



PVRC Newsletter

June 2014

President's Letter – Ken KE3X

This weekend is CQ WPX CW, the second-to-last contest event of the current 5-Meg season, to be followed soon by ARRL June VHF. Hard to believe another contesting year is almost over! This letter will be a short one, as I am playing around in WPX this weekend.

Board Forms Communications Committee

You may have noticed the recent reflector chatter about Facebook and digital media. While our initial review of Facebook Groups revealed some disadvantages, we took the opportunity to create an Ad Hoc Committee to look more broadly into our communications strategy across the club. Currently we have three 'official methods' of communicating across our membership: this Newsletter, our closed Email Reflector, and our website. At a minimum, we intend to keep all these

channels open, and hopefully improve upon them.

At the same time, digital media has promise for networking across our existing members and marketing PVRC to the public. We have requested volunteers for the Communications Committee through all the local Chapter Heads and seven members have already joined. Specifically we are looking for people with previous experience in web design, programming and/or implementing social media solutions at other organizations. If you are interested, please shoot an email to a Board member or your local Chapter Head.

PVRC Reunion & SS Awards

You have probably noticed Brad, K4RT's updates on the reflector about the PVRC Reunion coming up June 6-8. Brad has been working hard to re-launch the Reunion in its 50th Anniversary format (see below for details from Brad). Unfortunately I never

met W4KFC, W3GRF and W3AU in person, but I am certainly looking forward to 'working them' in June 6-8 as their calls are reactivated. For more information on these 'Legends of PVRC', see our PVRC Website under the History tab.

Similarly, the 2013 Sweepstakes Awards were posted this month to our website. Thanks to Geoff, NE3K who will be coordinating the beer mug orders for all the winners. Get ready to extend our winning streak for a 7th year in a row!

The Squirrel War Has Ended

Last month I described relocating a family of 8 squirrels from my tower to Virginia. I am happy to report the Squirrel War is over, and the human race has prevailed. And so I have continued making some changes in my station layout: down came the old Cushcraft A-3 tribander, replaced by a Force-12 C3SS (purchased from a PVRC member in VA). Up went a 5-element M² 6-Meter beam ahead of Sporadic-E season (.courtesy of a 2nd PVRC member in NC). Next I borrowed a Yeasu FT-920 with 6-meter capability (from a 3rd PVRC member in MD). As my long term plan is to upgrade one of my FT-1000MP's to a different HF radio with 6-meter capability, this week I agreed to sell one MP (to a 4th PVRC member in MD).

Do you see a pattern here? All my station upgrades were easily done with a quick post to the PVRC Reflector, a few private emails and some cell phone calls. This illustrates two of the many benefits of PVRC membership: 1) unlimited free advice from our group of experienced contesters in Mid-Atlantic region, and 2) the opportunity to trade, buy, sell or borrow equipment from trusted colleagues.

What Does PVRC Membership Mean To You?

Which brings me to my next topic ... have you wondered why PVRC does not charge annual dues? Actually we have considered it over the years, but we have made the decision to keep membership 'free to all'. However, we do ask members to 1) submit two contest scores per year (Sweepstakes at a minimum, but hopefully many more) and 2) make a voluntary contribution each year that fits your budget and reflects the value you receive from club membership.

So I did a quick review of the data: we have over 1000 members, of which over 400 submitted contest scores in the last year - but only 12 made a financial contribution to PVRC in 2014. Yikes - 12? That's not very many. When I review the list of the 12 who donated in 2014, and who donated in 2013, I was further surprised to see who was missing from the list: many of people who are most active on our Reflector and on the air are conspicuously absent from the list of contributors across 2013-2014. I am sure they just forgot - hence my friendly reminder today.

Noting we needed some help on the donations front, this morning I went to the PVRC Home Page, clicked on the 'DONATE' button and contributed \$250. You may ask - how did I arrive at that amount? Well, I owe a lot of my contesting success to our club. Certainly I would not be competing in WRTC this summer if it were not for PVRC and the many generous station hosts within our club. On the flipside, I have 4 college tuitions coming up, so I need to save capital for that. Also I contribute a lot of time to Board activities, so I figure that 'counts' as part of my contribution too. So that \$250 is simply an amount that works for me at my current stage in life.

