PVRC Newsletter
February

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 – Doug AA3S

Competition in radio contests is a major reason for PVRC to exist. From my perspective as a PVRC member, when PVRC wins the club competition in a major contest then the 'peace' of the Universe has been properly preserved!

Definitions of "posse" (pronounced **pah**-see) include Merriam-Webster (via cell-phone Google):

1. A large group often with a common interest
2. A body of persons summoned by a sheriff to assist in preserving the public peace usually in an emergency

That seems to describe well the PVRC membership in general (definition #1) and describes well those members who participate in contests on behalf of PVRC, especially those contests whose outcome is in jeopardy (definition #2). Those contests are most of our 5M contests, BTW.

The PVRC Posse showed up big-time in January's NAQP (the Club Challenge is sponsored by PVRC). PVRC had 87 participants in the CW event Club Challenge and scored highest of the clubs while the next closest club in participants was SMC with 35 (scored in third place). FRC scored a bit higher for second position in this event. PVRC again scored highest of the clubs in the SSB Club Challenge event and with the most participants, 78. The next closest in participants was SMC with 32, although YCCC and Arizona Outlaws scored higher than SMC in this event.

While it was very inconsiderate of the NFL to schedule their January playoff games in the middle of the NAQP contest, an advantage of the PVRC Posse is that many of us could watch our favorite NFL team game, have a lot of BIC at the other times of the contest, and be a meaningful part of the NAQP club win for PVRC! Two fun Saturdays! Your participation in our huge PVRC Posse makes it possible for each of us to add some quality-of-life-balance to our contesting hobby and still 'bask in the glory' of the club achievement. Great stuff!

Monitor the PVRC Reflector for details of the PVRC Galactic Lunch Feb 1st 2025, 01:00 PM Eastern Time. All PVRC members are invited to this Zoom event with a presenter from the UK talking about how the UK will host the World Radio Team Championships Teams in 2026.

Also, our own Tim (Tina) N3QE will tell us about how he has implemented very effective and efficient digital voice techniques to aid in SSB contesting.

Club Competition
Another big month for 5M contests! February 2025 has *four* 5M contests! Something for everyone: SSB, RTTY, CW, 160 meters, two of these contests have no circle!

1. CQ WPX RTTY ARRL/CQ 250-Mile Circle begins 2025-02-08 UTC
2. ARRL DX CW ARRL/CQ 250-Mile Circle begins 2025-02-15 UTC
3. CQ160 SSB PVRC Members Worldwide **No Circle!** begins 2025-02-21 UTC
4. NA QSO Party - RTTY PVRC Members Worldwide **No Circle!** 2025-02-22 UTC
   Online Scoreboard

The first State QSO Party with a club competition (i.e. publishes out-of-state club results) appears to be Virginia in March. Previously, PVRC upset the long-time incumbent in that contest. Repeat?

Participate and be radio-active!

73, Doug – AA3S

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President:	AA3S	Doug Hart
Vice President:	N0YY	Rick Heinrich
Vice President:	K8LF	Jerome Svinicki
Secretary:	K3WA	Bill Axelrod
Treasurer:	WA3AER	Ted Bauer

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PVRC Charter Members (all SK):
W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT. W4RQR, W4MKM, W4BFO, W4CC, W4IA

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Save the Date: PVRC Galactic Lunch February 1st – Jerome K8LF

The PVRC chapter wide yearly event with President & Treasurer comments and guest speakers. We have two great main presentations:

- **WRTC 2026 - Mark M0DXR Chairman WRTC UK**
- **Next Gen contest voice - N3QE**

Zoom invite will be sent via the PVRC reflector and will be repeated again closer to the event.

ARRL RTTY Round Up K4 Score Comparison – N1RM/K3TN/N4CW

					Totals			80	40	20	15	10
Call	Edition	Class	Power	Score	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q
N1RM	2025-Jan 4	SO Unlimited	HP	62,475	595	58	47		222	158	159	56
K3TN	2025-Jan 4	SO Unlimited	HP	55,974	491	60	54	58	116	106	111	100
N4CW	2025-Jan 4	Single Op	HP	52,725	555	54	41		77	304	96	78

(I noticed on 3830scores that fellow K4-users Rick N1RM, Bert N4CW and I ended up pretty close in RTTY RoundUp scores, so I asked them for some commentary – K3TN)

Rick N1RM: (SteppIR at 70', OCF Dipole for 80, 10:06 op time) When I was running, I noticed that the pileups didn't really taper off, they just stopped. Even self-spotting didn't seem to resurrect a run. I don't know why. All I could think of is that maybe there are fewer participants and a higher percentage of them are running. Maybe a lower percentage are operating assisted. I don't really know but it seemed strange.

