

# PVRC Newsletter October 2019

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN jpescatore@aol.com

Website: http://www.pvrc.org

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

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### President's Letter - Tom K3AJ

Congratulations to the following PVRC members who are recipients of PVRC President's Leadership Awards for 2019:

### Eric Wagner, NR40 - Most improved contester

Eric has been a PVRC member since 2017, joining PVRC under the call KB1RI. An amateur radio operator since 1973, he went through a period of 20+ years of radio silence but returned to activity with a vengeance in 2014. He has spent a lot of time and effort improving his station and all-wires antenna farm. He has developed his skills to match. Between August 2017 and June 2019 Eric had submitted 31 5M scores and amassed 5.6 million points. He has received certificates for several high finishes in CQ WPX, ARRL SS and the ARRL 10M contest.

## Alan Knight, AA4FU – Many years of dedicated service administering the 5M program

The 5M program is of bedrock importance to PVRC. It is the most sought-after award in our club, and it is open ended – supporting our mission by incentivizing members to get on the air, compete and submit scores for PVRC in club competition. Alan has been administering the 5M program since 2010. He has diligently maintained the accuracy and timeliness of the program. Alan has been an amateur radio operator since 1978, returning to activity in 2003. He has amassed over 28 million points himself in the 5M program.

### Jim Bruce, W3FA - Rejuvenating the PVRC Eastern Shore Chapter

Jim accepted the challenge of rejuvenating the long dormant PVRC chapter in the Delmarva region. Within less than a year, the chapter has begun meeting regularly again, several new members in the area have joined PVRC and already started submitting scores. There was even a PVRC Eastern Shore team in NAQP SSB! Jim is very diligent in encouraging and communicating with the members in the chapter area. Jim has been an active ham since 1986. He is active in contesting, DXing, EMCOMM and is a Boy Scout Radio Merit Badge Counsellor.

### Bob Zabot, K4NTO - Hard work and dedication as Web Master

When PVRC President Bud, W3LL called for someone to take up the challenge of improving the timeliness and quality of content on the PVRC web site, Bob stepped up. We all know there are a lot of stale and out of date amateur radio web sites out there. Since Bob took over as web master, PVRC's web site is at the top of the pack of amateur radio web sites from the standpoint of being current. Bob is an active member of the PVRC Tidewater Chapter and enjoys many aspects of amateur radio.

### Mike Barts, N4GU - Preserving the W4KFC call

Mike was made aware that following the passing of Vic Clark's son Kenneth, W4KFC would become available as a vanity call. Vic Clark was a founding father of PVRC and had a storied career in amateur radio as a contester and as President of the ARRL. With a lot of support from a quickly assembled team (PVRC Secretary Tim, N3QE who is now the Trustee for W4KFC, played an especially key role), the Clark Memorial Amateur Radio Club was founded with Mike as president and received W4KFC as its club call. An amateur radio operator since 1977, Mike is currently a vice president of PVRC and is an active contester, with just under 20 million points in the 5M program.

73, Tom, K3AJ

#### **PVRC Officers:**

President: K3AJ Tom Valenti
Vice President: N4GU Mike Barts
Vice President: W3MMM Jay Horman
Secretary: N3QE Tim Shoppa
Treasurer: K2YWE Dan Zeitlin

#### Trustees:

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### PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

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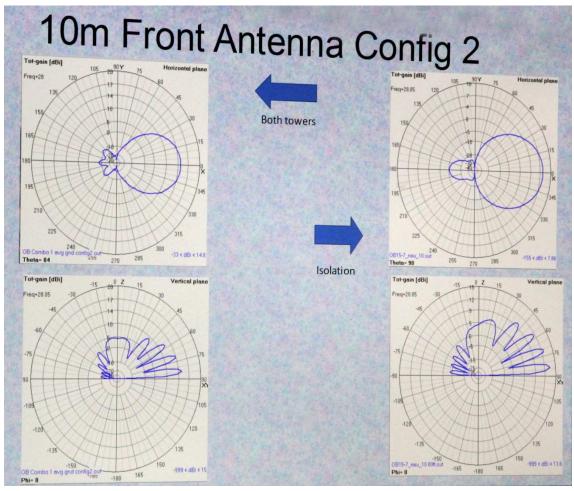
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### Pix from the NR4M Galactic Goat Farm Pig Fest – John K4HQK





### **OCTOBER 2019**









### More Stories of Downsizing - Bill K3WA

The short version: A contester has to innovate after downsizing, taking you down new roads. And the stories one finds can be surprising. Here's a story of giving.

After years of being quasi-competitive in contests I'm finding it really difficult to adapt to contesting with a highly compromised station – compromised by inability to put up decent antennas. I knew that would be the case which I chose to downsize, but I didn't quite recognize the strength of my addiction; my rate addiction.

For sure, I can and do contest using my flagpole. I have been all this year. And it is funany antenna is better than no antenna, any contesting is better than no contesting. I can work lots of stations. Sometimes I could even get a fair run going. But what I can't do is generate significant sustained runs to satisfy my need, my addiction, for sustained rate.

