



## Potomac Valley Radio Club Newsletter July 2007 Edition

Visit us on the web at [www.pvrc.org](http://www.pvrc.org)  
and [www.pvrcnc.org](http://www.pvrcnc.org)

**Don't Miss the PVRC-North Carolina W1AW/4 IARU Contest Operation  
Join the Fray for the DL-DX RTTY Contest Club Competition July 7-8**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT -- Jim, WX3B**

After several months of hard work, I'm happy to announce that the officers and trustees of the PVRC, with input from you, our members, have been able to optimize our club competition circle.

You'll find all the background information and on-line calculators in the "Club Circle" area of the PVRC website, <http://www.pvrc.org>. We've also put graphical documentation of the club's competition boundaries as well as a sponsor's view of the different radius rules for different PVRC club events. The Club Circle section is accessed from the pull-down menu on the home page.

Like many of you, I too am looking forward to **The Great ARRL Sweepstakes Re-Match Of 2007** between the NCCC and the PVRC. If we can build on the momentum we created in 2006, the NCCC is going to have their hands full trying to keep their #1 position from being wrestled away by PVRC! Following last year's successful strategy, we are asking your PVRC chapter leaders and their appointed assistants) to reach out to the active (*and inactive – Ed.*) club members and ask them to participate in the Sweepstakes. We have less than 4 months to engage and make our plans.

I hope everyone has a very happy and healthy summer season!

### **PVRC-NC TO OPERATE AS W1AW/4 IN THE IARU CONTEST!**

Thanks to the efforts of Howie, N4AF/NY4A and Jim Jordan, K4QPL, W1AW/4 will provide the ARRL Headquarters multiplier from North Carolina, with the PVRC- North Carolina Chapter hosting the operation.

The plan is to put as many contest-quality stations in and operators in North Carolina on the air to provide 24 hours of non-stop running on as many bands as are open to anywhere on both CW and SSB.

Congratulations to Howie and Jim for their hard work!

### **EDITOR'S PREROGATIVE -- Eric, W3DQ**

I trust everyone is enjoying their summer... be it lazy evenings and weekends, preparing for the summer contests (NAQP, IARU, IOTA, and VHF and above 'tests), or readying your station for the for the remaining contests before the start of the 2007-2008 "season" begins... or all of the above! Your editor hoped to be active in all three categories, but back-to-back stress fractures ("did it again" before the first one healed) of my foot will keep me off the roof until late August at the earliest.

My physical condition highlights one aspect of being part of the PVRC "family" I hope everyone believes and participates in – helping our fellow contesters in situations where they are not able to do it all themselves, be it planning a new station or upgrading what they have, assisting with station and antenna erection and maintenance work.

To this writer's thinking, spreading our incredible wealth of knowledge, both theoretical and practical, is what being a member of the PVRC is all about. Regardless of where "the circle" is centered, how large "the circle" may be, or who is or isn't included, the strength of the PVRC is in getting all of our members to participate, regardless of the size or sophistication of their station, the amount of time they operate or the number of QSOs made.

As the competition has proven, the winning club is the one with the largest number of entrants. So take the time this summer to mentor a fellow contester. Develop a small circle of nearby contesters you can count on to bounce ideas and projects off of and who can help you – and you can help – on short notice. Consider hosting an open house this fall as W3LPL and W3YOZ do (and K4JA, W4MYA, WR3L, N3RR and others have in the past) We all benefit from your efforts!

This "Summer Issue" of the PVRC Newsletter is a compendium of material accumulated over the last few months and other contributions from you, our members.

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## *Editor's Prerogative (cont.)*

Although you may have seen some of it on various websites or in other publications, putting them in one place seems like a natural choice!

Reaction to our regular columns, from WV4V's book reviews to NS3T's monthly VHF contribution has been very positive. I've especially enjoyed K4GMH's RTTY items, as this is a mode I've never operated but am curious to try. The District of Columbia is a multiplier in the ARRL RTTY Roundup, it certainly will be worth my while to learn as much as I can about that mode! I'd like to add regular "nostalgia" pieces, based initially on the fabulous thread earlier this year on the PVRC email reflector.

As always, I encourage you to participate in this effort by contributing your thoughts, ideas, experience, concerns and comments to this publication. I'm always looking for short

(approximately 250 words) contributions on contest and station-related subjects. If there's anything in particular you'd like to see -- or not -- in the Newsletter, please let me know!

Please pass along interesting websites and other resources that would be interesting and valuable to our membership.

## ***THE 2007 FOWLFEET - SATURDAY, AUGUST 18***

*-- Jim, N3JT (marketing assistant to W3YOZ)*

THE annual summer social and eating event for PVRC members and guests is coming up on Saturday, August 18. Join us from noon until ?? at Marty's, W3YOZ, lovely Churchton, Maryland QTH.

While Marty arranges for the great BBQ chicken everyone is welcome to bring other items to share. Make sure you bring your own beverages, too, though there has never been a shortage of cold drinks. Below are directions, but you can use GPS to hone in on 1062 Rodgers Road, Churchton, MD 20733.

CU there!

### **Directions:**

>**From U.S. DC Beltway/50:** Take Beltway to Route 50; take Route 50 east. After crossing Patuxent River the next turnoff is MD Route 424 (Davidsonville Road); take 424 towards Davidsonville, cross over route 214 (Central Ave), and continue until it dead ends at MD Route 2. Turn right, go 200 feet and turn left on Mill Swamp Road. Continue to MD Route 468 (Muddy Creek Road); turn right on route 468 and go 6 miles to the traffic light at MD Route 256. Turn right on MD Route 256 and continue to Rodgers Road (first left after the Churchton Post Office); turn left on Rodgers Road, go to gravel road on left; turn left, go to 1062 sign, turn right and go to water's edge.

>**From I-97:** Take I-97 South to MD Route 665 (Allen Blvd.); take 665 to MD Route 2; take Route 2 south to Mill Swamp Road (first left after Route 424 on right); take Mill Swamp Road to MD Route 468 and follow the directions above.

>**From Virginia:** I-95/I-495 to MD Route 4 (PA Ave. South/East); turn off at MD Route 258 (Bristol/Deale); take 258 to MD Route 256; turn left and go to Rodgers Road; turn right, go to gravel road on left, turn left; go to 1062 sign turn right and go to picnic grounds at the water's edge.

Similar information appears on the PVRC website:

[http://pvrc.org/w3yoz\\_fowlfest.htm](http://pvrc.org/w3yoz_fowlfest.htm)

## ***FROM NCCC'S 2007 PRESIDENT, BOB TELLEFSEN, N6WG.***

Jim Nitzberg, WX3B  
President, PVRC

Hello Jim,

I see from the official notice placed on ARRLWeb that PVRC has conceded the 2006 SS Gavel to NCCC. I understand this was due to your score including logs from outside the 175 mile limit. I can only imagine how disappointed the members of PVRC must feel after your concession.