I guess I would add that if I had the ability to switch to the OCF dipole remotely I would have spent some time on 80M Saturday night which certainly would have helped. As it was, I just went to bed when the rates went down on 40M. I continue to be very pleased with how well the DB18E plays, despite its short boom length

Also, had I not been remote I would probably have been using 1kW instead of 450W. Switching between the two amps currently requires flipping a manual switch at the shack. My signal seemed plenty strong at 450W with the KPA500 so I don't think the extra 3dB would have changed my score very much.

John K3TN: (OCF Dipole at 45 ft, 7:49 op time) Since it was a rainy weekend, my grandkids were sick **and** my wife was away helping my daughter with the sick kids, I deedled a lot more deedles than I usually do - once I got the snowblower ready for duty after little use for years. The downside of the rain is that trees have grown into my Windom and I blew up my KPA-1500 back in 2024 on a rainy day when wet tree branches caused SWR fluctuation. The amp had a long expensive vacation in Watsonville CA – I only ran it at 500w for RU.

I usually start by using the Available Mult Window in N1MM to S&P fast and then grab the first frequency ALT-A brings up that is no longer in use. I also decided at the start to leave a band once I hit 100 QSOs, to make sure I got the easy mults on all bands. That strategy worked pretty well -I colored in all the US/VE mults except for NT/NU/YT without really trying or wasting time in pileups. Conditions were OK, but not great, nice activity level.

Bert N4CW: (9:34 op time) My old Cushcraft X9 was put up around 25 years ago.and now it's stuck on Europe...I've been wanting to replace the rotator for three years now, but haven't gotten around to it. I don't get much support from my wife and kids who think I'm too old to climb (hell, I'm only 84!!!)...but someday, I'll find another T2X (or get my other broken one fixed!). My 40M antenna is a sloping dipole hung at 65' at one end and at about a 45-degree angle to a tree...direct feed with coax, and resonant around 6.8 MHz! As an alternate "beam" I have a Tennadyne T-8 on a rocket launcher at about 35 feet, under treetops where there's room to rotate! It works...and towards Europe, about 2 S-units weaker than the X9!

I operated on and off, really disappointed in using my new/used KPA1500...sure, it puts out the power, but MY GOD!!! when the fans kick into high gear, it's like being behind a jet engine! I had to dig my sound-cancelling earphones out to go into run mode...the amp would heat up and the fans would kick in. Elecraft didn't do me any favors with that design. I'll hang on to it and see if it's the same for CW contests...then i'll probably get rid of it.

Like I said, it was on and off again Saturday, then, on Sunday attending church services between 10 and noon, and the rest of the time on 20 only, shared with the XYL doing "chores" and shopping! So even though I spent more time on 20, overall, there was no real long streak. My best hour on 20 was 67 Q's during the 4PM to 4PM hour. So, there you have it; I had a good time operating, a miserable time listening to the amp while I was CQ'ing a lot, and very joyful working JA and 7Q while working Europeans!

Overall Analysis – by K3TN

Rick and I both had 114 mults, but Rick beat me by 104 QSOs. Rick put more hours in – at my 114 point/minute rate, another hour of BIC could have put me ahead of Rick.

Similarly, Bert beat me by 64 QSOs but my 23 mult lead kept me ahead of him. Bert going unassisted was probably the biggest reason for that but his big 20M QSO count or his beam stuck on EU may have meant he missed out on some mults on 10 and 15.

All About Squeeze Keying – via DJ5IL

all about

squeeze-keying

Full article here

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 20th 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	K1BZ	117
W4DR	339	N1LN	220	WA2BCK	150	N3ND	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	211	N4GG	145	N3MN	114
K4ZW	305	K3JT	207	N3KK	144	KA4RRU	113
N2QT	287	K5RT	207	W3BW	141	K1KO	112
W4PK	287	W3GG	200	W4JVN	141	W3MR	112
K3SX	286	K1GG	199	W4VIC	141	W3UL	112
K4SO	282	N4DB	192	W2YE	138	NA1DX	111
KG4W	278	K4FJ	192	W4YV	138	N3HBX	110
K6ND	269	N3OC	181	AA4NC	132	N3IQ	110
N3NT	259	K3WC	177	K5VIP	131	W3XY	110
K5VRX	256	K2PLF	174	N3MK	130	W3NRJ	108
W3DF	255	K3AJ	174	N0YY	129	W4ZYT	108
W3KX	253	W4FQT	172	N3KS	129	W3KB	107
N1EK	248	N4PY	170	N3RR	129	N4NW	105
WB3AVN	247	N4XX	169	KM3V	129	WA3EKL	104
AB3CV	245	N4QQ	168	K3XA	128	W3TMZ	104
WX4G	243	W3IP	167	W0YVA	127	W3EKT	102
KG7H	242	K4XD	167	W2GG	121	KN4KL	102
K1HTV	239	K3KY	166	K2BA	120	KE4S	101
K3SWZ	235	NR4M	160	W4PRO	120	N3AF	100
W3LL	235	N3UA	156	N4TL	120	K3TZV	100
K1AR	234	N3RC	155	W4HZ	119	KC4D	100
K4XL	232	K4RG	154	AE3T	118		
K5EK	231	N8II	153	N4DJ	118		
W0VTT	224	W2RS	152	W4NF	118		

