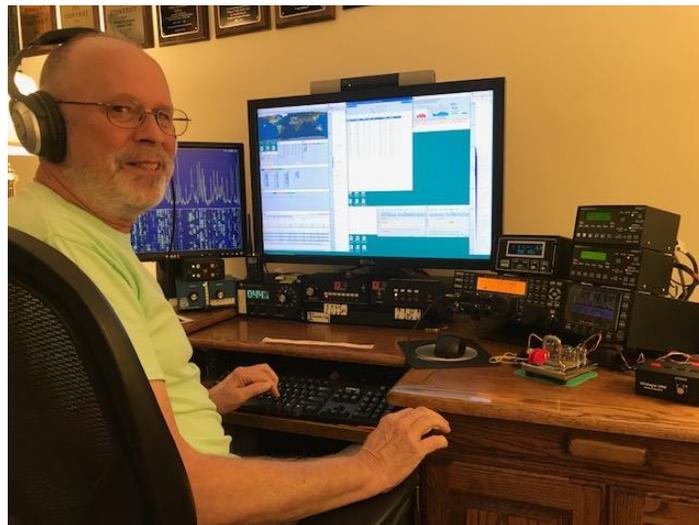
In addition to K1HTV, other PVRC members K3AJ and K4SO also participated in the Perseids meteor. As the number of Perseid meteors decline, the next major showers to look forward to are:

- **Orionids** (max Oct 21/22)
- **Taurids** (max. Oct 11 for S. Taurids and Nov 13/14 for N. Taurids)
- **Leonids** (max. Nov 17-19) but with 33 years between major peaks, the next really big Leonids shower won't occur until 2033. The 1966 Leonids, which I experienced personally, was the greatest meteor shower in recorded history. It produced rates as high as 40 meteors per SECOND. Starting around 5 AM on Nov, 17, 1966 there was continuous ionization on 144 MHz. From my old Connecticut QTH I heard or worked stations in MO, MI, IL, TN, MN, OK, SC and FL It was a meteor shower that I will never forget.
- **Geminids** (max. Dec 13/14)
- **Quadrantids** (max. Jan 3/4)

If you are set up for VHF and have never done so, why not add making some meteor scatter contacts to your bucket list.



**Ted WA3AER At W3LL WAE 2019 Contest – Bud W3LL**



**N3JT in Slovenia and Croatia – Jim N3JT (via Mike W4AAW)**



9A1A antennas, about 15 miles outside of Zagreb



N3JT with Tine S50A



Braco 9A7R, N3JT and Emil 9A9A

**Caption That Fred Photo Contest**



Photo of John N3AM and Fred K3ZO at Fowlfest by Jim N3JT

“Fred sheepishly admitting to John that, yes, HS0AC did steal John's run freq on 20 in the 2011 CQWW CW.” John K3TN

## The Joy of Downsizing – Bill K3WA

The short version: There is no joy in downsizing.

Well, sure, there more to the story than that. Much more.

In March 2018, other than living in the epicenter of the black hole and freezing my butt off during the Central Illinois winters, I was sitting pretty. Had a large house with a six car garage on 12 acres. My property was at the highest elevation in the county. There were no HOA or other restrictions. Looking from the top of my tower there was nothing but downward sloping land in any direction. My closest close neighbor was 750 feet away from my antennas and thought my tower looked cool. I had a full up SO2R station with two towers, two SteppIR beams, a seven element beam on six meters, inverted L antennas for 160 and 80 meters, four beverages and a SAL-30 shared apex loop for receive antennas.

Hamming was fun. Contesting was more fun. I rarely had to wait long in pile ups when DXing, often won major contests for the Illinois section, had a fair number of wins for the 9th call district, and a few top ten US contest scores. A really good op could have done much better - but I yam what I yam. Had the good fortune to do most of major contests as a team member at the K9CT contest station including winning our share of number 1 USA wins in Multi 2 category. I was a happy ham! Then reality came and bit me right where I was freezing.