On behalf of the Northern California Contest Club, I want to express our appreciation for the good sportsmanship you have shown. Your PVRC Officers and Trustees are to be commended for making the tough decision. I'm sure your members are proud of PVRC for taking this step.

The Northern California Contest Club has the highest regard and respect for the contesters of PVRC. We look forward to another friendly and spirited competition in Sweepstakes 2007, and we will keep those spots coming.

Sincerely,  
Bob Tellefsen N6WG  
President, NCCC

## ***CONTESTING FROM THE PACIFIC***

*-- Tom, K7ZZ (V73ZZ)*

I've been fortunate to be a guest operator at the V73AX club station on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands on a number of occasions for the last several years. It's an experience that certainly puts a different spin on contesting

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## Contesting From The Pacific (cont.)

– a very pleasant spin. There are certain challenges in putting an operation together out there. One must find someone who will sponsor the visit. And the flight from Hawaii out to Kwaj involves either a very expensive ticket on Continental or catching a space available ride on a cargo airplane if you're retired military. It's hard telling what the condition of club equipment will be like since the salt spray environment really plays havoc on anything made of metal – like antenna and rotors.

But any obstacles are quickly outweighed by the fact that you're going to be the only V7 multiplier on the bands! My most recent visit was for the ARRL CW contest in February. And it was truly a ball.

There is such a thing as being too popular. I often found the pile-ups were so large that I'd have to answer a station three or four times before he could hear me calling. And those delays really hurt your rates. Since nobody in their right mind runs split in a contest, you just accept the lower rates.

Another interesting facet about operating the ARRL from out there is that between a little after sunrise on the West Coast (or whenever 40 Meters shuts down) and about local sunrise (when 20 opens up) there's absolutely no one to talk to. The similar phenomenon occurs in the afternoon (local time) when everyone in North America has moved to the low bands and there's still several hours of daylight left. What this means is that you get a couple of two hour naps each day of the contest!

But contesting from the Pacific is really a blast. Thanks to everyone for the contacts. See you in the pile-ups!

### **RTTY News – Mike, K4GMH**

This weekend, July 7-8, the DL-DX RTTY Contest will be held from 1100 Z to 1059 Z (24 hours). **This Contest does have club competition.** Please list Potomac Valley Radio Club as the name of the club when you submit your log.

You should be able to find a category (time and equipment available) you can comfortably work into your schedule for the weekend. Below is the list of the categories.

- A** Single Operator, Multiband, Single Radio  
One person performs all operating and logging functions.
- B** Single Operator, Multiband, Single Radio  
One person performs all operating and logging functions. The maximum total operating time is six (6) hours. Off-times (breaks) must be greater than 60 minutes.
- C** Single Operator, Multiband, Single Radio

One person performs all operating and logging functions. Only dipole or groundplane antennas are permitted.

- D** Single Operator, Multiband, Single Radio  
One person performs all operating and logging functions. Only dipole or groundplane antennas are permitted. The maximum total operating time is six (6) hours. Off-times (breaks) must be greater than 60 minutes.
- E** Multi Operator, Multiband, Single Radio  
More than one person operates, checks for duplicates, keeps the log, etc.
- F** Single Operator, Multiband  
One person performs all operating and logging functions.
- G** Multi Operator, Multiband  
More than one person operates, checks for duplicates, keeps the log, etc.

The classes A to E are restricted to the use of only one Radio (SO1R). The classes F and G are limited only by their station licenses."

The club competition rule is very loose as to what constitutes a club as can be seen from the excerpt from the rules: "Club competition: For a club to be listed, the following conditions must be met: At least three different entries from members of the club must be submitted. All members wishing to be included in the club score must indicate the club name in their log."

The full rules can be found at: <http://www.drcg.de/>

Good luck and have fun in the Contest!

### **LOGGING SOFTWARE USED BY IOTA CONTEST ENTRANTS**

-- From RadCom February 2007

- 332 EI5DI's Super-Duper
- 305 N1MM
- 131 Writelog
- 97 AA Log
- 93 TR Log
- 75 CT and CT Windows
- 57 Win-Test
- 34 MixW
- 25 GenLog
- 22 UcxLcg
- 19 RA9JB Contest
- 17 LM by DLBWAA
- 17 zLog
- 16 WA7BNM online Cabrillo tools
- 11 NA

## That Planet Mars QSO Cup

BY FRED JOHNSON ELSER, W6FB/W70X

An intense wave of enthusiasm and accomplishment, swept across the fraternity of amateur radio era the early 1920s. Refinement; of the mighty spark, development of the regenerative vacuum-tube receiver, tube transmitters, phone, superhets came one right after another. Six-minute transcontinental relays, trans-Atlantic receiving tests, two-way work across the Atlantic, then the Pacific. 330 meters, 220 meters, 200 meters - 110, 40, 20. Record after record was set smashed, anal net again. Trophy after trophy was offered, sought after, won. It was an all exciting age, almost impossible to explain to those who didn't live through it. In just five years, ham radio was completely changed, its ranks trebled, its equipment radically altered.

Toward the end of the decade, the inevitable reaction set in. For one thing, there were no new worlds to conquer, or so it seemed. For another, the generous, temporary allocations made to the U.S. amateur service by the Hoover Conferences (sample: a 20-meter baud that, ran from 14,000 to 16,000 kHz!) were shunted aside by the first worldwide frequency bands adopted at the 1927 International Radio Conference (sample: a 20-meter band running from 14000 to 14,400 kHz, and no 15-meter band as yet). The new bands at 5 and at 3/4 meter did not present easy victories to DX hunters as 20 and 10 had done when first opened.

You had to hang that funny W in front of your call for the first time. And new rules called for filtered dc power supplies and stable transmitters, which in turn required new receivers which would stay where they were put.

At this time I made my first visit to ARRL headquarters, occupying the entire top floor at 1711 Park Street in Hartford. There I met for the first time some amateur personages I had "worshipped afar off"-- Ken Warner, W1EII; A. A. Hebert, W1ES; Ross Hull, Australian 3JU; a relative newcomer named Ed Handy, W1BDI whose new work, *The Radio Amateur's Handbook*, had just, been published.

But most important, by rare good fortune I met Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, our founder and president. Mr Maxim, in person, was just as impressive, magnetic and salty as the famous "Rotten Radio" articles he penned under the pseudonym "The Old Man." I learned of his other hobbies: automobiles, amateur movies, the cosmos -- especially the planet Mars. He had, for instance, a globe of the red planet, with all the markings yet discovered.



