



# *PVRC Newsletter*

## *April 2020*

**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: Events Overtake US – Tom K3AJ**

For the last couple of months, the Officers of PVRC have been discussing how we could supplement in-person Chapter meetings with on-the-air (OTA), web-based or conferencing service-based meetings. The reality is that the immense area of the PVRC circle makes it difficult or impossible for some of our members to get to Chapter meetings.

As the title suggests, "Events Have Overtaken Us." Maybe that's not a bad thing in this respect at least. Something like 50 PVRC members from across the circle participated in an OTA meeting called by NW Chapter Chair WX3B last week. Some other Chapters are already following suit with OTA meetings.

PVRC Treasurer Dan K2YWE has taken the lead on providing a web-based tool - GoToMeeting - for Chapters to use. Dan looked at a few possible services before settling on GoToMeeting and has established an account that any Chapter Chair can use. GoToMeeting simultaneously supports on-line audio/video participation or calling in to a phone number to be connected to a meeting. The necessary info has been provided to the Chapter Chairs.

At the present time, with group in-person gatherings prohibited, any OTA or on-line meeting called by a Chapter Chair will count as a PVRC Chapter meeting. Chapter Chairs will submit the usual meeting report. Attendance at these meetings will count toward Chapter meeting attendance for purposes of the PVRC Olympics. For now, we will not count OTA or on-line meeting attendance toward the two-meeting requirement to attain PVRC membership. We don't think that can or should be done without careful deliberation and consultation with the Trustees, since allowing that would have significant implications for PVRC.

We can't envision a future in which our members would want to forgo the fun and camaraderie of participating in in-person Chapter meetings. But for now, and probably in the future, we can be a better and stronger club by providing another option for members whose ability to get to an in-person Chapter meeting is limited.

73 and Go PVRC!

Tom K3AJ  
President, PVRC

<b><u>PVRC Officers:</u></b>		<b><u>Trustees:</u></b>
President:	K3AJ Tom Valenti	K3MM, N3OC, K2AV, K4ZA, W3LPL, N4MM, N4ZR, W2RU, W3LL
Vice President:	N4GU Mike Barts	
Vice President:	W3MMM Jay Horman	<b><u>PVRC Charter Members (all SK):</u></b>
Secretary:	N3QE Tim Shoppa	W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX,
Treasurer:	K2YWE Dan Zeitlin	W3IKN, W4KFT

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN [jpscatore@aol.com](mailto:jpscatore@aol.com)  
PVRC Website: <http://www.pvrc.org>  
PVRC Meeting Info: <http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm>  
PVRC on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/>

### PVRC Northwest Chapter Old School Virtual Meeting – Jim WX3B

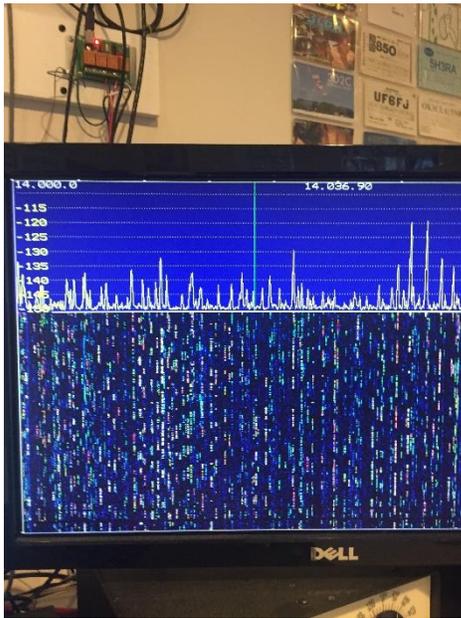


Due to social distancing goals, we had a PVRC (and friends)-wide radio meeting on the air on 3.813. Everyone agreed it was a lot of fun! I got priceless lessons about YouTube live streaming. It is incredibly easy to do; however, it requires a little more hardware than I had that night, and a rock-solid internet connection, which I did **not** have that night. As a result, only the first 30 minutes (overlaps only slightly with the net) are audible. The link to the livestream is [here](#):

There were 51 participants last night, including several guests and one farmer, quite an impressive turnout!