I would encourage everyone reading this Newsletter to take a minute and think about what PVRC membership means to you personally. Whether you contribute \$500, \$50 or \$10 to our club this year, make it something meaningful to you, and in line with what you take away from PVRC. If your financials are 'in the repair shop' this year, no problem

- just volunteer your time on the many projects we have coming up by emailing a Board member. Think about PVRC Legends like W4KFC, W3GRF and W3AU - and ask yourself "What would Vic, Lenny and Ed have done?"

See you in the pileups ... and Go PVRC!

Ken KE3X



6M Antenna at KE3X

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Vice President: K8GU Ethan Miller
Vice President: W3LL Bud Governale
Secretary: AA4FU Al Knight
Treasurer: N3RR Bill Hider

Trustees:

K3MM, N3OC, WX3B, W4ZYT, N4NW, K2AV, N4ZR, K4ZA, K3WRY

PVRC Charter Members (all SK):

W3GRF, W4AAV, W4KFC, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI/W0DX, W3IKN, W4KFT

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

PVRC Member K0DQ Inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame



Randy K5ZD presents Scotty K0DQ with Contest Hall of Fame plaque at Dayton 2014

From the CQ Magazine announcement:

J. Scott Redd, K0DQ, is already a member of the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame for his service to our nation as a US Navy Vice Admiral, Deputy Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, and the first Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. Scott has always found time within his professional duties for Amateur Radio and his first love, contesting. He is one of only two people to have won the Single-Operator category of all of the world's major contests.

W3LPL Annual Open House - June 21th

PVRC members, guests and family are welcome to attend the 29th annual W3LPL Open House on Saturday June 21st at noon, rain or shine. BBQ lunch from CJ's will be available from noon to 2 pm. Frank's QRZ.com [address](#) is good for mapping to get directions.

Frank wants to remind everyone: *Although most years the open house coincides with Father's Day weekend, this year it is on the weekend **after** Father's Day. When this has happened in the past I've always had one or two members show up on the wrong weekend!*

PVRC 2014 On the Air Reunion – Brad K4RT

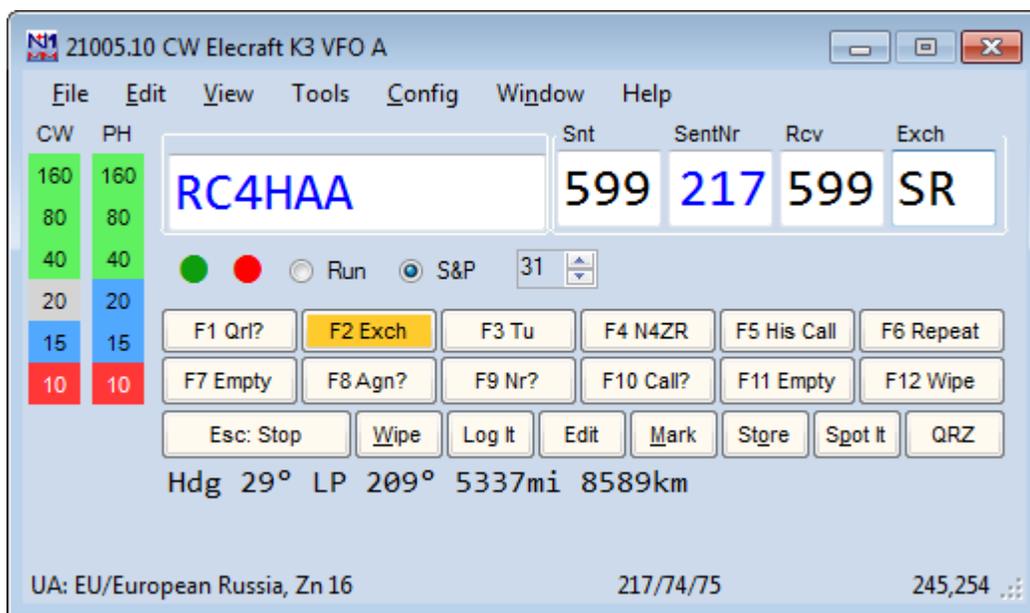
The 2014 PVRC Reunion on the Air will start Friday night June 6th at 8 pm EDT (0000Z June 7) and run through Sunday June 8th at 10 pm (0200Z June 9).

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the very first PVRC Reunion on The Air in 1964. Through the years, the Reunion has established a tradition of keeping PVRC members in touch with each other throughout the Potomac Valley region, the nation and the world.

