



# PVRC Newsletter

## April

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

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

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

### President's Letter – Doug AA3S

Hope you are having fun with the great RF propagation as we near the expected peak of this solar cycle!

Those of us expecting April tax refunds (sadly, not me this year) may be thinking of new radio toys? Let us know what you get on our Reflector and in your Chapter meetings! Many Chapter meetings are Zoom so you don't have to travel... see the weblink for the [Chapter Calendar](#) at [PVRC.org](http://www.pvrc.org) under the "Join Us!" tab

Recalling my President's Letter from [one year ago](#)\*, it is timely now to revisit part of it: Continuous Improvement – Your Resolutions/Your Recommendations? A couple of months ago you may have made a New Year resolution to repair an outdoor antenna when the weather got better, or made a similar promise to yourself about outdoor radio activity (not the roentgen kind).

Guess what? Spring-like weather is here (sporadically, at least) and that better weather is either at your QTH now or will be very shortly. Time to examine what needs doing, what parts to order from our PVRC Newsletter sponsors, and borrow or buy the special tool that you'll need, but won't know that you need 'till you are balanced on a tree limb well above ground level. Please share on our Reflector your tips for maintenance and improvement of radio equipment, especially those which are best done outdoors in good weather.

*\* Note that any previous Newsletter can be found by modifying the web address of the current Newsletter; see if you can 'break that code'*



**Club Competitions -**

**5m Contests:**

One 5M Contest in April (CQMM DX), and after that only 3 before the end of the 2023-2024 5M season! Note that this is NOT a “CQ magazine” contest; very different sponsors, read about it at <https://www.cqmmdx.com/>

As always, the 5M calendar is found at [PVRC 5M Contest Calendar](#) or by easy click-navigating from the “PVRC 5M” tab on the main webpage.

**State QSO Competitions with Club Competition awards :**

Two in April: Georgia 4/13 and Michigan 4/20. If you have contest tips for either of these, let us know on our Reflector!

See last month’s Newsletter for the full list for 2024.

Have fun!  
73, Doug AA3S

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<p>Newsletter Editor: John K3TN <a href="mailto:jpescatore@aol.com">jpescatore@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>  PVRC on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/</a></p>		

**The Virginia QSO Party at KK4ODQ -Nick KK4ODQ**

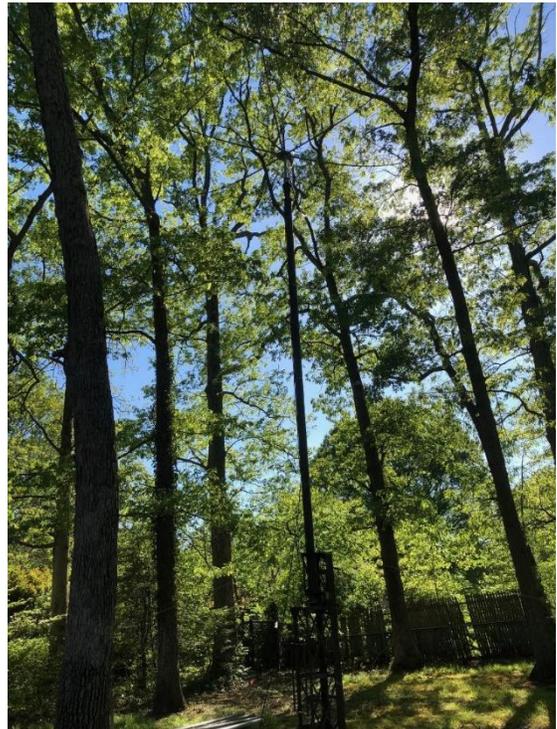
VAQP is always a contest I look forward to every year. I have been licensed for 10 years now. It has always been a contest I played in. Back in 2020 I started taking it more seriously and began putting in a full-time effort. Last year was my best score for VAQP. I made 769 QSOs last year and had a goal of beating it this year.

