



Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter

November 2005

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PVRC Welcomes Paul Dluhosh, N4PD, to the Central Chapter

**Remember CQWW SSB this weekend, and CW Sweepstakes next weekend.
Get on the air and contribute your score to PVRC!**

Editor's Note

By **Pete Smith N4ZR**

I'm trying to get this issue out a couple of days early, so that it hits your inbox before CQWW SSB weekend, the start of something like 7 straight weekends of major contests. Have a ball, and see you there!

From the President

By **Jack Hammett, K4VV**

November is the month for PVRC elections. Please vote in your November meeting, or in whatever manner your Regional leader collects the votes. Nominations closed on October 15. Each Region/Chapter leader will report the list of callsigns of those voting and the results to me (with cc to dave@wr3l.net) by email on or before December 8. The slate of nominees confirmed by the Nominating Committee (N4AF, W4ZYT, W4MYA, and WR3L) are the following: 1) President-Jim WX3B, 2) Vice Presidents-Eric W3DQ, and Ken K4ZW, 3) Secretary-Anthony WM3T, 4) Treasurer-Dave WR3L, and 5) Trustees from 2004 who are standing for election again are Brian N3OC, Guy K2AV, Rich KE3Q, Howie N4AF, Ty K3MM, Dallas W3PP, Don W4ZYT, Pete N4ZR, Bob W4MYA, and Rob ND3A.

We had a lively October meeting in the Central Region with 22 attending at the Olive Garden in Vienna, VA to kick off the contest season. Ty K3MM and Jim WX3B presented an approach for making PVRC a winner in Sweepstakes and maximizing our fun. See the WX3B article below and the Central and Northwest minutes. Mark your calendar for the PVRC Holiday Dinner on Monday, December 12 at P.J. Skidoos in Fairfax, Virginia. Our focus will be guest speaker Frank Donovan, W3LPL, and the annual presentation of awards.

As the new contest season is underway, every PVRC member has a fresh opportunity to gear up to actively engage in the 2005/2006-contest activity and to reach out to others to encourage participation and competitiveness. Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, a nominee as a PVRC Vice President, responded to my request for a summary of his background and interests, as follows:

“A native of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, I received my Novice license (WD9DEE) in 1977 at age 15. My Elmer WB9QCY (now WE9R), told me about contesting and I was immediately hooked. For those who don't know, Fred Laun K3ZO is also a native of Sheboygan County. I did not meet Fred until I moved to Virginia in August of 1984, when I took a job with the federal government, but the locals told me all about his exploits. The first time I met Fred, they were putting up his 80 meter yagi. The guys back home were

right. This guy is serious! I spent the next 15 years installing and engineering communications systems for Uncle Sam. During this period of time, I had an opportunity to travel to all corners of the world. In November of 1988 I took a 3-year assignment to the Philippines and spent my spare time as KE9A/DU3.

In 1998 I felt a change was in order and I left the government for a private sector job with Global One managing data network implementations for large multi-national companies. Global One was jointly owned by Sprint, Deutsche Telecom, & France Telecom. It was a great job but several years later the telecom bubble burst, France Telecom took sole ownership and merged it with another provider. The writing was on the wall. After a brief stint at General Dynamics, I took a position with the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) in December 2004. IBB is the engineering arm for the Voice of America and all of the other non-military government broadcast services. Although VOA still has their traditional shortwave sites, medium wave (AM), FM, TV, and the web are becoming more prevalent. Along the way, I picked up an electrical engineering degree (BSEE) and a masters degree in Telecommunications from George Mason University. The telecom program was a mix of EE, MBA, Public Policy, and Law courses.

Now that I have no further education plans and both of my boys have moved on to college, I have more time to devote to contesting and PVRC. I've also been working hard to hone my contest skills the last five years. For me it's a labor of love. Why else would anyone sit in front of a radio for 40 plus hours in a weekend? I hope to inject some of that enthusiasm into PVRC and build on the great things we have accomplished.”

PVRC Contest and Event Calendar

Courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)—PVRC Events in boldface — all dates and times are Zulu

PRVC Election of Officers—November

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z, Nov 5 to 0300Z, Nov 7

WAE DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, Nov 12 to 2359Z, Nov 13

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 2100Z, Nov 19 to 0300Z, Nov 21

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Nov 26 to 2400Z, Nov 27

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 2 to 1600Z, Dec 4

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 10 to 2400Z, Dec 11

PVRC Holiday Dinner Monday December 12, P.J. Skidoos, Fairfax, VA

PVRC Contesting Update

By [Jim Nitzberg, WX3B](#)

The highlights of the 2005 – 2006 contesting season have begun!

Many folks are traveling for the upcoming CQWW Contests, and I am pleased to be part of the DXpedition to Antigua V26B) led by Brian, N3OC.

Bob, The “Beezer” W2BZR is joining us, along with other Team Antigua regular operators, including WX0B (that’s not a typo), KA2AEV, W2SN, and guest N2BA. We will be a Multi-Operator event and hope to hear PVRC in the pileups. I also understand that Marty, K2PLF is going to PJ2T, and Kyle, WA4PGM is also heading to PJ2T for CQWW CW.

David Collingham, K3LP is leading a team of PVRC members to Barbados where he and the group will donate their time, energy, and equipment to help the Barbados Amateur Radio Club upgrade their contest station. David is traveling with W3ADC, W3ADX, W3ARS, N3VOP and N3KS from our group – and meeting up with KY1V and K1LZ and the Barbados contesting club. After they get done putting together the 6 position

multi-multi for the contest, the group will be signing 8P9R!

Hal, W8HC (ex-KC8FS) and Jerry, K8OQL will be operating M/S from Reut, Israel in CQWW SSB as 4X0WV. [I'm trying to get this issue out before the weekend—ed.] WD3I and W3GG will be operating 4X0G in the CQWW CW contest. They will be active outside the contest as 4X/WD3I and 4X/W3GG, mostly on WARC bands and RTTY.

And finally, Fred K3ZO reports—"I will be in Thailand for CQWW CW. If I find a place to operate single-op, I will use my own call HS0ZAR and PVRC will be credited with the entire score. If not I will be multi as HS0T or HS0AR with PVRC getting a share of the score equivalent to one over the number of ops at the station."

Have you had your eye on the PVRC reflector lately? There is tremendous enthusiasm about the upcoming Sweepstakes competition. The entire topic has sparked some interesting debates – and of course we don't all agree on all the topics.

It is this diversity, and our ability to express it in a positive way that I find very encouraging about our group. Our club is thinking of ways to become more competitive in the contests and I admire and encourage that thought process.

There has been overwhelming support of PVRC members planning Sweepstakes operations, and I have a small list of stations available for folks who need a place to operate in the greater Washington, DC area. I am pleasantly surprised by the number of PVRC members that actually dislike Sweepstakes, but are going to "take one for the team" and get out there and operate!

A hearty thank you goes out to Ty Stewart, K3MM for leading the operational strategy conversations about Sweepstakes in the Vienna, VA Central meeting, and on the PVRC reflector.

For those of you that are not Sweepstakes experts (this includes your author), I was surprised to learn from Ty that the major band-strategy is to generally be on the LOWEST possible band that supports a good rate. In addition, 75 meters can truly be the "money" band for Sweepstakes. The motto of "arrive early, park yourself on a good frequency, and run like crazy" describes an easy way of racking up a lot of points in a short period of time. Ty frequently has more than 1,000 QSOs on 80 meters alone during the SSB portion of Sweepstakes.

Ammunition for Little Pistols

By [Bill Axelrod K3WA](#)

My heart is broken! Last month I opined that I am still a little pistol. Well, I have been informed by a number of our not-so-gentle readership that since I have a tower and beams for 40 meters and up that I simply could not be a little pistol. Wow! What a revelation. I now have an identity crisis. So, what am I? Hmmm. Not a little pistol any more. But certainly I'm not a big gun. Jeez, I only have one tower and it's under 100 feet. The experts say that's not competitive. What's left? A medium pistol? A small gun? A pop gun? A grand-pop gun? Help me out here.

And in the meantime, I will continue to consider myself a quasi-little pistol based on a mathematical formula. Yes, it's math to the rescue. Let's see – 49 years a ham. 3 months with a tower. So 99% of my ham career I have been a certifiable little pistol and less than 1% undefined. Certified quasi-little pistol it is. Or maybe just certifiable.