So, what's a contester to do? Well, this contester turned to remote operating. Now I know to some of us remote operating is considered sinful. If you feel that way, please just move on to the next article.

I use <u>Remote Ham Radio</u> (RHR) to gain access to great stations in interesting locations and enjoy it immensely. Not all of their stations are located in Maine.

I used a RHR station in KP4 for the 2019 January CW NAQP. Made lots of QSOs and satisfied my rate addiction. In the July CW NAQP I used their station in Haiti – HH2AA and had even more fun, at least until a major thunder storm parked itself right overhead for several hours. Then I got to wondering, how in the world did the RHR guys get around to building and maintaining a RHR station in Haiti? I've been to Haiti. I knew there must be quite a story there.

So, I asked the RHR owners, Ray W2RE and Lee WW2DX. Yes, there is quite a story there. Here goes – and I loosely quote from Lee:

"The history of HH2AA started with the devastating earthquake of 2010. When the earthquake struck, Pat N2IEN immediately used his own resources and flew his personal aircraft to HH loaded with food/water/medical supplies to assist. In the aftermath he realized that the country was in dire need of medical assistance from the air and so he started the Haiti Air Ambulance. This on its own is a story worth telling. For that story, please see their website.

In 2011 Ray and I met Pat while we were in the tower business. We had done a number of antennas installs and repairs for Pat and we all just "hit it off" as we all shared a strong love for the hobby. Pat, on a number of occasions, said "We need to do a DXpedtion together." So, we did and still do to this day (We just went to CY9C for the 2nd time).

Shortly after we met Pat, Ray and I started to hear about the air ambulance project and how Pat was building this amazing charity service there. We thought, how can we help? Ray and I had a lightbulb go off and said, "Maybe we can build a remote station there?" And so, the seed was planted. Soon after we flew to Haiti on one of the many trips back and forth between the states and HH while the building of the helicopter base was being completed.

On our first trip down we met with the famous Jean-Robert HH2JR who took us under his wing and was instrumental in making HH2AA happen from the "political" standpoint. Once we had the legal permission, we were given HH2AA (Air Ambulance)! No turning back now! We then met another amazing Haitian ham HH2FX Felix who just so happened to have a two-way communications company in Haiti. Felix said he had the "perfect" location for us. Well, he was right, "perfect" is probably the best adjective since the location at 6,300ASL in the Caribbean is probably the best radio location on the planet!

We now had the legal blessing from the Haitian radio regulators and an amazing QTH. Ray W2RE, Rock WW1X and I got to work. We started with a simple Off Center Fed Dipole off one of the high towers on the mountain to a Elecraft K3 with the RHR remote technology. We started with a 4G LTE modem, solar panels on the roof and a battery bank. I think this may have been the first remote ham radio station of its kind in the world. From the initial install we have since done many upgrades of the station like installing another tower, more yagi's, etc. We have more plans to expand HH2AA in the future.

The goal of HH2AA was always to "give back" to Haiti. RHR donates all the hardware, time and resources to keep HH2AA up and running. All the usage from HH2AA on the RHR network goes directly to the Haiti Air Ambulance. So, each time a RHR member operates HH2AA, that usage goes directly to the air ambulance. It's pretty amazing to think that while U.S. hams are operating as "DX" they are literally helping to save lives!

That's HH2AA in a nutshell. There are of course more details but this is the high level story of HH2AA. We are all very proud of that station and we have even more future plans for HH2AA."





Thanks to RHR for sharing this story and providing a rate junky the opportunity to satisfy his habit.

### Rotor Work at N3JT - Jim N3JT



N3JT installed a new JK WARC beam (2 el on 30m, 3 el on 17m, 4 el on 12m) and while at it replaced the Orion rotor-mast clamp with a K7NV clamp. He also shifted from center-south to center-north rotation for faster rotation between NW and NE. You can see the clamp in the photo. NR4M generously cleaned and painted the clamp that Jim got from WA2BCK, who moved to SC.

Why is that one bolt sticking out? When the clamp is removed or loosened it assures that the clamp embrace is expanded sufficiently to allow for release. That bolt when turned presses against the far side of the clamp, forcing it open somewhat. So, it's a tool of sorts.

### **Higher Rate Coming When Running VKs – from Southgate Amateur News**

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia (RASA) has successfully negotiated the issue of 2 x 1 callsigns (e.g. VK2A) for VK contest stations.

"RASA developed terms of reference for a cross-sector committee to review options and make recommendations on how 2 x 1 callsigns could be implemented. Calls for

expressions of interest to join the committee were promulgated widely. The committee was comprised of experienced contesters from across Australia" RASA President, Glenn VK4DU said. "The committee developed a series of recommendations, which we discussed with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)."

"I am very pleased to report that ACMA have agreed to our recommendations and that the VK 2 x 1 block (i.e. VK0A-VK9Z) will be made available for contest stations" Glenn said.