The Elser-Mathes Cup

After this memorable visit, in 1928 I returned to my old home in Manila, where I'd been a pioneer ham and set a few modest early records on 200 and then on 40 meters from my stations 1ZA and K3AZ. The Philippines were under U.S. jurisdiction then, and part of the ARRL field organization. Stanley M. Mathes, Lieutenant Commander USN, ex-7OE and then K1CY was SCM in 1928-1929 -- a ball of fire where amateur radio was concerned. Out of his visit to my shack high in the Igorot country came the inspiration to offer a unique trophy knowing that the swift advance of radio to technology would outdistance any ordinary goal, ours was to be for the first amateur two-way competition with Maxim's pet planet, Mars.

The award itself must be carefully chosen for it to serve as a beacon for achievement in the best Maxim tradition. Accordingly, Stan and I visited a store in Baguio where many examples of Igorot native woodcarving were on display. Our choice was a large carved bowl, about a foot high. On its base there were two seated figures; standing beside them were two more figures supporting the bowl. The base symbolizes Earth and the seated figures its inhabitants. The bowl is Mars and the standing men are the amateurs who bridged the gap of space. A plate fastened to the bowl bears the legend: "First Amateur Radio Two-Way Communication Earth and Mars" --and the spaces for names, calls and dates not yet filled. Around the base another plate identifies the "Elser-Mather Cup."

The trophy reached headquarters in 1929. It now has a prominent spot in the ARRL Museum, on view to a thousand visitors each year.

The moon has been broached by Man. With one more giant leap for mankind, perhaps the cup can be awarded -- I hope it is in my lifetime.

## ***SOME IMPRESSIONS OF 2007 FIELD DAY***

*WY3P—from Jim Nitzberg, WX3B*

I have settled into an interesting routine at field day – one that involves a lot of socializing, captaining a station and providing radio / antenna equipment, lending a hand during installation and tear-down, operating for a few hours, and then....letting others enjoy operating “my” station!

This year the streak continued with Team WY3P, the Carroll County Contesters.

We set up at a beautiful athletic field in Hampstead, MD that bordered quite a few acres of Corn. By the end of setup, there were 4 rocket launchers, one 30+ foot pole, a couple verticals, some wires, plus HF and VHF Yagis and Quads.

We ran SSB, CW and the digital modes; our CW station was 100% solar power.

I enjoyed a new high in field day operating this year by sharing Rob, K1RH’s new Motor Home. It makes things REAL easy. Imagine...air conditioning and no bugs during field day.

Our operation was chaired by Mike, N3VOP, and included many of the “regulars” from WY3P. Special thanks go to KB3JDW, Charlie for granting us access to the great site.

Our field day leaders and participants were: Clint, W3ARS, KB3NZN, W3ADC, W3ADC/Sandy, W3ADC/Jonathan, W3ADX, W3ADX/Gabby, K3LP, K3LP/Ryan, K9AKR, N3VOP (chairman), NY3A, NY3A/Mary-Jo, K1RH, K1RH/Robert, K3TDH, K1RH/Triplets(!!!), W3RAR, KB3JDW, N3YIM, WX3B, W6NRJ.

This year WX3B learned an important lesson the hard way: never pinch your finger in the brake lever of an AB/621. IT HURTS!!! (And provides some interesting color displays on said fingernail).

Congratulations to our young operators Robert, Gabby and Jonathan who gave us our youth bonus!

*from John, N3HBX*

On field day I pretend that my house in Clarksburg had burnt down, but just before it was reduced to ashes I rescued a small radio (FT 890), laptop, coax cables etc, allowing me to operate on emergency power from the barn at the back of the property. I run two coax cables to the 80 foot tower that sports antennas (of varying degree of sophistication) for all the bands 10 through 160 meters. An RCS-4 switch applied to either cable selects the wanted one. The beams on the tower are left pointing west.

This year I set aside the mains power unit for the radio, and instead ran it off the battery in the tractor that resides in the barn. This was continuously charged with a 15-amp charger that was run off a small generator. In series with the battery leads to the radio was one of these battery boosters that maintains the voltage close to 13.8 volts. The generator, which will run for a little over four hours between fills, also

charges the battery in the laptop and runs a desk lamp.

The barn, which is shaded by tall trees at the back of the lot, is cool even on the hottest days and offers excellent shelter in the event of a thunderstorm. I began operating on Saturday at 2 p.m., quit for an hour and a half at dinner time and ran again till 10:30 p.m - by which time I had about 500 q's in the log. I was back on the air at 7 a.m and continued operating till 2 p.m., by which time I had a little over 1000 q's and was quite hoarse!

I never was able to get a run going on 15 meters - the band openings were very spotty and the power line noise was severe on that band. Thus, 20 and 40 were the workhorse bands. I gave up on telling people they were dupes - it was obvious some people were using paper logs (if logging at all!). Using a foot switch and Heil "quiet" phones greatly helped operating - leaving both hands free and masking the noise of the generator. The only thing I would do differently next time is try to rescue a voice keyer! Totals were 80m = 85, 40m = 440, 20m = 462, 15m =25, sum = 1012.

*from Dick, WN3R*

I brought my dad (age 92) by the PVRC FD site. He looked around carefully taking it all in and then asked;

"Where are the kids? Everyone is old here." Later he proceeded to engage Patrick (W3PO) to tell him the hobby will die without the kids.

The real FD challenge is to get the kids to come back to the school grounds for a couple of hours in late June.

*from Marty, W8AKS*

I wasn't able to make it to the local club site this year; but was able to get on for a couple hours last night. I was impressed by the number of young voices that I heard on the air. Either that or a lot of us are going into our second childhood and the voices are changing also. Lots of potential contesters out there. Patience was definitely a virtue working some of the young people; but that is what the game is all about.

Good time had by all.

*from Dick, W2YE*

The Sterling Park ARC held its Field Day on the athletic practice field at Park View High School in Sterling, as has been our practice for a number of years. A major advantage of the site is the 70 foot light poles which with the help of a slingshot, allow for some effective wire antennas. Calls were K4NVA for the regular station and K4LDT for our GOTA station.

We operated 3A, plus auxiliary GOTA and VHF stations, all in tents on the playing field. Thanks to fine

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### *Impressions of Field Day from Dick, W2YE (cont.)*

weather, we were able to amass over 1400 QSOs, with a total submitted score of 5846 including bonus points. Included in our totals were 10 QSOs with W3AO and our GOTA station worked the PVRC GOTA station, KE3Q.

While the rain stayed away, our major problem was on Sunday morning when the automatic sprinkler system came on and we scurried to find tubs to place over the units close to our operating site. That has never happened before. The only other problems were RF getting into our keying interface, and someone accidentally pulling a plug on one of our three networked computers.