From ON4UN "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur"

Thank You 2024 Donors – Ted WA3AER

During 2024, 86 PVRC members donated to our general fund as well as WRTC2026 tents. Some of them donated more than once. Included in that total are a couple of PVRC Scholarship donations made through our Treasury. Without your generosity, PVRC and activities we support would not survive.

In recognition of the members who supported us in 2024, please see the following list:

AA3S, AB3CV, AC5XK, AG3I, K1BZ, K1EFI, K1HTV, K2AV, K2GO, K2NTO, K2WK, K2YWE, K3AJ, K3EW, K3LU, K3MM, K3RV, K3STX, K3TN, K3WA, K4FTO, K4OV, K4QPL, K4TMC, K4XL, K4ZW, K8LF, KB3VQC, KB3Z, KG3V, KK4ODQ, KK4R, N0YY, N1EK, N1RM, N1WR, N2FT, N2QT, N3KN, N3MK, N3MN, N3QE, N3RR, N3TRW, N3UM, N4AF, N4CF, N4GU, N4IW, N4ZR, N6DW, N8HM, N8II, NC3Y, NC4S, NC4SW, ND3D, ND4D, NN4RB, NR4M, NR4O, NX3Z, W1TRT, W2CDO, W2SC, W3EF, W3FOX, W3IKE, W3LL, W3MAM, W3RMO, W3TAS, W3UL, W3US, W3XG, W3XY, W4KAZ, W4VIC, W4YE, W8KRZ, WA3AER, WB2ZAB, WK3A, WN3F, WN7S, and WX3B

Thank You one and all. Hopefully PVRC members will continue their generosity in 2025 and the coming years.

73 and Best Wishes for a successful 2025 in your Contest and DX pursuits.

Membership News – Bill K3WA

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

February 2025	
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0359Z, Feb 2
+ CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 8 to 2359Z, Feb 9
+ ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 15 to 2400Z, Feb 16
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 21 to 2200Z, Feb 23
+ REF Contest, SSB	0600Z, Feb 22 to 1800Z, Feb 23
+ North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 22 to 0559Z, Feb 23

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

Editor's Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to W3LPL, K8LF, WA3AER, N1RM and N4CW for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter. A little thin this month as we all recover from the holidays.

I've never been much of a station builder so in my 40 years as a PVRCer I have done a lot of guest opping in contests, driving to some pretty awesome stations. I'm not even sure I remember all of them, but the list includes W3LPL, N2FB, K3RT, K3WX, W3GG, K1DQV, N3RR, W3USS, NR4M, KC3EK, K4VV and K3ZO.

In the past 10 years, ever since Mike W4RN turned K4VV into a remote multi-multi, I've let the internet do the driving and just walk down the stairs to my basement shack and remotely join the fun from FB stations. In the past year, acquiring an K4 just as Elecraft updated the firmware to support K4:K4 remoting has enabled me to put time in as a remote op at stations near and far – OZ5W, K3AJ, N1RM and W4NF - using identical radios and N1MM logging software but having to learn multiple PC remote control packages such as AnyDesk, VNC and NoMachine.

Multi-op efforts have always been a great way to entice non-contesters to join in on the fun and in-person is still probably the best way to do that. But for non-contesters who live in the remote parts of the PVRC circle, offering them a try at remoting is worth a shot.