**Attendees:** NY3A N3QE KK4ODQ N3AC WN3R KE4S N3ALN N1RM W3LL WA3AER K3ZO W3IDT WK3A K3MM N3VOP NF1L K3TN K3KU K3AJ NE3K WN3R N4CF W2GPS W2CDO W3IUU WR3R K1SO W2YE WM3T AD3F NX3Z W3FA W3TOM N8AID W4JAM K4YCR N3AM N3WZR VE3GEN N4QWF W3DQ K2YWE AF2T KG4USN W3YY K4OR N2YO N4GU KA6PNL NN4RB and N2MDX, the suspected farmer pirating some poor guy's call

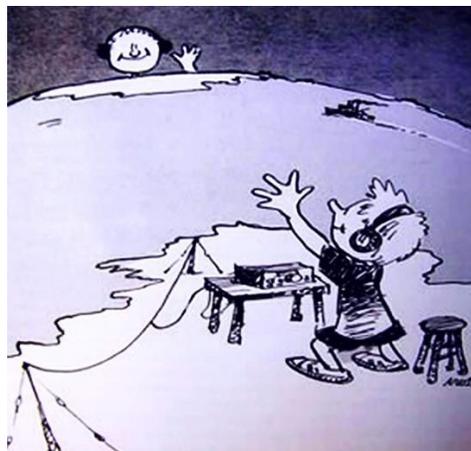
### Social Distance Leads to a Full Waterfall – Tom K3AJ



An Elecraft P3 Panadapter screen shot of 20 meter CW 45 minutes into the RU contest. I am guessing that social distancing caused an uptick in activity!

*(Editor's note: I played in VA QP, RU and BARTG that weekend- I think all but BARTG RTTY saw a bump. Seemed like lots more FT8 activity, too - I think FT8 seems to have caught more of the trapped at home ops than RTTY did. John K3TN)*

### Amateur Radio – Conquering Social Distancing Since 1909



**PVRC Virginia Metro Chapter Meeting Report – Bob W3YY**



Everyone (Except N4RA Behind the Camera)

The PVRC Virginia Metro Chapter meeting was held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Dogfish Head Alehouse in Fairfax, VA. Thanks to Dick, N4RA, for getting the meetings for this chapter restarted. Most attendees reported activity in the previous weekend's ARRL SSB DX Contest and lively discussions took place around the table. K3AJ came with the NAQP Challenge Cup, won by PVRC, for all to admire.



K3ZO and N4RA



W4TG and N3QE



W2YE, W3YY, and N4RV



NN3W and K3AJ



WA3RGH and N3QE



K3RV, KT3Y, and WR3Z

## Making Sure Your Contesting Opinions Are Heard – John K3TN



Periodically, hot topics arise about changing the rules of one or more contests, most recently when Frank W3LPL raised the issue of “for-profit” stations, like [Remote Ham Radio](#), being used in contests, along with other related points. Like past issues (dealing with cheaters, should spotting count as assistance, what about remote operating, etc.) email threads on PVRC and other reflectors bloomed along with a big rise in traffic on CQ-CONTEST and other online forums.

I think it is important to note that posting an opinion on reflectors and forums doesn’t necessarily lead to any change or impact at all. You need to make sure your opinions are **heard by the contest sponsors** – they are the ones who set the rules.

We are lucky in PVRC that we have several members who are on various contest sponsor committees, but we can’t expect them to parse through every reflector or forum post. The best way to be heard is to contact sponsors directly - so, here are some pointers to how to contact them.

**ARRL Contests** – The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee members and their email addresses are listed [here](#). The CAC reports up to the Program and Services committee – you find their names [here](#) but you’ll have to look up their email addresses. You can find the email address of your ARRL Division Director [here](#).