The block will be managed directly by the ACMA's outsourced provider, the Australian Maritime College (AMC). AMC will issue a letter of authorisation to each successful applicant. There will be no separate licence issued. 2 x 1 callsigns will be available for Advanced licence holders, and each callsign will be issued for 12 months. The callsigns are only for use in contests – they are not available for general use.

"Because of the limited number of callsigns available, the applicant must illustrate an ongoing commitment to contest operation by making a minimum 750 contacts over 4 contests in a 12-month period." Glenn said. The AMC is currently preparing for implementation of the new callsign block. A further announcement will follow when AMC is ready to start issuing callsigns.

### **Contesting Youth in Action – Mike W4AAW**

John, N0JSD, 14 years old, visited my shack to operate in the ARRL RTTY Roundup. Activity was slow, so John went to CW and happened across several stations in the CVA contest, a Contest for Brazilian Army personnel and veterans. We read the rules and found there was a teen category. John found the CVA contest among the N1MM Logger+ supported contests. He set up his exchange as, "599 TEEN." With 1500 watts and a five-element monoband Yagi, his CQs got a lot of responses. He's quite a good CW operator. John forwarded this message he received after the contest:

Hi John! - My name is Alisson. I'm a Brazilian ham and my call sign is PR7GA, but in CVA DX Contest I was using the call PR7CP, from our local Amateur Radio Club. We have made a QSO at Sunday, in CVA, by 20:37 UTC. You can hear the exact moment when I started to hear you at 20 meters in this YouTube video.

I have recorded my entire operation in CVA. It's in my channel. I'm writing to you because I just want to say: Congratulations!!!!! When I heard your exchange, I was amazed...It's not easy to see young men like you in the bands...Specially in CW.

I'm the editor of a weekly news BLOG of our club, called QTC ECRA. It's also transmitted in our VHF repeaters and 80 meters, and also in YouTube. I'll talk a little about you by tomorrow, to inspire other teens like you here in Brazil to discover our beloved hobby.

Nice to meet you! Hope to hear you again in the bands!

73s from Brazil! - Alisson, PR7GA

### A Visit to Bletchley Park - John K4HQK



L to R: John K4HQK, Dave G4UFS and Brian, G4BIP

Early last June during a Normandy-invasion-themed Viking River cruise, we began with four days in London visiting significant WWII sites before boarding our river boat on the Seine at Paris. One of those London days was spent at Bletchley Park, famous for its role cracking German Enigma and Japanese Purple enciphered messages. To my surprise they had a ham station in one of the buildings. I stopped and said hi to the two fellows manning it that day, and my wife take a picture of us.



The SteppIR at GB3RS

### Coffee Cups Will Be Harder to Earn In Sweepstakes

From Gerry W1VE, via CQ-CONTEST:

"I am sad to report that my dear friend J Allan, VY1JA, is having many health difficulties and has retired from ham radio. J's final QSO was with KA4UPI on September 14. He has uploaded his log to LoTW and sent a copy to his QSL managers, JA3JM for JA only, and N3SL for others. He will be taking down his antennas soon.

J was a great supporter of CW from the Yukon, making well over 100,000 QSOs in his decades there. Over the past four years, our VY1AAA remote team has made over 35,000 QSOs worldwide. We will be holding on to our gear and are exploring other possibilities of a remote in YT/NT or other rare location in Canada. Our QSL Manager Marty, NN1C has retired from his duties (thanks for your hard work, pal!), and Geoffrey, NE3K, will be taking over. Any questions should be directed here.

Thank you all for the many 1000s of Sweepstakes and DX QSOs over the past few years. VY1 will certainly become a harder multiplier for SS this year! I will probably operate from K2LE/1 in Vermont.

Until Saturday, please listen for VY1AAA on the air -- 20m CW mostly -- perhaps some SSB. 2100z or later weekdays, perhaps earlier on Saturday.

73 and thanks for the memories,"

Gerry Hull, W1VE/VE1RM Trustee, VY1AAA The Yukon CanAm Contest Club.



### **Membership News - Tim N3QE**

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

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the <u>Meeting Attendance Report</u>. Members can check and update their roster details via the Roster Lookup.

### **Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates**

### **Contests This Month**

- Oct 5 CA QSO Party
- Oct 5 Oceania DX SSB
- Oct 12 Oceania DX CW
- Oct 19 Worked All Germany
- Oct 26 CQ WW SSB

### **Logs Due This Month**

- Oct 3 All Asian DX SSB
- Oct 11 SARTG RTTY
- Oct 16 ARRL UHF

See WA7BNM's Contest Calendar for more detail and the latest information.

### Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to John K4HQK for loads of great photos for this edition of the newsletter and to Bill K3WA, Jim N3JT and Mike W4AAW for their contributions.

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.



### 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.

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.

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### **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.





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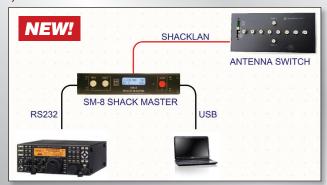
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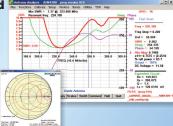


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