This year, PVRC honors late club legends Ed Bissell W3AU, Len Chertok W3GRF and Vic Clark W4KFC by activating their call signs during the Reunion. See the full rules [here](#) on the PVRC web site.

Whether you are a serious or casual participant, the Reunion is a fun operating event. Give it a try!

The Coming Upgrade to the Most Popular Contest Logger - N1MM+



I remember back in the mid-1980s when Dave KM3T and I first demonstrated the CT DOS logging program at a PVRC meeting. Fifteen years later N1MM came along for the Windows generation – and 15 years after that N1MM+ will soon be released as a major upgrade for this generation of computers, monitors and interfaces.

A lot of cool upgrades but you can make the new version pretty much look like the old version – or you can just stick with the old version for years to come. The N1MM Logger team (including PVRC's own N4ZR) gave talks at the 2014 Dayton Contest forum – you can watch the videos [here](#).

Chapter Focus: Rappahannock Valley Chapter – Larry K7SV

The Rappahannock Valley chapter of PVRC came together at some point in 2002. The initial members were Bill K1SE, Neal K3NC, Frank K4EC, Steve K4EU, Mike K4GMH, Ken K4ZW, Larry K7SV, Steve NR4M and Joe WA4JUK. In general the group gravitates towards CW and RTTY contests, each being active from home as well as from the “Goat Farm”, NR4M.

At some point after the chapter was formed, Steve NR4M studied contest results to identify active contesters within the local area who might be interested in joining PVRC. His invitations resulted in additional members. The chapter has continually grown. We frequently have a contingent from the Lynchburg area join us for our meetings that always occur on Saturdays. Meetings are generally held at the NR4M qth.

The “chapter heads” are Steve NR4M and Larry K7SV. Typically Ken K4ZW takes charge of the meetings while Larry K7SV takes notes.

The “Rappers,” as coined by K1SE, don’t meet on a regularly scheduled basis, but tend to meet prior to major contests. During the meetings, planning is done for future contests and we go around the room with each attendee discussing recent activities such as contests and station improvements. Generally as the meeting is adjourned grilled burgers, brats and cold beer/sodas are served.

Members are interested in a variety of contests and favorites depend on one’s preferred mode. The CQ and ARRL dx contests and CQ WPX contests are popular with the CW folks. On RTTY, the RTTY Roundup and the CQ contests hold a lot of interest.

All of our members are celebrities, but a few stand out within the radio amateur community. In addition to being an all-around great guy, Mike K4GMH is probably the best known and most accomplished RTTY contester in the world. Soon it will be necessary for him to build an extension to the ham shack to provide additional wall space to hang plaques. For a number of years Mike has handled distribution of plaques for CQ RTTY contests.

Ken K4ZW has done a lot for the amateur fraternity. Since 2009 Ken has been hosting contest-oriented webinars for the community. In addition as Ken’s work with VOA brings him to other countries, he finds ways to help resident amateurs better enjoy the hobby. As part of his travels through Ethiopia, Ken has introduced students of the Addis Ababa Institute of Technology to contesting. He has helped them with their studies as well as maintaining their club station ET3AA. Ken is a recognized contester, regularly placing in the top five USA during major contests such as the CQWW CW and SSB as well as the ARRL contests. Ken is also a successful low band DXer. In addition to having high country counts on 160 and 80 meters, Ken has operated from a number of countries including some rare African and Asian entities.

Most members are active in contests from their home stations, but also contribute to multi-operator efforts from the Goat Farm (NR4M). Those efforts are typically multi-multi. Some multi-twos and multi-singles have been done, but the fun factor makes M/M

the favorite. When there is a shortage of operators, fun generally wins out over competitiveness resulting in a M/M effort.

Various members do a lot to help Steve keep NR4M going. In addition to helping out with antenna work, Mike K4GMH has designed and/or built a number of devices critical to station operation. This includes NQN band pass filters, stack match systems, same band lockout/filter boxes, 160 meter matrix beverage switch, matching transformers and such. Frank K4EC provides a lot of photography of the station and helps to keep the computers working properly as well as helping with antenna work. K3NC also spends a lot of time keeping the computers in tune. N2YO built and keeps the terrific Goat Farm web site up (www.nr4m.com). Ken K4ZW, Mike K4GMH, Mike KA4RRU, Steve K4FJ, Frank K4EC, Larry K7SV and Steve NR4M spend a lot of time keeping each other's antennas working/turning.