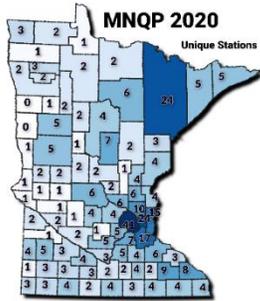
**CQ CONTESTS** – The CQ WW contest committee has a contact form [here](#). The CQ WPX contest director is listed [here](#).

**NCJ Contests** – to reach the directors of the NA Sprints and NA QSO parties, look [here](#).

**Other Contests** – the best place I’ve found to find contact info for state QSO parties and other national/DX contests is WA7BNM’s [Contest Calendar](#). Each contest listing has a link to the rules for that contest.

**World Wide Radio Operators Forum** – Sometimes issues are more related to overall contesting ethics, vs. individual contest rules. The WWROF focuses a lot in this area, you can contact them [here](#).

## Minnesota Wireless Association Minnesota QSO Party Writeup



A good number of PVRicers participate in the many state QSO parties. The Minnesota QSO party is one of the first each year and the Minnesota Wireless Association did a great job in producing a writeup on the results – look [here](#).

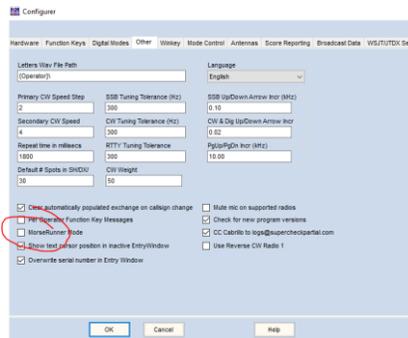
A note: YCCC edged out PVRC for top out of state club!

## K8ZT Presentation on Contesting Software and Online Resources

**Software & Web Resources  
for Contesting**  
[tiny.cc/gl-contest](http://tiny.cc/gl-contest)  
**Anthony Luscre, K8ZT**

From CQ-CONTEST – Anthony K8ZT was scheduled to do a talk on Contesting Software and Web Resources at the ARRL Great Lakes Division Conference that was cancelled. He has made his slides available [here](#). You can jump forward to slide 15 where the clickable resource listings start.

## Running MorseRunner from N1MM Logger+ - John K3TN



From VE9AA

I've been a longtime MorseRunner fan, but the first iterations of N1MM integration didn't float my boat. After hearing about what some other PVRicers have done recently, and with increased shack time I gave it a shot. Just follow the directions [here](#), scroll down a bit to MorseRunner Mode. It is pretty painless.

One thing to remember: you will not hear anything in the headphones connected to your transceiver – you need to have phones connected to your PC soundcard. As Pete N4ZR noted, it does not indicate if you bust a call or exchange – I might go back to the stand-alone version just for that.

## Membership News – Tim N3QE

In the first 3 months of 2020, PVRC has added 10 new members! Please welcome:

- At the Galactic Lunch after Frostfest, **Don K6ZO and Dennis WR4I**.
- At the February DC Metro meeting, **Abe N3BBF**.
- At the February Northwest Chapter meeting, **Neil W3ZQI, Al WA3SFR, and Charlie KB8HRT**.
- At the February Colonial Capitol meeting, **Gil K4JST**.
- At the February Annapolis meeting, **David W3FOX and David W3MAM** .
- At the March North Carolina East meeting, **Ted K2GAV**.

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the [Meeting Attendance Report](#).  
Members can check and update their roster details via the [Roster Lookup](#).

## Upcoming Contests – from [WA7BNM](#)

### April 2020

+ North American SSB Sprint Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Apr 5
+ JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 11 to 1300Z, Apr 12
+ FTn DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12
+ OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 11 to 1200Z, Apr 12
+ Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 11 to 2100Z, Apr 12
+ YU DX Contest	0700Z, Apr 18 to 0659Z, Apr 19
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 19
+ Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 25 to 1259Z, Apr 26

## Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to Bob W3YY, Tom K3AJ and Jim WX3B for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter.