I also received a couple of emails asking me just how hard was it for me to put up a tower. And in last's month's newsletter Steve, N4TX, had a great picture and discussion of his tower and antenna installation. Way to go, Steve! So, I guess it is only fair to share my Quasi-little Pistols Guide to Tower Installations. Folks, it is really easy. Just 10 little bitty steps.

Step 1. Drool over tower and antenna ads in the magazines. Decide what you want. You will know you've reached a decision when the pages are yucky wet and start to drip on your cat.

Step 2. Add up how much it will cost. Then double your estimate. Take the money out of your accounts and hide it. By the time you are ready to spend it, hopefully your spouse will have forgotten you ever had it. Like a squirrel storing nuts for the winter.

Step 3. Dig a great big hole in your back yard. Leave a great big pile of dirt just sitting there in-between the hole and your house. Now, build your rebar cage. Here's the important part. Do nothing else for at least two months. The dirt pile will get increasingly dirty. With a little rain you will have a lake of mud. The rebar cage will rust. And your spouse and neighbors will start complaining about the hole, the dirt, and the rusty metal in your yard. Let them complain for another month or so. Pretty soon, anything at all will be an improvement to the mess in your yard – even a tower and antenna. Now you've got it made!

Step 4. Take the money you've hidden and buy your tower and antennas. By now, even your neighbors will help you unload the truck. Anything to clean up the mess in the yard. If there's any money left over, spend it for a trip to the big city for your spouse whether it be for a football game or a shopping expedition or to visit relatives or Disneyland or whatever.

Step 5. Plunk the rebar cage in the hole and fill with concrete. Note: this is where you start to clean up your yard including cement traces.

Step 6. Wait two weeks and one hour for the concrete to harden. That last hour is just to develop some of the self discipline you lost in steps 1 through 5. Then mount the tower on the concrete. Make sure it doesn't lean like a certain tower in Pisa. Screws up the antenna pattern. If you can't get it straight, use one of those modeling programs to figure out who you can't work. You'll work 'em anyhow.

Step 7. Find someone silly enough to climb up the tower and install the antenna. Do not confuse North and South. And for goodness sake, do not obsess over true North.

Step 8. This one here is REAL important. Clean up the yard. Plant grass. Maybe even plant some flowers around the tower base. Make it REAL pretty.

Step 9. Bask in the praise from your spouse and neighbors for cleaning up the pesthole that was your back yard.

Step 10. Get on the air and play contests!

At this point you might well ask "what in the world does that have to do with little pistols and contesting?" Well the answer is pretty simple, almost a blinding flash of the obvious. Remember the six Ps – Proper Prior Planning Prevents Pretty Poor Performance (cleaned up for family consumption). The six Ps must be applied to planning and erecting a tower and antenna installation so you get it right.

The six Ps are equally important for preparing for and doing well in a contest. And they are even more important to us little pistols, including quasi-little pistols, because we need every advantage we can eke out from our stations and our abilities. This is especially critical as we enter the prime contesting season.

What's to plan? For each contest...

Operating. What are you trying to get out of the contest? Largest score? New countries? DXCC? We each have our own goals for each contest we enter, even if it is to simply get on and give out some QSOs. For example, years ago I liked to enter the Sweepstakes with the goal of working the maximum number of sections with the least number of QSOs. My perfect score would be 75 sections in 75 QSOs. Best I ever did was a clean sweep way back when, with 14 extra QSOs. That takes a whole different operating approach than my goal a couple of years ago when I wanted to simply work all states on Sunday (and I did, using a vertical antenna and low power). Or nowadays going for maximum score in the hours I have available to do my little part in helping the PVRC numbers. Plan your operating approach to best achieve your goals. Then stick with your plan.

Station. Clean it up. Make sure your gear is operating at peak efficiency. That means checking not just your transceiver and amp (should you be bigger than a little pistol) but your entire system including antennas, ca-

bles, ground system, etc. Remember, we little pistols need every drop of efficiency we can get. How's your



computer and contest logging software working? Run a virus check. Make sure you don't have any spy-ware on your system, especially from competing contest clubs. How about your software? Do you have the latest proven upgrades to your logging software? Do you remember how to use all of the features you need? How about your chair? Has it pooped out on you? A comfortable chair is worth 6 db of signal after the first few hours. Chairs, like some of us, deteriorate with age. The time to find out your chair is tired, that your layout causes you to stretch and reach uncomfortably, that your logging software isn't up to date is NOW, not 4 hours into the contest.

Proper Prior Planning Prevents Pretty Poor Performance.

And lastly – please, please get on the air for this year's contest season. At least, give out some Qs. Have a little fun. Harass your friends. Even if they are not PVRC members get them on the air in the Sweepstakes and DX contests. Maybe they even will catch contest fever and join us.

See you on the air...

73... Bill K3WA

p.s. And lastly, a picture of the K3WA quasi-little pistol antenna farm. 72' US Towers

heavy duty crank up, Force-12 5BA and a Force-12 EF-230/240 on top. Full size 160 meter inverted V under the 5BA. A thing of beauty! Even if the grass hadn't grown back yet.

The Toolbox

By [Don Daso, K4ZA](#)

Taps and dies are tools for cutting threads. A tap is a bolt-like tool for making female threads. A die is a nut-like tool for making male threads. Taps and dies can make many "impossible" repairs possible, even easy.

Both tools have threads, a little like the threads on nuts and bolts, but the threads on taps and dies have "cutting edges" to cut threads in smooth metal. A tap screws into a smooth hole and makes it into a threaded hole; a die puts threads onto a formerly smooth shaft.

Taps and dies can be bought one at a time in any good hardware store, and are not at all expensive. You can buy a small set of commonly used sizes for less than \$15, for instance.

Taps come in three types: plug, taper, and bottoming. Plug taps are the most commonly seen. A plug tap has a fairly steep taper at its point, so that it will cut full depth threads after only a few turns. This is the most efficient type for production use. Bottoming taps have no taper at all. As a result, bottoming taps cannot be used to start a new thread. Bottoming taps are used only to bring an existing thread down to the bottom of a "blind" hole (a hole that doesn't go all the way through the material). Taper taps are like plug taps, except that they

have a more gradual taper to the point, making it easier to tap a straight hole by hand, although this can also be done with a plug tap if you have a good eye.

Taps are metal cutting tools, and therefore need to have very hard cutting edges. Because of the type of steel and heat treatment required to enable them to cut metal, they are extremely brittle. Considerable care is needed to use taps without breaking them. This is especially true with smaller sizes. If you break a tap off in a hole, it can be very difficult or even impossible to remove the broken piece! (I'm sure K4VV was surprised just last week when my drift punch was badly bent while trying to drive a broken tap out of one of his Bertha poles!) A broken tap cannot usually even be drilled out, because the tap is harder than drill bits.

It is possible, if you are very, very careful, to use a tap by turning it with a conventional adjustable wrench, but it's very risky. A wrench that pushes only on one side puts an asymmetrical stress on the tap, and will probably break it. So, buy a proper tap wrench, which has a "T" handle, making it easier to turn the tap without bending it.

As the tap cuts, it leaves a chip of metal behind. The tap has three or four "flutes" (grooves) to allow the cut-away chips to escape from the hole. If the flutes become clogged with chips, the tap will bind. It will then break if forced. The chips tend to be formed in long strips. Good technique requires you to break up these strips into smaller pieces that can escape along the flutes. Simply slowly turn the tap backward.

Turn the tap forward one-third to one-half turn, or until you feel increased resistance. Then turn it backward until you feel it turning more easily (one-fourth to one-half turn, usually). Deeper taps may require you to go part way in, then unscrew the tap, in order to clean out the chips.

You should use some sort of cutting fluid with taps. There are special cutting oils made for this, but these are not usually needed. In general, any oil works for hand tapping of steel, and kerosene works fine for aluminum. I keep a couple of containers on my workbench, one filled with used motor oil, one with kerosene. I just dip the tap into the appropriate can before starting to cut threads with it. I use the old motor oil because I have it on hand, and because it doesn't matter if I leave chips in it from the tapping, since that oil is used only for cutting, not lubrication.