### **IMPRESSIONS OF 2007 PVRC REUNION**

*-- from Fred, K3ZO*

Last weekend I was caught in Wisconsin on a combined business/pleasure trip and I managed to get on Saturday afternoon for a couple of brief sessions on 20 and 40, respectively, between my attendance at a meeting of QCWA Chapter 55 and a scrumptious dinner by Jane, KB9SYI, XYL of my old pal from W9YT days, Leon, K9GCF.

The rear of Leon's lot borders a river and his station seems to get out rather well. On 20 I ran his FT-1000MP Mark V barefoot until KT5X failed to hear me call, whereupon I fired up the SB-220 amp. On 40 Leon was having SWR issues, later determined to be a bad coax connector outside, so after managing to use the antenna tuner to get his two-wave loop running somehow, I just ran the Mark V barefoot, but the reports were equally good. On 40 I was surprised to have Chas W6UM answer my first "CQ PVRC" as it would have been 5 PM in California on an all-daylight path, but the fact that the river is to Leon's west probably helped the takeoff in that direction.

I hadn't realized you could work non-PVRCers and was putting Andy, VE9DX through hoops trying to get him to give me his "year", when Howie interjected a brief comment which set me straight and got poor Andy off the hook! Just after I worked Tom, K3TW he called my XYL Somporn and let her listen to my CW over the landline. Somporn is of the firm opinion that one ham in the family is more than enough and was not impressed!

Sunday afternoon found me visiting another fellow-W9YT alum, Tom, K9BTQ. Tom has recently assembled a pure Software-Designed Radio kit which is marketed for the grand sum of fourteen dollars and change, so I played with the receiver part of it. Its passband was set for 40 meters and PVRC's 7047 was almost right in the middle of the selected frequency range. The minute the display came up I could spot all those big signals around 7047, showing much greater amplitude than anything else in the approximately 80-KHz wide passband selected. By clicking the mouse on a signal you could both copy the morse on the PC's speaker and see it displayed on the PC's screen. The received quality of the signals was equivalent to that of today's kilobuck radios, but before this pure-SDR stuff can be

used for efficient contesting there are user interface issues and receive-transmit delay issues that need work.

One of the fascinating possibilities for such a receiver is that you can select a segment of the band, say 7000-7080 and record everything in that entire segment for whatever period of time you desire as long as your PC has enough storage capacity to handle what you have asked the radio to do. Then after the contest you can click your mouse on any signal on the display and listen to that station. So for example you could have virtually all of CWSS on 40 meters recorded for later review. When some search method is devised for picking out desired calls, will this be the future of contest log checking to verify hard-to-believe claims by contestants? Thanks to Tom for giving me this chance to peer into contesting's future.

*-- from Ed, N3CW*

Well, my kayak trip to Barren Island during the on-the-air reunion produced a grand total of two QSOs but I must say it was the most fun per QSO I can remember. The two stations I worked were W4KFC (who sounded remarkably like Vic used to sound with his bug) and K1ZZI. Both were on 40 meters. Hearing the "swing" of the old bugs made me remember when you could tune upon a station and know who the op was just by the "accent." One accent I really remember from my early PVRC days was W3PZW...I think that was the call.

The kayak trip began from Hoopers Island, south of Cambridge, and it took about an hour to paddle out to Barren Island, which used to be home to a productive farming community. Years ago there was a church, school, and at least a dozen houses on the island. Once close to 600 acres, it is now eroded away to about 150 acres. Today, lots of birds, including eagles, osprey, and pelicans can be seen, along with many nests and eggs at ground level, and one very visible osprey nest in an old duck blind. Somewhere around the mid-1900s there was an active hunting clubhouse on the island, and members sometimes were flown in to land and hunt. Aerial views courtesy of Google Earth show what might be an old runway, and I saw evidence of some abandoned structures I may go back to explore.

My cousin found a nice 12-foot limb which I attached the end of my 33 foot wire, and the KX-1 (running on lithium cells) cranked out about 2 watts. I just wish I had more time to operate, but it turned out I only had about 15 minutes to try to work the people I heard. A bit disappointing were the several loud stations I called, but after their CQ, they listened all of half a millisecond before starting to CQ again what ever happened to the old days when you really listened as you tuned around a bit for an answer to a CQ? Guess the statistics say if the answer

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## *Impressions from Ed, N3CW (cont.,)*

isn't loud and in your passband, it not worth it. No problem though – the reunion is not a QRP contest and I do the same thing myself with the FT-990 and N1MM software at home.

I posted a couple photos at:

<http://home.comcast.net/~ed.goss/P6020194.JPG>

and

<http://home.comcast.net/~ed.goss/P6020169.JPG>

showing the KX-1 and the barely visible antenna wire, and another shot showing one of the kayaks landing on Barren Island. After paddling back, I made a few quick CQs from Hoopers Island, but I guess everyone had switched to SSB. But overall lots of fun and congratulations to W4KFC and K1ZZI who worked Barren Island.

*from Jim, WX3B*

A hearty thank you goes out to Howie, N4AF for all the programming support and P.R. related to the PVRC reunion.

I have to say for me, this was a perfect weekend to spread PVRC cheer throughout the world. I was tired from a business trip and enjoyed relaxing by the radio Saturday, and Sunday was just dreary enough to allow me to play PVRC reunion again.

It was GREAT fun working the PVRCers, who by far were in the minority of my log. I think there are about 30 of them.

Hearing W4KFC, W3AU, W7YS, seeing W3GRF spotted was great. It was VERY entertaining hearing W4MYA running a BUZZING pileup on 20m SSB.

I enjoyed riding along with Don, W3AZD/4 for several hours Sunday. When a PVRCer would jump on my 14 MHz SSB frequency, Don and I would both work them.

20 meters was my band of choice, and I spent almost all my time running SSB pileups. The support from the European community, particularly the contesters AND the newly licensed hams is simply amazing.

In addition, I worked several YCCC members celebrating their 30th year (Ann, WA1S/30 and I had a great conversation), and bumped into some of my NCCC friends.

For those of you that were listening on my run frequency, you'll know that my log entry is a checklog: I was handing out reports as follows:

1. To Europeans, DX, etc: 59
2. To folks working "NAQP" Style: Jim, MD
3. To PVRCers: 1998 Jim MD

I have to say I had more fun in this event than in some contests - had a couple hours where my rate approached 200/hour. Good practice for upcoming contests.

Hope all that entered had half as much fun as I did.