They always say that in stressful times, those with the strongest community connections fare the best. In our ham community, we are lucky to also have strong connections across contesters, down into PVRC and further into the chapters within PVRC. Oddly, to me it feels amazingly good to send 5NN MD to a longtime friend, or say “Wx hr is..” to a new one during crazy times like these.

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 [jpecatore at aol dot com](mailto:jpecatore@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.

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 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



**Now a Word From Our Sponsors**

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



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## Ladder Line Surge Protector

You asked for it and DX Engineering delivered! By popular demand, the DXE-LLSP device can be placed in line with 300/450 Ω ladder line or 600 Ω open-wire feeder line to provide excellent surge protection. The protector easily handles well over legal limit RF power at high SWR and can sustain multiple surges. Enter "LLSP" at [DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com).



**New!**

DXE-LLSP.....\$78.99

## BLA350 Plus HF Linear Amplifiers

These compact, fully automatic amps feature up to 300W output at less than 12W input on 160 through 10 meters. Six low pass filters provide more than 50 dB of harmonic suppression. The units can be used on all narrow band modes of transmission, including SSB, CW, AM, FM, RTTY and FT8. Choose from 120V and 240V models. Enter "BLA350" at [DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com).



**New!**



innovations that excite radio enthusiasts

**New!**

## Panadapter Module for Icom IC-7300 Transceiver

Available exclusively in North America from DX Engineering, Radio Analog's PTRX-7300 IF Interface Module installs easily onto the IC-7300 and adds an IF connector on the rear of the radio. This allows the use of an optional SDR receiver to provide a spectrum scope display on a much larger optional screen—without soldering and signal loss. Enter "PTRX" at [DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com).



## RG-214 Double Shielded 50 Ω Coaxial Cable Assemblies

These RG-214 cable assemblies are perfect for projects that demand high-performance and durable coax. Available in lengths from 3 to 25 feet, assemblies feature coax with 12-gauge silver-plated stranded copper center conductor, solid polyethylene dielectric, and two layers of silver-plated copper shields. Enter "RG-214 Double" at [DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com).



**New!**



## Stick 230 Antenna Analyzer

RigExpert's new Stick 230 delivers exceptional coverage and a range of options for viewing results on SWR, return loss, complex impedance and other parameters. It can measure antenna systems, cables, filters and more across the frequency range of 100 kHz through 230 MHz. Rechargeable 2800 mAh Li-Ion 3-hour battery pack included. Enter "Stick 230" at [DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com).

**New!**



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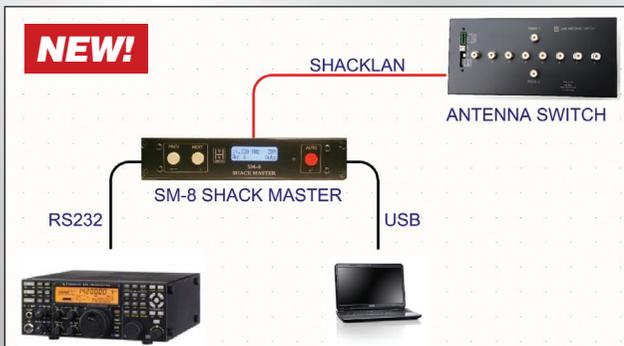
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OM2000+ MARS	MARS and Commercial HF
OM2000A+	Automatic 160-6 m 2 kW
OM10C Combiner	Combiner for two OM amplifiers
OM10C 4000HF MARS	Two OM4000HF manual tuned amps and combiner package
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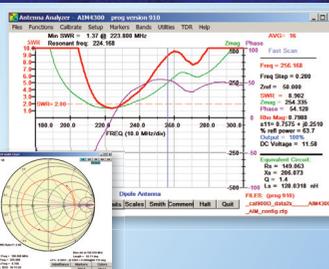
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**IC-705**

*HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver*

**KENWOOD**



**TS-590SG**

*HF/50MHz Transceiver*



**TM-D710G**

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