It's essential to drill the correct size hole for the tap you're using. When you buy taps, you should also buy

Tap Drill Chart for Some Common Sizes

Tap Size	Drill Size	Nearest Fractional Size (inches)
#4-40	#43	3/32
#6-32	#36	7/64
#8-32	#29	9/64
#10-32	#21	5/32
#10-24	#25	5/32
#12-24	#16	11/64
1/4-20	#7	13/64
1/4-28	#3	7/32

drill bits to go with them. These bits should be kept with the taps, and used only for drilling holes that are to be tapped. Drill bits come in four size systems: fractional, number, letter, and metric sizes. The most popular tap sizes require a number size drill bit to make the proper sized hole. For instance, a #10-32 tap requires a #21 drill bit for proper fit. This hole is between 5/32-inch and 11/64-inch—which shows why the typical fractional-sized drill index found in most home shops won't suffice here. (If you buy a set of number size drill bits, you will get 80 drill bits, ranging in size from .0135 inch to .2280 inch. These essentially overlap the basic 1/64-inch to 1/4-inch fractional set that you may already own. Most of these number size drill bits will be of no use to you, and you'll spend a lot of money to get 80 of them. It makes more sense to spend a few dollars to buy the few sizes you really need)

Next up, bolt markings! What's in your toolbox?

Just In—PVRC Wins Unlimited Club Category in ARRL June VHF Contest

From the ARRL Web Site— PVRC's 31 entries accounted for over twice as many points as the nearest competition. Congratulations to everyone who participated! Thanks Ed, K3DNE for the head's up.

LOTW-DXCC the EASY Way –or- “Why I like Fishing”

By **Keith Zeringue, W4KAZ**

Okay. I'm here to praise Caesar, not to bury him.....

It's like this. I know that a lot of folks think that Logbook of the World is too difficult to use, both for the domestic ham and especially for the important side of the equation, the DX. I know that a lot of folks think the passion around ARRL's DXCC checking and verification of paper QSL's is too much. To be honest, I'm agnostic on both subjects.

With that disclaimer out of the way, here is a brief rundown of the little pistol DXCC chase. First and foremost, I like working DX for the grins. So it's probably not really a DX “chase”. On a lark, I decided that I'd sign up for LOTW when the program was begun. Since I had become interested in contesting about the same time, I decided to put both to the test. How long would it take for a casual contester to get a DXCC using only LOTW, a few wire antennas, and only enough power to light an ordinary lamp bulb?

Now that I've got you set up for the payoff, the answer is.....I don't really know! But don't bail out on me yet, because I was spurred to write this based on the positive results. With only about 10,000 hams using the Logbook, the results are better than I expected, and I hit a minor milestone today. So far, I've uploaded 5245 QSO's, and got my 1000th LOTW QSL today, with LN8W becoming Mister One-Thousand. That works out to a 19% QSL rate.

The overall QSL rate for the total of all QSO's on LOTW is only 4.8%, so contesters probably make up a large portion of LOTW users. I don't have a breakdown of domestic vs. DX QSL's, but I'm pretty sure the DX users are a lot fewer than stateside. Most of my QSL records are domestic contacts. (No info on “Worked All States”—LOTW does not provide it yet, and I don't have a good logging program yet either)

It took me a couple of years to rack up those 5245 QSO's. Even with these limitations, I've got 71 countries via LOTW toward a mixed DXCC. The numbers for 5 band DXCC need some work, but I'm halfway there on 2 bands. Most of those are --EGADS!—on SSB. I'm sure the low band numbers will rise more slowly, with success paralleling my slowly improving CW skills.

I don't know that I'll ever bother getting the wallpaper myself, but knowing the numbers might help in chatting up a new DX chaser on contesting as a way to his DXCC goal. Maybe they will get hooked, and make a contribution to PVRC in the process. Perhaps, as many have discovered before me, they too will decide that the chase is just as much fun as bagging the individual quarry.

Another Low Noise Receiving Antenna for 160 Meters

By **Glenn R. Kurzenkabe, K3SWZ**

I have been active on 160 meters for a number of years and have been able to obtain my DXCC Certificate on that band, so things must be working to some degree. I have played around with a number of receiving antennas i.e. EWE's of which I still have two up (SA and AF) and a Pennant on EU, which I took down because I wasn't happy with the performance. (I must get another EWE up on EU before it gets any colder!) I have also tried a number of other designs that we won't go into here, but suffice it to say, they were not successful.

I have about 1 ½ acres of property, so I knew I had more than the average “small lot” to play with. A couple of years ago, I read the write-up that Bill, N3RR did on his web site on “Short Beverages” but never did more than think about erecting the antenna. This summer, while reading some old information I had gathered, I found a reference to “Short Beverages” that were used by FRC'er Chas, K3WW. He noted that his were only 150 ft. long! I exchanged a couple of e-mails with Chas, and he was helpful in explaining what he had and had not done and the results he had obtained. He said that he had good success, with both terminated and unterminated versions and preferred to call them “Low Noise Receiving Antennas” instead of “Short Bever-

ages.” I decided to give the basic design a try.

First, I stretched a string across the part of my property that I planned to use and found that I could get up a length of 280 ft., (east/west) without any pain. A tree at each end would serve for mounting. I marked off 40 ft. points along the way for supports. The supports are 1 inch, Schedule 40 PVC pipe, cut to about 7.5 ft. with a ¼ inch clearance hole drilled at the 7 ft. mark. I figured this would be high enough for the neighbor kids, deer, etc. I purchased 4 ft. lengths of ½ inch rebar at Home Depot and pounded the rebar into the ground at each 40 ft. point. I only pounded them in about 18 inches to make removal easier. My son and I did this very carefully, after promising each other; we wouldn't hit the other with the sledgehammer! The PVC pipe slips easily over the rebar. The wire I selected was plain old #12 THHN stranded house wire from the local electrical supply house. The color is optional! I purchased a 500 ft. spool. It was a little pricey at \$55!

I purchased a K9AY (AY Technologies) 9:1 transformer, Model TRX-9 from Array Solutions, and I must say that is a first-class device. At first, I was going to try the antenna unterminated, but I decided to go with a terminated version to the west. The termination is simply two 1K ohm, 2 watt resistors in parallel to make a 500 ohm load. The ground rod at each end is a 3 ft. piece of ½ inch hard copper water pipe driven about 2.5 ft. into the ground. The connections are made with S.S. hose clamps. At the urging of Mike, W3TS, I also added four 25-foot radials at both ends to the ground rods. It was easy enough to do and he says it will help the performance. I feed it with a hunk of RG-8X, about 50 ft. long.

It is a bit early in the season for any serious evaluation, but I can say it does reduce the atmospheric noise! No, I am not using a pre-amp, as I do on the EWE's. There seems to be adequate output signal. The first day I was on 160 Meters this season, I worked VK3ZL for a new Zone! I was hearing him on the Inverted L transmit antenna, but the signal-to-noise ratio was better on the “short Beverage.” The next day brought a QSO with K7C for a new country, with a like result. I have played with the antenna on the broadcast band, and there is definitely a difference in signal to noise ratio and directivity. I can't say that this antenna is the answer to all receiving problems on 160 meters, but it sure is easy to build, and it does show promise. A day or so after the K7C QSO, I worked JA1HQT on 80 meters and he was unreadable on the inverted vee! Further experiments using it on 80 and 40 Meters will come as the season progresses.

I am eager to do some serious evaluation during the upcoming contests. I have already given some thought to another antenna toward JA and possibly making the first one reversible. That will all come next summer, assuming I am as happy at the end of this season, as I am now! See you on 160 meters!