## **DAYTON IMPRESSIONS BY A NEWBIE**

*-- Jim, W6NRJ*

First, on the road trip to Dayton...I zoomed through Columbus on I70 with no slow down at all...and at the height of commute time. The traffic in the other direction was heavier, but still moving along, unlike stop and go in Washington! The same comments pertain to traffic in Dayton. It was nice to drive in a mid size city with reasonable traffic, making one realize how bad we have it in the DC area.

I was surprised how far Hara Arena was off the beaten track. I stayed the first night with my wife's uncle in Kettering. He has lived in Dayton for many years and could not give me good directions to the arena. It was outside the small city map insert on my AAA Ohio map. Luckily, my wife's uncle had another map of Ohio which had a Dayton insert containing the area of the Hara Arena.

Upon getting to the Arena at 7:45 a.m., I was surprised with the officials saying the "Will Call" window opens at 9:00 a.m. even though the show opened at 8 a.m. Friday. Oh, well. After a couple of under my breath bitches, I went into the bar for a donut and coffee, re-entering the lobby at 8:30. The "Will Call" window was open! But now I was about #75 in line rather than #3 as formerly at 7:45. "Will Call" management probably needs some work for those earnest early birders.

After perusing about 5 rows of the flea market (where I found and bought a Dentron tuner just like the one I already have...tuner back-up???) I attempted to navigate back into the building. What a challenge finding your way around. One could choose to navigate by entering from outside at various places, or with some loose directions from the door keepers, navigate through the building. The "hall" seemed to me like an old WPA project at it's core, followed by a series of expansion additions over the years. I found my way to one exhibit hall through the food court and missed the hockey/football arena itself while wondering around until later in the weekend.

By know you are thinking I was negative on the whole affair...NOT AT ALL ! I was amazed by the vendor investment in amateur radio as evidenced by the number and extent of the commercial vendors. (As a Marketing major in grad school and with 30 years in industrial/consumer marketing, the words "demographics" and "growth market" kept running through my mind.) It seemed all the QST advertisers, large and small, had booth space. In the flea market I was struck by the amount of HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT (as opposed to computer monitors, etc.) present on the tables. I saw Knight Kit equipment I used to read all about over and over in a my dog-eared Allied Radio catalog when a 13 year old growing up in Ohio. It was a field day for those of us who are nostalgia radio fans or collectors.

*(continued on the next page)*

## *Dayton Impressions by a Newbie (cont.)*

I attended both the DX and Contest dinners. Again, I was surprised how many attendees there were from overseas, including Russia and Japan. As a serious jet lag sufferer when I travel long distances, I wondered how these attendees were faring over a short 3-5 day trip. I was impressed how the internal drive to be a top contender or DXer was reflective of the professional life of many of the attendees. As bios were read, one could hear that award winners had successful professional careers.

Finally, the seminars I attended were, for the most part, informational and interesting. I learned a few new precautions at the Lightning seminar. I thought the K3LR/ICOM tape was "right on" about using the competitive spirit inherent in contesting to get younger people into the hobby.

I don't know if I will go to Dayton every year...but return I will. I just need to be a seller next time, not a collector-buyer. Anyone want to buy one of my 4 Johnson Matchboxes?

### ***EXCERPTS FROM THE DAYTON FCC FORUM SPEECH BY RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH***

Steve, WM3O, pointed out some interesting comments by Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC. A PDF scan of the speech can be found at <http://mobileers.org/riley.pdf>

"To the testers: be more courteous. You are responsible for the frequency you are operating on and realize that's true even when you operate split. All frequencies are shared."

"To those who don't like testers: lighten UP!! Contests are short lived. use the WARC bands. Wash the car. Cut the grass. Learn from the testers - and this applies to you Traffic net folks too - learn from the testers - they pass information a lot faster and more efficiently than you do. Testers are some of the best radio operators on planet Earth. if the testers operated at the same pace as some of the emergency traffic nets, the contest would be over after the first few dozen signal strengths were exchanged!"

"To those of you who don't like DXpeditions: Lighten UP! If a group of people want to spend a lot of money to go to a rock or sandbar in the ocean, live in a tent and swat flies and scorpions for a weeks and talk over Ham radio 24 hours a day, SO WHAT: LET THEM DO IT!! DXpeditions, too, are short lived, and such operation must be important to SOMEONE - Scarborough Reef drew over 50,000 contacts didn't it - and weren't half of them CW, by the way? Nobody would have even known about it had it not been published in popular radio magazines"

## **July 2007 Contest Calendar**

**July 7: DL DX/RTTY Contest** -- from 1100Z Jul 7-1059Z Jul 8; RTTY/PSK, sponsored by the DL DX RTTY Contest Group (DRCG). For more information: [www.drcg.de](http://www.drcg.de). Logs in Cabrillo format due Aug 10 to [logs@drcg.de](mailto:logs@drcg.de). **THIS IS A PVRC CLUB CONTEST**

**July 7: Venezuelan Independence Day Contest** -- from 0000Z July 7-2400Z July 8. CW/SSB, sponsored by the Radio Club Venezolano. For more information: [www.radioclubvenezolano.org/concurso.htm](http://www.radioclubvenezolano.org/concurso.htm). Logs due Aug 31 to [contestyv@cantv.net](mailto:contestyv@cantv.net)

**July 8: DARC 10 Meter Digital "Corona"** -- from 1100Z-1700Z July 8; RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover, sponsored by Deutscher Amateur Radio Club. See Nov 2006 *QST*, p 104, or [www.darc.de/referate/dx](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx)

**July 14: IARU HF World Championship** -- from 1200Z July 14-1200Z July 15 See Apr *QST*, p 102, or [www.iaru.org/contest.html](http://www.iaru.org/contest.html)

### **DON'T FORGET TO WORK W1AW/\$!**

**July 15: Colorado QSO Party** -- from 1200Z Jul 15-0400Z July 16 . Sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association. For more information: [www.ppraa.org/coqp](http://www.ppraa.org/coqp). Logs due by Jul 31 to [coqlogs@ppraa.org](mailto:coqlogs@ppraa.org)

**July 13: FISTS Summer Sprint** --from 1700Z-2100Z July 13. See Feb *QST*, p 101, or [www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org)

**July 21: North American RTTY QSO Party** -- from 1800Z Jul 21-0600Z July 22. Sponsored by the *National Contest Journal* For more information: [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com). Logs due 14 days after the contest to [www.ncjweb.com/naqplgsubmit.php](http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplgsubmit.php) or [rttynaqp@ncjweb.com](mailto:rttynaqp@ncjweb.com)

**July 21: CQ WW VHF Contest** -- from 1800Z July 21-2100Z July 22. Sponsored by *CQ Magazine*. For more information: [www.cqww-vhf.com](http://www.cqww-vhf.com). Logs due Sep 1 to [cqvvhf@cqww-vhf.com](mailto:cqvvhf@cqww-vhf.com), via Web submission form at [www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwvhf\\_cab.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwvhf_cab.php)