For the last couple of years, we have been entering the multi single category for most contests here at KK4ODQ. The operators at the station are Nick KK4ODQ and Curt KK4ODR. I never thought when I started this whole radio thing almost 11 years ago now I would be in this position station wise. My station has had a lot of upgrades in the past five years.

The biggest improvement for me was the Hexbeam that is on an AB-577 tower. That has been a gamechanger for me. My scores have gone through the roof since then. Then I bought an Acom 2000 amplifier and that has made my contesting journey much easier.

This year I started off the contest very strongly, with a 99 hour. Rates stayed steady and I was feeling good. Sunday was a different story. Rates of 20 per hour make it hard to stay in the chair.

Overall, my station did very well, and I am pleased with my score. I made 100 more QSOs this year compared to my all-time best score from last year. This contest is a nice warmup for WPX SSB which I hope to beat my score from last year which was the all-time high score for me in any contest. My goal for 2024 WPX SSB is to make 2000 Qs this time.



Call: [KK4ODQ](http://www.kk4odq.com)  
 Operator(s): [KK4ODQ](http://www.kk4odq.com) [KK4ODR](http://www.kk4odr.com)

Band	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs
------	-------	-------	--------

160:			
80:		114	
40:		407	
20:		334	
15:		13	
10:		8	

**Total: 0 876 0 Mults 146 Total Score 138,116**



**N4NTO and XYL Mobilize for the North Carolina QSO Party – Tripp N4NTO**



Here are some pictures from Johanna and my 15 county NCQP rove. Johanna drove and I was on the key. We started in Dare County and went through northeastern NC, down to Hyde/Beaufort, up to Bertie/Hertford and then home. It was grand fun!



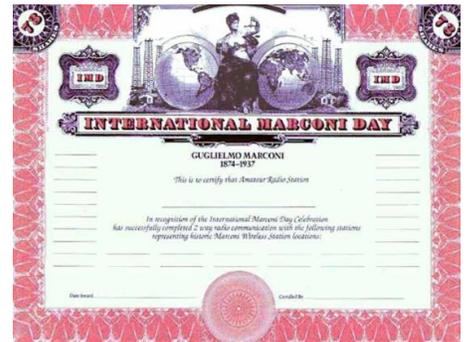
**April 27<sup>th</sup> is International Marconi Day – from the ARRL Letter**

This year, International Marconi Day (IMD) is on April 27. Italian inventor and electrical engineer Guglielmo Giovanni Maria Marconi was born on April 25, 1874, and is credited for inventing the radiotelegraph system, creating Marconi's law, and sending the first wireless transmission over the open sea.

IMD was created to honor Marconi and is hosted annually by the [Cornish Radio Amateur Club](#), GX4CRC. The purpose of the day is for amateur radio enthusiasts around the world to contact historic Marconi sites using communication techniques similar to those that he would have used.

The 24-hour event will operate from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, and registration is required. Certificates are [available](#) for participants who establish direct two-way communication with 15 different official Award Stations, using CW, voice, or data modes.

There are 49 memorial sites worldwide, including 8 in the United States. The Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club, KM1CC, in Wellfleet Massachusetts is an example.



**March Goes Out With a Roaring CME – Spaceweather.com**

“I woke up early and, having checked the auroral numbers jumped out of bed, threw my kit into the car and raced to my favourite viewing spot at Hoopers Inlet. While clouds interfered with the view, the aurora was strong despite the full moon. As the sky lightened the aurora was still visible, and I managed to get some shots showing the full moon setting in the western sky. I even got to see a moonbow with the aurora!”

**Aurora Australis and Full Moon**

Taken by [Ian Griffin](#) on March 25, 2024 @ Hoopers Inlet, Otago Peninsula, South Island New Zealand



For You Enigma Fans – from the [National Cryptologic Museum](#)

### Test Your Cryptology Skills

In honor of Women's History Month, today's cipher was used by Civil War abolitionist and spy, Elizabeth Van Lew. The quote below on the left is from a member of her spy ring, former enslaved woman Mary Bowser Richards. Use Elizabeth's real-life cipher to the right of the quote to read it.