SO2R Controller

By **Mike Sims K4GMH**

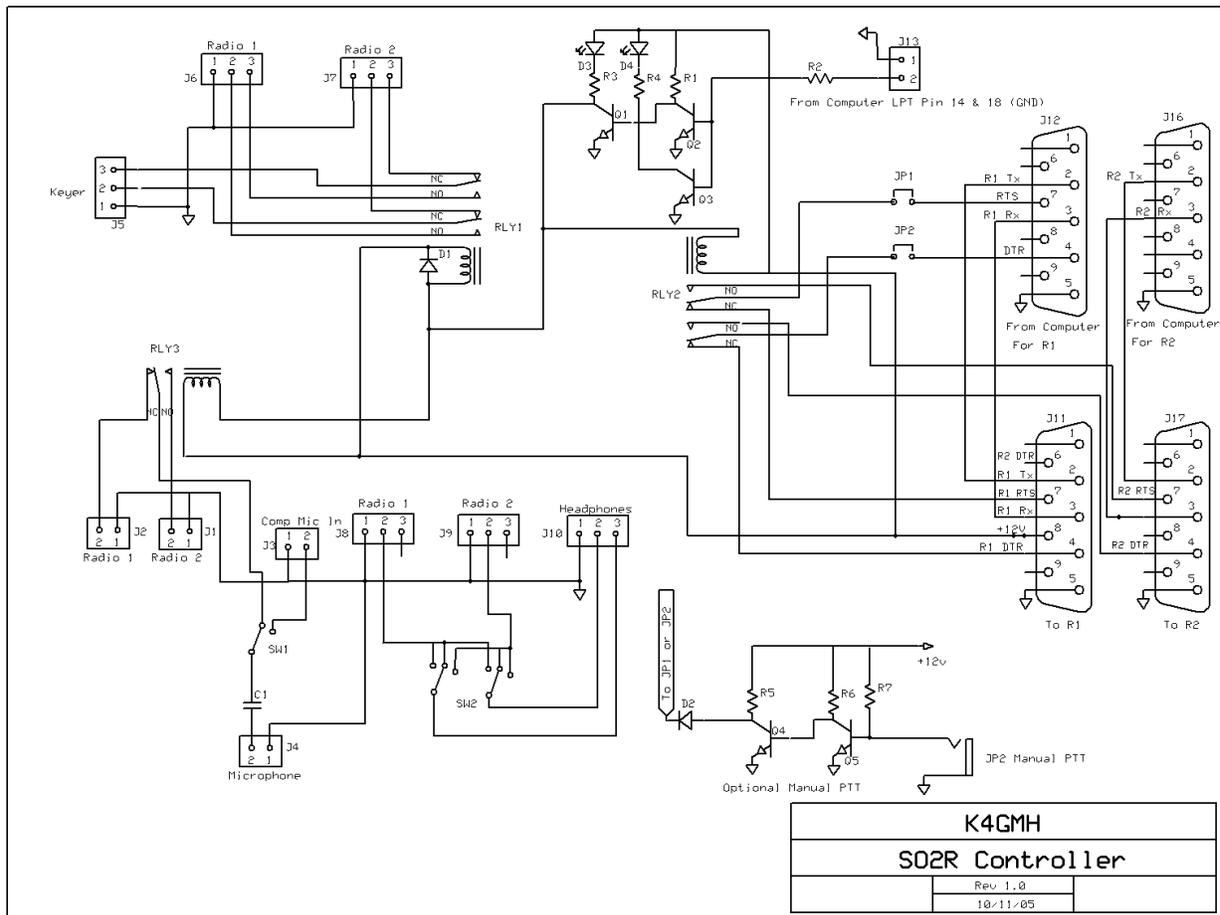
A SO2R controller was required for my station. I realized this once I understood how Writelog works. My original thinking was that Writelog would do the necessary switching, between COM ports, in the software, for the computer-generated CW and PTT. This thought of how WL worked was strengthened because two comm. ports are used for the radio control information – one for each radio. Wrong thinking Mike! WL doesn't send the keying/PTT information via the appropriate COM port to whichever radio is selected by the operator as I had first thought. Writelog uses pin 14 on LPT to signal (a “1” for left radio and a “0” for right radio) which radio is selected. The RTS and/or DTR on only one COM port is activated, no matter which radio is selected. Thus, the need for a SO2R controller to be able to use the computer generated radio selection signal to switch the keying and control functions between the appropriate radios.

The controller had to follow the WL –generated radio selection signal and switch keying and control for:

- iambic keyer (Bencher),
- microphone (Heil HC-4), and
- DTR and RTS (for computer generated CW and PTT).

In addition the Controller had to be capable of manual switching the headphones for both ears left radio, both ears right radio, and left ear left radio and right ear right radio. Also, manual switching the microphone to the microphone input on a sound card (two sound cards are used in my SO2R arrangement) had to be included. The Controller had to function with the Icom radios (IC746s) used in the SO2R set-up. What resulted can be seen in the schematic. None of the parts are critical. The capacitor in the microphone input (0.2 mF) is necessary for the Heil HC-4 to work with the Icom radios. The transistors are 2N2222, resistors are 2.2 K Ohms, the diodes are 1N914, and D3 & D4 are LEDs. Use the connectors of your choice. DB9 connectors are shown for J11-14 for convenience. The relays are P&B RTE24012F (DPDT) and a RTB14012F (SPDT) which were in the junk box. The relays aren't critical other than 12 V operation. The Controller's PC board artwork is available from the author at k4gmh@arrl.net.

The SO2R Controller worked flawlessly in the recent JARTS Contest (the operator didn't).



Romeo, Romeo

By Sean Kutzko, KX9X [relayed from the Internet by Boris, WF3J]

Gather 'round the campfire, boys and girls... A few months back, I posted a note on the Society of Midwest Contesters reflector asking if anybody knew the whereabouts of our dear old friend Romeo Stepanenko, 3W3RR. As many will recall, Romeo had a habit in the late 1980's and early 1990's of popping up with his gear from some of the rarest countries in the world of ham radio, make tens of thousands of contacts, and then getting us armchair DX'ers to flood him with requests for QSL cards (which included "green stamps") that often came very late or not at all. There was also that minor issue of him not being able to provide the DXCC administrators with the proper documentation from some of his adventures, proving he was indeed where he said

he was. In the parlance of DX'ing, Romeo was the ultimate Slim, a pirate. I'm a musician, and I figured if ever there was somebody that was worthy of a scurvy-dog, sea-shanty kind of song, ol' Romeo was that person. There were rumors he was a shady character, who showed up at the Dayton Hamvention in 1999, years after being expelled from DXCC, and then disappeared from the face of the Earth. He is the sort that is perfect for song and story. I needed factual material for the tune, so I started to do my homework. The note to the SMC reflector was the beginning of that homework.

I didn't get much response other than a couple of notes that said, "Yeah, whatever happened to that guy?" So, in July 2005, I posted a note on Eham.com in their DX forum, entitled "Wherefore Art Thou, Romeo?" Again, no info. So, I started searching on Google. I found an article online about ham radio in Afghanistan that mentioned him in passing, and a site that had several of Romeo's QSL's (including WX9X's fake P5/R0MEO card he handed out at Dayton one year). I printed the articles and stuck them in my notebook I keep for writing lyrics, where they have sat for a while, collecting dust. I forgot about it and moved on to other projects.

On the evening of October 19, 2005, I received a phone call from an inspector with the U.S Postal Service based in St. Louis. He said he needed to meet with me concerning an investigation of "...one of my associates." I obviously made myself available at his earliest convenience, which was the next day's lunch hour.

I ran over to my friend Matt, NM9H's place. Was he trading endangered animals over the Internet? Circumnavigating customs laws by importing fresh fruit from Venezuela? Ripping tags off of mattresses and mailing them to Botswana? He assured me he was doing nothing of the sort, as he was "...an old man with a house full of kids, with neither the time nor energy to be surreptitious." A night of fitful sleep ensued.

We jazz and folk musicians have a sordid history in America, often lumped together with other unsavories like gangsters, communists, and bootleggers. Which of my compadres had warranted constabulatory intervention, and how did the Postal Service get involved? Besides, my youthful indiscretions are long over, as I have nothing to be discreet about any longer and I'm closer to middle-aged than youthful. In short, like my friend NM9H, I'm boring and getting old.

The Inspector came to my place today (20 October 2005), and after some pleasantries, asked if the name Roman Vega meant anything to me; I truthfully answered no. He then asked if I was a ham operator, to which I said yes. He then asked if the name Romeo Stepanenko meant anything to me, and I nodded uncertainly. The Inspector then produced a printout of my Romeo inquiry on Eham.com. He said he was following up on an investigation from the US Department of Justice in San Francisco concerning our beloved Romeo, and he wanted to know why I was asking about him in a public forum. I gave him a Reader's Digest version of ham radio, DX'ing, and an overview of the DXCC program. I explained how Romeo pretended to operate from various exceptionally rare places, duped tens of thousands of us into sending him SASE's with green stamps included, and was then caught and expelled from the DXCC program for these fraudulent ham activities. I explained why this caused such a scandal to a program that has had an exceedingly high level of ethics and scrutiny associated with it over the years. He was quite interested in people sending dollars along with QSL requests. I explained it was customary to help pay for the QSL you're going to receive, especially when dealing with an operation from a place as rare as Myanmar or North Korea.