**July 28: RSGB Islands-On-The-Air Contest** -- From 1200Z Jul 28-1200Z Jul 29CW/SSB, sponsored by the RSGB. For more information: [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org). Logs due Sep 1 to [iota.logs@rsgbhfcc.org](mailto:iota.logs@rsgbhfcc.org)

## WHERE CAN YOU FIND PVRC MEMBERS?

- **The PVRC NW Region**

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the City Buffet, 1306 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD. (301) 360-9666. It's in a small shopping center. Most arrive about 6 PM for dinner and informal discussions. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

>From W. Patrick Street, turn up McCain Dr. (the Mountain View Diner is on the corner), then turn right into the shopping center, then turn left and search for a parking place. The City Buffet is tucked back in the left corner of the shopping center behind the Mountain View Diner. You can't see the City Buffet from W. Patrick Street.  
73, Bud W3LL

- **The Annapolis Crew**

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Griffens West in Annapolis. We gather at about 5:30 PM and order dinner about 6. We break up usually before 8 PM. E-Mail W9GE to be put on the e-mail reminder list.  
73 Bob W9GE

- **PVRCNC-East**

Meets on the first Thursday of each month. Details are always available on the web site: <http://pvrcnc.org/>  
73, Jim, K4QPL

- **PVRC-NC/West**

"The Winston-Salem Courteous Operators Club" (W4WS) meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the "Pure Chrome" establishment, 505 Deacon Blvd. Winston-Salem, NC 27105. It's now a biker bar (we came with the building), so feel free to roar in on your Harley. Info at <w4ws.org>.  
73 de tom n4ioz

- **Tidewater**

Meetings are on the THIRD MONDAY of each month at the QTH of N4BAA for now. I have a huge home and can handle just about whomever shows up.

- **Gaithersburg Area**

Several of us get together, much like the downtown lunch group, about every 4 to 6 weeks and visit various restaurants in the Gaithersburg area.  
73, Jeff Embry, K3OQ

- **Over the Hill Bunch**

The group meets for lunch at noon alternately in Maryland at the College PARK Holiday Hotel Route 1 and the Beltway or in Virginia at the Parkview Marriot near route 50 and the Beltway. Meetings generally are held on the last Wednesday of the month and are subject to change. Meetings are announced by E-Mail.

All PVRC members, non-members interested in membership and guests are welcome. For information contact Roger Stephens, K5VRX, [rogerergo@netzero.net](mailto:rogerergo@netzero.net) 703-658-3991 for Virginia meetings; or Bill Leavitt, W3AZ, [w3az@starpower.net](mailto:w3az@starpower.net) for Maryland meetings.  
73 Bill, W3AZ

- **Central Virginia Contest Club**

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at The Henrico Doctors Hospital, Parham Campus, located at 7700 E. Parham Rd. Richmond VA. The Hospital is approximately one mile north of the Parham Rd. and Broad St. intersection. The meeting begins at 7PM in the Hospital cafeteria located on the first floor.  
Vy 73, Ed NW4V

- **Downtown Lunch Group**

Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday or Thursday of the month in the downtown area of Washington, DC. Locations occasionally change, but are always Metro accessible. Details are sent out on the PVRC reflector. Feel free to contact Eric, W3DQ ([w3dq@arrl.net](mailto:w3dq@arrl.net)) or Brian, WV4V ([wv4v@arrl.net](mailto:wv4v@arrl.net)) for details and directions.

**If you have a group that meets, regularly or occasionally, please send contact information to W3DQ for inclusion in the Newsletter!**

### **PVRC Spotting Network**

WR3L: <telnet://dxc.wr3l.net>  
W3LPL: <telnet://dxc.w3lpl.net>  
W4ML: <telnet://dxc.w4ml.net>  
K3SKE: <telnet://dxc.k3ske.net>

W3LPL Glenwood MD	145.590	441.250
WR3L Baltimore MD	145.610	440.950
N3RR Rockville MD	145.510	441.325
W3TOM Accokeek MD	145.770	
N4OHE Mt. Weather VA	145.710	446.025
NE3H Harrisburg PA	144.970	
N4SR Woodbridge VA	145.630	
N2QT Lynchburg, VA	145.59,	144.97, 446.075

**Contest Rig Survey Results:  
An Informal Inquiry of PVRC reflector  
users by Marty Young W4MY  
December 15, 2006**

*From the Editor: In light of the new radios introduced by Elecraft, Icom and Flexradio at Visalia and Dayton this year, along with recent wins by contesters using other radios (Orion II comes to mind), this survey taken in December, 2006 should be of interest.*

Number of responding e-mails: 23  
Number of clear recommendations: 15

1<sup>st</sup> Place: FT-1000MP 6  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: TT Omni 6+ 3  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: TT Orion-I 2  
4<sup>th</sup> Place: TS-850 2  
Honorable mention (one vote each): IC-756P3, TS-857D

The following table was my subjective conclusion of all the comments. I tried to group them by line item and then assign a weighted importance to my personal situation. Each rig then gets a grade (1-5) with 5 being the best. The grade is multiplied by the weight and all the weighted grades are added to assign a score to each rig. The last line, "Fit for W4MY" is my subjective gut feel alone, for which you noticed I only weighted 5%!

Item: Contesting				
Wt	FT1000MP	Orion 1	Omni 6+	TS-850
35%	5/1.8%	5/1.8%	5/1.8%	4/1.4%

Item: Reliability				
Wt	FT1000MP	Orion 1	Omni 6+	TS-850
10%	5/0.5%	4/0.4%	3/0.3%	5/0.5%

User Friendly				
Wt	FT1000MP	Orion 1	Omni 6+	TS-850
5%	5/0.3%	2/0.1%	3/0.2%	5/0.3%

Cost				
Wt	FT1000MP	Orion 1	Omni 6+	TS-850
25%	4/1%	2/0.5%	5/1.3%	5/1.3%

Recommendation				
Wt	FT1000MP	Orion 1	Omni 6+	TS-850
20%	5/1%	2/0.4%	3/0.6%	1/0.2%

Fit for W4MY				
Wt	FT1000MP	Orion 1	Omni 6+	TS-850
5%	4/0.2%	3/0.2%	4/0.2%	2/0.1%

<b>Total</b>				
Wt	FT1000MP	Orion 1	Omni 6+	TS-850
100%	4.8%	3.4%	4.4%	3.8%

Soapbox:

I received more e-mails than clear recommendations HI! I know who the real politicians are! Anyway, the raw numbers have the FT-1000MP prevailing clearly in votes and edging out the TT Omni 6+ in the comments arena by a small amount. I am not surprised by that. The main proviso from many of those recommending this rig was to filter it properly and check carefully proper operation before buying used. But once done, the FT-1000MP will do well to hold its own in all contest situations. It is also priced within my budget in contest configuration. This rig even got a few "second place" recommendations from those that selected a different rig to be first.