The [National Cryptologic Museum](#) (NCM) publishes brain teasers on social media every month.

Check out [NCM's Facebook](#) to see if you got it right!

55.65 -- 34.53.24 -- 13.46 -- 54.36.65.46  
 -- 55.45 -- 41.43.24.24.55.66.51.11 --  
 65.43 -- 34.43.61.21 -- 34.62.11.61.11 --  
 55 -- 53.13 -- 13.43.24.65 --  
 63.11.11.54.11.54

6	r	n	b	h	t	x
3	v	t	u	l	4	w
1	e	m	3	j	5	y
8	l	a	g	o	i	d
2	k	7	2	4	6	s
4	p	e	y	e	f	g
	1	3	6	2	5	4



MARCH 2024  
**#CrackTheCode**  
 Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆



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QSL CARDS By LZ1JZ

## PVRC 160 Meter DXCC Standings – Frank W3LPL

Below are the 160M DXCC totals for PVRC members, transcribed from the ARRL [DXCC data](#) as of the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month or so. Thanks to Frank for the data each month to make this a regular feature. Please report any omissions or errors to [Frank](#).

CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC	CALL	DXCC
W8LRL	344	WS6X	221	N5JB	151	N3ND	117
W4DR	339	N1LN	220	WA2BCK	150	N4TL	117
W4ZV	339	W4NL	214	N3QE	150	K0GD	115
W3UR	322	W3YY	213	K3RA	149	K3OSX	114
W3LPL	317	N4MM	212	K3TN	149	K5RJ	114
K4CIA	306	K3WA	210	N4GG	145	N3MN	114
K4ZW	305	K3JT	207	N3KK	144	N4DJ	113
N2QT	287	K5RT	206	W3BW	141	KA4RRU	113
W4PK	287	W3GG	200	W4VIC	141	K1KO	112
K3SX	286	K1GG	199	W2YE	138	W3MR	112
K4SO	282	N4DB	192	W4YV	138	W3UL	112
KG4W	278	K4FJ	192	AA4NC	132	NA1DX	111
K6ND	269	K3WC	177	K5VIP	131	N3HBX	110
N3NT	259	K2PLF	174	N0YY	129	N3IQ	110
K5VRX	256	K3AJ	174	N3KS	129	W3XY	110
W3DF	255	N3OC	173	N3MK	129	W3NRJ	108
W3KX	251	W4FQT	172	N3RR	129	W4ZYT	108
WB3AVN	247	N4PY	170	KM3V	129	W3KB	107
WX4G	243	N4XX	169	K3XA	128	N4NW	105
AB3CV	242	N4QQ	168	W0YVA	127	W3TMZ	104
KG7H	242	K4XD	167	W2GG	121	W3EKT	102
K1HTV	238	K3KY	166	K2BA	120	W4JVN	102
K3SWZ	235	W3IP	164	W4PRO	120	KN4KL	102
K1AR	233	NR4M	160	W4HZ	119	WA3EKL	101
K4XL	232	N3RC	153	AE3T	118	KE4S	101
W3LL	232	K4RG	153	N3UA	118	N3AF	100
K5EK	231	N8II	153	W4NF	118	K3TZV	100
W0VTT	221	W2RS	152	K1BZ	117	KC4D	100

**Membership News – Tim N3QE**

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 2024	
+ JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 13 to 1300Z, Apr 14
+ OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 13 to 1200Z, Apr 14
+ Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 13 to 2059Z, Apr 14
+ Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 19 to 2059Z, Apr 20
+ Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	0600Z, Apr 20 to 0559Z, Apr 21
+ YU DX Contest	0700Z, Apr 20 to 0659Z, Apr 21
+ <b>CQMM DX Contest</b>	<b>0900Z, Apr 20 to 2359Z, Apr 21</b>
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 21
+ Helvetia Contest	1300Z, Apr 27 to 1259Z, Apr 28

**RED – scores count towards PVRC 5M Awards or Challenge Program**

**Editor’s Last Word – John K3TN**

Thanks to KK4ODQ, N4NTO and W3LPL for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter.