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 jpescatore at aol dot 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:

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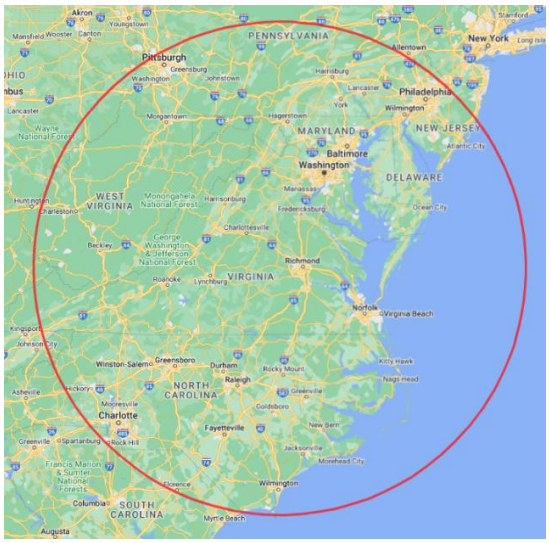
Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible

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.



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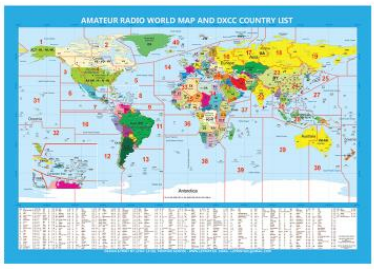

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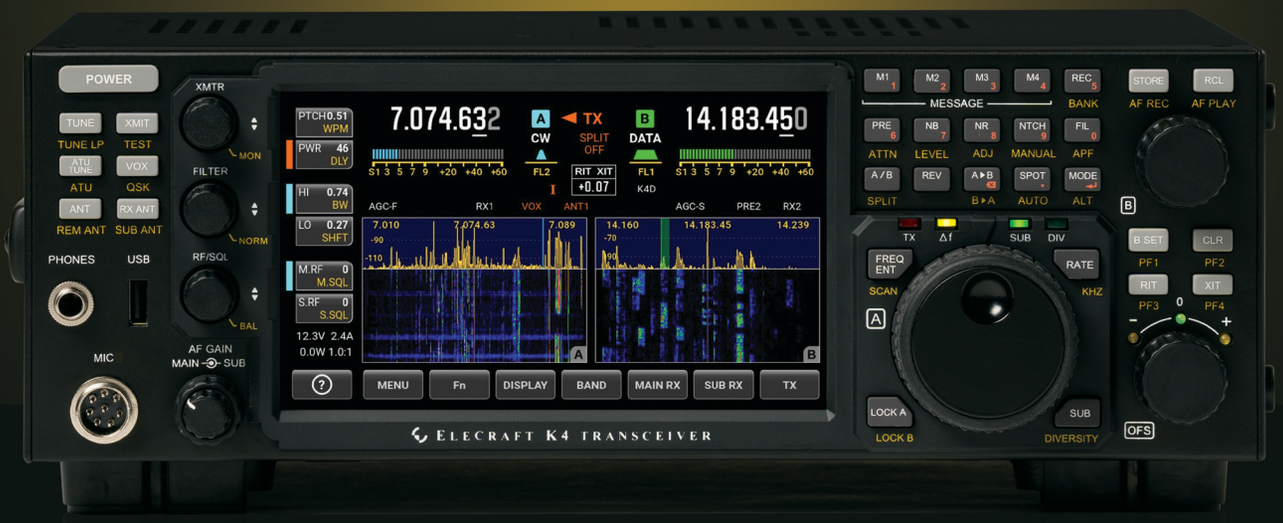

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Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

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FTDX101MP | *200W HF/50MHz Transceiver*

• Hybrid SDR Configuration • Unparalleled 70 dB Max. Attenuation VC-Tune • New Generation Scope Display 3DSS • ABI (Active Band Indicator) & MPVD (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dial) • PC Remote Control Software to Expand the Operating Range • Includes External Power With Matching Front Speaker

FTDX10 | *HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver*

• Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor • 5" Full-Color Touch Panel w/3D Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SCU-LAN10)

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Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO

FTDX101D | *HF + 6M Transceiver*

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• Massive Heatsink Ensures Reliable 85W RF Power • Super-DX Function Increases Receiver Sensitivity & Weak Signal Reception • 221 Memory Channels • Large 6-Character Alpha-Numeric Display

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• Dual Receivers Allowing (V+V, U+U, V+U, U+V) Operation • 55W VHF & 50W UHF • Heavy Duty Heat Sink w/Funnel Air Convection Conductor • Front & Main Body Speaker for 6W High Quality Audio

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• 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*

• High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth© Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot

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

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• All New User Operating Interface-E2O-III (Easy to Operate-III) • Robust Speaker Delivers 3W of Clear, Crisp Receive Audio • Detachable Front Panel Can Be Mounted in Multiple Positions • Supports Optional Bluetooth® Wireless Operation Using the SSM-BT10 or a Commercially Available Bluetooth® Headset

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