Next was the TenTec Omni 6+. This came from the TenTec loyalists who took my budget restrictions seriously. I'm sure they would have recommended an Orion II if money was no object. (one actually lamented the loss of his 6+ in a lightning strike even though the Insurance company replaced it with an Orion II!) This intrigues me as it can be obtained reconditioned from TT for about 1Kbucks and adding the filters leaves me with some money for my antennas.

Third was the Orion I recommended by the owners of an Orion II saying its an "almost" O-2. But I just have to wonder why the Omni 6+ got more votes than this option. Plus, the Orion I is at the bitter edge of my budget (and actually over with the tuner) So I think if Ten-Tec is going to grow any legs with me its going to be the Omni-6+.

The TS-850, FT-857D, and IC-756P3 also were the first choice of a few. I have used the 756P3 and 857D at Field Day in the past and they are fine rigs indeed. I have never used the Kenwood 850, but I understand it was the "contest rig of choice" prior to the FT-1000MP coming on the scene.

So, what am I going to do?

First and foremost, I am not going to sell my 746 (non-pro). I personally like this rig and will continue to use it for all my general purpose ham radio needs. If I ever get into SO2R, it will serve as an FB second rig. So, if the rig I choose for contesting doesn't do a "non-contest specific" function well, it won't matter, I'll have the 746 for that. This will help me keep my attention focused on contest specific issues.

Second, I'm going to look seriously at the TT Omni 6+. Sit in front of one, even try to borrow one for a contest early next year (that may be a stretch, but hey, no harm in asking) I have to keep in mind that I am buying a "contest" centric rig, so I need to use it IN A CONTEST. It doesn't matter if it's a little weird here or there, I'm looking to pull out those marginal stations that I wouldn't otherwise hear. And I'd like to evaluate it with my own antennas so as to get an apples to apples determination if I'm really increasing my lot by buying this rig.

*(continued on the next page)*

## *Informal Contest Rig Survey (cont..)*

My conditional 1<sup>st</sup> choice would then be the FT-1000. I say conditional because it depends on how much the Omni 6+ wows me. This is the “safe” choice and I don’t believe I need to do much “selection evaluation” as I am planning to do with the Omni 6+ . Why would I be doing the Omni thing when the FT-1000MP was the clear winner here? Well, the selection of a rig is a personal choice. The comments received about the FT-1000MP were measured, secure, confident, reassuring, safe, and from contest winners!

Take advice from winners, I always say, but go with your heart.

Comments from the Omni 6+ users were passionate, wowing, “you just gotta try it”, “you’ve never seen anything like it”, and if you add in the comments from owners of Omni’s younger brother (Orion), my curiosity has just got the best of me. I’ve never sat one minute in front of a TT rig of any kind, so if I go the “safe” route to the FT-1000MP, I’ll always wonder. Combined with my own leaning toward CW, wouldn’t you want to see what the purported “best CW rig of all time” was all about?

Therefore, be it resolved, Omni 6+ owners, give me your pitch, I’m listening. FT-1000MP owners, don’t worry, you’re number 1, the burden is on the Omni guys. I’m going to start funding the savings account now, so I expect to be moving on my decision in late spring to ready myself for the 2007 season.

## ***RUMORS AND OTHER NEWS FROM PVRC-LAND***

⇒ With the demise of the Gaithersburg (FAR) hamfest and the low attendance at the Vienna Winterfest, there has been some talk about creating a monthly no-fee swapmeet, based on the success of the long running TRW swapmeet in Los Angeles and the “Flea at MIT” in Boston, MA. The idea is that every month or every other month, on a given weekend morning an otherwise unused parking lot of a large company, school or mall would be the gathering place for tailgaters. There would be no entrance fee, and it would all be over by noon or thereabouts.

⇒ Through the efforts of Bob, W3IDT, and others, we’ve been able to identify long dormant club stations and rustle up some new activity from the District of Columbia. Alan, KH6ILR, is a resident of the Armed Forces Retirement Home on North Capitol Street. He’s also the Trustee of AF3RH, which is regularly active and put out a nice signal (300+ QSO’s ) this past Field Day. Alan has been to one downtown lunch gathering...we expect to join us again and join the PVRC.

⇒ More DC Club Stations Discovered!

The **Gallaudet University Amateur Radio Club** holds the K3GU callsign. While the station is dormant, trustee W3RQ is interested in getting a station on the air. The Gallaudet campus is located in northeast DC. The highest point on the campus is Telegraph Hill, over which Samuel F. B. Morse sent the famous telegraph message "What hath God wrought?" on a newly constructed telegraph line between Washington and Baltimore in 1844.

The tower and antennas from what was once the **Georgetown University** club station. We’re hoping we can find a volunteer to track down the “owners” and, hopefully, revive the station.

The **George Washington University** station remains in flux. The antennas are still in place, yet disconnected. Despite efforts by W3IDT, there is little or no interest within the University’s Engineering Department to revive the station.

If you’ve spotted buildings in DC with antennas and can’t identify the station or organization who may own the antennas, please contact W3IDT and/or W3DQ with the pertinent information.

⇒ DC as a Multiplier in the NAQP Contests:

As many of you know, the North American QSO Party contests are the only ARRL-affiliated state-based contests that do not include the District of Columbia as a separate geographic entity. Instead, stations operating from the District are required to identify themselves as being located in Maryland. A movement is afoot, once again, to change this rule, with the ARRL Contest Branch being engaged.

In addition, a request has been made to the Contest Branch that the searchable scores database be “fixed” in order to enable the results be searched on a state basis. This will enable those in states that are broken into multiple ARRL sections (e.g., PA, NY, CA) to see how they fared against others in their state, not just their ARRL section.

### **Welcome to new PVRC Members**

A hearty PVRC welcome to new member **Tony Gates, N3GE**. Tony is retired from the FCC, lives in southwest DC, and is a regular at the downtown lunch gatherings. Welcome Tony!

**Maintenance**—the dictionary defines it as keeping things (equipment) in a state of repair, and this is a necessary part of having a tower (any tower), often overlooked. But now, as summer approaches, seems like a good time contribute a few words on this subject. For years, I’ve laughingly remarked that tower work is the one job where you can START at the top, literally! Indeed, it’s usually best to start there, and work one’s way down.