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



## From the PVRC Treasurer – Ted WA3AER

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.

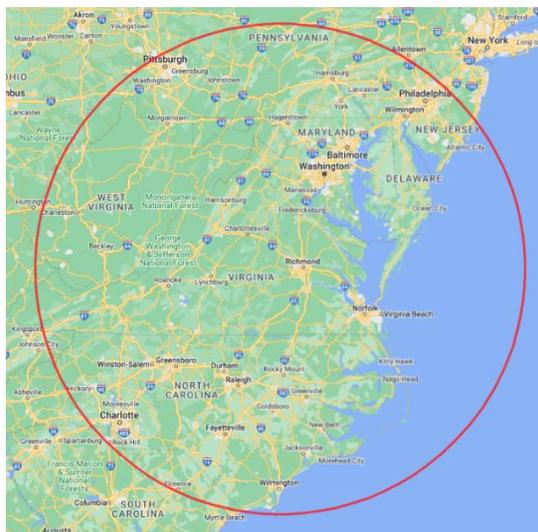
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



**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](#).



**Now a Word From Our Sponsors**

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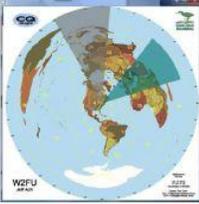



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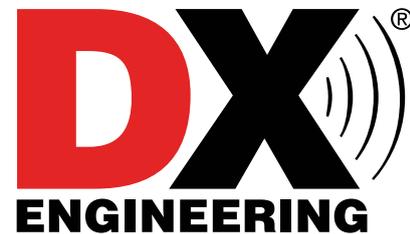
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The basic K4 covers 160-6 m, with dual receive on the same or different bands. The K4D adds diversity receive, with a full set of band-pass filters for the second receiver. (Thanks to direct RF sampling, there's no need for crystal filters in either the K4 or K4D.) The K4HD adds a dual superhet module for extreme-signal environments. Any K4 model can be upgraded to the next level, and future enhancements—such as a planned internal VHF/UHF module—can be added as needed.

### Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

The main panadapter can be set up as single or dual. Separate from the main panadapter is our per-receiver *mini-pan* tuning aid, with a resampled bandwidth as narrow as +/- 1 kHz. You can turn it on by tapping either receiver's S-meter or by tapping on a signal of interest, then easily auto-spot or fine tune to the signal.

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The K4's rear panel includes all the analog and digital I/O you'll ever need. All K-line accessories are supported, including amps, ATUs, and our K-Pod controller. The USB display output supports its own user-specified format. Via Ethernet, the K4 can be 100% remote controlled from a PC, notebook, tablet, or even another K4, with panadapter data included in all remote displays. Work the world from anywhere—in style!

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## FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

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## FTM-300DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

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## FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver

- 80 watts of RF power • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users



## FTM-200DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 1200/9600bps APRS® Data Communications • 2" High-Res Full-Color TFT Display • High-Speed Band Scope • Advanced C4FM Digital Mode • Voice Recording Function for TX/RX



## FTM-500DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band Xcvr

- Front Firing Acoustically Enhanced Speaker System • True Dual Band Operation, C4FM/C4FM Digital D-D Dual Receive • 2.4" High-Resolution Full-Color Touch Panel Display • Built-in High Precision GPS Receiver • Wireless Operation Capability with Optional Bluetooth® Headset

## FT-70DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



## FT-5DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band

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## FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



## FTM-6000R | 50W VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver

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