I then had to explain to him why I'd want to write a song about such an unsavory character. As I explained, every hobby or pastime has some level of folklore or legend attached to it, and Romeo is one of the most infamous characters in the history of DX'ing. In baseball, people wrote songs about Jackie Robinson and Joltin' Joe. Bob Dylan wrote about Emmett Till. Heck, Frank Zappa wrote about a wacko dubbed by the press as The Illinois Enema Bandit. Numerous ballads have been written about pirates, oddballs, do-gooders and ne'er-do-wells in all cultures all around the globe. Ham Radio DX'ing may be a small culture in the grand scheme of things, but it is a culture nonetheless. It stands to reason that, just like any other culture, the heroes are glorified and the villains are reviled. To me, writing a song about Romeo seemed logical and fun.

After an hour of questioning by the Inspector (nice guy, by the way), he said it was quite obvious I wasn't in-

volved in any of Romeo's current shenanigans, and proceeded to tell me The Story: Roman Vega, aka Romeo Stepanenko, was arrested and extradited from Cyprus to the United States in March of 2004, and has been charged with 40 counts of wire fraud and trafficking in stolen credit card numbers. He is alleged to have done this in online chat rooms. The Inspector I spoke with indicated that he allegedly bilked over \$3 million out of this scheme. Romeo has pleaded not guilty to all charges. He has been held in northern California, as he is considered a flight risk. His trial is scheduled to begin in San Francisco on Monday, November 28. Here is a link to the US Department Of Justice press release: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/can/press/html/2004_06_04_vega.html Here is a link to the actual indictment filed in Federal Court: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/can/press/assets/applets/2004_06_04_Vega_in_d.pdf As Paul Harvey would say, "Now you know the rest of the story."

The Inspector never informed me that I was not allowed to discuss this, so I'm posting it here for all to see. He indicated the case against Romeo looked quite good indeed, and that they were following up on all leads they had concerning him. I was "lucky" enough to have been considered a Person Of Interest; I got to see a copy of my Federal subpoena, where I was "commanded" to appear in Federal court on November 28 at 8:30AM. The Inspector indicated this would probably not be needed. He did mention that San Francisco is quite nice this time of year, though, and it was almost a pity I wouldn't get to take the Government up on their free "vacation." I gave him one of those nervous smiles and waited for him to move on. He left me his card, said he'd file his report, and told me I'd probably never hear from him again. He did give me the case number (Northern District Of California CR04-0101 CRD), since it's a matter of public record.

The fact that I was sitting on the edge of my seat as he was telling me this, slack-jawed and with my eyes as wide as saucers, might have had something to do with him giving me the info as well. How did I get associated with Romeo? I'm just a ham operator who had one QSO with him when he was in Vietnam (still my only 3W QSO), spent probably hundreds of hours listening for him from his other far-flung locales, but never worked him anywhere other than 3W. I just happened to ask the right question at the wrong time. It certainly is interesting what bites sometimes when you go fishing, eh?

I'm finally recording my solo CD now. I'll be sure to let everybody know when it's done. I could use a lead player, though; maybe I should give WB6ACU a call...

Around the Club

Meeting Minutes from the Regions

PVRCNC-EAST's regularly scheduled gathering took place on Thursday, October 6. Those in attendance were: W4KAZ, Keith; NX9T, Jeff; W0UCE, Jack; KA1ARB, Rob; K2AV, Guy; AD4L, Pete; N4TL, Tom; W4MY, Marty; WW4M, Jim; and W4ROT; Terry. Announcements were made which consisted of a reminder about the upcoming Holiday Dinner/Meeting set for December 1st, encouragement to participate in upcoming contests, and an "official welcome" to a first time meeting attender, W4ROT. We were glad to have Terry join us and hope he comes back in November!

After finishing up some "business," we moved on to the member reports: KA1ARB: Rob reported that he has been having a great time on HF since getting his station up and running. He participated in the SSB Sprint and had an awesome time and set a personal best. K2AV: Guy has been busy repairing a home computer. He offered sage advice to all concerning not blindly accepting various antenna designs as being worth their salt just because they happen to be found on the internet. While many may provide a good SWR, they are extremely inefficient. W0UCE: Jack offered thanks to all who participated in the antenna project. His log periodic is working wonderfully. Although he was frustrated that he couldn't nail the K7C on 80 or 160m, Jack didn't blame the log periodic since it only covers 10 through 30 mhz. N4TL: Tom bagged the K7C on 5 bands and extolled the DXA web program used during the operation. While visiting Florida last week to see his granddaughter be baptized, Tom had the pleasure of driving a Maserati.

W4KAZ: Keith has not been operating much lately due to various obligations but was glad to help Jack with the antenna project. WW4M: Jim has not been very active lately but provided some encouraging information

about the N.C. State Univ. station, W4ATC which should be active during SS. Jim continues planning some work on his personal shack when time allows. AD4L: Pete advised that his 84 year old mother is active and enjoying ham radio. She was first licensed at age 75. Pete has an A4 up but is waiting on hurricane season to pass before hoisting it up very high. He did get on during WAE but decided that his 1-Q per day was not what the contest committee had in mind as far a participation goals. He has been quite busy lately trying to keep 3 different wireless networks running.

W4MY: Marty has been enjoying the meetings and is spending time learning N1MM. He described a recent “experience” with his new amplifier...but all turned out ok! Marty worked hard during the CQP to the tune of 400 Q’s and 55 of the 58 California counties. (Great Job Marty!) NX9T: Jeff operated during the SSB Sprint and also enjoyed chasing the K7C around. Very impressed with the DXA cluster software offering real time logging information. Planning to work CQWW and SS. W4ROT: Terry joined us for his first meeting. He advised that he enjoys RTTY a lot and hopes to put up a V-beam soon. Terry had fun operating the CQWW RRTY and plans to enter contests this season.

Reports Via Email: K4TMC: Henry reports that he has been out of town a lot due to work obligations. K4HA: Bob has been busy working on the SHP communications trailer. The trailer has been utilized for various communications needs for security operations and emergency training events. K4QPL: Jim has been busy playing “Father of the Bride” recently. This has preempted contesting activities and just about everything else. He lamented about all the cool radio equipment which could have been bought for the shack had his daughter just elected to elope. Things are slowly getting back to normal and Jim plans to operate many of the remaining fall contests and especially looking forward to his personal favorite, CW SS! K4CIA: Bill had a another meeting which he needed/wanted to attend so the group graciously extended a “pass.” (Bill, our chapter’s Dr. DX, was very successful in chasing K7C) N2NFG: Bob gave N1MM a try during the CQP and is getting things set for SS.

Our November meeting will be held at on November 3rd. 73, Jeff NX9T

CVCC October Meeting Minutes— Members present: Bob NK4H, Roy WK4Y, Ralph W4FEG, Bob W4MYA, Jonathan W4HZ, Ed NW4V, Sejo N3UA, Sheila K4WNW, Bruce WD4LBR, A.C. W4HJ, J.B. N4NQY, Ron WU4G.

Meeting opened 7 PM with personal introductions. Ed, NW4V, called for any old business. No old business to discuss.

President’s report, Ed thanked John, W4TNX for restarting the 599 VA Newsletter. Please submit any articles or ideas to John no later than the Friday before the next Club Meeting. Dennis volunteered, again, to be the Christmas Dinner Party Chairman. All agreed to keep Topeka’s as the restaurant of choice. Dennis will coordinate date and time.

Treasurers Report: Bob, NK4H, stated that the checks were sent to the three DXpeditions voted on last month. Bob mentioned that Club dues can be collected anytime. However, the Club does follow the calendar as a basis for annual renewals.

Cluster Report: Dennis, N4DEN, received a quote for repairing the fiber optic cable. Ralph made a motion, that was seconded by Bob, NK4H, to allow Quality Communications of VA to repair the cable. Rough estimate for total cost was \$120. Motion passed. A motion was made by Ralph, and seconded by Bob NK4H, to allow Dennis the authority, after contacting the Club Treasurer, to affect repairs as needed to the Cluster. Motion passed.

New Business: CQWW SSB 29-30 October. Contact Bob, W4MYA, if you are interested in operating from his station. Bob also discussed the need for all of us to operate and submit a score even if we have limited time. Particular emphasis is on this years ARRL Sweepstakes. Ronnie, WU4G, passed out a radio related sale sheet

from estate sale.