Over the years NR4M has had a number of folks from other countries join us for the CQ WPX CW contest. The list includes Harry RA3AUU, Nodir EY8MM, Frank ON9CC, Aurelio PC5A and Sandy YO3ND. Having visitors is always fun. Joe WA4JUK (now retired) was a detective when RA3AUU visited. As Harry was running them in the back room on 20 meters, Joe handcuffed him to the chair. Steve NR4M introduced Harry to grits during his visit, Harry compared it to porridge. Steve used his Lingenfelter Corvette to drive Nodir EY8MM to a local dive for a typical Orange County VA breakfast. I think the ride had the same effect as a pot of coffee early in the morning!

Then there is "the curse of the Goat Farm". This is Murphy's Law specifically applied to the NR4M station. The stories are countless, but the beverage story is typical. Four two wire bi-directional beverages were erected. They terminated in the matrix that Mike K4GMH had assembled. The antennas sort of worked but certainly didn't have the directivity of a couple beverages at Steve's prior QTH in Spotsylvania County. Over a couple of years we tried everything we could think of, but performance remained poor. While Larry K7SV was checking out one of the matching transformers, something didn't look right. He discovered that the black plastic boxes that they were built in were conductive. It then became apparent that the boxes had been designed to store static sensitive components so they were poor insulators. Even after replacing the plastic boxes, the beverages just weren't up to snuff. The final problem turned out to be poor isolation in the matrix. Since three single wire beverages have been put in place using coaxial relays to do the switching, and performance is now as expected.

Speaking for the chapter, we look forward to working **you** in the next contest!

Snowbird Operations – John N3AM/4

Sharron and I spent our first season at our winter home in Boynton Beach, FL this year. With a simple wire antenna in the short palm trees out behind our house, I managed to work JA, VK and KH2 with 100w from an FT-897.

For this coming winter, I plan to use an Elecraft K3/0-mini and the RemoteRig interface to remotely control my K3 back here in MD. With some USB-Ethernet adapters, I should also be able to remotely control my rotator and amplifier.

Here are a few photos of the Florida station:



The shack



Antenna farm



Coax feed-through

The Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Conference (PARC) – John W3HMS

The South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) of the Carlisle, PA area are pleased to announce a conference devoted to inspiring new technologies in our beloved hobby. This will be held at the Whispering Pines, a special events lodge north of Carlisle, PA from 1200-1600 on Saturday 4 Oct 2014. Whispering Pines is situated in a delightful country setting with parking for more than 300 cars. Directions are on the Whispering Pines [web site](#).

We have been able to schedule speakers who are outstanding in their specialty. They speak at the level achieved by the annual conferences such as Microwave Update, Southern VHF Society, Central States VHF Society, Northeast Weak Signal Society and others throughout the US.

Attendance at these events often consumes more time from work and money than desired. Our intent is to make car pooling and low-costs in a single-day event the hallmark of the conference. Thus, the fee is \$9 for early on-line registration with complementary coffee, soft drinks, and cookies available throughout the event. We do, however, recommend eating outside of event hours - there are many restaurants in Carlisle but none near Whispering Pines. In keeping with the event level, business-casual dress is highly recommended.

Agenda includes:

- Building High Quality VHF and UHF Antennas... yourself!
- Live demonstration of the latest HF Flex Radio software defined (SDR) transceiver.
- Working the World on the low power HF WSJT-X data mode
- A photo visit to an outstanding HF, VHF, UHF, microwave, contest station
- Automating Your HF/VHF Station logging and control of radios

In June SMRA will put details and registration on the SMRA [web site](#).

From the PVRC Treasurer – Bill N3RR

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual Dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all of our club members to finance our annual budget. In addition, active PVRC members are expected to participate and submit logs for at least two PVRC Club Competition contests per year.

When contemplating your donation to PVRC, each member should consider the benefit you are receiving from PVRC and its many opportunities for your personal growth in our wonderful hobby, then donate accordingly.

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



Membership News – Bud W3LL

PVRC added several new members since the last newsletter. Please welcome Ted N9NB and Jerry AC4BT in the Northwest Chapter.

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the [Meeting Attendance Report](#).