In one day, my world turned upside down. One snowy morning I came into the kitchen for breakfast and my wife greeted me with the words that no man wants to hear. "Bill" she said, "we have to talk". That's never good – never ever good. My blood went cold. "We need to downsize" said she.

It was the big house and the twelve acres of land that were my downfall. The XYL and I are both on the wrong side of 75 - years, not meters. According to the XYL, the upkeep and maintenance became overwhelming. "Not my department" was true but not an acceptable response. I learned a new word – **downsizing**. And I came to hate it. Who knew a word with that many letters in it was really a four-letter word? A really bad four-letter word.

Up went the house on the market, down came the towers and low band antennas, and away we went house hunting – in a warmer climate.

Once the winter snows melted, and the weather warmed to a tolerable level the work began. Years of building my station ended. Now it was time to take it all down. Not easy, not inexpensive, and certainly not fun. But down it all came.

Late April found us house hunting in the greater Raleigh, NC area. Family is a big draw. Shocking how much warmer it was there. But we found a home and soon we were proud owners of a second home, this one smaller, much smaller, in Pittsboro, NC with a postage-stamp sized lot, way too many neighbors, and a HOA. Draconian antenna restrictions – meaning no antennas allowed. But, regarding downsizing, mission accomplished.

And many months after that we finally sold our home in Illinois and made the trek eastward. It had been 15 some years living in the country, no neighbors to worry about, no HOAs - nada. Now no more. Talk about culture shock!

The time between then and now was painful. But, I'm here – facing new challenges. I finally found enough of my ham gear and room in the house to set up a station. I put up a stealth antenna that the neighbors think is a flag pole, and bingo! I was on the air again.

It is really humbling to go from a competitive contest station to a low power station with a compromise antenna. Maybe one of these days I will mentally accept the change. But I'm back on the air and contesting again. And that makes the world much better

The best news in all of that is that I'm back in PVRC land again.

Ah, the joy of downsizing.

### Cliff W3CB Is Going /8 – Tom K3AJ



Ron K3RO (guest), Pat K000, Tom K3AJ, Cliff W3CB, Tony K3WX, Beezer W2BZR.

Cliff, W3CB at his last Maryland Over the Hill Lunch Bunch meeting on July 31. Cliff will be moving to MI and we look forward to him still playing as an "out of circle" member. In the picture, left to right:

Many thanks to Cliff for keeping the MD OTH group going. The group will continue to meet, same dates, same location. Keep your eyes on the reflector for meeting announcements.

**K3YDX Pipe Award Wall of Infamy -Hank K3YDX**



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**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**

- Sept 7 – All Asian SSB
- Sept 8 – NA Sprint CW
- Sept 7 – WAE SSB
- Sept 15– NA Sprint RTTY
- Sept 14 – Scandinavian CW
- Sept 28 – CQ WW RTTY

**Logs Due This Month**

- Sept 12 – MDC QSO Party

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

**Editor's Last Word – John K3TN**

A long list of contributors to thank this month: Mike N4GU, Rich K1HTV, Bud W3LL, Jim N3JT, Mike W4AAW and Hank K3YDX. Good examples of good writing and interesting photos showing the depth and breadth of PVRC-land.

The quality and usefulness of the PVRC newsletter depends on contributions from members. If you have photos from club meetings, screen shots of new contest software, or brief writeups on station improvements or contest war stories, send them in any format to [jpescatore at aol dot com](mailto:jpescatore@aol.com).



## From the PVRC Treasurer – Dan K2YWE

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

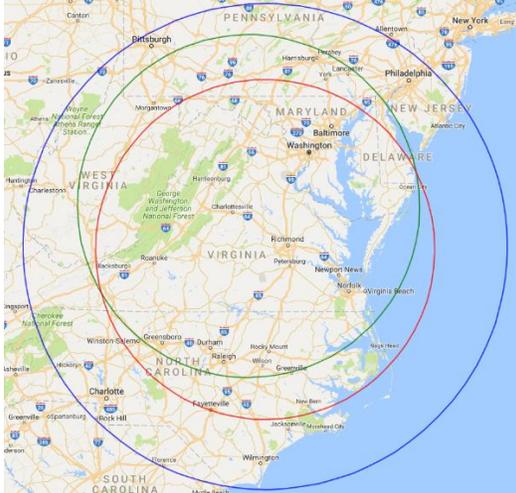
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible

## Eyeball QSO Directions

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



Green: ARRL VHF Circle  
175 mile radius  
Around 38.075N,  
78.171W

Red: ARRL HF Circle  
175 mile radius  
Around 37.43168N,  
77.858482W

Blue: CQ HF Circle  
250 mile radius  
Around 37.43168N,  
77.858482W



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*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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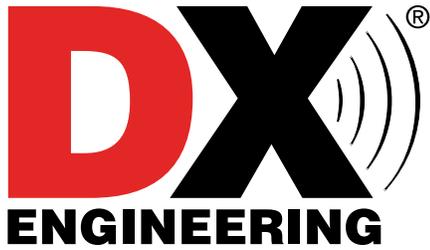

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- Amphenol RF connectors





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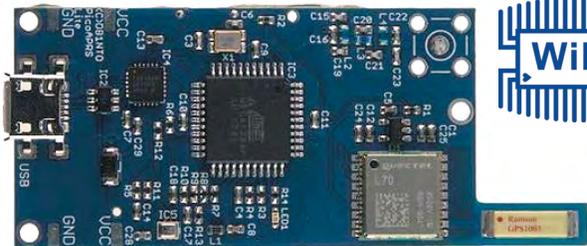
### Wire Antennas

Make us your source for wire antennas. Choose from DX Engineering's versatile EZ-BUILD UWA Center T and End Insulator Kits that let you build virtually any wire antenna type; fan dipoles from EAntenna that use multiple parallel wires with spacers to allow each band dipole to remain separate; SOTABeams™ portable and pre-assembled wire antenna kits; and many more from Alpha Delta, Buckmaster and Bushcomm.



### Equipment Cases

Keeping your gear safe and transportable is essential when disaster strikes. DX Engineering has rugged cases from trusted manufacturers, including iPortable's Pro2 Equipment Rack Systems that combine DC power distribution point, speaker and shelving; virtually indestructible Pro Series cases from Gator; and waterproof, watertight NANUK cases. Enter “Equipment Cases” at DXEngineering.com for the full lineup.



### PicoAPRS-Lite APRS Transceiver Module Kit

DX Engineering now carries WiMo's incredibly versatile Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS). Developed for balloon tracking, the PicoAPRS-Lite can also be a valuable tool for EMCOMM operations. It features automatic or manual frequency tuning, integrated GPS module with balloon mode, and temperature/air pressure sensor. It easily fits in your pocket or installs out-of-sight in your vehicle. Enter “WiMo APRS” at DXEngineering.com for more information.



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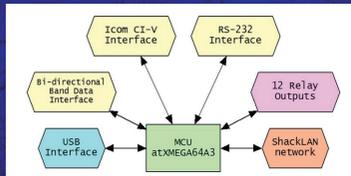
### Announcing the new BM-5 BandMaster V

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.



**OM Power Amplifiers, The New RF Power Benchmark!**



### OM Power Amplifier Sales Program

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<b>OM4000A</b>	Automatic 160-10 m 4 kW
<b>OM2500HF</b>	Manual 160-10 m 2.5 kW
<b>OM2500A</b>	Automatic 160-10 m 2.5 kW
<b>OM2000+</b>	Manual 160-6 m 2 kW
<b>OM2000A+</b>	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.

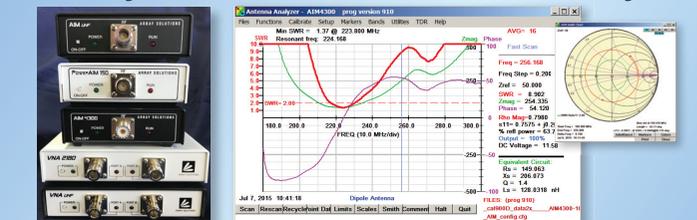
**Frequency coverage:**

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  
1500 W CW/SSB on 50 MHz



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