Presentation was given by Ed, NW4V, about 2005 PVRC Contesting Seminar.

Meeting adjourned 7:55PM

Respectfully submitted,
Roy, WK4Y.

Central Meeting in VA by Jack Hammett, K4VV and Jim Nitzberg, WX3B

The list of 22 attendees follows: Bob KI3O, Mark KD4D, Rich NN3W, Mike N3CA, Eric W3DQ, Rob ND3A, Jack K4VV, Jim WX3B, Peter W2CDO, Dave WR3L, Ken W8JVP, Ray K5RJ, Barry WR3Z, Ty K3MM, Paul N4PD (new member), Mary KG6ITP (first meeting), Sid NH7C, Steve WM3O, Brian N3ST (from PA!), Masa AJ3M, Rick N6CY, Bob W3YY, and Ray KT4W.

Our first Central meeting on Virginia side of the Potomac River in the new season was on October 10 at the (reopened) Olive Garden in Vienna, near Tysons Corner on Route 7. We had social time, a casual meal with lots of conversation and a program. The turnout was good, with 21 attending. This meeting was a kickoff focused on the competitive season.

Jack K4VV reported the Nominations for 2006 PVRC Officers as follows: President - WX3B Jim Nitzberg, Vice President - W3DQ Eric Rosenberg, Vice President - K4ZW Ken Claerbout, Secretary - WM3T Anthony Brooks, and Treasurer - WR3L Dave Baugher. The current Trustees (K3MM, KE3Q, N3OC, N4ZR, W4MYA, W4ZYT, N4AF, K4IQ, ND3A, W3PP, N1KC, and K2AV) will be surveyed for interest in continuing to serve, and others may be nominated.

Paul Dluhosh, N4PD from Leesburg, VA was voted into PVRC. Paul was encouraged to seek membership after meeting with some of the Loudoun county PVRC members, viewing part of the Seminar DVD, and participating in the SteppIR antenna party at N4CS.

Two speakers contributed a part of the program to sharpen our contesting edge for the season:

Jim WX3B presented an approach to the overall PVRC effort. He checked in with the ARRL and determined that the use of "Highly Motivated Operators" (operators that maximize the club score by taking an 'unused radio' to a second location and operating with a new call sign) is completely within the bounds of the ARRL regulations for Sweepstakes.

Anthony WM3T has created an excellent membership spreadsheet that lists all members of PVRC by region. Jim is in the process of contacting regional leaders and other volunteers to help the regions generate enthusiasm and participation for November sweepstakes.

The mathematics behind a winning sweepstakes club score is quite simple, PVRC needs to double the 2004 level of participation to best NCCC's 2004 score, and you know that both NCCC and SMC will be trying to improve their scores! Let the competition begin!

Ty Stewart K3MM, our Sweepstakes expert, led a lively discussion about sweepstakes strategy. Ty states that staying on the lowest possible band that supports a good rate is the best way to maximize your score. He also indicated that a majority of his QSOs (i.e. over 1,000!) often come from 75/80 meters at night. His recommendation is to get there early, find a good run frequency, and STAY THERE until at least 2:00am in the morning the first night, later if your rate is above 35/hr. Save your time off for the dreaded Sunday afternoon doldrums, or consider becoming a "Highly Motivated Operator", (HMO) and take a radio to a second location, and start

all over again using a second call sign. This will generate a LOT more activity for you the second day. On Sunday morning, plan to get on 40 meters right around sunrise and find a good run frequency. Ty is an SO2R (Single-Operator Two Radio) expert, and he enjoys tuning with the second radio when the run gets slow.

Ty also reviewed the fact that a small station is not necessarily a small sweepstakes station. If you have a good radio, and some wires up at 35 – 50 feet, you can produce quite an effective score, ESPECIALLY if you have high power. If you have a tribander or better, you will be a big gun on the high bands.

Northwest Region Meeting October 2005 by Bud Governale, W3LL, Chairman

The NW Region met at the City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 18 October 2005. In attendance were W4AU, NC4S, N4MM, K8OQL, W2YE, WD3A, N3VOP, K4ZA, K4VV, W3CQH, NE3H, K3TZV, W8ZA AND W3LL. Regrets: N8II, Jeff is working tonight. Jeff reports that band conditions have certainly spoiled the fun to some degree in the WAE SSB, CQP, and PA QSO Party, but seem to have been pretty good the past week with 10M open to Europe on Friday! Jeff made about 530 Q's in the PAQP and missed Juniata Co. This was probably because there was no propagation when the mobile or 2 rolled thru. 40 M was not open to PA except on backscatter Saturday. Sunday was fine but activity was down on 40. Jeff hopes to operate the CQ WW from home or a multi-op. He also plans to put in a serious LP effort in SS Phone. He's working the SS CW weekend.

W3IDT, Bob reports Miriam, KA3UBJ, will be at the Renee Fleming concert at the Kennedy Center with her mother. Bob is at home nursing a bad head cold / sinus infection / sore throat. N3HBX, John reports this is another one he shall miss, as he has a conflict. The news is that Matt KC1XX came down to put up the last two antennas. These were a three-element beam for 160 meters (fixed on Europe) consisting of inverted V elements hung over a catenary at 180 feet slung between two of the towers, and a two-element beam for 80 meters (Force 12 Sigma 280 Ultra). Mark KD4D, with help from Masa AJ3M, Rol K3RA and John, appears to be the highest placed scorer in the multi-single category in the WAE contest. This would be the first win from the new station. Conditions were terrible, and they suspect that a lot of people just gave up - perhaps allowing a win by default! John wanted to work the VHF contest, but promised Mark that he would help out if he could not round up enough other operators. Rich NN3W plans to use John's original station in CQWW, while John will be at the new one.

WF1L, Bill is in Alaska on job travel. He worked the JARTS contest Friday evening and made about 20 contacts on 40M. WQ2M, Mike is out of the country on vacation. W3ZZ, Gene says much as he'd like to make it, he's going to a birthday party for a good friend. K3WC Dusty is in Indiana for step-mother's funeral. He says hello to the group. K3OQ, Jeff isn't going to make it this month again. He's getting ready for the contest season at both his place and at W3RFC. WN3R, Dick is in Hawaii celebrating his 20th wedding anniversary. Dick says he's missing the fall contest season. The tower is scheduled to go up on Oct 17th. Don Daso K4ZA will be doing the antenna work in November. The tower foundation, all 192K lbs is in place. The house will probably not be ready until December. Dick asks if anyone is interested in helping with the project to email him at WN3R@arrl.net.

Announcements: 5M contests scheduled prior to our next meeting: CQWW SSB 29-30 October ARRL SS CW 05-06 November WAE RTTY 12-13 November. Other contests and activities scheduled prior to or at our next meeting: PVRC Election Vote 15 November @ NW. The results of the NW SS survey were announced and forwarded to WX3B. Responses were received from K3MM, K2PLF, W3ZZ, K8OQL, W3KB, K3DNE, K3STX, W3WC, W4AU, NC4S and W3LL. WX3B's "Sweepstakes and the Highly Motivated Operator" paper was presented. NN3W's "CQWW SSB Team Contesting" proposal was presented. N3VOP Mike proposed that any individual who works a 5M contest from home shall receive 100% of those weighted 5M points and shall also receive his weighted 5M point contribution to PVRC's aggregate score from all subsequent locations. The proposal was brought to a vote and passed unanimously.

N3VOP Mike announced that five PVRC members will be participating in CQWW SSB from 8P using call

sign 8P9R in Multi-Multi High Power. The team consists of David K3LP - 8P9LP, Clint W3ARS - 8P9AS, Kamal N3KS - 8P9KS, Krassimir K1LZ - 8P9LZ, Mike N3VOP - 8P9OP, John W3ADC - 8P9JK, Nathan W3ADX - 8P9NK, Hughey WB6CBU - 8P9EC, David KY1V - 8P9KV, Ancletus J69AZ, Atilano PY5EG and members of the Barbados ARC. The team will donate antennas, materials and assistance to fix one of the damaged towers at the club station. Mike says spot them every time you hear them.

W3LL's hearing regarding the MonstIR is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Bosley Avenue, Towson, 21204. Everyone is invited in a show of support!