Upcoming Contests and Log Due Dates

Contests This Month

- June 7 – PVRC Reunion
- June 7 – SEANET
- June 14 – GACW WWSA CW
- June 21 – All Asian CW
- June 28 – Field Day
- June 28 – EA SSB

Logs Due This Month

- June 2 – EA CW
- June 11 – CQ-M

See WA7BNM's [Contest Calendar](#) for more detail and the latest information.

Eyeball QSO Directions

The latest info on local club meetings and get together will always be sent out on the [PVRC reflector](#) and posted on the PVRC [web site](#).

NW Region: Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Golden Corral Frederick, MD
5621 Spectrum Dr.
Frederick, MD 21703
PVRC Meets in the BANQUET ROOM
(301) 662-5922

From Interstate 270 south of Frederick, MD
take MD Route 85, "Buckeystown Road" NORTH.
First right on Spectrum Drive.
Restaurant is in a couple of blocks. Most arrive about 6 PM for dinner and informal discussions. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Contact: Jim [WX3B](#)

Central Region: Meets monthly the second Monday of each month, except June, July & August). The location alternates between the below MD and VA locations. Pre-meeting dinners start at 6:00 pm and meetings start at 7:30 pm.

VA LOCATION: Anita's, 521 E. Maple Ave, Vienna, VA. Tel: 703-255-1001. Meets at this location during the months of February, April and October.

Contact: Rich [NN3W](#)

MD LOCATION: Max's Café. 2319 University Blvd W, Wheaton MD 20902. Tel: 301-949-6297 People usually begin arriving at the restaurant around 6:30. Meets at this location during the months of January, March, May, September and November. Contact: Art [K3KU](#)

The Laurel, MD Region: Bill N3XL The PVRC get-together is held at the first [LARC](#) meeting each quarter at the clubhouse.

The Annapolis Crew: Dan K2YWE Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Broadneck Grill in Annapolis. We gather at about 5:30 PM and order dinner about 6. We break up usually before 8 PM. E-Mail [K2YWE](#) to be put on the e-mail reminder list.

PVRC-NC: The PVRC NC-East chapter meetings are held at [Manchester's Bar and Grill](#) on the 9100 block of Leesville Rd. in North Raleigh, with "QRM" beginning at 6:00pm and the dinner meeting following shortly thereafter. The meeting is held monthly on the 1st Thursday of most months, cancellations or changes usually announced on the [PVRC-NC website](#). [The PVRC NC-West Chapter](#) holds its meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at [the Mellow Mushroom](#), 314 W. 4th St., Winston-Salem, NC. Ragchew at 7:00pm, dinner meeting starts at 7:30pm. All contesters and interested guests are invited!

Central Virginia Contest Club: Ed NW4V Meets the first Tuesday of the month at St. Martins Church, 9000 St. Martin Lane, Richmond VA, (between W. Broad St. and N. Parham Road). Our meeting begins at 7PM.

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, 703-658-3991 for Virginia meetings; or Cliff Bedore [W3CB](#) or get on 147.00 for Maryland meetings.

Downtown Lunch Group: Meets on the 3rd 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 or Brian WV4V for details and directions.

Southwest VA Chapter: The Southwest VA group meets each Wednesday at about 8:30 AM at Hardees at 20265 Timberlake Road in Lynchburg, VA. This is an informal gathering, but normally has about 10-12 attendees..Contact Mark Sihlanick N2QT, Tel: 434-525-2921

Southern Maryland Chapter: We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at Nicolletti's Pizza located at: 22741 Three Notch Road, California, MD 20619 Phone: 301-863-2233. Check out their menu [here](#).

Talk-in on 145.350 (-) PL-156.7

Meet and Eat 6:30 – 7:30, PVRC meeting afterwards.

Contact the Chapter Chair, Tom Shelton, ND3N at GL1800Winger<at>Verizon<dot>net or (240) 434-3811 with any questions

If you'd like to add or correct a listing, contact K3TN for inclusion in the Newsletter!

Now a Word From Our Sponsors

PVRC doesn't ask for dues, but the Club does have expenses. Please donate online [here](#). You can also support the Club by buying from the firms listed who advertise in the newsletter, or by getting your company to sponsor the newsletter!

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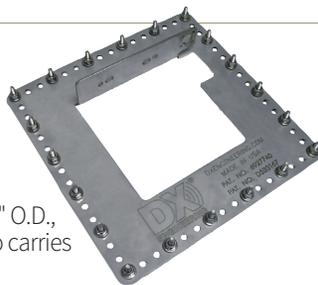
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