The idea behind such maintenance, of course, is preventative in nature—to eliminate problems before their effects become catastrophic or expensive. The station logbook should be consulted for your station’s collected past performance parameters (SWR, resistance readings, and the like), before you climb. Weatherproofed connections, missing or loose bolts and hardware, corrosion (carry touch up cold galvanizing or paint with you), guy tensions, are items that should all be checked at least once a year. (I like a six month schedule in climates that have more severe temperature variations.)

Once back on the ground, don’t overlook the base. If there’s an insulator, check for cracks. Check for cracks in the concrete, if it’s an un-insulated tower. Check the turnbuckles for tension and for safety wires. It pays to look at the anchors, too. (Indeed, it’s standard practice in the broadcast industry to dig down a foot or so to examine the condition of the anchor rod itself.)

A few minutes searching on the Internet turned up the following Top-Ten style list of “most common” maintenance issues on broadcast towers.

- 1) Guy tensions and/or tower alignment not within manufacturer’s specs
- 2) Damage to structural members
- 3) Corrosion
- 4) Loose or missing hardware
- 5) Undersized hardware
- 6) Problems with ground systems (lightning protection)
- 7) Transmission lines attached improperly
- 8) Foliage around guy anchors (or tower bases in ham installations)

I’ve encountered all of these on ham installations, and would agree with this listed ranking. Incorrect guy wire tension is the most common problem at nearly every ham installation, without question. (Only ONCE in over 20 years have I found guys that were too tight—they’re always too loose. This primarily results from not having a way to actually measure the tension. And folks tend to forget that the tension can change over time, especially if the guy grips are installed without

thimbles, for instance, which I see fairly regularly.) I’ve seen Rohn 45 with guy wires that could easily be disconnected by hand. Naturally, one does not climb these towers without first making adjustments, and some owners are upset, usually offering something like, “But it went through Hurricane Hugo just fine,” or telling me how many years it’s been standing there, perfectly fine, as their defense. Taking the time to explain how guyed towers work, along with suggesting that following good engineering practice is not only smart, but also economically sound, seems to soften the blow somewhat.

### **THE GRID PIRATES CELEBRATE 10 YEARS ON SPRUCE KNOB!** -- RICH, K1HTV

Have you seen the newly renovated Grid Pirates web site? Take a look and see what *the* ‘Pirates (the majority of whom are PVRC members) have been up to. The website has a lot of material, from stories, to technical data and lots of pictures of K8GP on Spruce Knob, WV.

Go to [http://www.k8gp.net/?page\\_id=87](http://www.k8gp.net/?page_id=87) for the full story

### **Recommended Web Resources:**

[www.findchips.com](http://www.findchips.com) and [www.octopart.com](http://www.octopart.com) will help you find parts among a variety of retailers and distributors.

[www.k8nd.com/Radio/SO2R/K8ND\\_SO2R.htm](http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/SO2R/K8ND_SO2R.htm) is a great resource for station builders at all levels, from small single-ops to SO2R.

[audiosystemsgroup.com/publish.htm](http://audiosystemsgroup.com/publish.htm) is Jim Brown, K9YC’s, authoritative source for everything related to RFI. Jim is a recognized leader in the commercial audio field, and has written extensively on the subject of RFI and RFI mitigation.

[www.k3na.org](http://www.k3na.org) is the website of former PVRC President Eric Scace. You’ll find Eric’s National Contest Journal articles on contest analysis, coax cables, and setting up your transmit and receive audio .

<http://tinyurl.com/2ck3x5> and <http://tinyurl.com/2zh78m> are Excel spreadsheets created by Bob Chudek, K0RC to facilitate IARU operator scheduling and HQ station QSOs. They are from the 2006 contest, and will need to be edited for this year’s contest.

*[Editor's Note:: This Where Are They Now feature and others like it can be found in the July 2nd issue of Sports Illustrated.*

## Joe Rudi : One of Oakland's less vocal stars,

Joe Rudi now makes his voice heard as a ham radio buff

By Gene Menez



Rudi, a defensive hero in '72, plays Mr. Fix-it on his Oregon radio compound. Robbie McClaran/SI

northside," he says, "and then I'd set up a portable antenna against the window and talk to whomever I could."

Now, on his plateau in eastern Oregon, Rudi -- who like his wife, Sharon, works full time selling real estate -- has erected seven radio towers between 100 and 180 feet high, with 45 total antennas. He has also converted a small building adjacent to his four-bedroom house into a control center. "It's a NASCAR-style setup," he says. "Not one of those small operations."

His teammates joke that Rudi loves scaling the towers to put up new antennas or feed lines -- which requires a little dexterity and a lot of courage -- more than he does sitting in a chair to search for frequencies. But they're wrong. "When you turn the radio on, you never know who you're going to hear," he says. "It could be someone in the Midwest or someone in the Middle East." Or a memorable ballplayer from Baker City, Ore.

A quarter century after retiring from baseball, Joe Rudi is still obsessed with making contact. Only now his objective isn't hitting a Don Gullett fastball in the World Series -- it's zeroing in on fellow amateur radio operators in farflung locales. Up to a dozen times a year, Rudi, known by the call sign NK7U, and at least seven other hams (as they're known) gather on his 20-acre spread in Baker City, Ore. Competing against teams worldwide, they scan their radio dials for 48 hours, attempting to contact as many operators in as many countries as possible. "It's a competitive thing," says the 60-year-old Rudi, who still sports his signature mustache. "Just like in baseball, there's a team aspect in these contests. And you have to be prepared to play."

In his 16 big league seasons no one ever accused Rudi, a three-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner, of being unprepared. Overshadowed by larger-than-life A's like Reggie Jackson and Catfish Hunter, he nonetheless finished second in the AL MVP voting in 1972 and '74 and was a key contributor for the three-time champs. It was Rudi's leaping, ninth-inning catch of a Denis Menke drive against the wall at Riverfront Stadium that saved Game 2 of the '72 Series against the Reds. Underdog Oakland would win the Series in seven for the first of its three straight titles.

During his days with the A's and later with the Angels and Red Sox, Rudi often took his radio on the road with him. "When we got to the hotel, I'd ask for the highest room I could get, on the



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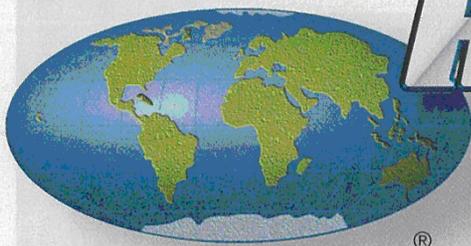
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\*call bands blocked  
\*16-901 995 MHz blocked; unblocked versions available to FCC approved users. FM video range for the IC-R3 is 900-1300 MHz & 2250-2450 MHz



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