K4VV Jack reminded us of the Holiday Dinner scheduled for Monday, December 12 at P.J. Skidoos. Twenty one members attended the Central meeting. The minutes of that meeting have been written but not yet published. The nominations for officers will appear in those minutes. Officer nominations were presented and approved at that meeting. The nominees are: Jim WX3B as President, Eric W3DQ as Vice President, Ken K4ZW as Vice President, Anthony WM3T as Secretary and Dave WR3L as Treasurer. The appropriate time to nominate additional candidates is this month at other local PVRC meetings. The Trustees will be surveyed this month to see who is interested in continuing. The results of that survey will be published this month. Nominations for new Trustees will also be solicited this month. The Nomination process occurs in October to accommodate other Chapters which resume regular meetings in September. Voting will be done at all chapters next month. The results will be announced in December at the Holiday Dinner.

NW Business: W3LL - NW had no additional nominees to add to the slate of officers. NW recommends the addition of the Makrothen RTTY contest to the list of 5M contests. This WW contest has club competition. See it at: http://home.arcor.de/waldemar.kebsch/The_Makrothen_Contest.html

From Around the Table: W4AU, John lost his excuse for missing the Tuesday night NW meeting now that his welding class has moved to Thursday nights. The KT-34A was taken down and refurbished with new M2 parts. It now seems to play better in the SSB portions which is not so good since John is mostly on cw. John's cell phone ring tone now plays CQ code for an incoming call. He's looking forward to SS but will be away for CQWW SSB. Bud has John interested in exploring RTTY.

NC4S, Gary took down his TH6 this summer and with Jack's assistance and seven other able-bodied amateurs two weekends ago replaced it with a 4 element SteppIR. Gary negotiated with the spousal unit to work the SS phone weekend but will be out of town for the CW weekend. Gary gave the Loudoun County ARC his version of Frank's antenna presentation from the PVRC Contesting Seminar. It was so well received that he will do a follow up presentation on HFTA. N4MM, John will be working the SS contests and expects to earn 100K points in each mode even though it's not one of his favorite contests. He'll also be in the CQWW contests. Everything is quiet around his QTH and he hopes it stays that way.

K8OQL, Jerry says work him from 4X0WV during the CQWW SSB. The team will keep an eye on 80M and 160M at 4X sunrise - 11:45 EDST. So watch the packet spots. W2YE, Dick had 850 Q's in CQWW RTTY and 750K points which he thought was pretty good until he discovered K4GMH had 1K more Q's and that our honorable leader, in his first RTTY contest, also did better. Dick had a good time in the contest. Conditions were pretty good. His 160M inv L is dangling in the air so he'll be refurbishing the low band antennas this year using 1K' coil of rope from Radio Works along with a new reel on the EZHang.

WD3A, Tom is doing computer work at W8ZA. Bob kept him on the ground because the 80 MPH winds were too high for antenna work. N3VOP, Mike will be 8P9R for the CQWW SSB. He'll be taking a new 6M antenna to give that band a try before the contest along with some PSK equipment. Nathan, W3ADX will be taking some RTTY equipment for before the contest activity. This is Mike's first time and a new experience. Mike will be at W3ADC for SS looking to work all 80 Sections. The WY3P barn is equipped with computers at every station. WY3P.NET is the club website.

K4ZA, Don is in town for some tower work and back in a few weeks for 20M at W3LPL and then for more

tower work. K4VV, Jack says it's interesting times with a lot going on in PVRC. Some positive and some sad. We lost W3IY Bill Seabreeze. Jack attended the viewing at a hospice in Leesburg. There were 60 in attendance including a lot of hams and PVRC members. Jack spoke for PVRC along with several of our members speaking about their friendship with Bill. Two rovers were parked in the lot. Time for another cycle and Jack finishing his term as President. He'll be fading back to working on his own station again. He's happy to have Don and others help for the next few days. They're getting ready for the tower raising ceremony in November, weather and crane conditions permitting.

W3CQH, Howard is putting up another 180 feet to make a 360 foot loop in the attic. He is just getting over cataract surgery, which explains the dark glasses. NE3H, Joe is still recovering from a lightning strike in July. An hour into CQWW RTTY the amp died with a shorted tube. However, 3CX800A7 tubes will not be available until the end of the year because Eimac decided to move their factory again. Svetlana wants \$525 each for a Russian tube. That's only \$50 less than Eimac. He will consider pulls from an MRI machine. Their 3CXP800A7 has slightly lower gain but is more rugged for the pulse application in the MRI machine. So Joe will be QRP until then. The lightning strike took out the TNC and the computer that ran the old cluster software. It's been replaced with a new computer and AR cluster software. He no longer has to depend on an RF link from a station that's over an hour drive away. However, he discovered that when he transmitted he threw the telnet users off line and lost his internet connectivity. Calling Verizon tech support was worthless except for replacing the modem for a fee. The new modem solved the problem and it was provided without charge. A Verizon visit to fix crosstalk on the line did wonders for the DSL connectivity. Joe's Telnet Node is ne3h.no-ip.com. The NO-IP.COM service converts a dynamic IP to a static IP.

K3TZV, Steve has been relatively inactive due to a family loss and job change. His only radio excitement was working Afghanistan on RTTY. He lost his radio in April and finally got it back. By the time he retires he'll have to redo the station because every time a wire or cable is moved nothing works. W8ZA, Bob is slowly getting ready for the contest season. He put up a new inv L for 160M which loads nicely across the whole band. He also has the Z dipole for 160M.

Tom WD3A has been upgrading three of the four computers to windows running CT. W3LL, Bud finally got his feet wet in RTTY. An upgrade to DX4WIN permitted integration with MMTTY. A jumper move in the Rigblaster to key on TxD permitted FSK keying of the radio. With N1MM set up to work with MMTTY and a 350Hz filter in the 706 Bud was ready to try RTTY contesting. He worked three world wide RTTY contests in the last three weekends. In CQWW RTTY he had 1012 Q's and 943,372 points. The 3830 reflector continues to show first place US Low Power and 5th world. The following weekend was the Makrothen WW RTTY with 448 Q's and 2.7M points. This continues to be good enough for first place US and 4th place world LP on the 3830 reflector. The third weekend was the JARTS WW RTTY with 1059 Q's and 645,012 points and 1st place US and 5th world for LP according to 3830.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next NW Region meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 15 November 2005.

PVRC 5 Award Scores
Compiled by Anthony Brooks, WM3T

WAE CW

Call	Entry Class	Status	Score	5M Pts
AJ3G	SOHP		202,104	220,065
K2UOP	SOHP		13,616	14,826
K3DI	SOHP		436,617	475,419
K3KO	SOHP		12,330	13,426
K3STX	SOLP		15,552	16,934
K3SV	SOHP		20,355	22,164
K3WA	SOHP		171,270	186,491
K4FTO	SOLP		2,928	3,188
K4GM	SOLP	20 meters	2,332	2,539
K4GMH	SOHP		204,624	222,809

WAE CW [contd.]

KD4D	DX	OP VY2/KD4D	1,704,780	1,856,282
KM4M	MS	CLUB	1,184,040	1,289,265
N2YO		OP @ KM4M		1,289,265
N3CA	SOLP		960	1,045
N3HBX	HOST NN3W			12,073
N3UA	SOLP		46,269	50,381
N4AF	SOHP		918,384	1,000,000
N4BAA	SOLP		33,768	36,769
N4CW	SOLP		197,505	215,057
N4MM	SOLP		440	479
N4ZR	SOHP		10,800	11,760
N8II	SOLP		261,828	285,096
NN3W	SOHP	N3HBX HOST	11,088	12,073
W3BP		HOST/OP KM4M		1,289,265
W3GG	SOHP		108,924	118,604

WAE CW [Contd]

W3HVQ	SOLP		21,800	23,737
W3YY	SOHP		191,759	208,800
W4MYA	SOHP		229,026	249,379
W4YE	SOHP	OP W5KL	19,910	21,679
W9GE	SOHP		64,749	70,503

WAE SSB

Call	Entry Class	Status	Score	5M Pts
AJ3M		OP @ K3RA		2,053,795
K3DI	M1	HOST/OP	109,620	988,102
K3KO	SOA		7138	64341
K3RA		OP @ K3RA		2,053,795
K3SV	SOHP		25172	226,897
K3SV	SOHP		25172	226,897
KD4D	MS		455,696	2,053,795
N3HBX		HOST/OP KD4D		2,053,795
W2DZO	SOLP		1064	9,591
W2YE	SOHP		3082	27,781
W3BP	SOHP		81,700	736,434
W3LL	SOLP		62,244	561,060
W3UL		OP @ K3DI		988,102
W4MYA	SOHP		110,940	1,000,000

ARRL September VHF

Call	Entry Class	Status	Score	5M Pts
K1HTV	OP @ K8GP			1,907,837

ARRL Sept VHF [Contd]

K1RA	OP @ K8GP			1,907,837
K2PLF	SOLP		11594	35,968
K2UOP	SOHP		8880	27,548
K3DNE	SOHP		111,589	346,180
K3KO	SOLP		700	2172
K3MM	OP @ K8GP			1,907,837
K3ZO	SOLP		2324	7210
K4FTO	SOLP		11001	34128
K4VV	OP @ W3SO			487,702
K8GP	MM		1,844,940	
K8ISK	OP @ K8GP			1,907,837
K9GY	SOQRP		1518	4709
KB3LGS	OP @ W3SO			487,702
KI3O	SOLP		7450	23,112
N4VA	SOLP		1175	3645
N8II	SOLP		4264	13,228
ND3A	OP @ W3SO			487,702
W2YE	SOLP		5376	166,78
W3BTX	OP @ W3SO			487,702
W3CB	SOLP		1430	4436
W3LL	SOLP		15120	46,906
W3SF	OP @ W3SO			487,702
W3SO	MM		550,228	
W3YOZ	OP @ W3SO			487,702
W3ZZ	OP @ K8GP			1,907,837
W4RX	SOHP		322,344	1,000,000
W4XP	OP @ K8GP			1,907,837
WA4PGM DX	OP VP9/WA4PGM		792	2457
WR3Z		OP @ W3SO		487,702

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PVRC REFERENCE PAGE Please send corrections to the editor. November 2005

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PVRC Dues PVRC has no annual dues. Donations are gratefully accepted by the Treasurer, Dave Baugher WR3L, 615 Rockaway Beach Ave., Baltimore MD 21221. Please make your checks payable to PVRC.

Autocall Column Editor is K3DI 410-757-6706

PVDXSN Packet Network

W3LPL	Glenwood MD	145.590, 441.250	w3lpl.net	W3IP	Crownsville MD	145.570	
WR3L	Baltimore MD	145.610, 440.950	wr3l.net	N3RR	Rockville MD	145.510, 441.325	
K3SKE	Frederick MD	144.930, 441.125	12.173.48.67 port 23	W3YOZ	West River MD	144.910	
W3TOM	Acokeek MD	145.770		N1WR	Lusby MD	145.690	
N4OHE	Mt. Weather VA	145.710, 446.025		NE3H*	Harrisburg PA	144.970	
W3BD	S. Mountain PA	145.630		N4SR*	Woodbridge VA	145.630	
W4XP	Bull Run Mtn. VA	144.990		K3NC*	Fredericksburg, VA	144.930	dxc.k3nc.net
				W4ML	Goochland, VA	145.09	dxc.w4ml.net

Most of the system is sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network. Nodes with * are independently funded by each SYSOP., The W4ML node is funded by CVCC.

PVRC Meetings

ANNAPOLIS: Dick Wilder, K3DI 410-757-6706

BWI: Weekly breakfast Wed at 7:00 AM at Basil's Deli Port on Elkrdige Landing Rd 1/4 mile South of Winterson Road 410-850-4333. Director: Ike Lawton, W3IKE, 410-263-2830. Sec: Howard Leake, W6AXX, 410-465-7008, w6axx1@starpower.net

CENTRAL VA: Pres: Ed Moore - NW4V - nw4v@comcast.net, Secy: Marie Long - K4KML - long2624@netzero.net, Treas: Robert (Bob) Ladd - NK4H - rladd@comcast.net. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Henrico Doctor's Hospital, 7700 Paraham Rd., Richmond, VA. To the right of the main entrance is a second entrance. Go through that door, turn left through that door and the cafeteria is the first room on the right. There will be some who meet at Nick's Roman Terrace, Westlands Shopping Center, West Broad Street starting at 5:50 PM for dinner before the meeting. Talk-in available on 145.430

CENTRAL: The Central Meeting is always the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM (except June, July, and August). The central meeting generally alternates between MD and VA locations. Informal dinner about 6pm; meeting follows at 7pm; Unless announced otherwise, the Virginia meeting is at Anita's Restaurant, 521 E. Main Street, Vienna; the Maryland meeting is at Topolino's Restaurant, 6320 Old Branch Avenue in Temple Hills.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP (Eric Rosenberg, W3DQ [W3DQ@arrl.net]) Meetings are held monthly at Reeve's Resturant & Bakery, 1306 G Street NW. The closest Metro stop is METRO CENTER (Red, Blue and Orange lines).

EASTERN-SHORE (DEL-MAR-VA): Dallas Carter, W3PP 302-875-0550 ludal@dmv.com

LAUREL: Bill Smith, N3XL (n3xl@arrl.net) 301-935-4873 Laurel Region meets concurrently with the Laurel Amateur Radio Club at the first LARC meeting of each quarter.

NORTH CAROLINA -- EAST: Chair: Jim Jordan, K4QPL, k4qpl@nc.rr.com; Sec: Jeff Keller, NX9T, nx9t@aol.com. PVRC/NC meets at 6 pm the first Thursday of each month, plus an additional meeting in April at the Raleigh Hamfest. For details see <http://pvrcnc.org>

NORTH CAROLINA -- WEST (TRIAD): Meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Cobalt's Elemental Eats and Drinks on Deacon Blvd. in Winston Salem. Ragchew at 6:30. Directions are available upon request. The chairman for the new PVRC/NC West chapter is Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, henry@summitschool.com and the secretary is Robert Whitaker KG4NEP, kg4nep@yahoo.com.

NORTHEAST: WR3L Dave Baugher 410-DX1-WR3L dave@wr3l.net

NORTHWEST: Chair: Bud Governale, W3LL, 410-666-9189. W3LL@arrl.net. Meets monthly the 3rd Tuesday. Informal dinner about 6pm; meeting at 7pm at the City Buffet, 1306 W Partick St, Frederick, MD 301-360-9666. Rear of shopping center, behind Mountain View Diner.

OCOQUAN: Jack O'Mara W4NF, H:703-791-3302 W:703-739-7636 w4nf@comcast.net and Cliff Deel W4CE, w4ce@aol.com 703-491-0841

OVER-THE-HILL LUNCH BUNCH (VA DC MD): Meetings are held monthly at two locations: Falls Church, VA (Parkview Marriot) and Beltsville, MD. Meetings are announced by E-mail. All members, their guests and non-members interested in membership are welcome. For information contact Roger Stephens K5VRX, rogerergo@netzero.net, 703-658-3991 for the VA meetings; or, Bill Leavitt W3AZ, 301-292-5797 for MD meetings.

PENNSYLVANIA: Steve Cutshall, K3TZV, k3tzv@paonline.com, 717-763-0462.

RAPPAHANNOCK: Steve Bookout, NR4M (ex-NJ4F) NJ4F@erols.com. Also, Larry Schimelpfenig, K7SV, k7sv@adelphia.net

SHENANDOAH: Bill Hinkle KV3R kb3aug@juno.com 304-567-3138

CARROLL COUNTY: Jim Nitzberg, WX3B.410-374-9233 nitz@selectsa.com

SOUTHERN MD: Chair: Wayne Rogers N1WR E-Mail: n1wr@chesapeake.net Phone: (H) (410) 394-0313 Meetings held at the home of N1WR.

SOUTHWEST VA: Coordinator: David Jones, N4JED, Vinton, VA 540-890-2034, N4JED@AOL.COM. Meetings begin at 6 pm at the Roanoker Restaurant, Roanoke, Virginia in a private room (ask at the desk if you have not joined us before).

TIDEWATER COLONY OF PVRC: This group now meets at the Golden Corral in the Pembroke section of Virginia Beach in conjunction with the VADXCC meeting. The restaurant is where the DX club members meet on Saturday mornings. The restaurant is on Independence Blvd. a block south of Interstate 264. The meeting is still the third Tuesday of every month. We gather for dinner around 1815-1830, with the meeting around 1915-1930. Contact W4ZYT at 757-457- 5181 or w4zyt@exis.net for additional info.

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